

TABLE 9-13

Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2023

(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)	4,605	349	420	1,265	603	388	583	997
Definite postdoctoral training plans	22.4	29.5	23.3	17.6	28.9	16.0	27.4	21.1
Definite employment plans	53.8	35.8	42.1	68.3	48.6	57.5	53.2	48.5
Seeking employment or study	21.2	31.8	31.2	12.5	20.4	22.9	16.3	27.2
Other status ^a	2.6	2.9	3.3	1.6	2.2	3.6	2.9	3.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.6	97.1	93.9	96.9	96.6	93.5	98.8	96.7
Other training or unknown ^c	3.4	2.9	6.1	3.1	3.4	6.5	1.3	3.3
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	53.2	60.8	76.3	43.6	61.4	36.3	65.8	54.3
In tenure track faculty position (%)	55.5	38.2	35.6	74.8	56.1	33.3	56.4	48.7
Not in tenure track position (%)	42.2	61.8	60.7	23.3	41.7	61.7	42.6	48.3
Government	12.4	7.2	4.5	16.2	9.6	17.5	7.1	12.6
Industry or business ^e	20.7	16.0	5.1	29.9	17.7	15.7	13.5	20.0
Nonprofit organization	10.0	11.2	6.8	8.1	8.2	22.0	11.3	8.9
Other or unknown ^f	3.8	4.8	7.3	2.2	3.1	8.5	2.3	4.1
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	42.1	D	D	58.0	35.3	40.6	40.0	32.3
Teaching	34.7	46.2	61.7	19.6	47.9	15.1	44.3	43.3
Management or administration	3.9	D	D	0.8	2.4	13.7	4.7	4.9
Professional services and other	19.3	21.0	15.4	21.5	14.3	30.7	11.0	19.5
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	33.1	42.0	45.1	25.9	42.0	19.8	36.7	37.5
Teaching	14.5	10.1	12.6	19.4	14.0	11.8	14.7	9.0
Management or administration	13.8	16.8	9.7	11.8	8.0	27.4	13.3	15.8
Professional services and other	8.8	5.9	6.3	11.4	7.3	9.9	6.0	7.9
No secondary activity	29.8	25.2	26.3	31.5	28.7	31.1	29.3	29.8
Activity unknown	3.1	4.8	1.1	2.7	2.4	4.9	3.2	3.5
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	84.1	83.3	89.5	75.6	87.4	93.0	89.8	86.0
Midwest	15.0	12.7	18.5	12.8	13.7	15.8	20.6	14.6
Northeast	22.2	26.8	25.8	19.7	28.1	19.3	25.3	18.6

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Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2023

(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	27.9	24.1	18.9	27.1	29.1	38.9	25.1	30.5
West	18.4	18.4	26.2	15.3	15.8	18.9	18.5	21.6
Outside the United States	15.8	16.7	10.5	24.2	12.6	6.7	10.2	14.0
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	30.2	36.0	40.0	18.7	28.1	46.0	35.7	33.6
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,232	121	147	820	347	154	220	423
Definite postdoctoral training plans	23.1	30.6	29.3	18.0	30.3	13.6	33.2	21.0
Definite employment plans	55.2	37.2	36.1	68.8	48.1	57.1	48.6	48.9
Seeking employment or study	19.7	28.9	32.0	11.6	19.9	27.3	15.9	27.4
Other status ^a	2.1	3.3	2.7	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.7	94.6	95.3	97.3	97.1	90.5	100.0	95.5
Other training or unknown ^c	3.3	5.4	4.7	2.7	2.9	9.5	0.0	4.5
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	50.6	55.6	77.4	43.3	61.7	29.5	71.0	52.2
In tenure track faculty position (%)	57.9	56.0	34.1	73.8	48.5	26.9	47.4	55.6
Not in tenure track position (%)	40.0	44.0	65.9	23.8	49.5	65.4	52.6	41.7
Government	15.0	D	D	18.3	9.6	17.0	7.5	17.4
Industry or business ^e	23.2	D	D	30.5	15.6	21.6	10.3	21.3
Nonprofit organization	8.0	D	D	6.0	9.6	25.0	7.5	5.8
Other or unknown ^f	3.2	0.0	9.4	2.0	3.6	6.8	3.7	3.4
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	43.4	D	D	59.6	34.1	37.2	D	25.3
Teaching	33.1	40.9	67.9	18.8	50.6	14.0	49.0	47.0
Management or administration	2.8	D	D	D	D	8.1	D	5.1
Professional services and other	20.7	20.5	17.0	D	D	40.7	12.5	22.7
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	32.9	36.4	50.9	25.0	41.5	23.3	41.3	41.4
Teaching	15.3	11.4	13.2	19.9	12.8	11.6	12.5	9.1
Management or administration	14.6	D	D	14.5	9.8	30.2	D	14.6
Professional services and other	8.4	D	D	10.7	7.9	5.8	D	7.6

