

Table 9-12

Psychology research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2021

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	3,149	1,055	1,158	613	323
Definite postdoctoral training plans	47.1	72.7	33.8	37.0	30.7
Definite employment plans	31.8	15.4	43.0	35.7	37.5
Seeking employment or study	18.5	9.6	20.6	25.6	26.3
Other status ^a	2.4	1.8	2.5	1.6	5.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	85.2	84.2	78.8	96.9	91.9
Other training or unknown ^c	14.8	15.8	21.2	3.1	8.1
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	38.2	23.5	36.7	46.1	49.6
In tenure track faculty position (%)	35.3	31.6	31.7	43.6	35.0
Not in tenure track position (%)	61.3	63.2	65.6	54.5	58.3
Government	11.1	24.1	9.4	6.8	8.3
Industry or business ^e	30.9	31.5	28.9	37.4	26.4
Nonprofit organization	9.7	16.7	8.2	6.8	11.6
Other or unknown ^f	10.1	4.3	16.7	2.7	4.1
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	25.3	D	19.9	45.9	D
Teaching	21.9	6.0	18.4	32.5	36.4
Management or administration	7.1	D	10.4	4.3	D
Professional services and other	45.6	83.5	51.4	17.2	29.0
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	26.3	19.5	23.5	35.9	28.0
Teaching	13.9	13.5	14.7	12.4	14.0
Management or administration	13.0	D	14.0	11.0	D
Professional services and other	9.1	D	11.2	10.5	D
No secondary activity	37.6	49.6	36.5	30.1	42.1
Activity unknown	8.8	17.9	7.0	4.6	11.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	96.8	98.3	97.5	93.0	95.5
Midwest	18.0	15.5	22.3	14.1	19.5
Northeast	24.4	28.5	19.5	27.4	20.9
South	29.1	25.2	33.9	28.5	28.2
West	24.8	28.7	21.1	22.9	26.4
Outside the United States	3.2	1.7	2.5	7.0	4.5
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	35.8	29.7	41.3	36.3	38.6
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	872	277	297	214	84
Definite postdoctoral training plans	42.7	67.9	29.0	34.1	29.8
Definite employment plans	35.3	19.9	47.1	36.9	40.5
Seeking employment or study	19.7	9.7	21.5	27.6	26.2
Other status ^a	2.2	2.5	2.0	1.4	3.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					

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Psychology research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2021

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	83.6	80.9	76.7	94.5	96.0
Other training or unknown ^c	16.4	19.1	23.3	5.5	4.0
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	35.7	21.8	34.3	41.8	50.0
In tenure track faculty position (%)	34.5	D	37.5	D	41.2
Not in tenure track position (%)	62.7	D	58.3	D	52.9
Government	13.3	30.9	13.6	D	D
Industry or business ^e	35.1	29.1	34.3	44.3	26.5
Nonprofit organization	10.1	16.4	7.9	7.6	14.7
Other or unknown ^f	5.8	1.8	10.0	D	D
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	26.2	D	22.7	D	29.0
Teaching	19.0	D	14.1	D	35.5
Management or administration	8.6	D	14.8	D	0.0
Professional services and other	46.2	80.4	48.4	25.7	35.5
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	26.5	19.6	20.3	37.8	35.5
Teaching	13.6	D	14.8	12.2	D
Management or administration	14.0	D	15.6	9.5	D
Professional services and other	11.8	D	17.2	8.1	D
No secondary activity	34.1	45.7	32.0	32.4	29.0
Activity unknown	9.4	16.4	8.6	6.3	8.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	95.9	97.5	96.0	D	D
Midwest	18.5	17.7	20.8	13.8	25.4
Northeast	24.1	31.3	17.3	D	D
South	28.5	19.3	37.2	30.9	27.1
West	24.3	28.8	19.9	23.0	25.4
Outside the United States	4.1	2.5	4.0	D	D
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	35.4	30.0	40.3	36.2	37.3
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,277	778	861	399	239
Definite postdoctoral training plans	48.8	74.4	35.4	38.6	31.0
Definite employment plans	30.4	13.8	41.6	35.1	36.4
Seeking employment or study	18.0	9.5	20.3	24.6	26.4
Other status ^a	2.5	1.5	2.7	1.8	6.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	85.8	85.3	79.3	98.1	90.5
Other training or unknown ^c	14.2	14.7	20.7	1.9	9.5
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	39.3	24.3	37.7	48.6	49.4
In tenure track faculty position (%)	35.7	D	29.6	D	32.6
Not in tenure track position (%)	60.7	D	68.1	D	60.5
Government	10.1	20.6	7.8	D	D

Table 9-12**Psychology research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2021**

(Number, percent, and median years)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Industry or business ^e	29.0	32.7	26.8	33.6	26.4
Nonprofit organization	9.5	16.8	8.4	6.4	10.3
Other or unknown ^f	12.0	5.6	19.3	D	D
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	25.0	D	18.8	D	D
Teaching	23.2	D	20.0	D	36.8
Management or administration	6.5	0.0	8.7	D	D
Professional services and other	45.3	85.1	52.5	12.6	26.3
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	26.2	19.5	24.8	34.8	25.0
Teaching	14.1	D	14.6	12.6	D
Management or administration	12.6	13.8	13.4	11.9	9.2
Professional services and other	7.9	D	9.0	11.9	D
No secondary activity	39.2	51.7	38.2	28.9	47.4
Activity unknown	8.5	18.7	6.4	3.6	12.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	97.2	98.5	98.0	D	D
Midwest	17.8	14.7	22.8	14.3	17.4
Northeast	24.5	27.6	20.2	D	D
South	29.4	27.3	32.7	27.2	28.6
West	24.9	28.7	21.6	22.8	26.7
Outside the United States	2.8	1.5	2.0	D	D
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	36.0	29.6	41.6	36.4	39.1

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Includes doctorate recipients reporting: no plans to work or study, some other type of postgraduation plans, or definite plans for other full-time degree program.^b Excludes doctorate recipients reporting plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postdoctoral plans for study.^c Other includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.^d Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.^e Includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^f Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.^g Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work activity.^h Percentages based on number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.ⁱ Includes cases with an unknown U.S. region of employment after doctorate, thus the percentages by regions will not sum to the value for United States; see the "Technical Notes" for states or territories included in regions.**Note(s):**

Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100. Beginning in 2021, a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes was used in the survey data collection, and the new broad, major, and detailed fields were used in tables reporting only the most recent data year. Therefore, the field of doctorate data in 2021 may not be comparable to prior years; see the "Technical Notes" for more information, table A-4 for a summary of SED-CIP codes in the new SED field taxonomy, table A-5 for a full list of SED-CIP codes in the new field taxonomy, and table A-6 for the SED-CIP code crosswalk to the historical field taxonomy.

Source(s):

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates.