

2018 PhD Career Pathways Student Survey Data Tables

(Unweighted data tables, academic doctoral students only)

Now we have a few questions about your career aspirations. First, we will explore what kinds of work you aspire to do. Indicate how desirable the following work activities are for the job that you would like to get immediately after earning your PhD degree.

Question	Not at All Desirable	N	Slightly Desirable	N	Moderately Desirable	N	Very Desirable	N	Extremely Desirable	N	Total N
Teaching	7.91%	917	14.03%	1627	23.58%	2734	26.44%	3065	28.03%	3250	11593
Professional services (e.g., health care, counseling, financial services, legal services)	37.64%	4336	24.71%	2847	19.05%	2195	11.97%	1379	6.62%	763	11520
Other (if any, please specify)	38.52%	520	4.59%	62	16.37%	221	12.44%	168	28.07%	379	1350
Managing projects	8.21%	946	14.81%	1706	28.66%	3302	31.23%	3598	17.09%	1969	11521
Managing or supervising people	13.56%	1564	20.58%	2375	31.86%	3676	22.59%	2606	11.41%	1317	11538
Higher education administration (e.g. student affairs, advising, program coordination)	31.45%	3633	24.65%	2847	21.58%	2493	14.09%	1627	8.23%	950	11550
Development – using knowledge gained from research for the production of materials, devices, and other products	13.13%	1516	16.52%	1908	24.12%	2786	26.97%	3115	19.26%	2225	11550
Basic research – study directed toward gaining knowledge primarily for its own sake	6.58%	762	12.02%	1392	24.33%	2819	28.31%	3280	28.76%	3332	11585
Applied research – study directed toward gaining knowledge to meet a recognized need	1.41%	164	4.72%	548	16.04%	1863	37.52%	4359	40.31%	4683	11617

WSEC - Indicate your preferences for the following employment sectors for the job that you would like to get immediately after earning your PhD degree.

Question	Not at all Desirable	N	Slightly Desirable	N	Moderately Desirable	N	Very Desirable	N	Extremely Desirable	N	Total
Research university	6.85%	795	9.36%	1086	17.24%	2000	24.09%	2795	42.46%	4927	11603
Master's/Regional university	19.43%	2225	16.89%	1934	25.69%	2941	23.40%	2679	14.59%	1670	11449
Liberal arts college	25.86%	2961	15.98%	1830	20.44%	2341	18.93%	2168	18.78%	2151	11451
Community or two-year college	35.53%	4056	24.59%	2807	22.96%	2621	10.41%	1188	6.51%	743	11415
Preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system	67.15%	7671	20.16%	2303	9.03%	1031	2.65%	303	1.01%	115	11423
U.S. federal/national government (including various federal agencies and military)	22.40%	2573	16.91%	1942	27.67%	3178	20.95%	2406	12.08%	1387	11486
U.S. state or local government	29.17%	3343	21.47%	2461	25.14%	2881	16.31%	1869	7.92%	908	11462
Non-U.S. (foreign) government	43.28%	4942	20.93%	2390	19.75%	2255	10.87%	1241	5.18%	591	11419
Not-for-profit organization or Non-governmental organization	18.88%	2167	21.12%	2424	31.05%	3563	19.93%	2287	9.01%	1034	11475
Business/For-profit company	18.10%	2078	15.40%	1768	24.36%	2796	25.53%	2931	16.60%	1906	11479
Self-employed	39.99%	4548	19.71%	2241	19.77%	2248	12.45%	1416	8.08%	919	11372

Now we have a few questions about professional development opportunities. In what types of professional development opportunities have you participated in since starting your doctorate program? (Select all that apply.)

Question	At a PhD program sponsored opportunity	N	At an institution sponsored opportunity	N	At an opportunity outside of the institution	N	Total
Leadership	43.63%	3000	30.95%	2128	25.42%	1748	6876
Grant Writing	63.82%	3760	23.73%	1398	12.46%	734	5892
Project Management	57.67%	2684	20.48%	953	21.85%	1017	4654
Teaching Preparation	62.47%	6275	28.56%	2869	8.97%	901	10045
Quantitative Literacy/Data Analytics	65.62%	4621	20.93%	1474	13.45%	947	7042
Research Ethics/Scholarly Integrity	65.60%	4943	26.42%	1991	7.98%	601	7535
Entrepreneurship	29.27%	644	33.77%	743	36.95%	813	2200
Communication	49.43%	3504	29.52%	2093	21.05%	1492	7089
Public Speaking	51.15%	4257	25.94%	2159	22.91%	1907	8323
Networking	40.19%	3757	31.17%	2914	28.64%	2678	9349
Diversity/Multicultural Competency	43.41%	2827	35.77%	2330	20.82%	1356	6513
Digital Literacy	49.13%	2129	29.26%	1268	21.60%	936	4333

How well prepared do you feel you are in the following attributes, behaviors, and skillsets?

