

Table 9-8. Health sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All health sciences fields	Nursing and nursing science	Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences	Public health	Health sciences, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,547	578	362	729	878
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	22.5	13.8	30.1	28.5	19.9
Definite employment plans (%)	47.0	58.5	30.7	38.7	53.1
Seeking employment or study (%)	27.2	24.0	37.6	28.9	23.6
Other status (%) ^a	3.3	3.6	1.7	3.7	3.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	87.9	93.8	97.2	80.3	88.6
Other training or unknown ^c	12.1	6.3	2.8	19.7	11.4
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	50.9	63.6	21.6	40.8	54.7
In tenure track faculty position	36.9	35.3	20.8	24.3	45.5
Not in tenure track position	56.2	53.0	70.8	70.4	51.0
Government	8.7	6.8	8.1	16.0	5.8
Industry or business ^e	23.0	11.5	63.1	21.6	22.5
Nonprofit organization	14.0	16.0	4.5	19.5	11.4
Other or unknown ^f	3.5	2.1	2.7	2.1	5.6
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	28.2	10.3	73.8	41.2	22.5
Teaching	32.3	49.5	D	D	33.9
Management or administration	13.0	14.6	D	D	10.5
Professional services and other	26.4	25.5	14.0	21.5	33.0
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	33.2	41.9	13.1	27.4	35.0
Teaching	14.9	D	D	11.3	19.9
Management or administration	15.5	D	D	20.4	13.8
Professional services and other	11.7	9.1	14.0	14.2	11.6
No secondary activity	24.8	21.9	50.5	26.6	19.6
Activity unknown	3.3	2.7	3.6	2.8	3.9
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	94.0	91.1	95.9	95.5	93.9
Midwest	17.9	15.8	21.4	16.9	18.9
Northeast	19.2	20.3	22.3	17.1	19.0
South	36.3	35.4	29.5	41.6	35.1
West	19.9	19.6	20.0	19.4	20.4
Outside the United States	6.0	8.9	4.1	4.5	5.9
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	50.9	55.3	43.6	50.0	51.2
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	752	57	174	212	309
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	27.8	12.3	31.6	33.0	24.9
Definite employment plans (%)	42.0	63.2	30.5	37.7	47.6
Seeking employment or study (%)	26.7	21.1	35.6	24.1	24.6
Other status (%) ^a	3.5	3.5	2.3	5.2	2.9
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	80.9	D	98.2	64.3	81.8
Other training or unknown ^c	19.1	D	1.8	35.7	18.2
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					

Table 9-8. Health sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All health sciences fields	Nursing and nursing science	Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences	Public health	Health sciences, other
Academe	43.4	55.6	17.0	37.5	53.1
In tenure track faculty position	46.7	D	D	33.3	50.0
Not in tenure track position	50.4	30.0	66.7	66.7	47.4
Government	11.7	D	D	17.5	8.2
Industry or business ^e	29.1	13.9	64.2	23.8	23.1
Nonprofit organization	11.7	D	D	21.3	8.2
Other or unknown ^f	4.1	0.0	3.8	0.0	7.5
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	39.5	16.7	74.5	45.6	29.0
Teaching	25.3	36.1	D	D	34.8
Management or administration	10.5	19.4	D	D	7.2
Professional services and other	24.7	27.8	15.7	21.5	29.0
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	28.0	41.7	11.8	19.0	35.5
Teaching	17.8	D	D	16.5	18.8
Management or administration	14.1	D	D	16.5	13.0
Professional services and other	14.1	D	D	22.8	12.3
No secondary activity	26.0	13.9	51.0	25.3	20.3
Activity unknown	3.8	0.0	3.8	1.3	6.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	93.3	86.0	D	D	91.5
Midwest	18.1	16.3	22.2	19.3	15.6
Northeast	18.9	18.6	23.1	14.7	19.6
South	32.4	32.6	26.9	39.3	30.4
West	23.0	18.6	D	D	25.4
Outside the United States	6.7	14.0	D	D	8.5
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	45.9	53.5	41.7	49.3	44.2
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	1,795	521	188	517	569
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	20.2	14.0	28.7	26.7	17.2
Definite employment plans (%)	49.1	58.0	30.9	39.1	56.1
Seeking employment or study (%)	27.4	24.4	39.4	30.9	23.0
Other status (%) ^a	3.2	3.6	1.1	3.1	3.5
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	92.0	93.2	96.3	88.4	93.9
Other training or unknown ^c	8.0	6.8	3.7	11.6	6.1
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	53.6	64.6	25.9	42.1	55.5
In tenure track faculty position	34.1	D	D	21.2	43.5
Not in tenure track position	57.8	55.4	73.3	71.8	52.5
Government	7.6	D	D	15.3	4.7
Industry or business ^e	20.8	11.3	62.1	20.8	22.3
Nonprofit organization	14.8	D	D	18.8	12.9
Other or unknown ^f	3.3	2.3	1.7	3.0	4.7
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	24.2	9.6	73.2	39.5	19.7
Teaching	34.8	51.2	D	D	33.5
Management or administration	13.9	14.0	D	D	11.9

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Professional services and other	27.0	25.3	12.5	21.5	34.8
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	35.0	42.0	14.3	30.8	34.8
Teaching	13.8	D	D	9.2	20.3
Management or administration	15.9	13.3	17.9	22.1	14.2
Professional services and other	10.9	D	D	10.8	11.3
No secondary activity	24.4	22.9	50.0	27.2	19.4
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United States ⁱ	94.2	91.7	D	D	95.2
Midwest	17.8	15.7	20.5	15.9	20.6
Northeast	19.4	20.5	21.4	18.2	18.7
South	37.9	35.7	32.1	42.6	37.6
West	18.6	19.7	D	D	17.7
Outside the United States	5.7	8.3	D	D	4.6
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	53.0	55.5	45.5	50.3	54.9

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. 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.