

The PhD: Journey to Multiple Destinations



Second Annual Graduate Career Development Symposium

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March 9, 2006

Overview



- 1. Career Paths of former PhD students up to 10-14 years later, including postdoc path**
- 2. Combining family and career**
- 3. Perspectives of PhD recipients and their recommendations to current students**

CIRGE Surveys



- PhD's – Ten Years Later
- Art History PhDs – Over a Decade Later
- Social Science PhDs – Five+ Years Out

Academic Discipline Abbreviation Key



BC	Biochemistry
CS	Computer Science
EE	Electrical Engineering
EG	English
MM	Mathematics
PS	Political Science

Quiz

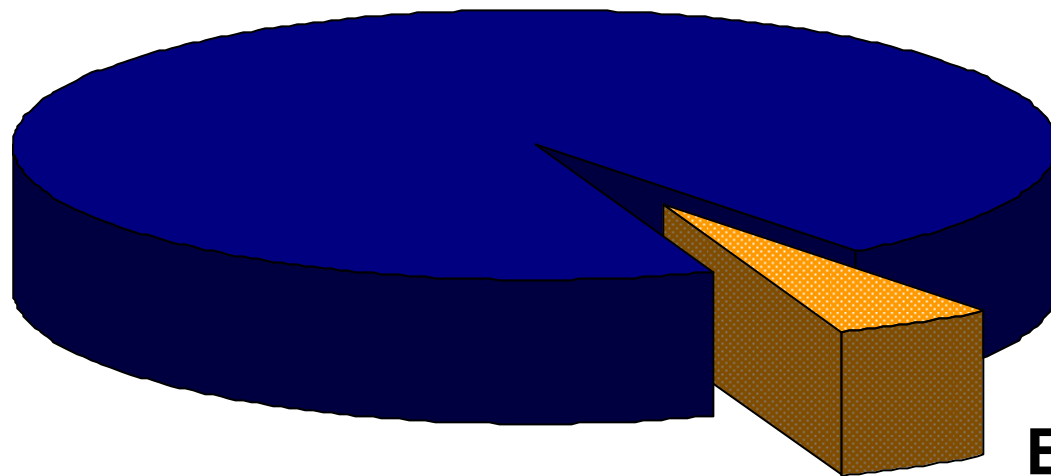


1. % tenured 10+years later ?
43%
1. % tenured at RUI university?
13%
1. % who wanted to become a professor ?
53%
1. % who aspired to the professoriate ended up as professor?
54%
2. % in business, government, non-profit (BGN)
37%
3. Who are the most group satisfied in their current job?
Managers/CEO in BGN

