

TABLE 3-1

Mentors of early career doctorates, by position type, employment setting, and doctoral degree characteristics: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Selected characteristic	Number of early career doctorates	Did not have any mentors	Had a mentor	Position of mentor				
				Direct supervisor	Senior colleague	Peer or colleague	Doctoral degree advisor	Someone else
All early career doctorates	186,700	25.6	74.4	72.8	79.3	59.5	70.9	26.5
Position type ^a								
Faculty	125,600	26.9	73.1	64.4	87.9	65.1	71.9	28.0
Tenured faculty	27,300	30.1	69.9	57.9	88.9	66.7	72.3	26.5
Tenure-track faculty	58,500	19.6	80.4	63.6	91.2	65.9	74.8	25.2
Non-tenure track faculty with rank	13,000	30.4	69.6	76.1	84.1	64.3	61.5	34.0
Other faculty, no rank or tenure	26,800	38.0	62.0	67.9	79.5	61.4	68.9	34.4
Postdoctoral scholar	36,400	18.3	81.7	91.6	56.1	42.3	71.5	21.2
Research scientist or nonfaculty researcher	10,900	31.4	68.6	88.9	67.8	48.4	67.8	18.1
Other positions	13,800	28.0	72.0	81.7	77.9	67.7	61.9	35.4
Employment setting								
Academic institution ^b	178,900	25.4	74.6	72.2	79.3	59.8	71.3	26.9
Very high research activity university	83,000	21.9	78.1	78.3	74.0	55.8	71.4	22.8
High research activity university	27,500	26.6	73.4	65.6	83.9	62.9	70.2	28.3
Other college or university	68,500	29.2	70.8	66.8	84.4	63.9	71.7	31.9
FFRDC	7,800	29.7	70.3	86.8	80.1	51.9	60.7	17.5
Doctoral degree type								
Professional degree or doctoral equivalent ^c	15,700	31.2	68.8	76.7	82.0	70.7	50.7	34.3
Research degree	171,100	25.1	74.9	72.4	79.1	58.5	72.6	25.9
Years since doctoral degree								
1 year or less	36,900	24.3	75.7	80.6	71.8	54.4	75.8	26.2
2–5 years	82,800	23.4	76.6	72.9	78.6	58.9	70.9	27.0
6–10 years	67,000	29.0	71.0	68.0	84.7	63.2	68.0	26.2
Origin of doctoral degree								
U.S. degree	161,800	25.6	74.4	70.9	81.9	62.3	72.1	27.6
Non-U.S. degree	24,900	25.7	74.3	84.7	62.6	40.9	63.2	19.7
Field of doctoral degree								
Science and engineering	112,600	24.6	75.4	76.1	74.9	54.3	71.2	23.5
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	28,900	17.4	82.6	84.0	67.2	54.4	69.9	22.5
Agricultural and environmental life sciences	3,900	20.0	80.0	74.9	73.0	57.4	71.5	34.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	24,900	17.0	83.0	85.3	66.3	53.9	69.6	20.7
Engineering	17,200	28.1	71.9	79.5	73.8	52.0	68.4	22.1
Mathematics and computer sciences	12,100	34.7	65.3	76.3	80.7	51.1	72.6	21.7
Computer and information sciences	5,900	35.9	64.1	71.9	83.4	54.2	66.9	14.5
Mathematics and statistics	6,200	33.6	66.4	80.2	78.3	48.3	77.8	28.2

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Multidisciplinary fields and science and engineering related fields	2,600	28.3	71.7	80.2	80.1	65.7	65.1	23.9
Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	20,600	25.2	74.8	82.1	72.4	50.9	68.4	21.6
Psychology and social sciences	31,200	24.8	75.2	61.9	82.5	57.7	75.9	27.1
Psychology	8,700	23.1	76.9	71.2	80.8	56.0	74.7	22.5
Social sciences	22,400	25.4	74.6	58.1	83.1	58.4	76.3	28.9
Health	13,400	21.0	79.0	72.5	84.4	69.0	58.3	29.9
Non-science and engineering	60,700	28.4	71.6	66.4	86.7	67.4	73.4	31.7
Education	21,100	28.0	72.0	71.8	84.1	69.9	65.7	33.7
Humanities	15,700	27.4	72.6	67.6	87.8	69.4	79.7	30.4
Other non-science and engineering	23,900	29.3	70.7	60.8	88.4	63.7	76.0	30.7
Position tenure								
1 year or less	25,700	25.4	74.6	75.9	81.8	59.2	71.8	36.4
More than 1 year but less than 5 years	108,600	23.0	77.0	75.4	76.5	57.3	71.7	24.1
5 years or more	52,400	31.0	69.0	65.1	84.6	64.8	68.6	27.1

FFRDC = federally funded research and development center.

^a 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.

^b 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.

^c Includes medical and related degrees, such as Medical Doctors (MD), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), and other professional degrees such as Doctor of Education (EdD).

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.