

TABLE 8-1

First-position type held by early career doctorates, by doctoral degree characteristics and demographic characteristics: 2017

(Percent distribution)

Selected characteristic	Number of early career doctorates	Percentage of early career doctorates in first position	First-position type ^a						
			Faculty				Postdoctoral scholar ^c	Research scientist or nonfaculty researcher	All other positions ^d
			Tenured faculty	Tenure-track faculty	Non-tenure track faculty with rank	Other faculty, no rank or tenure ^b			
All early career doctorates	186,700	47.9	8.9	17.0	4.9	17.0	37.7	4.9	9.5
Doctoral degree type									
Professional degree or doctoral equivalent ^e	15,700	57.7	4.9	8.1	15.6	24.1	5.5	2.4	39.5
Research degree	171,100	47.0	9.3	17.8	3.9	16.3	40.7	5.1	6.8
Years since doctoral degree									
1 year or less	36,900	81.7	1.0	21.7	4.7	15.4	44.1	5.1	8.0
2–5 years	82,800	47.0	4.9	20.7	4.8	17.5	37.7	4.9	9.6
6–10 years	67,000	30.4	18.3	9.9	5.2	17.1	34.3	4.9	10.2
Origin of doctoral degree									
U.S. degree	161,800	48.6	9.9	18.7	5.3	18.7	32.3	4.8	10.4
Non-U.S. degree	24,900	43.5	2.4	6.2	2.5	6.1	73.1	5.9	3.8
Field of doctoral degree									
Science and engineering	112,600	44.5	6.4	11.9	3.0	11.6	56.1	6.1	4.9
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life sciences	28,900	41.6	1.7	4.6	2.5	5.4	78.5	3.6	3.6
Agricultural and environmental life sciences	3,900	41.6	4.1	7.8	3.4	4.7	67.8	4.9	7.3
Biological and biomedical sciences	24,900	41.6	1.3	4.1	2.4	5.5	80.2	3.4	3.1
Engineering	17,200	47.1	6.5	11.5	1.7	6.7	56.7	12.5	4.5
Mathematics and computer sciences	12,100	53.8	11.6	19.7	5.6	11.7	38.6	9.7	3.1
Computer and information sciences	5,900	58.6	12.1	22.7	2.5	10.3	32.8	15.3	S
Mathematics and statistics	6,200	49.3	11.1	17.0	8.4	13.0	44.0	4.4	2.1
Multidisciplinary fields and science and engineering related fields	2,600	40.1	D	3.7	S	25.8	47.3	D	13.3
Physical sciences, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences	20,600	38.7	1.2	4.4	1.3	8.3	76.8	5.8	2.2
Psychology and social sciences	31,200	46.2	12.4	21.3	4.4	20.9	28.9	4.1	8.2
Psychology	8,700	36.5	8.4	14.4	3.0	13.8	44.0	2.7	13.7
Social sciences	22,400	49.9	13.9	24.0	S	23.6	23.0	4.6	6.0

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			Faculty				Postdoctoral scholar ^c	Research scientist or nonfaculty researcher	All other positions ^d
			Tenured faculty	Tenure-track faculty	Non-tenure track faculty with rank	Other faculty, no rank or tenure ^b			
Health	13,400	49.4	6.9	18.8	16.0	14.1	16.7	4.1	23.3
Non-science and engineering	60,700	54.0	14.0	26.2	6.0	27.6	8.3	2.9	15.0
Education	21,100	59.1	10.3	16.9	7.9	26.4	5.7	3.1	29.6
Humanities	15,700	43.8	12.9	20.3	4.4	39.1	13.0	2.1	8.1
Other non-science and engineering	23,900	56.2	17.9	38.2	5.3	21.2	7.4	3.2	6.6
Position tenure									
1 year or less	25,700	38.4	2.0	19.0	3.3	27.9	35.7	4.5	7.6
2–5 years	108,600	43.5	1.2	19.1	4.3	14.7	46.0	5.3	9.4
6–10 years	52,400	61.8	28.3	11.8	6.9	16.3	21.7	4.3	10.7
Sex									
Female	89,400	48.1	8.6	18.3	6.5	19.9	30.9	3.8	12.0
Male	97,300	47.7	9.2	15.8	3.4	14.3	44.0	6.0	7.2
Citizenship and sex									
U.S. citizen or permanent resident	156,100	45.5	10.5	17.7	5.4	19.2	31.5	4.9	10.8
Female	79,900	46.4	9.5	18.5	7.0	21.4	27.0	3.5	13.0
Male	76,300	44.6	11.4	16.8	3.7	16.9	36.3	6.3	8.5
Temporary visa holder	30,600	60.2	1.2	13.6	2.3	5.7	69.3	5.0	2.8
Female	9,600	62.7	1.0	16.7	2.3	7.9	63.2	5.7	3.1
Male	21,000	59.0	1.2	12.2	2.3	4.8	72.1	4.6	2.7
Ethnicity and race									
Hispanic or Latino	13,600	49.8	8.2	23.0	3.9	16.2	36.9	3.7	8.0
Not Hispanic or Latino									
Asian	37,600	56.3	7.1	18.4	3.5	7.1	54.9	4.9	4.1
Black or African American	10,100	51.5	8.9	18.9	S	26.8	18.2	3.2	16.4
White	120,800	45.2	9.8	15.5	5.2	19.4	34.2	5.2	10.7
Other race and ethnicity	4,700	37.6	3.1	24.4	5.0	14.0	35.9	5.4	12.2
Age quartile									
32 years and under	38,400	64.4	0.6	16.3	2.6	8.1	61.0	5.3	6.1
33–35 year	51,100	42.4	5.4	20.0	3.0	13.9	46.0	5.4	6.3
36–40 years	41,900	37.3	12.2	17.5	4.1	17.2	35.9	4.7	8.4
41 years or older	55,300	49.5	15.5	14.4	8.9	25.8	15.4	4.4	15.7
Disability status									
With disability	51,700	46.1	10.9	15.9	4.9	20.8	32.5	4.5	10.5
Without disability	135,000	48.6	8.2	17.5	4.9	15.5	39.7	5.1	9.1

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

^a Includes those whose sampled position was also their first position.

^b Other faculty, no rank or tenure, positions includes all other faculty positions such as instructors, lecturers, and adjuncts.

^c Postdoctoral scholar positions are temporary positions in academe, industry, government, or a nonprofit organization primarily for gaining additional education and training in research.

^d All other positions are diverse but are typically university administrators and staff.

^e 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.