Percent Employed 10+ years after completing PhD

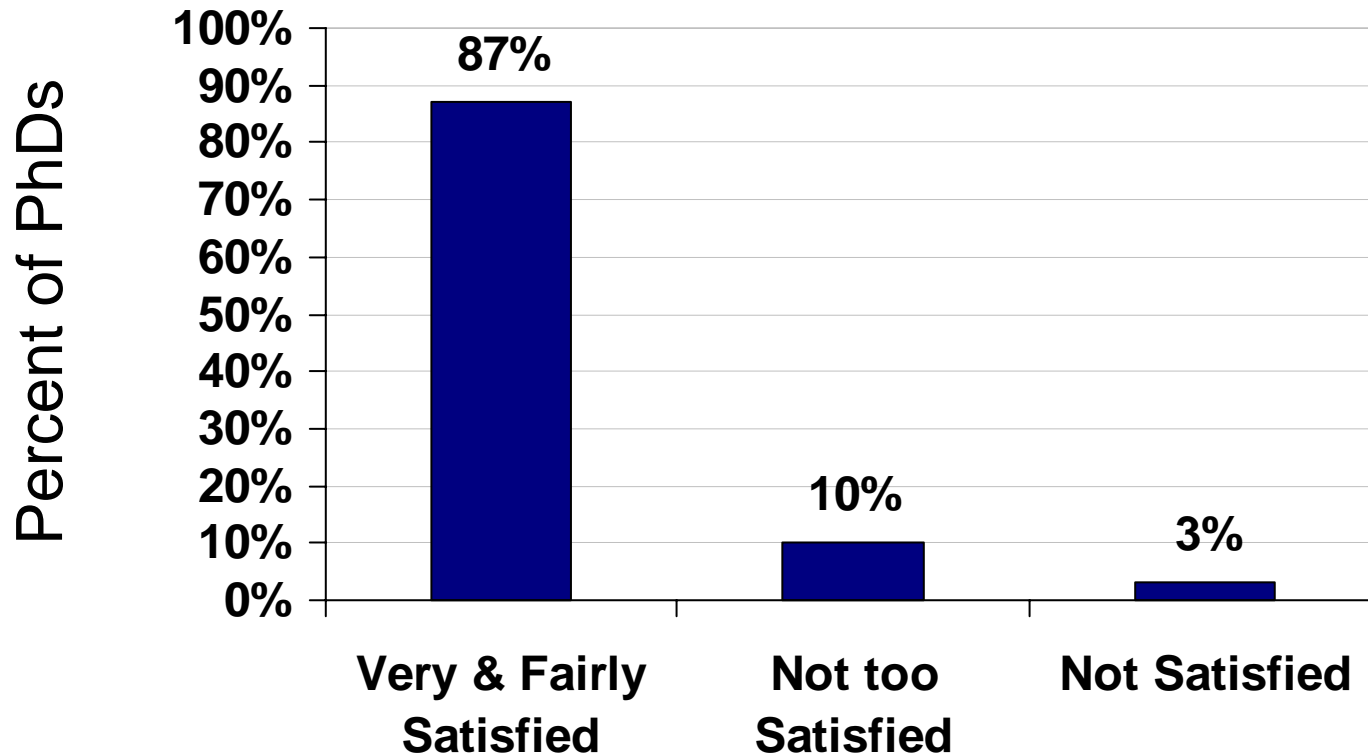


**Employed
95%**



**Not
Employed
5%**

Overall Satisfaction with Current* Job



* Job at time of survey, 10+ years post degree completion.

