

TABLE 3-3

Primary career advisor 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 a career advisor	Had a career advisor	Position of primary career advisor				
				Direct supervisor	Senior colleague	Peer or colleague	Doctoral degree advisor	Someone else
All early career doctorates	186,700	8.7	91.3	32.5	31.1	14.5	17.3	4.5
Position type ^a								
Faculty	125,600	8.4	91.6	22.6	37.9	16.3	19.0	4.3
Tenured faculty	27,300	8.9	91.1	18.2	41.8	19.1	17.1	3.7
Tenure-track faculty	58,500	5.3	94.7	20.0	41.5	14.3	21.8	2.5
Non-tenure track faculty with rank	13,000	8.2	91.8	34.8	30.0	17.9	10.0	7.3
Other faculty, no rank or tenure	26,800	14.8	85.2	27.3	28.7	17.2	18.9	7.9
Postdoctoral scholar	36,400	8.3	91.7	58.9	11.1	8.4	17.1	4.5
Research scientist or nonfaculty researcher	10,900	7.4	92.6	53.7	23.5	11.8	6.9	4.1
Other positions	13,800	13.9	86.1	36.6	28.9	16.4	11.3	6.9
Employment setting								
Academic institution ^b	178,900	8.8	91.2	31.7	31.2	14.7	17.7	4.6
Very high research activity university	83,000	7.7	92.3	37.9	28.7	13.0	16.6	3.8
High research activity university	27,500	9.6	90.4	26.3	32.2	16.8	19.2	5.5
Other college or university	68,500	9.9	90.1	26.2	33.9	16.1	18.6	5.2
FFRDC	7,800	6.2	93.8	50.6	29.2	8.9	8.5	2.9
Doctoral degree type								
Professional degree or doctoral equivalent ^c	15,700	13.4	86.6	36.9	34.5	16.6	7.8	4.2
Research degree	171,100	8.3	91.7	32.1	30.8	14.3	18.2	4.6
Years since doctoral degree								
1 year or less	36,900	8.4	91.6	39.6	21.1	9.8	23.8	5.7
2–5 years	82,800	8.2	91.8	33.4	30.4	14.0	18.1	4.1
6–10 years	67,000	9.6	90.4	27.4	37.6	17.7	12.9	4.5
Origin of doctoral degree								
U.S. degree	161,800	8.7	91.3	29.3	32.8	15.3	18.1	4.6
Non-U.S. degree	24,900	8.7	91.3	53.6	20.4	9.3	12.2	4.4
Field of doctoral degree								
Science and engineering	112,600	8.4	91.6	38.0	29.1	13.0	15.8	4.2
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	28,900	8.7	91.3	45.2	25.1	13.1	11.9	4.8
Agricultural and environmental life sciences	3,900	5.9	94.1	39.9	27.3	14.3	13.9	4.5
Biological and biomedical sciences	24,900	9.2	90.8	46.0	24.7	13.0	11.5	4.8
Engineering	17,200	8.0	92.0	41.0	29.8	9.6	16.2	3.4
Mathematics and computer sciences	12,100	8.5	91.5	34.4	33.0	12.1	16.1	4.4
Computer and information sciences	5,900	11.0	89.0	33.5	32.1	10.4	18.9	S
Mathematics and statistics	6,200	6.2	93.8	35.2	33.9	13.6	13.6	3.7

TABLE 3-3

Primary career advisor 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 a career advisor	Had a career advisor	Position of primary career advisor				
				Direct supervisor	Senior colleague	Peer or colleague	Doctoral degree advisor	Someone else
Multidisciplinary fields and science and engineering related fields	2,600	7.4	92.6	41.2	31.0	12.8	11.9	3.2
Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	20,600	7.4	92.6	50.1	23.9	11.2	12.4	2.5
Psychology and social sciences	31,200	8.9	91.1	22.5	34.2	16.5	21.6	5.1
Psychology	8,700	8.7	91.3	27.7	30.3	16.1	21.3	4.6
Social sciences	22,400	9.0	91.0	20.5	35.7	16.7	21.8	5.3
Health	13,400	6.8	93.2	34.6	31.0	13.8	15.8	4.7
Non-science and engineering	60,700	9.8	90.2	21.8	35.0	17.3	20.7	5.2
Education	21,100	12.2	87.8	28.0	31.5	18.4	17.8	4.4
Humanities	15,700	9.4	90.6	19.3	37.7	15.7	22.7	4.5
Other non-science and engineering	23,900	8.0	92.0	18.2	36.1	17.5	21.8	6.4
Position tenure								
1 year or less	25,700	7.2	92.8	32.3	26.2	11.8	22.9	6.7
More than 1 year but less than 5 years	108,600	8.6	91.4	35.7	29.6	13.3	17.8	3.7
5 years or more	52,400	9.7	90.3	25.9	36.9	18.4	13.7	5.2

S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

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.