

## **Exploring the professional trajectories of doctors graduated from a Brazilian public university**

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The main objective of this research was to investigate the professional trajectory of the alumni who graduated from the Psychology Doctoral Program at the Brazilian Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). Previous studies have revealed that, in the early 1980s, there were only two doctoral programs in Psychology in Brazil. In the last two decades, this number has grown exponentially and by 2019, there were 64 psychology doctoral programs in the country. This increase is beneficial in many ways, especially in terms of educational policy. However, in order to analyze the increase in doctoral programs in psychology more precisely, carefully designed studies focusing on the absorption of these doctors in the job market are needed. Another important point that should be emphasized in studies on professional insertion absorption is the alma mater from which the doctors graduated. In the present study, the participants graduated from UFMG which, according to the Times Higher Education Ranking, ranks third among the most reputable universities in Brazil and eighth in Latin America. That is, having a degree from UFMG can be considered prestigious. In this study, we analyzed the professional trajectory of 88 doctors (56 females and 32 males) who graduated from UFMG from 2012 to 2019. We addressed the following questions regarding the PhD graduates: “what are they doing professionally?”, “are they working in the field they graduated from?”, “what kind of activities do they perform?”, and “are they teachers in higher education institutions?” The methodology used was document analysis, with data obtained from the Currículo Lattes (a Brazilian platform that contains more than 130,000 doctor curricula, managed by the Ministry of Science and Technology) and social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook. This analysis aimed to examine the academic and professional profile of the doctors, their origin, and their professional destinations. The results showed that, of the total sample, 73 (83%) doctors currently work as teachers in public and private higher education institutions. Moreover, this finding is consistent with previous studies that pointed out that universities are the main employers of graduates from doctoral programs. The results also indicate that teaching is no longer a complementary activity for psychologists, but, instead, a main role in this profession.

**Keywords:** psychology alumni; alma mater; professional destinations; professional trajectories; monitoring PhD graduates.