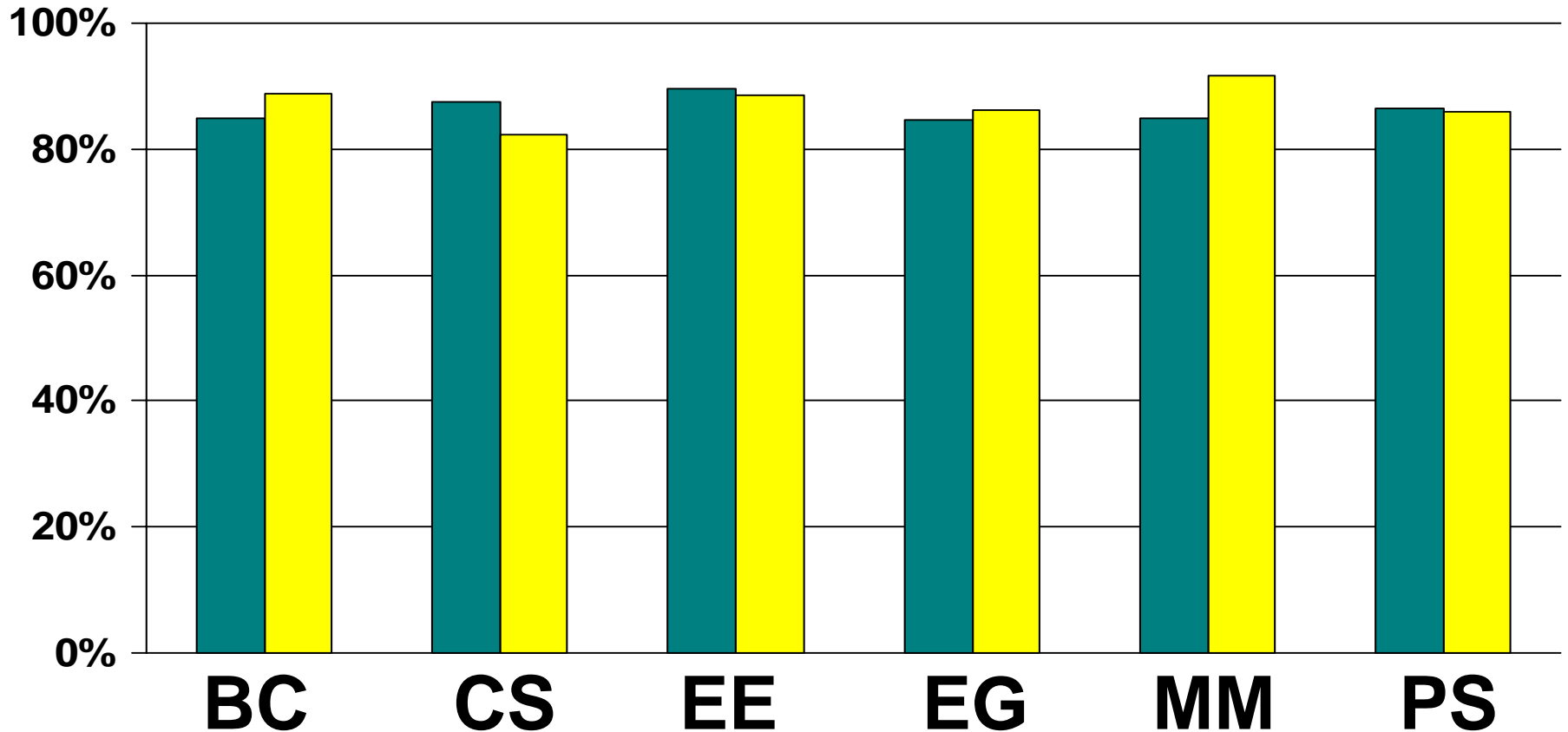
Data Source: CIRGE PHD-10 YRS. LATER (US. Citizens and Perm. Residents Only)
CIRGE, University of Washington Career Symposium, 3/09/06