Question	Very Poorly	N	Poorly	N	Well	N	Very Well	N	Excellently	N	Total
Applying research methodologies, tools, and techniques appropriately	0.65%	73	5.10%	575	33.12%	3734	40.07%	4517	21.07%	2375	11274
Grant writing	9.75%	1094	34.00%	3814	38.81%	4354	13.21%	1482	4.23%	475	11219
Developing new ideas, processes, or products, which are rooted in research	2.22%	249	12.68%	1422	39.89%	4474	31.52%	3536	13.69%	1536	11217
Critically analyzing and evaluating findings and results	0.44%	49	3.67%	413	27.87%	3134	41.21%	4634	26.82%	3016	11246
Demonstrating a theoretical and practical understanding of your subject area and its wider research context	0.51%	57	4.44%	499	28.25%	3177	40.57%	4562	26.23%	2950	11245
Working constructively with colleagues, acknowledging their contribution	0.76%	85	3.59%	404	26.24%	2951	42.41%	4770	27.00%	3037	11247
Influencing others, providing direction and encouraging their contribution	1.21%	136	9.83%	1104	35.86%	4029	36.69%	4122	16.41%	1843	11234
Communicating ideas clearly and persuasively in writing, such as in journal articles, grant proposals, or reports	1.16%	130	9.65%	1085	37.11%	4173	35.06%	3943	17.02%	1914	11245
Communicating ideas clearly and persuasively when speaking to others one-on-one or in groups	1.21%	136	8.67%	975	36.05%	4054	36.89%	4148	17.18%	1932	11245
Conducting research in an ethical manner	0.53%	59	2.04%	229	19.94%	2235	37.94%	4251	39.55%	4432	11206
Awareness of your own cultural values and biases	0.81%	91	4.30%	482	30.89%	3465	38.69%	4340	25.31%	2839	11217
Valuing others' worldviews	0.67%	75	2.62%	294	25.87%	2899	41.80%	4685	29.04%	3254	11207
Using culturally appropriate interpersonal skills	0.96%	108	4.16%	466	30.51%	3417	39.72%	4448	24.65%	2760	11199

Below are statements with which you may agree or disagree. Indicate your agreement or disagreement with each item by selecting the appropriate response.

Question	Strongly Disagree	N	Disagree	N	Slightly Disagree	N	Neither Agree nor Disagree	N	Slightly Agree	N	Agree	N	Strongly Agree	N	Total
I'm confident about my financial situation	14.18%	1547	14.67%	1601	15.96%	1742	13.27%	1448	19.16%	2091	17.22%	1879	5.54%	605	10913
I can get by financially without having to cut back on too many of the things that are important to me	13.41%	1463	14.40%	1571	14.87%	1622	10.97%	1197	18.42%	2009	21.36%	2330	6.56%	715	10907
I've been concerned about money lately	3.53%	385	8.82%	962	6.33%	690	10.32%	1125	20.15%	2197	22.50%	2453	28.34%	3089	10901
I'm on track to complete my degree program on time	2.23%	243	4.00%	436	6.15%	671	11.67%	1273	15.87%	1731	38.62%	4213	21.47%	2342	10909
I'm well prepared for the work required to complete my program	1.14%	124	2.51%	274	6.15%	671	9.49%	1036	22.38%	2442	40.15%	4382	18.18%	1984	10913
I'm upbeat about my post-graduation career prospects	5.60%	610	8.76%	954	11.10%	1210	17.94%	1955	21.32%	2323	24.48%	2667	10.80%	1177	10896
I'm not very engaged by my day-to-day work	16.02%	1746	34.20%	3728	15.43%	1682	11.94%	1301	12.09%	1318	7.10%	774	3.21%	350	10899
I have the space and the resources I need in the university to succeed academically	3.89%	425	5.22%	570	8.16%	890	8.88%	969	20.22%	2207	37.92%	4138	15.71%	1714	10913
My academic work is meaningful and inspires me	1.10%	120	2.32%	253	3.86%	421	6.66%	726	17.96%	1959	38.79%	4230	29.31%	3196	10905
My academic work stretches and challenges me intellectually	0.59%	64	1.07%	117	1.62%	177	4.25%	463	12.59%	1372	42.01%	4577	37.86%	4125	10895
I'm satisfied with the mentorship and advising I receive in my program	4.84%	528	6.40%	698	8.54%	931	8.04%	877	17.28%	1884	32.15%	3506	22.75%	2481	10905
I'm satisfied with the career support I receive in my program	6.38%	695	9.80%	1067	12.24%	1333	18.42%	2006	21.30%	2320	24.07%	2622	7.79%	849	10892

How important will the following factors be in your decision to select your first job immediately following your PhD graduation?

