

Table 42. Postgraduation commitment of doctorate recipients, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1996–2016

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)									
1996	42,437	8,337	4,550	2,042	7,167	6,309	6,785	4,982	2,265
2001	40,744	8,369	4,024	1,840	7,151	5,512	6,356	5,430	2,062
2006	45,620	9,703	4,686	2,778	7,231	7,186	6,122	5,332	2,582
2011	48,911	11,535	5,271	3,273	8,221	8,032	4,670	5,226	2,683
2016	54,904	12,568	6,252	3,957	9,078	9,469	5,153	5,484	2,943
All responses to postgraduation commitment									
1996	38,634	7,690	4,180	1,861	6,508	5,747	6,054	4,576	2,018
2001	37,127	7,719	3,727	1,673	6,487	5,026	5,670	4,982	1,843
2006	42,069	9,030	4,376	2,599	6,613	6,591	5,645	4,904	2,311
2011	44,704	10,674	4,898	3,000	7,353	7,322	4,246	4,806	2,405
2016	49,827	11,667	5,752	3,587	8,103	8,557	4,614	4,948	2,599
Definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^c									
1996	67.5	70.7	68.0	66.6	65.1	63.6	74.1	59.2	73.1
2001	72.9	72.9	77.1	75.3	72.5	72.5	74.3	65.9	78.5
2006	71.6	71.7	72.0	74.2	74.1	66.0	74.9	66.7	77.8
2011	65.5	62.6	69.0	69.8	69.0	64.1	68.1	57.3	71.5
2016	61.8	59.5	62.0	67.4	67.4	58.6	64.8	52.1	69.0
No definite commitment for employment or postdoctoral study (%) ^{c,d}									
1996	32.5	29.3	32.0	33.4	34.9	36.4	25.9	40.8	26.9
2001	27.1	27.1	22.9	24.7	27.5	27.5	25.7	34.1	21.5
2006	28.4	28.3	28.0	25.8	25.9	34.0	25.1	33.3	22.2
2011	34.5	37.4	31.0	30.2	31.0	35.9	31.9	42.7	28.5
2016	38.2	40.5	38.0	32.6	32.6	41.4	35.2	47.9	31.0

^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.

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