

TABLE 42

Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1998–2018

(Number and percent)

Commitment status and year	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
All doctorate recipients (number)									
1998	42,636	8,611	4,566	2,104	7,389	5,922	6,569	5,352	2,123
2003	40,762	8,506	3,971	1,859	7,098	5,279	6,651	5,272	2,126
2008	48,776	11,086	4,946	3,187	7,635	7,863	6,561	4,736	2,762
2013	52,703	12,207	5,584	3,660	8,580	9,000	4,934	5,715	3,023
2018	55,195	12,780	6,335	4,030	8,899	10,183	4,834	5,145	2,989
All responses to postgraduation commitment									
1998	38,244	7,817	4,156	1,897	6,491	5,335	5,792	4,862	1,894
2003	36,868	7,865	3,696	1,701	6,328	4,872	5,749	4,818	1,839
2008	44,018	10,143	4,509	2,900	6,809	7,095	5,856	4,273	2,433
2013	47,836	11,244	5,149	3,341	7,697	8,149	4,441	5,124	2,691
2018	50,390	11,868	5,904	3,701	7,978	9,340	4,402	4,641	2,556
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1998	69.7	71.8	72.4	69.7	67.8	69.8	73.7	58.6	77.1
2003	71.3	72.1	73.5	73.8	73.2	64.6	75.7	64.2	77.6
2008	69.2	65.8	71.3	70.9	72.7	65.1	73.7	64.6	77.1
2013	62.6	58.5	64.0	68.6	68.9	59.5	65.8	55.0	71.1
2018	68.2	65.5	67.0	75.1	73.8	65.5	71.0	59.1	76.7
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^{c,d}									
1998	30.3	28.2	27.6	30.3	32.2	30.2	26.3	41.4	22.9
2003	28.7	27.9	26.5	26.2	26.8	35.4	24.3	35.8	22.4
2008	30.8	34.2	28.7	29.1	27.3	34.9	26.3	35.4	22.9
2013	37.4	41.5	36.0	31.4	31.1	40.5	34.2	45.0	28.9
2018	31.8	34.5	33.0	24.9	26.2	34.5	29.0	40.9	23.3

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.^b Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.^c Percentages based on number responding to the survey item on postgraduation commitment.^d Includes respondents who indicated "other" in all years, respondents who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and respondents who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.

Source(s)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.