

Table 9-14. Education research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All education fields	Education leadership and administration	Education research	Teacher education and teaching fields	Education, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	3,522	1,087	1,019	1,030	386
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	5.8	2.7	6.8	7.5	7.3
Definite employment plans (%)	66.7	75.3	63.9	61.9	62.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	24.8	19.8	26.2	27.4	28.5
Other status (%) ^a	2.7	2.0	3.1	3.2	1.8
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	94.6	89.7	97.1	93.5	96.4
Other training or unknown ^c	5.4	10.3	2.9	6.5	3.6
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	52.6	54.7	51.5	53.1	47.3
In tenure track faculty position	27.2	13.2	29.0	42.5	31.6
Not in tenure track position	69.1	84.2	66.6	53.7	63.2
Government	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.2	2.9
Industry or business ^e	7.8	5.3	13.1	6.6	5.4
Nonprofit organization	7.4	6.5	9.8	5.6	8.7
Other or unknown ^f	28.0	29.2	21.2	30.4	35.7
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	11.0	6.6	16.3	10.6	12.3
Teaching	39.5	19.9	39.4	61.6	48.0
Management or administration	36.2	63.2	22.7	17.7	29.5
Professional services and other	13.3	10.3	21.6	10.1	10.1
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	22.8	14.5	23.5	33.2	21.6
Teaching	18.8	19.9	21.0	16.1	16.3
Management or administration	10.8	10.9	12.3	9.8	9.3
Professional services and other	10.4	12.3	11.7	7.7	7.5
No secondary activity	37.2	42.4	31.5	33.2	45.4
Activity unknown	3.2	2.6	4.0	2.4	5.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	94.7	95.4	95.8	92.4	95.2
Midwest	18.3	21.0	17.2	16.5	17.8
Northeast	16.7	14.5	16.4	17.8	21.6
South	42.0	45.2	42.9	44.1	24.2
West	17.1	14.3	18.8	13.3	31.6
Outside the United States	5.3	4.4	4.2	7.6	4.8
Location unknown	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	63.3	69.5	60.7	58.9	62.8
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	930	321	271	247	91
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	5.9	3.4	8.9	5.7	6.6
Definite employment plans (%)	68.8	76.0	63.1	67.2	64.8
Seeking employment or study (%)	22.7	18.7	24.0	25.1	26.4
Other status (%) ^a	2.5	1.6	4.1	2.0	2.2
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	96.4	90.9	D	D	83.3
Other training or unknown ^c	3.6	9.1	D	D	16.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					

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Academe	55.5	54.1	52.6	61.4	52.5
In tenure track faculty position	30.7	13.6	34.4	48.0	35.5
Not in tenure track position	65.1	83.3	62.2	47.1	54.8
Government	4.7	D	5.3	6.6	D
Industry or business ^e	8.0	D	14.0	5.4	D
Nonprofit organization	7.0	D	9.4	3.0	D
Other or unknown ^f	24.8	27.9	18.7	23.5	33.9
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	11.5	D	19.9	10.5	D
Teaching	38.5	18.1	38.6	62.3	57.4
Management or administration	39.4	66.0	22.9	21.0	27.8
Professional services and other	10.6	D	18.7	6.2	D
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	24.4	D	24.1	41.4	D
Teaching	18.5	20.6	18.1	17.3	14.8
Management or administration	12.1	D	16.3	9.3	D
Professional services and other	11.6	12.2	14.5	8.0	11.1
No secondary activity	33.4	41.2	27.1	24.1	46.3
Activity unknown	3.1	2.5	2.9	2.4	8.5
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	92.5	96.5	93.3	D	D
Midwest	19.4	25.1	15.9	14.4	21.5
Northeast	15.5	13.7	17.9	15.0	16.9
South	40.9	43.5	42.1	40.6	27.7
West	15.5	12.9	16.4	D	D
Outside the United States	7.3	3.1	6.7	D	D
Location unknown	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	58.6	67.1	57.9	45.6	63.1
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,592	766	748	783	295
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	5.7	2.3	6.0	8.0	7.5
Definite employment plans (%)	65.9	75.1	64.2	60.3	61.7
Seeking employment or study (%)	25.6	20.2	27.0	28.1	29.2
Other status (%) ^a	2.7	2.2	2.8	3.6	1.7
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	93.9	88.9	95.6	92.1	D
Other training or unknown ^c	6.1	11.1	4.4	7.9	D
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	51.6	55.0	51.0	50.2	45.6
In tenure track faculty position	25.8	13.0	26.9	40.1	30.1
Not in tenure track position	70.7	84.5	68.2	56.5	66.3
Government	4.0	D	4.2	3.4	D
Industry or business ^e	7.7	D	12.7	7.0	D
Nonprofit organization	7.5	D	10.0	6.6	D
Other or unknown ^f	29.1	29.7	22.1	32.8	36.3
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	10.8	D	15.0	10.6	D
Teaching	39.9	20.7	39.7	61.4	45.1
Management or administration	35.0	62.0	22.7	16.5	30.1

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All education fields	Education leadership and administration	Education research	Teacher education and teaching fields	Education, other
Professional services and other	14.3	D	22.7	11.5	D
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	22.3	D	23.3	30.4	D
Teaching	18.9	19.6	22.0	15.6	16.8
Management or administration	10.3	D	10.9	10.0	D
Professional services and other	9.9	12.3	10.7	7.6	6.4
No secondary activity	38.6	42.9	33.1	36.4	45.1
Activity unknown	3.3	2.6	4.4	2.3	4.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	95.5	94.9	96.8	D	D
Midwest	17.9	19.2	17.7	17.2	16.7
Northeast	17.1	14.8	15.8	18.7	23.0
South	42.4	45.9	43.2	45.2	23.0
West	17.7	14.8	19.6	D	D
Outside the United States	4.5	4.9	3.2	D	D
Location unknown	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	65.1	70.5	61.7	63.4	62.7

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. The survey data collection for the field of study changed in 2021, which may affect the data comparisons across years. This table uses the new field taxonomy based on a modified version of the 2020 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes and does not match data that uses the trend field taxonomy. For more information about the field taxonomy changes, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):

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