

Table 9-13

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

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All social sciences fields	Anthropology	Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	Economics	Political science and government	Public policy analysis	Sociology, demography, and population studies	Social sciences, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	4,378	360	345	1,204	517	375	544	1,033
Definite postdoctoral training plans	19.6	26.4	21.2	17.2	26.9	12.5	23.5	16.6
Definite employment plans	51.2	30.3	40.0	66.6	43.5	55.5	49.1	47.7
Seeking employment or study	26.5	39.7	34.5	15.0	26.3	27.7	25.4	32.9
Other status ^a	2.6	3.6	4.1	1.2	3.3	4.0	2.0	2.8
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.2	95.8	94.5	98.1	100.0	93.6	99.2	95.3
Other training or unknown ^c	2.8	4.2	5.5	1.9	0.0	6.4	0.8	4.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	51.7	67.0	70.3	46.0	56.4	37.0	60.3	51.7
In tenure track faculty position (%)	53.5	27.4	30.9	75.9	45.7	32.5	51.6	48.6
Not in tenure track position (%)	44.5	71.2	68.0	22.2	54.3	63.6	47.8	47.5
Government	16.0	5.5	3.6	20.0	10.2	23.6	12.7	16.6
Industry or business ^e	19.3	15.6	8.0	27.1	18.2	15.9	12.0	16.4
Nonprofit organization	9.1	9.2	7.2	5.5	9.3	17.3	11.6	10.5
Other or unknown ^f	3.9	2.8	10.9	1.5	5.8	6.3	3.4	4.7
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	44.5	25.0	9.8	62.1	31.4	41.7	45.5	36.1
Teaching	29.4	50.0	68.9	15.8	40.5	12.1	37.0	34.2
Management or administration	9.2	9.3	16.7	3.2	9.0	27.1	5.8	11.3
Professional services and other	16.9	15.7	4.5	18.9	19.0	19.1	11.7	18.5
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	28.4	35.2	44.7	23.1	33.3	18.6	31.9	31.0
Teaching	21.7	12.0	7.6	29.1	21.9	20.1	18.7	18.0
Management or administration	10.9	13.0	3.8	8.8	6.2	15.6	14.8	13.8
Professional services and other	10.6	6.5	7.6	13.0	8.1	12.6	9.3	9.6
No secondary activity	28.4	33.3	36.4	26.0	30.5	33.2	25.3	27.6
Activity unknown	4.1	0.9	4.3	3.5	6.7	4.3	3.7	4.5
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	80.6	87.3	89.1	69.5	81.6	90.6	89.1	83.3
Midwest	14.4	17.6	18.5	12.3	15.7	14.1	14.7	14.6
Northeast	18.4	20.1	23.7	18.3	20.1	17.6	21.8	13.7

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

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All social sciences fields	Anthropology	Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	Economics	Political science and government	Public policy analysis	Sociology, demography, and population studies	Social sciences, other
South	28.0	21.6	20.9	22.8	26.6	43.5	31.9	32.5
West	19.1	26.5	23.7	15.7	18.4	15.3	20.0	21.7
Outside the United States	19.3	12.7	10.4	30.4	18.4	9.4	10.9	16.7
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	28.7	33.8	41.7	15.7	28.8	40.4	35.9	33.7
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,174	111	119	801	302	159	207	475
Definite postdoctoral training plans	19.2	29.7	25.2	17.4	27.8	8.2	23.2	14.9
Definite employment plans	54.0	27.0	45.4	66.7	42.1	59.1	49.8	48.6
Seeking employment or study	24.7	41.4	28.6	14.6	26.8	27.7	26.1	34.1
Other status ^a	2.0	1.8	0.8	1.2	3.3	5.0	1.0	2.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.8	97.0	96.7	97.8	100.0	84.6	100.0	97.2
Other training or unknown ^c	2.2	3.0	3.3	2.2	0.0	15.4	0.0	2.8
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	49.7	66.7	70.4	45.1	54.3	31.9	68.9	49.4
In tenure track faculty position (%)	58.0	35.0	28.9	76.8	42.0	36.7	46.5	54.4
Not in tenure track position (%)	39.6	65.0	71.1	21.2	58.0	56.7	53.5	39.5
Government	18.3	D	D	22.3	10.2	24.5	8.7	19.5
Industry or business ^e	20.2	D	D	25.7	19.7	20.2	D	16.5
Nonprofit organization	7.8	D	D	5.4	10.2	18.1	D	9.1
Other or unknown ^f	3.9	3.3	13.0	1.5	5.5	5.3	4.9	5.6
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	48.0	23.3	13.5	65.1	26.9	39.6	46.0	34.9
Teaching	26.8	53.3	71.2	13.7	43.7	11.0	42.0	34.0
Management or administration	8.5	D	D	3.9	10.9	26.4	D	11.6
Professional services and other	16.7	D	D	17.4	18.5	23.1	D	19.5
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	26.8	40.0	42.3	20.8	37.8	18.7	30.0	31.6
Teaching	24.1	D	D	30.3	19.3	24.2	20.0	19.1
Management or administration	D	D	D	7.7	D	16.5	12.0	14.4