Career Goal at PhD Completion and Tenured 10-14 Years Later

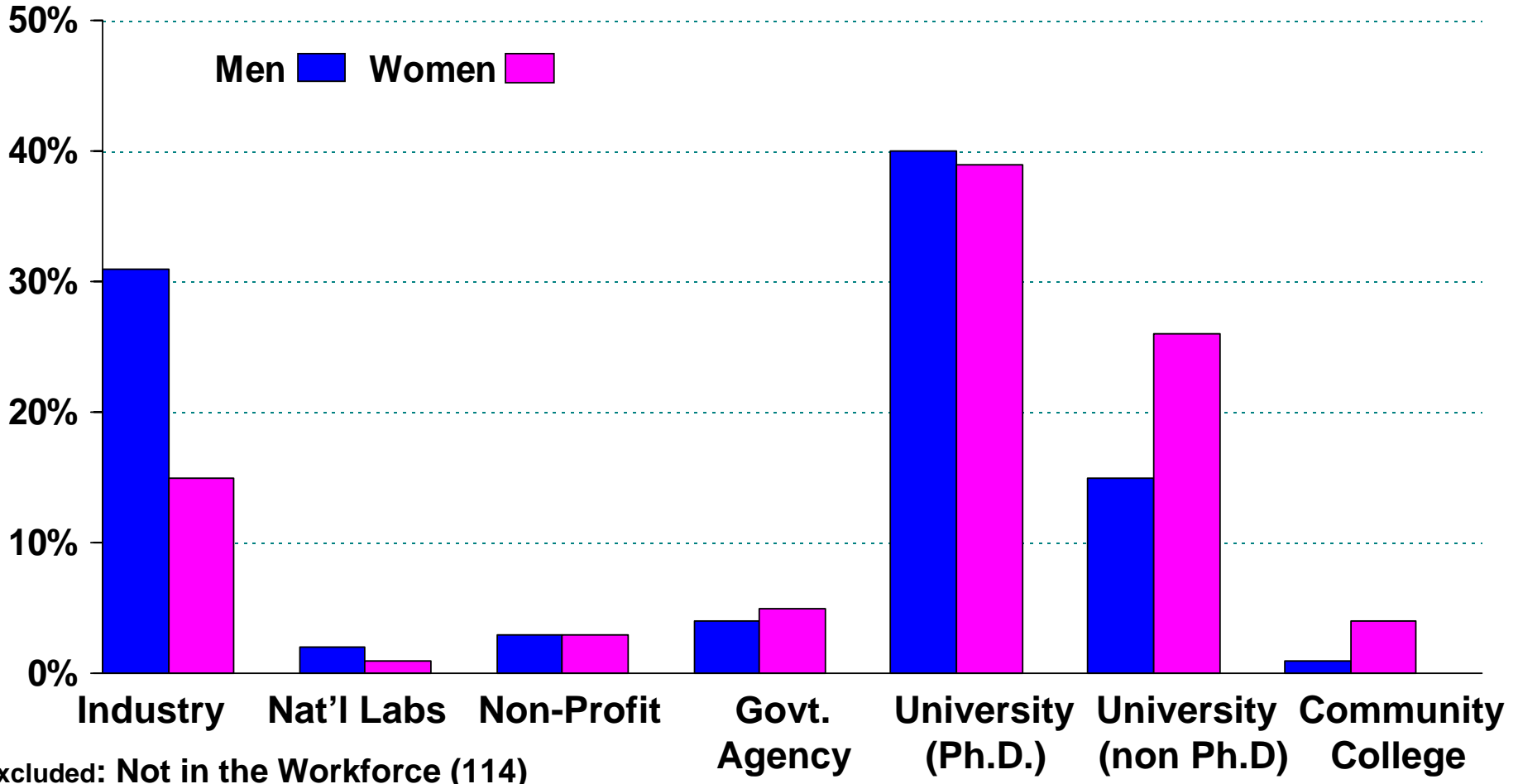


	% Wanted to Be Professor		% Tenured of All PhDs	
Bio-Chemistry	32	<i>(562)</i>	19	<i>(605)</i>
Computer Sc.	46	<i>(245)</i>	34	<i>(282)</i>
Electrical Engin.	19	<i>(281)</i>	22	<i>(328)</i>
English	81	<i>(677)</i>	55	<i>(767)</i>
Mathematics	54	<i>(461)</i>	54	<i>(522)</i>
Political Sc.	72	<i>(398)</i>	53	<i>(455)</i>

Overall Current Job Satisfaction* (very + fairly satisfied) by Sector



Selected Employer as of Dec 1995 By Gender



Excluded: Not in the Workforce (114)

Source: CIRGE PHD-10 YRS. LATER (US. Citizens and Perm. Residents Only)

8/4/2008 UW Career Symposium 3-9-06

Female
TTD: 12
RU1 Pub

Individual Career Path: Example English



Career Goal during doctoral education -
at start: Professor
at end: Acad. Admin.

1983



1996

Yrs in Job	Job History
1	1 year on academic job market
2	1/2 Admin, 1/2 Teaching, RU 1 (temp.)
5	Assistant Dean for Special Projects, RU1
6	Associate Dean Student Life, RU1

Male
TTD: 11
RU1 Pub

Individual Career Path: Example English



Career Goal during doctoral education -
at start: Professor
at end: Writer / Journalist

Yrs in Job	Job History
1983	Never on academic job market
1	Reporter, local newspaper
6	Public affairs officer, a State Dept. of Education
1	Writing consultant (self employed)
1	Public affairs officer, a State Dept. of Environmental Protection
3	Public affairs officer, a State Dept. of Health
1996	2 Director public affairs, State Attorney General's office

Source: CIRGE PHD-10 YRS. LATER (US. Citizens and Perm. Residents Only)

Postdoctoral Appointments



Major Field	%Doing Postdoc	Mean Years
Biochemistry	86	3.8
Computer Sc.	7	1.6
Elec. Eng.	9	1.6
English	8	2.0
Mathematics	31	2.5
Political Sc.	9	1.5

Individual career path for math or biochem



Educational Level of Spouse by Gender (all fields)



