

Table 42. Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1995–2015

Commitment status	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 doctorate recipients (number)									
1995	41,747	7,998	4,540	2,187	6,930	6,008	6,648	5,040	2,396
2000	41,369	8,622	4,071	1,910	7,452	5,323	6,442	5,462	2,087
2005	43,385	9,310	4,359	2,334	7,149	6,426	6,227	5,187	2,393
2010	48,031	11,319	4,995	3,223	7,883	7,578	5,288	5,016	2,729
2015	55,006	12,520	5,924	3,825	9,095	9,897	5,117	5,600	3,028
All responses to postgraduation commitment									
1995	37,977	7,314	4,148	2,007	6,303	5,385	5,998	4,649	2,173
2000	37,743	8,008	3,717	1,759	6,718	4,830	5,795	5,035	1,881
2005	38,913	8,500	3,992	2,099	6,372	5,774	5,477	4,617	2,082
2010	43,833	10,479	4,602	2,940	7,115	6,963	4,745	4,573	2,416
2015	49,046	11,392	5,354	3,405	7,899	8,885	4,533	4,970	2,608
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1995	65.8	70.3	64.8	63.5	65.0	57.0	72.9	59.1	73.1
2000	71.2	72.4	73.6	76.0	69.8	69.9	75.2	61.7	78.1
2005	70.5	70.6	71.7	74.6	73.0	64.6	73.9	64.5	75.9
2010	68.1	65.9	72.0	71.5	71.4	65.4	70.7	60.1	73.8
2015	62.0	58.6	61.1	69.8	68.5	58.2	64.4	54.8	70.9
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^{c,d}									
1995	34.2	29.7	35.2	36.5	35.0	43.0	27.1	40.9	26.9
2000	28.8	27.6	26.4	24.0	30.2	30.1	24.8	38.3	21.9
2005	29.5	29.4	28.3	25.4	27.0	35.4	26.1	35.5	24.1
2010	31.9	34.1	28.0	28.5	28.6	34.6	29.3	39.9	26.2
2015	38.0	41.4	38.9	30.2	31.5	41.8	35.6	45.2	29.1

^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 responding to the survey item on postgraduation commitment.

^d Includes respondents who indicated "other" in all years, respondents who indicated "do not plan to work or study" in 2004 and later years, and respondents who indicated definite plans for "other full-time degree program" in 2007 and later years.

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