

Table 9-12. Psychology research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	3,337	999	1,143	815	380
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	44.9	74.7	37.6	27.4	25.8
Definite employment plans (%)	32.0	15.8	40.9	36.4	38.7
Seeking employment or study (%)	20.9	7.6	19.2	34.6	32.1
Other status (%) ^a	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.5	3.4
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	85.4	82.8	81.9	97.8	91.8
Other training or unknown ^c	14.6	17.2	18.1	2.2	8.2
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	40.0	26.6	35.3	51.5	46.3
In tenure track faculty position	36.9	45.2	35.8	39.9	27.9
Not in tenure track position	59.8	50.0	61.2	56.9	69.1
Government	12.0	32.9	10.7	6.1	5.4
Industry or business ^e	29.7	27.2	30.2	29.6	30.6
Nonprofit organization	10.1	8.9	10.3	9.8	11.6
Other or unknown ^f	8.2	4.4	13.5	3.0	6.1
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	23.7	D	16.7	40.0	D
Teaching	25.0	11.6	18.7	36.2	35.7
Management or administration	7.8	D	11.2	3.8	D
Professional services and other	43.5	73.5	53.3	20.0	29.4
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	24.1	18.4	20.5	30.0	29.4
Teaching	14.3	13.6	18.5	10.3	9.8
Management or administration	13.0	10.2	13.7	11.7	16.1
Professional services and other	11.6	9.5	10.6	13.8	12.6
No secondary activity	37.0	48.3	36.8	34.1	32.2
Activity unknown	3.3	7.0	2.8	2.4	2.7
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	97.4	98.7	97.5	95.2	96.7
Midwest	20.3	17.9	24.4	19.0	17.1
Northeast	22.6	28.1	17.9	22.3	19.6
South	29.3	24.2	32.9	29.4	34.3
West	24.7	28.2	21.4	24.0	25.3
Outside the United States	2.5	1.2	2.3	4.6	3.3
Location unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	35.7	30.2	39.9	34.4	42.9
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	780	196	267	236	81
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	37.6	69.9	29.6	23.7	25.9
Definite employment plans (%)	37.4	18.9	47.6	39.0	44.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	23.1	9.7	20.6	36.0	25.9
Other status (%) ^a	1.8	1.0	2.2	1.3	3.7
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	85.3	79.6	83.5	98.2	95.2
Other training or unknown ^c	14.7	20.4	16.5	1.8	4.8

Table 9-12. Psychology research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	40.1	27.0	33.9	54.3	38.9
In tenure track faculty position	36.8	D	34.9	D	35.7
Not in tenure track position	61.5	D	62.8	D	64.3
Government	13.7	D	11.8	7.6	D
Industry or business ^e	32.2	29.7	37.0	26.1	33.3
Nonprofit organization	8.6	D	7.1	10.9	D
Other or unknown ^f	5.5	2.7	10.2	1.1	2.8
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	25.8	D	18.9	44.9	D
Teaching	26.5	D	17.2	D	38.2
Management or administration	5.7	D	8.2	D	D
Professional services and other	41.9	73.5	55.7	13.5	35.3
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	24.4	32.4	20.5	25.8	26.5
Teaching	15.4	D	20.5	11.2	D
Management or administration	12.2	D	9.8	14.6	D
Professional services and other	14.0	D	13.1	16.9	D
No secondary activity	34.1	32.4	36.1	31.5	35.3
Activity unknown	4.5	8.1	3.9	3.3	5.6
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	96.4	D	97.1	95.9	D
Midwest	19.3	D	25.2	19.6	D
Northeast	21.2	27.6	17.5	21.6	14.0
South	29.7	26.4	31.6	33.1	24.6
West	25.6	28.7	21.8	21.6	40.4
Outside the United States	3.6	D	2.9	4.1	D
Location unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	33.2	24.7	35.4	35.1	45.6
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,557	803	876	579	299
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	47.1	75.8	40.1	28.8	25.8
Definite employment plans (%)	30.4	15.1	38.8	35.4	37.1
Seeking employment or study (%)	20.3	7.1	18.7	34.0	33.8
Other status (%) ^a	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.6	3.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b					
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	85.4	83.6	81.5	97.6	90.9
Other training or unknown ^c	14.6	16.4	18.5	2.4	9.1
Definite employment plans (%) ^d					
Academe	40.0	26.4	35.9	50.2	48.6
In tenure track faculty position	37.0	D	36.1	D	25.9
Not in tenure track position	59.2	D	60.7	D	70.4
Government	11.3	D	10.3	5.4	D
Industry or business ^e	28.7	26.4	27.6	31.2	29.7
Nonprofit organization	10.7	D	11.5	9.3	D
Other or unknown ^f	9.3	5.0	14.7	3.9	7.2
Primary activity ^g					
Research and development	22.9	14.2	16.0	37.8	25.7

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(Number and percent)

Characteristic	All psychology fields	Clinical psychology	Counseling and applied psychology	Research and experimental psychology	Psychology, other
Teaching	24.4	D	19.3	D	34.9
Management or administration	8.6	D	12.3	D	11.9
Professional services and other	44.1	73.5	52.4	22.9	27.5
Secondary activity ^g					
Research and development	24.0	14.2	20.5	31.8	30.3
Teaching	13.9	D	17.8	10.0	D
Management or administration	13.2	D	15.1	10.4	D
Professional services and other	10.7	D	9.6	12.4	D
No secondary activity	38.1	53.1	37.0	35.3	31.2
Activity unknown	2.8	6.6	2.4	2.0	1.8
Postgraduation location (%) ^h					
United States ⁱ	97.7	D	97.7	94.9	D
Midwest	20.6	D	24.2	18.8	D
Northeast	23.0	28.2	18.1	22.6	21.3
South	29.1	23.7	33.3	28.0	37.2
West	24.4	28.1	21.3	25.0	20.7
Outside the United States	2.2	D	2.2	4.8	D
Location unknown	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	36.4	31.5	41.2	34.1	42.0

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. 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.