

Table SLBR-11

Postgraduation plans of doctorate recipients with definite commitments, by broad field of study: Selected years, 1979–2019

(Number and percent)

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	Other ^b
All definite commitments (number)									
1979	21,411	3,846	2,471	686	4,139	1,815	4,935	2,284	1,235
1989	22,815	4,574	2,771	948	3,928	2,675	4,329	2,182	1,408
1999	26,007	5,502	2,846	1,301	4,443	3,290	4,296	2,917	1,412
2004	26,561	5,738	2,641	1,360	4,502	3,357	4,308	3,042	1,613
2009	31,208	7,007	3,402	2,089	5,154	4,672	4,205	2,797	1,882
2014	29,605	6,563	3,289	2,325	5,250	4,966	2,727	2,693	1,792
2019	35,134	7,958	4,142	2,976	6,020	6,329	3,067	2,644	1,998
Reported type of plan (number)									
1979	21,228	3,821	2,466	680	4,094	1,809	4,880	2,258	1,220
1989	22,699	4,562	2,764	942	3,911	2,667	4,296	2,157	1,400
1999	25,776	5,462	2,834	1,294	4,411	3,274	4,226	2,875	1,400
2004	25,874	5,574	2,599	1,333	4,394	3,280	4,179	2,944	1,571
2009	30,401	6,854	3,357	2,052	5,036	4,571	4,046	2,712	1,773
2014	27,144	6,098	3,123	2,189	4,768	4,590	2,429	2,393	1,554
2019	35,090	7,942	4,138	2,973	6,015	6,319	3,065	2,642	1,996
Employment (percent) ^c									
1979	80.0	46.1	55.1	89.7	87.8	87.6	97.3	94.6	97.5
1989	74.1	41.7	42.1	81.7	84.1	80.0	96.6	95.1	97.3
1999	69.9	36.6	43.2	75.1	74.3	77.5	94.9	92.0	95.5
2004	64.8	32.9	33.6	63.8	69.9	63.9	93.8	89.1	94.9
2009	62.1	33.2	33.2	64.0	67.6	63.9	94.4	87.2	93.8
2014	60.6	35.1	37.8	65.1	63.8	66.1	91.8	81.8	92.3
2019	61.6	42.0	42.4	69.3	60.3	65.7	90.8	79.2	91.3
Postdoctoral study (percent) ^c									
1979	20.0	53.9	44.9	10.3	12.2	12.4	2.7	5.4	2.5
1989	25.9	58.3	57.9	18.3	15.9	20.0	3.4	4.9	2.7
1999	30.1	63.4	56.8	24.9	25.7	22.5	5.1	8.0	4.5
2004	35.2	67.1	66.4	36.2	30.1	36.1	6.2	10.9	5.1
2009	37.9	66.8	66.8	36.0	32.4	36.1	5.6	12.8	6.2
2014	39.4	64.9	62.2	34.9	36.2	33.9	8.2	18.2	7.7
2019	38.4	58.0	57.6	30.7	39.7	34.3	9.2	20.8	8.7

^a Life sciences include agricultural sciences and natural resources, biological and biomedical sciences, and health sciences.^b Non-S&E fields not shown separately.^c Percentages are based on the number of doctorate recipients reporting definite postgraduation commitments with response to type of plan (employment or postdoctoral study).**Source(s):**

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED).

Science and Engineering Indicators