

**Table 42****Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1999–2019**

(Number and percent)

Commitment status and year	All fields	Life sciences <sup>a</sup>	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other <sup>b</sup>
All doctorate recipients (number)									
1999	41,100	8,204	4,285	1,939	7,389	5,330	6,554	5,273	2,126
2004	42,122	8,813	4,023	2,024	7,158	5,776	6,635	5,245	2,448
2009	49,552	11,403	5,160	3,163	7,945	7,642	6,528	4,904	2,807
2014	53,986	12,484	5,910	3,862	8,748	9,626	4,789	5,524	3,043
2019	55,703	12,781	6,585	4,240	9,071	10,303	4,635	5,054	3,034
All responses to postgraduation commitment									
1999	37,198	7,597	3,901	1,788	6,585	4,863	5,796	4,815	1,853
2004	37,931	8,055	3,728	1,868	6,333	5,282	5,777	4,781	2,107
2009	44,926	10,485	4,719	2,897	7,072	6,992	5,871	4,427	2,463
2014	48,214	11,304	5,341	3,483	7,646	8,679	4,227	4,934	2,600
2019	50,905	11,943	6,136	3,901	8,107	9,455	4,219	4,521	2,623
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) <sup>c</sup>									
1999	69.9	72.4	73.0	72.8	67.5	67.7	74.1	60.6	76.2
2004	70.0	71.2	70.8	72.8	71.1	63.6	74.6	63.6	76.6
2009	69.5	66.8	72.1	72.1	72.9	66.8	71.6	63.2	76.4
2014	61.4	58.1	61.6	66.8	68.7	57.2	64.5	54.6	68.9
2019	69.0	66.6	67.5	76.3	74.3	66.9	72.7	58.5	76.2
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) <sup>c,d</sup>									
1999	30.1	27.6	27.0	27.2	32.5	32.3	25.9	39.4	23.8
2004	30.0	28.8	29.2	27.2	28.9	36.4	25.4	36.4	23.4
2009	30.5	33.2	27.9	27.9	27.1	33.2	28.4	36.8	23.6
2014	38.6	41.9	38.4	33.2	31.3	42.8	35.5	45.4	31.1
2019	31.0	33.4	32.5	23.7	25.7	33.1	27.3	41.5	23.8

<sup>a</sup> Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.<sup>b</sup> Includes other non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.<sup>c</sup> Percentages based on number responding to the survey item on postgraduation commitment.<sup>d</sup> 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.