Question	Not Important	N	Slightly Important	N	Moderately Important	N	Very Important	N	Extremely Important	N	Total
Salary	0.83%	97	4.72%	549	29.53%	3438	39.95%	4651	24.96%	2906	11641
Benefits	0.74%	86	4.04%	469	24.48%	2843	43.31%	5030	27.44%	3187	11615
Job security	1.18%	137	5.76%	668	25.97%	3009	39.64%	4593	27.45%	3181	11588
Job location	1.35%	157	5.45%	633	20.93%	2431	37.97%	4410	34.29%	3982	11613
Opportunity for advancement	0.60%	69	2.54%	295	16.38%	1899	42.14%	4885	38.34%	4445	11593
Intellectual challenge	0.51%	59	2.18%	253	14.91%	1730	39.54%	4588	42.86%	4974	11604
Level of responsibility	1.07%	124	5.43%	628	34.50%	3994	40.89%	4733	18.12%	2097	11576
Degree of independence	0.83%	96	4.61%	535	26.70%	3096	40.09%	4649	27.76%	3219	11595
Contribution to society	1.43%	166	5.87%	681	20.55%	2385	35.39%	4107	36.76%	4266	11605
Work-life balance	0.97%	112	3.96%	459	17.58%	2037	36.57%	4238	40.93%	4743	11589
Prestige of employer	8.37%	969	18.93%	2192	37.02%	4288	24.75%	2867	10.93%	1266	11582
Prestige of position/job title	8.11%	939	18.17%	2105	37.38%	4330	25.33%	2934	11.02%	1276	11584

Do you have an academic advisor?

Answer	%	Count
Yes	93.42%	10250
No	6.58%	722
Total	100%	10972

How many years passed between completing your bachelor's degree and entering your current PhD program?

Answer	%	Count
0-1 years	36.53%	3951
1-3 years	30.98%	3350
4-7 years	22.25%	2406
8-10 years	5.35%	579
more than 10 years	4.89%	529
Total	100%	10815

When you began your PhD program, what was your ultimate career goal?

Answer	%	Count
Tenure track faculty position	53.15%	5749
Lecturer/teaching position	4.48%	485
Non-academic position	22.26%	2408
Undecided	20.11%	2175
Total	100%	10817

Below are statements with which you may agree or disagree. Indicate your agreement or disagreement with each item by selecting the appropriate response.

Question	Strongly Disagree	N	Disagree	N	Slightly Disagree	N	Neither Agree nor Disagree	N	Slightly Agree	N	Agree	N	Strongly Agree	N	Total
My academic advisor is a real mentor to me	4.63%	463	5.98%	598	5.98%	598	10.56%	1055	15.87%	1586	27.75%	2773	29.23%	2921	9994
My academic advisor doesn't really advocate for me	30.89%	3087	30.69%	3067	10.08%	1007	14.54%	1453	5.90%	590	4.56%	456	3.34%	334	9994
My academic advisor allows me to set my own priorities	1.78%	178	2.39%	239	3.64%	364	8.34%	834	15.53%	1553	38.12%	3813	30.21%	3022	10003
My academic advisor provides advice and resources in support of my goals and ambitions	3.05%	305	3.93%	393	5.02%	502	10.07%	1008	17.76%	1777	33.65%	3367	26.52%	2653	10005
My academic advisor helps me find other mentors and sponsors	4.94%	494	8.17%	817	8.23%	823	18.91%	1890	17.27%	1726	25.59%	2558	16.89%	1688	9996
My academic advisor seems genuinely interested in my personal well-being	3.05%	305	3.70%	370	4.23%	423	10.33%	1033	14.77%	1477	30.16%	3017	33.77%	3378	10003
My academic advisor is aware of and supportive of my financial well-being	5.88%	587	8.38%	837	7.42%	741	21.38%	2136	16.16%	1615	24.15%	2413	16.63%	1662	9991
My academic advisor is actively involved in my academic training	3.62%	362	5.64%	564	6.17%	617	9.32%	931	17.55%	1754	30.98%	3096	26.70%	2668	9992
My academic advisor is open to outside opportunities such as internships, mentoring and training	3.34%	334	4.07%	406	4.87%	486	19.25%	1922	13.08%	1306	29.34%	2930	26.06%	2603	9987
My academic advisor is an asset to my career and professional development	2.71%	271	2.74%	274	3.39%	339	9.47%	947	14.48%	1448	31.35%	3135	35.85%	3585	9999
My academic advisor impedes my career development	39.36%	3934	28.69%	2867	6.57%	657	11.38%	1137	5.15%	515	4.97%	497	3.87%	387	9994
My academic advisor shares knowledgeable information about career opportunities within academia	3.90%	390	5.88%	588	5.53%	553	15.18%	1518	17.22%	1722	29.31%	2932	22.99%	2299	10002
My academic advisor shares knowledgeable information about career opportunities outside of academia	9.37%	937	13.22%	1322	9.45%	945	18.53%	1852	15.17%	1517	19.09%	1908	15.16%	1516	9997

Additional demographic questions

Question	Yes		No		Total
Are you married or in a domestic partnership?	31.63%	3409	68.37%	7369	10778
Are you a parent or guardian?	9.99%	1073	90.01%	9667	10740
Have you ever served in the military?	2.45%	263	97.55%	10451	10714