HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You can complete the SED at:

https://sed-ncses.org

877-256-8167

HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?

The confidentiality of any information provided as part of the SED is safeguarded under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. Staff working with data are required to sign binding confidentiality affidavits with fines up to $250,000 or imprisonment as punishment for disclosure. In addition, the processing facilities and computer equipment used to store or access data are designed and maintained to ensure confidentiality.

WHY DOES THE SED NEED THE PARTIAL SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)?

We use the last four digits of the SSN for two reasons:
- to identify duplicate records for doctorate recipients in historical SED data files; and
- to match SED data to information on federal funding support for graduate education.

We will safeguard your partial SSN with the utmost security, and it will not be used for any purpose other than those listed above.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

RTI International – ROC
Project: SED
5265 Capital Blvd.
Raleigh NC 27616
877-256-8167
sed@rti.org

National Science Foundation
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 965
Arlington, VA 22230
703-292-8780
The study is being conducted on behalf of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics of the National Science Foundation; the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SED data are being collected under contract by RTI International, a nonprofit research organization based in North Carolina.

• Over the past 20 years, the rate of underrepresented minority groups earning doctorates has grown significantly, with a 70% increase in the number of doctorates awarded to black or African American students and a more than doubling of the number of doctorates earned by Hispanic or Latino students in that period.²

• Doctorate recipients in 2014 who had definite commitments for a postdoctorate (postdoc) or other employed position in the United States reported annual salaries ranging from $40,000 to $49,000 for postdoc positions, $50,000 to $81,350 for non-postdoc positions in academe, and $50,000 to $105,000 for positions in business and industry. Academic salaries lagged behind industry salaries in all broad fields except humanities.³

• In 2013, academe was the most common employment sector for doctorate recipients reporting definite commitments for employment in the United States, with approximately half of doctoral graduates committing to academic positions following graduation. A larger share of doctorate recipients from very high research universities (34%) took positions in industry or business than did those from high research universities (22%) or doctoral research universities (18%).⁴

1 RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.
3 See (NSF/NCSES 2015a, pp. 8–9).