

TABLE 2-4

Educational background of early career doctorates, by position type, employment setting, and field of doctoral degree: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Selected characteristic	Number of early career doctorates	Doctoral institution type					Doctoral degree type	
		U.S. institution				Non-U.S. college or university	Professional degree or doctoral equivalent ^a	Research degree
		Very high research activity university	High research activity university	Special-focus institution	Other U.S. college or university			
All early career doctorates	186,700	66.3	12.6	1.4	6.3	13.4	8.4	91.6
Position type ^b								
Faculty	125,600	71.7	13.3	1.5	6.9	6.5	8.3	91.7
Tenured faculty	27,300	77.1	12.6	1.1	4.9	4.3	3.6	96.4
Tenure-track faculty	58,500	77.7	10.7	1.2	3.0	7.3	3.4	96.6
Non-tenure track faculty with rank	13,000	55.7	20.8	3.2	10.2	10.1	22.2	77.8
Other faculty, no rank or tenure	26,800	60.8	15.9	2.0	15.9	5.5	16.9	83.1
Postdoctoral scholar	36,400	52.3	7.1	1.3	1.4	37.9	1.9	98.1
Research scientist or nonfaculty researcher	10,900	64.8	9.1	S	2.6	22.5	1.4	98.6
Other positions	13,800	54.6	23.8	1.2	17.4	3.1	32.2	67.8
Employment setting								
Academic institution ^c	178,900	66.3	12.8	1.5	6.5	12.9	8.7	91.3
Very high research activity university	83,000	70.3	5.9	1.1	1.9	20.8	4.7	95.3
High research activity university	27,500	63.8	21.7	1.2	5.6	7.8	9.1	90.9
Other college or university	68,500	62.5	17.7	2.1	12.4	5.3	13.4	86.6
FFRDC	7,800	65.0	7.6	D	2.9	24.3	D	99.4
Field of doctoral degree								
Science and engineering	112,600	66.3	10.5	1.1	2.6	19.4	1.3	98.7
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	28,900	56.5	9.8	3.0	1.6	29.1	1.2	98.8
Agricultural and environmental life sciences	3,900	68.0	7.2	D	S	22.0	D	99.3
Biological and biomedical sciences	24,900	54.7	10.2	3.5	1.4	30.3	1.3	98.7
Engineering	17,200	69.4	11.7	D	2.9	15.9	1.5	98.5
Mathematics and computer sciences	12,100	66.3	13.4	D	3.8	16.5	D	99.6
Computer and information sciences	5,900	60.1	13.8	D	6.9	19.2	D	99.1
Mathematics and statistics	6,200	72.0	13.1	D	D	13.9	D	D
Multidisciplinary fields and science and engineering related fields	2,600	50.8	23.6	D	D	22.6	D	99.0

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Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	20,600	63.8	7.2	D	0.8	28.2	D	D
Psychology and social sciences	31,200	76.8	10.6	1.1	4.2	7.3	2.7	97.3
Psychology	8,700	67.1	17.5	2.5	7.3	5.6	7.7	92.3
Social sciences	22,400	80.6	7.8	0.6	3.1	7.9	0.8	99.2
Health	13,400	54.0	18.2	8.5	12.4	6.9	40.9	59.1
Non-science and engineering	60,700	68.8	15.2	0.5	11.9	3.6	14.3	85.7
Education	21,100	54.5	20.5	D	23.3	1.4	35.3	64.7
Humanities	15,700	81.0	11.9	D	2.4	4.0	D	D
Other non-science and engineering	23,900	73.4	12.8	0.5	8.1	5.3	5.3	94.7

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

FFRDC = federally funded research and development center.

^a Includes medical and related degrees, such as Medical Doctors (MD), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), and other professional degrees such as Doctor of Education (EdD).^b Other faculty, no rank or tenure, positions includes all other faculty positions such as instructors, lecturers, and adjuncts. Postdoctoral scholar positions are temporary positions in academe, industry, government, or a nonprofit organization primarily for gaining additional education and training in research. Other positions are diverse but are typically university administrators and staff.^c Academic institutions include U.S. academic institutions in the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering that grant master's and doctorate degrees in science, engineering, and health-related fields.**Note(s):**

Counts are rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages are calculated from unrounded counts and rounded to the nearest 10th of a percent. Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Early Career Doctorates Survey, 2017.