

Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(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)	4,472	387	381	1,239	573	364	549	979
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	21.3	29.5	20.7	19.2	29.0	15.1	22.6	18.2
Definite employment plans (%)	50.5	32.3	39.4	60.8	44.3	58.5	50.8	49.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	25.5	34.9	36.2	18.5	23.9	23.9	23.3	29.4
Other status (%) ^a	2.5	3.4	3.7	1.3	2.8	2.5	3.1	3.0
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.4	97.4	93.7	97.1	98.8	96.4	97.6	98.3
Other training or unknown ^c	2.6	2.6	6.3	2.9	1.2	3.6	2.4	1.7
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	56.3	65.6	76.0	47.8	68.1	35.7	70.6	55.8
In tenure track faculty position	52.9	40.2	36.0	73.6	54.9	39.5	48.2	42.2
Not in tenure track position	43.7	57.3	61.4	23.6	43.9	55.3	46.2	53.7
Government	12.3	12.8	5.3	13.5	7.5	23.5	9.0	12.0
Industry or business ^e	18.2	10.4	6.7	28.6	12.6	13.6	9.3	18.0
Nonprofit organization	9.7	8.8	8.0	6.9	8.7	17.4	9.7	11.8
Other or unknown ^f	3.5	2.4	4.0	3.2	3.1	9.9	1.4	2.5
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	40.7	26.2	12.3	53.3	37.2	39.2	45.8	33.3
Teaching	31.3	44.3	62.3	19.9	42.1	12.3	37.4	35.2
Management or administration	9.9	10.7	11.6	2.0	10.1	29.4	8.1	13.9
Professional services and other	18.0	18.9	13.7	24.7	10.5	19.1	8.8	17.5
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	29.8	37.7	44.5	26.1	32.0	16.7	32.2	32.1
Teaching	22.9	17.2	15.8	28.4	28.7	17.6	23.1	17.1
Management or administration	10.3	9.0	11.0	10.2	7.3	12.3	10.3	11.4
Professional services and other	9.9	6.6	4.1	11.1	4.5	18.6	11.0	9.3
No secondary activity	27.1	29.5	24.7	24.3	27.5	34.8	23.4	30.2
Activity unknown	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	4.2	2.2	2.1
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	83.9	87.4	89.5	76.5	81.4	92.5	90.8	85.8
Midwest	14.1	15.5	18.8	11.7	14.8	10.8	17.9	14.0
Northeast	21.0	26.8	26.2	19.1	23.1	19.4	23.1	18.0
South	29.2	22.2	18.3	27.9	30.0	42.5	31.0	30.4
West	19.2	22.6	24.9	17.3	13.3	19.8	18.4	23.1
Outside the United States	15.9	12.1	10.5	23.5	18.3	7.5	9.2	13.9

Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(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
Location unknown	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	31.0	32.6	40.2	21.5	26.0	44.0	32.3	38.8
Male doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,080	119	139	787	319	138	188	390
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	21.0	30.3	23.7	18.9	28.5	18.1	22.9	15.1
Definite employment plans (%)	52.1	28.6	33.8	62.4	43.3	52.2	51.6	52.6
Seeking employment or study (%)	24.5	38.7	38.1	17.2	25.1	26.8	22.3	30.0
Other status (%) ^a	2.3	2.5	4.3	1.4	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.3
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.2	94.4	90.9	97.3	98.9	D	D	96.6
Other training or unknown ^c	2.8	5.6	9.1	2.7	1.1	D	D	3.4
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	57.2	76.5	85.1	47.0	71.7	36.1	74.2	61.5
In tenure track faculty position	56.0	38.5	40.0	74.5	50.5	46.2	45.8	42.9
Not in tenure track position	40.0	61.5	52.5	22.1	47.5	46.2	50.0	51.6
Government	13.4	D	D	14.9	8.0	27.8	7.2	13.7
Industry or business ^e	19.1	D	0.0	D	10.9	11.1	8.2	15.6
Nonprofit organization	7.5	D	D	D	7.2	18.1	9.3	6.8
Other or unknown ^f	2.9	0.0	4.3	3.1	2.2	6.9	1.0	2.4
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	43.5	35.3	10.9	57.3	37.0	41.4	38.7	26.9
Teaching	31.9	47.1	76.1	17.6	46.7	12.9	40.9	45.8
Management or administration	7.7	D	D	D	9.6	25.7	7.5	13.4
Professional services and other	16.9	D	D	D	6.7	20.0	12.9	13.9
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	30.4	38.2	52.2	23.4	37.0	21.4	32.3	38.3
Teaching	24.9	14.7	17.4	29.7	29.6	21.4	28.0	13.4
Management or administration	10.4	D	10.9	D	5.9	8.6	9.7	11.4
Professional services and other	9.4	D	0.0	D	3.7	21.4	8.6	8.5
No secondary activity	25.0	20.6	19.6	25.1	23.7	27.1	21.5	28.4
Activity unknown	2.5	0.0	2.1	2.6	2.2	2.8	4.1	2.0
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								
United States ⁱ	79.9	84.3	88.8	73.6	78.2	88.7	90.7	83.7
Midwest	12.2	10.0	16.3	11.1	14.8	10.3	17.9	9.8
Northeast	20.8	31.4	33.8	18.1	21.0	22.7	27.1	16.3

Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(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
South	28.4	20.0	13.8	27.2	31.0	39.2	25.0	33.7
West	18.1	22.9	23.8	16.9	10.9	16.5	20.7	23.5
Outside the United States	20.1	15.7	11.3	26.4	21.4	11.3	9.3	16.3
Location unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	28.4	30.0	41.3	20.2	24.5	47.4	31.4	38.6
Female doctorate recipients reporting postgraduation status (number)	2,392	268	242	452	254	226	361	589
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%)	21.7	29.1	19.0	19.7	29.5	13.3	22.4	20.2
Definite employment plans (%)	49.1	34.0	42.6	58.0	45.7	62.4	50.4	47.4
Seeking employment or study (%)	26.4	33.2	35.1	20.8	22.4	22.1	23.8	29.0
Other status (%) ^a	2.8	3.7	3.3	1.1	2.4	2.2	3.3	3.4
Definite postdoctoral training plans (%) ^b								
Postdoc fellowship or research associateship	97.5	98.7	95.7	96.6	98.7	93.3	96.3	99.2
Other training or unknown ^c	2.5	1.3	4.3	3.4	1.3	6.7	3.7	0.8
Definite employment plans (%) ^d								
Academe	55.5	61.5	71.8	49.2	63.8	35.5	68.7	51.6
In tenure track faculty position	50.0	41.1	33.8	72.1	60.8	36.0	49.6	41.7
Not in tenure track position	47.2	55.4	66.2	26.4	39.2	60.0	44.0	55.6
Government	11.3	D	D	11.1	6.9	21.3	9.9	10.8
Industry or business ^e	17.5	D	9.7	D	14.7	14.9	9.9	19.7
Nonprofit organization	11.7	D	D	D	10.3	17.0	9.9	15.4
Other or unknown ^f	4.0	3.3	3.9	3.4	4.3	11.3	1.6	2.5
Primary activity ^g								
Research and development	38.2	22.7	13.0	45.9	37.5	38.1	49.4	38.1
Teaching	30.8	43.2	56.0	24.3	36.6	11.9	35.6	27.5
Management or administration	12.0	D	D	D	10.7	31.3	8.3	14.3
Professional services and other	19.0	D	D	D	15.2	18.7	6.7	20.1
Secondary activity ^g								
Research and development	29.2	37.5	41.0	31.0	25.9	14.2	32.2	27.5
Teaching	21.0	18.2	15.0	25.9	27.7	15.7	20.6	19.8
Management or administration	10.2	D	11.0	D	8.9	14.2	10.6	11.4
Professional services and other	10.4	D	6.0	D	5.4	17.2	12.2	9.9
No secondary activity	29.1	33.0	27.0	22.7	32.1	38.8	24.4	31.5
Activity unknown	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.4	5.0	1.1	2.2
Postgraduation location (%) ^h								

Table 9-13. Social sciences research doctorate recipients, postgraduation plans by sex and major field of doctorate: 2025

(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
United States ⁱ	87.6	88.8	89.9	81.8	85.3	94.7	90.9	87.2
Midwest	15.7	17.8	20.1	12.8	14.7	11.1	17.9	16.8
Northeast	21.2	24.9	22.1	20.8	25.7	17.5	20.9	19.1
South	29.8	23.1	20.8	29.1	28.8	44.4	34.2	28.1
West	20.3	22.5	25.5	17.9	16.2	21.6	17.1	22.9
Outside the United States	12.2	10.7	10.1	18.2	14.7	5.3	9.1	12.3
Location unknown	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Postgraduation location in same state as doctorate institution (%)	33.5	33.7	39.6	23.9	27.7	42.1	32.7	38.9

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.