

Table 44. Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1995–2015

Definite commitment and plan	All fields	Life sciences ^a	Physical sciences and earth sciences	Mathematics and computer sciences	Psychology and social sciences	Engineering	Education	Humanities and arts	Other ^b
All definite commitments (number)									
1995	24,977	5,141	2,686	1,275	4,095	3,068	4,374	2,749	1,589
2000	26,868	5,797	2,736	1,337	4,692	3,374	4,355	3,107	1,470
2005	27,416	5,999	2,863	1,565	4,649	3,732	4,049	2,979	1,580
2010	29,841	6,908	3,314	2,102	5,077	4,551	3,357	2,748	1,784
2015	30,393	6,679	3,271	2,376	5,408	5,168	2,920	2,723	1,848
Reported type of plan									
1995	24,821	5,126	2,677	1,265	4,063	3,060	4,328	2,721	1,581
2000	26,744	5,765	2,724	1,332	4,676	3,358	4,329	3,096	1,464
2005	27,086	5,906	2,847	1,556	4,594	3,702	3,978	2,943	1,560
2010	28,995	6,768	3,268	2,063	4,900	4,445	3,213	2,644	1,694
2015	27,787	6,154	3,092	2,207	4,949	4,758	2,612	2,402	1,613
Employment (%) ^c									
1995	70.3	35.6	35.2	75.7	78.7	75.1	96.1	93.0	96.5
2000	71.4	39.8	44.0	76.6	76.2	78.9	95.2	91.9	95.4
2005	64.5	33.1	33.3	65.4	70.7	67.2	93.8	88.9	94.4
2010	57.1	30.0	26.9	57.7	65.6	54.9	93.2	84.7	92.1
2015	60.3	36.7	35.7	66.2	62.5	64.4	91.2	79.9	91.1
Postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1995	29.7	64.4	64.8	24.3	21.3	24.9	3.9	7.0	3.5
2000	28.6	60.2	56.0	23.4	23.8	21.1	4.8	8.1	4.6
2005	35.5	66.9	66.7	34.6	29.3	32.8	6.2	11.1	5.6
2010	42.9	70.0	73.1	42.3	34.4	45.1	6.8	15.3	7.9
2015	39.7	63.3	64.3	33.8	37.5	35.6	8.8	20.1	8.9

^a Includes agricultural sciences and natural resources; biological and biomedical sciences; and health sciences.

^b Non-science and engineering fields not shown separately.

^c Percentages based on number reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).

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