

TABLE 44

Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1998–2018

(Number and percent)

Definite commitment, plan, 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 definite commitments (number)									
1998	26,644	5,609	3,011	1,322	4,404	3,722	4,266	2,849	1,461
2003	26,299	5,669	2,717	1,256	4,634	3,148	4,354	3,094	1,427
2008	30,467	6,675	3,216	2,057	4,947	4,619	4,315	2,761	1,877
2013	29,969	6,577	3,295	2,293	5,301	4,850	2,922	2,818	1,913
2018	34,343	7,770	3,956	2,778	5,891	6,120	3,124	2,744	1,960
Reported type of plan									
1998	26,141	5,545	2,989	1,307	4,321	3,693	4,096	2,762	1,428
2003	26,213	5,653	2,714	1,250	4,625	3,138	4,325	3,087	1,421
2008	29,533	6,511	3,153	2,005	4,777	4,484	4,122	2,672	1,809
2013	27,703	6,185	3,151	2,173	4,851	4,531	2,643	2,496	1,673
2018	34,289	7,754	3,950	2,775	5,880	6,109	3,121	2,742	1,958
Employment (%) ^c									
1998	71.0	39.1	44.0	77.7	75.9	80.3	95.5	91.9	95.7
2003	67.2	37.3	38.8	65.0	72.2	68.4	94.0	89.5	94.1
2008	64.2	34.5	35.2	66.0	67.8	69.7	94.9	86.8	93.1
2013	60.6	35.7	33.5	64.8	63.8	64.7	92.2	84.9	92.1
2018	61.4	40.5	41.6	68.0	60.8	65.8	91.0	79.6	91.0
Postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1998	29.0	60.9	56.0	22.3	24.1	19.7	4.5	8.1	4.3
2003	32.8	62.7	61.2	35.0	27.8	31.6	6.0	10.5	5.9
2008	35.8	65.5	64.8	34.0	32.2	30.3	5.1	13.2	6.9
2013	39.4	64.3	66.5	35.2	36.2	35.3	7.8	15.1	7.9
2018	38.6	59.5	58.4	32.0	39.2	34.2	9.0	20.4	9.0

^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 reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).**Source(s)**

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