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All social sciences fields	Anthropology	Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	Economics	Political science and government	Public policy analysis	Sociology, demography, and population studies	Social sciences, other
Professional services and other	D	D	9.6	13.7	D	15.4	12.0	10.2
No secondary activity	26.8	23.3	34.6	27.4	27.7	25.3	26.0	24.7
Activity unknown	4.1	0.0	3.7	3.0	6.3	3.2	2.9	6.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	76.1	84.1	82.1	67.0	82.0	87.9	83.4	80.8
Midwest	14.5	12.7	15.5	12.8	19.4	11.2	15.2	15.9
Northeast	17.4	20.6	25.0	16.2	19.4	17.8	23.2	12.9
South	25.9	20.6	14.3	21.8	26.1	47.7	25.8	31.5
West	17.9	30.2	26.2	15.9	16.1	11.2	19.2	20.2
Outside the United States	23.8	15.9	16.7	32.8	18.0	12.1	16.6	19.2
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	24.7	36.5	45.2	14.7	28.4	36.4	31.1	28.8
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,203	249	225	403	215	216	337	558
Definite postdoctoral training plans	20.1	24.9	19.1	16.9	25.6	15.7	23.7	17.9
Definite employment plans	48.5	31.7	37.3	66.5	45.6	52.8	48.7	47.0
Seeking employment or study	28.2	39.0	37.3	15.6	25.6	27.8	24.9	31.9
Other status ^a	3.1	4.4	5.8	1.0	3.3	3.2	2.7	3.2
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.6	95.2	93.0	98.5	100.0	97.1	98.8	94.0
Other training or unknown ^c	3.4	4.8	7.0	1.5	0.0	2.9	1.3	6.0
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	53.9	67.1	70.2	47.8	59.2	41.2	54.9	53.8
In tenure track faculty position (%)	49.0	24.5	32.2	74.2	50.0	29.8	55.6	44.0
Not in tenure track position (%)	49.5	73.6	66.1	24.2	50.0	68.1	43.3	53.9
Government	13.5	D	D	15.3	10.2	22.8	15.2	14.1
Industry or business ^e	18.2	D	D	29.9	16.3	12.3	D	16.4
Nonprofit organization	10.5	D	D	5.6	8.2	16.7	D	11.8
Other or unknown ^f	3.9	2.5	9.5	1.5	6.1	7.0	2.4	3.8
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	40.6	25.6	7.5	56.3	37.4	43.5	45.2	37.1
Teaching	32.3	48.7	67.5	19.9	36.3	13.0	33.8	34.4

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All social sciences fields	Anthropology	Area, ethnic, cultural, gender, and group studies	Economics	Political science and government	Public policy analysis	Sociology, demography, and population studies	Social sciences, other
Management or administration	9.9	D	D	2.0	6.6	27.8	D	10.9
Professional services and other	17.2	D	D	21.9	19.8	15.7	D	17.6
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	30.1	33.3	46.3	27.7	27.5	18.5	33.1	30.5
Teaching	19.1	D	D	26.6	25.3	16.7	17.8	17.2
Management or administration	D	D	D	10.9	D	14.8	16.6	13.3
Professional services and other	D	D	6.3	11.7	D	10.2	7.6	9.0
No secondary activity	30.0	37.2	37.5	23.0	34.1	39.8	24.8	30.1
Activity unknown	4.0	1.3	4.8	4.5	7.1	5.3	4.3	2.3
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	85.4	88.7	93.7	74.4	81.0	92.6	92.6	85.4
Midwest	14.3	19.9	20.5	11.3	10.5	16.2	14.3	13.5
Northeast	19.5	19.9	22.8	22.6	20.9	17.6	20.9	14.4
South	30.2	22.0	25.2	24.7	27.5	40.5	35.7	33.4
West	20.3	24.8	22.0	15.2	21.6	18.2	20.5	22.9
Outside the United States	14.6	11.3	6.3	25.6	19.0	7.4	7.4	14.6
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	32.8	32.6	39.4	17.6	29.4	43.2	38.9	37.8

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.