Women in Our Survey

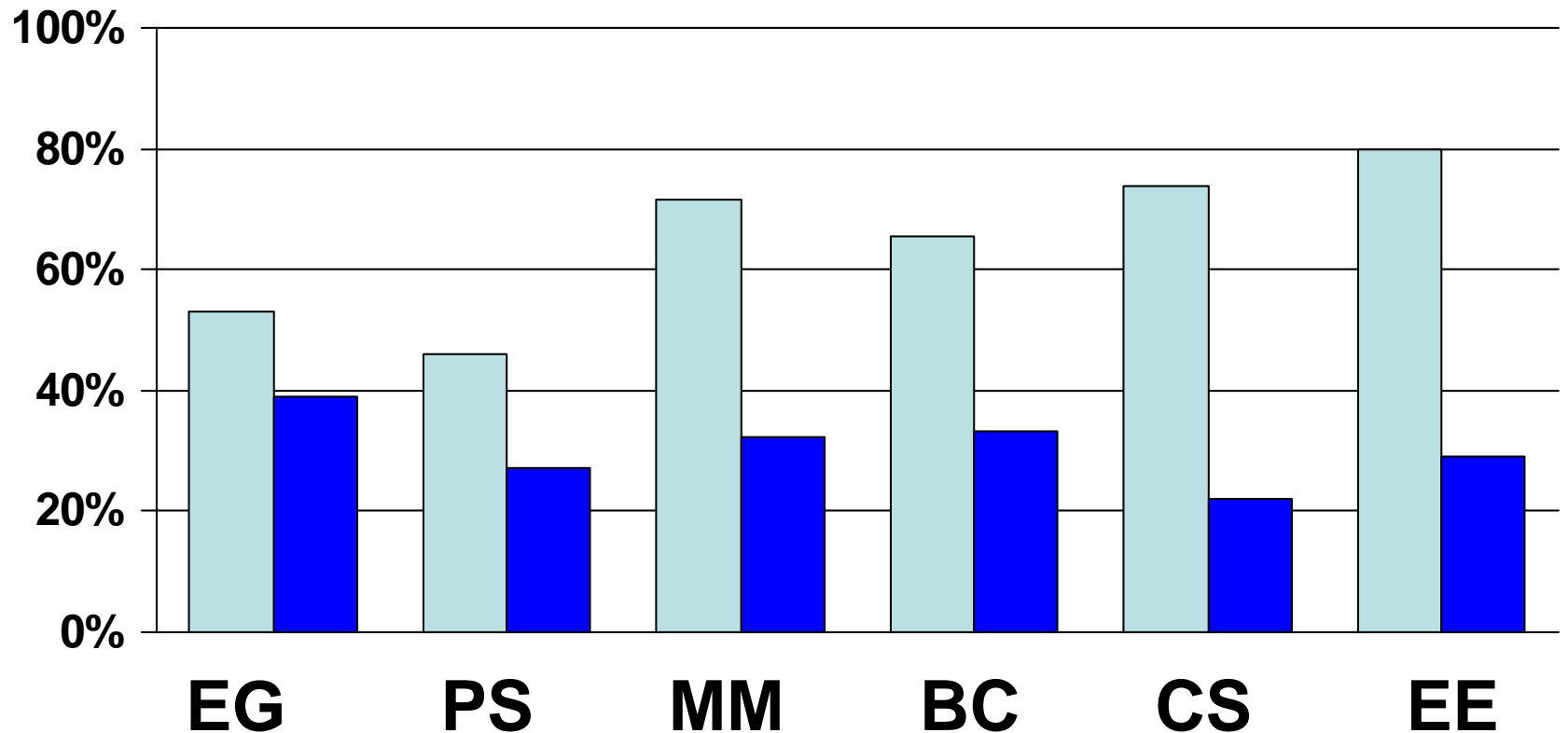
Married to PhD/JD/MD: 61%

Men in Our Survey

Married to PhD/JD/MD: 27%

“Good Opportunities for My Spouse” Very Important in First Job Choice

Married Women Married Men



Ever Tenured by Family Trajectories and Gender: *Art History*



	Women	Men
Single w/o Children	53%	54%
Stable Relationship w/o Children	52%	76%
Stable Relationship w/ Children	38%	81%

- Uniqueness of our study includes voices of former PhD students

Worth Completing the Ph.D?



Major Field	Definite Worth
Biochemistry	72%
Computer Science	76%
Electrical Engineering	80%
English	74%
Mathematics	81%
Political Science	80%