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Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2023

(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
No secondary activity	28.9	31.8	24.5	30.0	28.0	29.1	28.8	27.3
Activity unknown	3.1	2.2	0.0	3.5	1.8	2.3	2.8	4.3
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	80.1	78.0	88.5	73.0	86.8	89.0	85.6	82.1
Midwest	14.7	9.8	18.8	12.9	14.7	14.7	22.8	14.2
Northeast	21.1	22.0	22.9	20.4	26.1	22.0	22.8	16.2
South	26.4	19.5	26.0	24.9	26.8	33.9	23.9	30.7
West	17.2	24.4	20.8	14.2	18.8	18.3	16.1	20.3
Outside the United States	19.8	22.0	11.5	26.8	13.2	10.1	14.4	17.9
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	27.7	28.0	38.5	18.3	30.1	45.9	35.6	33.1
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,371	228	272	444	256	234	363	574
Definite postdoctoral training plans	21.7	28.9	20.2	16.9	27.0	17.5	24.0	21.1
Definite employment plans	52.5	35.1	45.6	67.3	49.2	57.7	55.9	48.3
Seeking employment or study	22.7	33.3	30.9	14.2	21.1	20.1	16.5	27.0
Other status ^a	3.0	2.6	3.3	1.6	2.7	4.7	3.3	3.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.5	98.5	92.7	96.0	95.7	95.1	97.7	97.5
Other training or unknown ^c	3.5	1.5	7.3	4.0	4.3	4.9	2.3	2.5
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	55.7	63.8	75.8	44.5	61.1	40.7	63.1	56.0
In tenure track faculty position (%)	53.2	29.4	36.2	76.7	66.2	36.4	61.7	43.9
Not in tenure track position (%)	44.3	70.6	58.5	22.6	31.2	60.0	36.7	52.9
Government	9.7	D	D	12.0	9.5	17.8	6.9	9.0
Industry or business ^e	18.3	D	D	28.8	20.6	11.9	15.3	19.1
Nonprofit organization	11.9	D	D	12.0	6.3	20.0	13.3	11.2
Other or unknown ^f	4.3	7.5	6.5	2.7	2.4	9.6	1.5	4.7
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	40.8	D	20.5	55.1	36.9	42.9	D	37.5
Teaching	36.2	49.3	59.0	21.3	44.3	15.9	41.8	40.5
Management or administration	5.1	D	5.7	D	D	17.5	D	4.8
Professional services and other	17.9	21.3	14.8	D	D	23.8	10.2	17.1

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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
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	33.3	45.3	42.6	27.7	42.6	17.5	34.2	34.6
Teaching	13.8	9.3	12.3	18.6	15.6	11.9	15.8	8.9
Management or administration	13.0	D	D	6.8	5.7	25.4	D	16.7
Professional services and other	9.2	D	D	12.8	6.6	12.7	D	8.2
No secondary activity	30.7	21.3	27.0	34.1	29.5	32.5	29.6	31.6
Activity unknown	3.1	6.3	1.6	1.0	3.2	6.7	3.4	2.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	88.2	86.3	89.9	80.5	88.2	95.5	92.4	88.9
Midwest	15.3	14.4	18.4	12.6	12.3	16.5	19.3	14.8
Northeast	23.4	29.5	27.4	18.4	30.8	17.6	26.9	20.4
South	29.4	26.7	15.1	31.6	32.3	42.0	25.9	30.4
West	19.5	15.1	29.1	17.1	11.8	19.3	20.0	22.6
Outside the United States	11.8	13.7	10.1	19.3	11.8	4.5	7.6	11.1
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	32.6	40.4	40.8	19.3	25.1	46.0	35.9	33.9

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

^a Other status 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 Definite postdoctoral training plans excludes doctorate recipients reporting plans for other full-time degree program. Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postdoctoral plans for study.^c Other training includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.^d Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.^e Industry or business includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.^f Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.^g Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work activity.^h Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.ⁱ United States includes doctorate recipients 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):**

A definite postgraduation commitment includes accepting new employment or a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position or returning to predoctoral employment, while postgraduation employment includes accepting new employment or returning to predoctoral employment that is not a postdoctoral study (postdoc) position. 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 new broad, major, and detailed fields are used in tables reporting data from 2021 to the present; see the field list in table A-4. Therefore, the field of doctorate data prior to 2021 may not be comparable to subsequent years. For more information about the 2021 taxonomy change, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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