

**Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024**

(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)	4,704	364	417	1,263	597	398	596	1,069
Definite postdoctoral training plans	22.7	29.1	20.1	20.9	26.8	16.1	29.4	20.3
Definite employment plans	51.7	34.3	46.0	62.5	50.1	56.5	47.1	48.6
Seeking employment or study	23.0	33.8	30.5	14.9	20.6	22.6	21.0	28.5
Other status <sup>a</sup>	2.5	2.7	3.4	1.5	2.5	4.8	2.5	2.5
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) <sup>b</sup>								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.8	96.2	98.8	95.5	97.5	95.3	98.3	96.8
Other training or unknown <sup>c</sup>	3.2	3.8	1.2	4.5	2.5	4.7	1.7	3.2
Definite employment plans (%) <sup>d</sup>								
Academe	55.1	60.8	70.8	49.9	65.6	34.2	67.3	52.4
In tenure track faculty position (%)	52.3	32.9	34.6	69.3	56.1	35.1	56.6	41.2
Not in tenure track position (%)	45.5	61.8	63.2	29.7	41.8	61.0	41.3	56.3
Government	14.2	7.2	3.6	16.3	13.4	21.8	7.8	17.0
Industry or business <sup>e</sup>	16.9	12.0	9.4	23.3	13.0	13.3	11.4	17.7
Nonprofit organization	9.8	16.8	5.7	7.7	6.4	21.3	11.4	9.1
Other or unknown <sup>f</sup>	4.0	3.2	10.4	2.8	1.7	9.3	2.1	3.9
Primary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	41.2	23.9	12.4	55.3	35.3	41.6	44.3	35.9
Teaching	32.2	46.2	65.6	20.7	42.5	14.9	37.0	33.1
Management or administration	9.2	13.7	14.0	1.8	8.6	25.3	7.0	12.1
Professional services and other	17.4	16.2	8.1	22.2	13.7	18.1	11.7	18.8
Secondary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	30.3	39.3	46.2	25.9	40.4	18.1	30.8	28.4
Teaching	20.8	15.4	12.9	26.8	18.2	16.7	22.3	18.3
Management or administration	11.5	9.4	5.9	10.8	8.2	21.7	10.3	13.5
Professional services and other	9.3	6.0	8.6	10.9	8.2	10.9	8.1	8.3
No secondary activity	28.1	29.9	26.3	25.6	25.0	32.6	28.6	31.5
Activity unknown	2.7	6.4	3.1	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.9
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>h</sup>								
United States <sup>i</sup>	84.3	87.0	89.9	76.3	85.0	92.7	91.0	85.1
Midwest	15.1	16.9	18.8	11.8	15.9	15.2	18.4	15.2
Northeast	23.4	23.4	27.5	19.8	27.7	18.7	30.5	21.6
South	27.8	26.0	19.2	28.7	26.8	41.2	23.5	28.1
West	17.5	20.8	23.6	15.0	14.6	17.3	17.8	19.7
Outside the United States	15.7	13.0	10.1	23.7	15.0	7.3	9.0	14.9
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 (%)	32.5	35.1	42.4	21.3	26.6	44.6	39.7	38.3

**Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024**

(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
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,228	117	165	811	338	162	201	434
Definite postdoctoral training plans	21.9	26.5	21.8	20.5	24.6	16.0	32.3	18.9
Definite employment plans	53.8	38.5	44.8	63.1	52.1	56.8	45.3	48.2
Seeking employment or study	21.6	34.2	30.9	14.5	19.8	22.8	18.9	30.0
Other status <sup>a</sup>	2.6	0.9	2.4	1.7	3.6	4.3	3.5	3.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) <sup>b</sup>								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.3	96.8	D	95.8	98.8	92.3	D	98.8
Other training or unknown <sup>c</sup>	2.7	3.2	D	4.2	1.2	7.7	D	1.2
Definite employment plans (%) <sup>d</sup>								
Academe	54.0	60.0	78.4	48.8	62.5	31.5	64.8	55.0
In tenure track faculty position (%)	52.9	29.6	31.0	66.8	49.1	41.4	66.1	39.1
Not in tenure track position (%)	45.7	63.0	69.0	32.0	50.0	55.2	33.9	59.1
Government	16.6	D	D	17.4	14.2	27.2	8.8	20.1
Industry or business <sup>e</sup>	17.9	D	D	23.8	14.8	15.2	12.1	15.3
Nonprofit organization	8.0	D	D	7.2	6.3	16.3	13.2	6.2
Other or unknown <sup>f</sup>	3.4	2.2	6.8	2.7	2.3	9.8	1.1	3.3
Primary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	42.1	19.0	13.7	55.0	33.3	36.3	48.3	32.7
Teaching	30.6	45.2	72.6	18.8	42.1	14.3	34.8	37.1
Management or administration	7.4	16.7	D	D	8.8	27.5	D	9.9
Professional services and other	19.9	19.0	D	D	15.8	22.0	D	20.3
Secondary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	30.6	52.4	56.2	24.4	39.2	22.0	28.1	29.7
Teaching	22.4	14.3	13.7	27.8	16.4	16.5	29.2	18.8
Management or administration	12.2	D	D	D	8.2	23.1	12.4	16.3
Professional services and other	8.7	D	D	D	7.0	12.1	9.0	6.4
No secondary activity	26.1	28.6	20.5	25.4	29.2	26.4	21.3	28.7
Activity unknown	2.6	6.7	1.4	2.3	2.8	1.1	2.2	3.3
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>h</sup>								
United States <sup>i</sup>	80.0	85.5	86.4	73.0	84.2	89.8	89.7	79.4
Midwest	14.4	21.1	19.1	9.7	15.1	16.9	22.4	15.8
Northeast	23.5	26.3	29.1	21.2	27.0	18.6	32.7	19.6
South	26.6	22.4	20.9	26.7	28.6	39.0	17.9	27.5
West	15.1	15.8	16.4	14.7	13.5	14.4	16.0	16.5
Outside the United States	20.0	14.5	13.6	27.0	15.8	10.2	10.3	20.6
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 (%)	29.6	36.8	41.8	21.2	25.1	40.7	41.0	35.7

**Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2024**

(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
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,476	247	252	452	259	236	395	635
Definite postdoctoral training plans	23.5	30.4	19.0	21.7	29.7	16.1	27.8	21.3
Definite employment plans	49.8	32.4	46.8	61.5	47.5	56.4	48.1	48.8
Seeking employment or study	24.2	33.6	30.2	15.5	21.6	22.5	22.0	27.6
Other status <sup>a</sup>	2.5	3.6	4.0	1.1	1.2	5.1	2.0	2.2
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) <sup>b</sup>								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.4	96.0	D	94.9	96.1	97.4	D	95.6
Other training or unknown <sup>c</sup>	3.6	4.0	D	5.1	3.9	2.6	D	4.4
Definite employment plans (%) <sup>d</sup>								
Academe	56.2	61.3	66.1	51.8	69.9	36.1	68.4	50.6
In tenure track faculty position (%)	51.7	34.7	37.2	73.6	65.1	31.3	52.3	42.7
Not in tenure track position (%)	45.4	61.2	59.0	25.7	31.4	64.6	44.6	54.1
Government	11.8	D	D	14.4	12.2	18.0	7.4	14.8
Industry or business <sup>e</sup>	15.8	D	D	22.3	10.6	12.0	11.1	19.4
Nonprofit organization	11.6	D	D	8.6	6.5	24.8	10.5	11.0
Other or unknown <sup>f</sup>	4.6	3.8	12.7	2.9	0.8	9.0	2.6	4.2
Primary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	40.4	26.7	11.5	55.9	38.0	45.4	42.4	38.1
Teaching	33.8	46.7	61.1	24.3	43.0	15.4	38.0	30.5
Management or administration	10.9	12.0	D	D	8.3	23.8	D	13.6
Professional services and other	15.0	14.7	D	D	10.7	15.4	D	17.9
Secondary activity <sup>g</sup>								
Research and development	30.1	32.0	39.8	28.7	42.1	15.4	32.1	27.5
Teaching	19.2	16.0	12.4	25.0	20.7	16.9	19.0	17.9
Management or administration	10.9	D	D	D	8.3	20.8	9.2	11.6
Professional services and other	9.8	D	D	D	9.9	10.0	7.6	9.6
No secondary activity	30.0	30.7	30.1	26.1	19.0	36.9	32.1	33.4
Activity unknown	2.8	6.3	4.2	2.2	1.6	2.3	3.2	2.6
Postgraduation location (%) <sup>h</sup>								
United States <sup>i</sup>	88.4	87.7	92.2	82.2	86.0	94.7	91.7	88.8
Midwest	15.7	14.8	18.7	15.4	17.0	14.0	16.3	14.8
Northeast	23.3	21.9	26.5	17.3	28.5	18.7	29.3	22.9
South	28.8	27.7	18.1	32.4	24.5	42.7	26.3	28.5
West	19.8	23.2	28.3	15.4	16.0	19.3	18.7	21.8
Outside the United States	11.6	12.3	7.8	17.8	14.0	5.3	8.3	11.2
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 (%)	35.2	34.2	42.8	21.5	28.5	47.4	39.0	40.0

D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> 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.

<sup>c</sup> Other training includes doctorate recipients who reported definite postdoctoral plans for traineeship, internship or clinical residency, or other study.

<sup>d</sup> Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment.

<sup>e</sup> Industry or business includes doctorate recipients reporting self-employment.

<sup>f</sup> Other is mainly composed of elementary and secondary schools.

<sup>g</sup> Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans for employment and primary or secondary work activity.

<sup>h</sup> Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation plans and type of plans.

<sup>i</sup> 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.