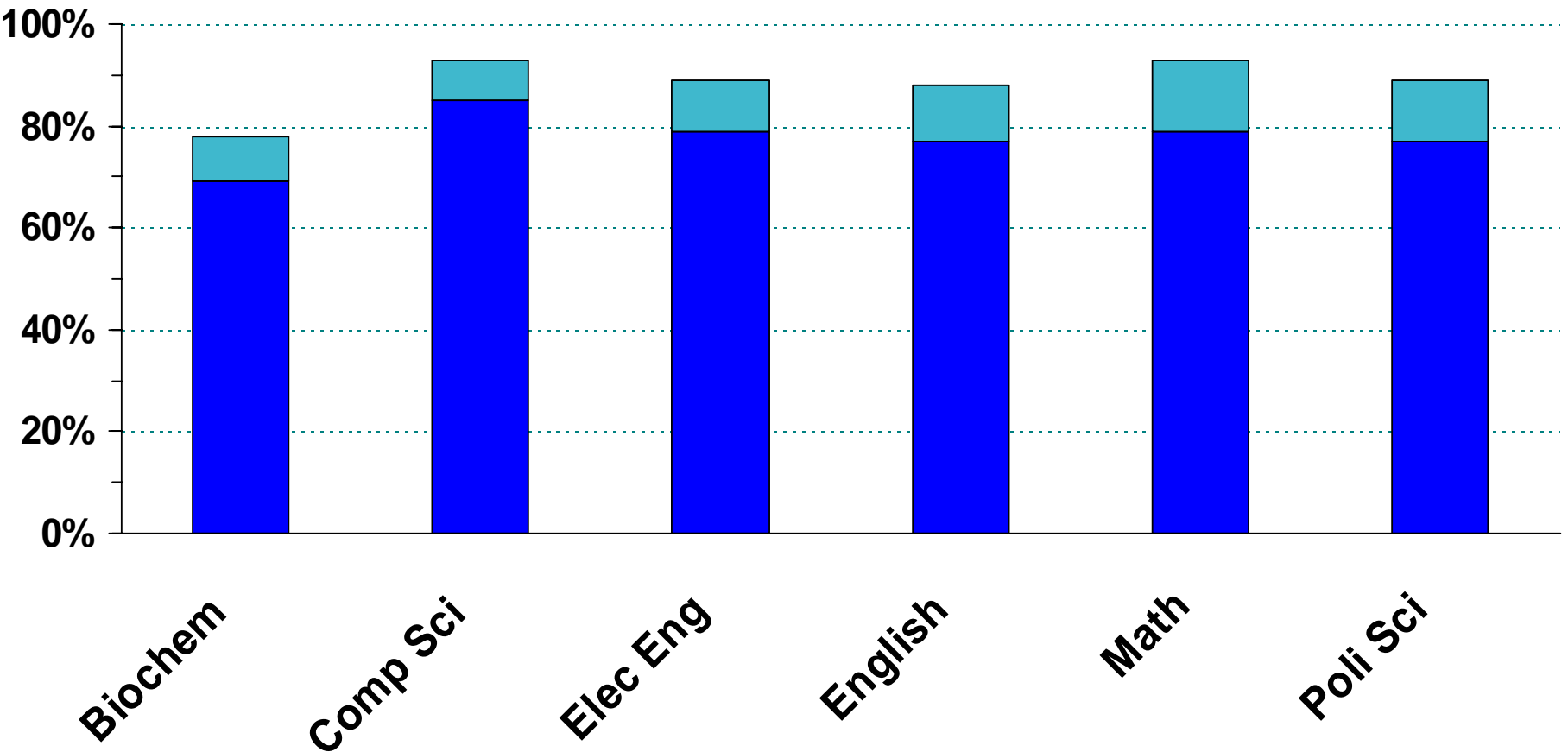
Source: CIRGE PHD-10 YRS. LATER (US. Citizens and Perm. Residents Only)

Would you do the Ph.D. again? By Field



■ Yes, Same Field

■ Yes, Different Field



Source: CIRGE PHD-10 YRS. LATER (US. Citizens and Perm. Residents Only)

Recommendations for Doctoral Students



- **Be Interdisciplinary/Breadth**
- **Focus, Define Goals**
- **Choose Field You Love**
- **Choose Advisor Carefully**
- **Develop Teaching Skills**
- **Publish/Present Papers**
- **Get Hands-On Experience**
- **Work Hard**

Quotations from open ends



Recommendations for Graduate Students



- **Be proactive in seeking help with your professional development and job search**
- **Negotiate with your life partner about changing or leaving jobs; interrupting or delaying careers; moving; or living or working in a different area**

CIRGE

Research

National Data Bank for Career Path Analysis of PhDs

- ✓ PhDs—Ten Years Later
- ✓ PhDs in Art History—Over a Decade Later
- ▶ Social Science PhDs—Five Years Out

Development of 3-year series of international workshops *Forces & Forms of Doctoral Reform Internationally*

Toward an evaluation of international collaborative doctoral programs
✓ Germany (GK)

Toward an evaluation of the IGERTs' impacts on departments and this university as a whole

Innovation

IGERT

Professional development workshops for faculty, students, and staff

Policy Recommendations

Thank you!



CIRGE website

www.cirge.washington.edu

