

Table 9-15. Humanities research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,931	873	469	711	538	340
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	15.3	10.4	11.9	21.9	21.6	8.8
Definite employment plans (%)	46.8	50.3	43.9	42.9	40.0	60.6
Seeking employment or study (%)	33.8	35.2	39.4	31.8	33.8	27.1
Other status (%) ^a	4.0	4.0	4.7	3.4	4.6	3.5
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	95.5	97.8	96.4	96.2	94.0	90.0
Other training or unknown ^c	4.5	2.2	3.6	3.8	6.0	10.0
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	68.1	79.0	77.7	61.6	72.6	39.8
In tenure track faculty position	31.9	32.0	29.4	33.0	33.3	31.7
Not in tenure track position	64.5	66.6	69.4	62.2	60.9	58.5
Government	4.3	3.4	D	10.5	2.8	D
Industry or business ^e	8.5	9.1	8.3	9.8	7.9	6.3
Nonprofit organization	12.9	3.9	5.8	10.8	11.6	43.7
Other or unknown ^f	6.2	4.6	D	7.2	5.1	D
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	9.9	6.7	11.4	14.9	12.0	5.6
Teaching	62.6	65.8	70.6	57.6	63.6	53.8
Management or administration	13.0	13.9	8.5	14.6	10.0	16.2
Professional services and other	14.5	13.6	9.5	12.9	14.4	24.4
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	35.3	37.2	38.8	33.9	40.7	23.9
Teaching	15.2	11.1	10.4	16.3	19.6	22.8
Management or administration	11.4	10.9	10.4	9.8	8.6	18.8
Professional services and other	6.3	7.4	4.5	5.4	4.8	8.6
No secondary activity	31.8	33.5	35.8	34.6	26.3	25.9
Activity unknown	2.6	1.4	2.4	3.3	2.8	4.4
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	89.9	94.3	86.6	90.2	87.3	86.9
Midwest	20.4	19.2	21.0	19.1	18.7	27.1
Northeast	22.4	23.2	26.0	22.8	24.5	13.1
South	30.9	35.3	18.7	32.5	28.1	35.6
West	15.8	16.0	20.6	15.4	16.0	10.6
Outside the United States	9.9	5.5	13.4	9.8	12.4	13.1
Location unknown	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	39.6	46.4	39.3	38.0	33.5	36.4

Table 9-15. Humanities research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,431	295	194	388	332	222
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	17.1	14.2	16.0	21.6	21.1	8.1
Definite employment plans (%)	45.6	46.4	37.6	41.5	38.6	68.9
Seeking employment or study (%)	34.0	37.6	42.3	33.8	35.8	19.4
Other status (%) ^a	3.4	1.7	4.1	3.1	4.5	3.6
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	95.5	97.6	96.8	96.4	92.9	94.4
Other training or unknown ^c	4.5	2.4	3.2	3.6	7.1	5.6
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	61.8	79.6	76.7	60.9	71.9	31.4
In tenure track faculty position (%)	31.3	40.4	26.8	32.7	25.0	25.0
Not in tenure track position (%)	64.5	57.8	73.2	63.3	69.6	62.5
Government	4.9	D	D	13.0	D	D
Industry or business ^e	9.0	6.6	13.7	11.2	D	D
Nonprofit organization	17.3	D	D	7.5	12.5	51.0
Other or unknown ^f	6.9	8.0	4.1	7.5	6.3	7.2
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	8.5	8.3	D	15.3	6.4	D
Teaching	62.9	72.9	77.8	58.0	65.6	49.3
Management or administration	12.2	9.8	D	14.0	10.4	D
Professional services and other	16.4	9.0	11.1	12.7	17.6	28.8
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	34.4	39.8	47.2	31.2	42.4	19.9
Teaching	17.1	10.5	D	19.7	17.6	D
Management or administration	12.8	12.8	D	8.3	D	19.9
Professional services and other	6.2	6.0	D	3.8	D	D
No secondary activity	29.5	30.8	29.2	36.9	25.6	24.0
Activity unknown	2.9	2.9	1.4	2.5	2.3	4.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	88.0	93.9	80.8	90.2	83.8	87.7
Midwest	20.8	16.8	24.0	18.8	17.2	30.4
Northeast	20.4	24.0	19.2	24.5	21.7	9.9
South	31.9	35.2	19.2	32.2	29.3	38.6
West	14.4	17.3	17.3	14.3	15.7	8.2
Outside the United States	11.9	6.1	19.2	9.8	15.7	12.3
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	36.7	47.5	28.8	35.9	34.3	33.9

Table 9-15. Humanities research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All humanities fields	English language and literature, letters	Foreign languages, literatures, and linguistics	History	Philosophy and religious studies	Humanities, other
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,500	578	275	323	206	118
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	13.6	8.5	9.1	22.3	22.3	10.2
Definite employment plans (%)	47.9	52.2	48.4	44.6	42.2	44.9
Seeking employment or study (%)	33.7	33.9	37.5	29.4	30.6	41.5
Other status (%) ^a	4.7	5.2	5.1	3.7	4.9	3.4
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b						
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	95.6	98.0	96.0	95.8	95.7	83.3
Other training or unknown ^c	4.4	2.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	16.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d						
Academe	73.7	78.8	78.2	62.5	73.6	64.2
In tenure track faculty position	32.5	28.2	30.8	33.3	45.3	41.2
Not in tenure track position	64.5	70.6	67.3	61.1	48.4	52.9
Government	3.8	D	0.0	7.6	D	0.0
Industry or business ^e	8.1	10.3	5.3	8.3	D	D
Nonprofit organization	8.9	D	D	14.6	10.3	22.6
Other or unknown ^f	5.6	3.0	D	6.9	3.4	D
Primary activity ^g						
Research and development	11.1	6.0	D	14.5	20.2	D
Teaching	62.4	62.7	66.7	57.2	60.7	66.7
Management or administration	13.7	15.7	D	15.2	9.5	D
Professional services and other	12.8	15.7	8.5	13.0	9.5	11.8
Secondary activity ^g						
Research and development	36.0	36.0	34.1	37.0	38.1	35.3
Teaching	13.5	11.3	D	12.3	22.6	D
Management or administration	10.1	10.0	D	11.6	D	15.7
Professional services and other	6.4	8.0	D	7.2	D	D
No secondary activity	33.9	34.7	39.5	31.9	27.4	31.4
Activity unknown	2.4	0.7	3.0	4.2	3.4	3.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h						
United States ⁱ	91.9	94.6	90.5	90.3	92.5	84.6
Midwest	19.9	20.5	19.0	19.4	21.1	18.5
Northeast	24.4	22.8	30.4	20.8	28.6	21.5
South	30.0	35.3	18.4	32.9	26.3	27.7
West	17.2	15.4	22.8	16.7	16.5	16.9
Outside the United States	8.0	5.1	9.5	9.7	7.5	15.4
Location unknown	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	42.5	45.9	46.2	40.3	32.3	43.1

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.