The National Perspective on Humanities PhD Employment

Humanists@Work
University of California, Irvine
22 April 2019
David Laurence
### UC Survey Responses / UC Research Doctorates Conferred (IPEDS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts, Interdisciplinary</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of research doctorates</td>
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<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Engineering &amp; computer science</strong></td>
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<td>874</td>
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<td>Number of research doctorates</td>
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<td>323</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>413</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>138</td>
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<td>Number of research doctorates</td>
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<td>397</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>397</td>
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<td><strong>Life sciences, physical sciences, and math</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
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<td>249</td>
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<td>526</td>
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<td>Number of research doctorates</td>
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<td>727</td>
<td>1,367</td>
<td>1,369</td>
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<td><strong>Social sciences</strong></td>
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<td>Number of research doctorates</td>
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<td>413</td>
<td>517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
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<td>3,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts, Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>35.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering &amp; computer science</td>
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<td>17.9</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>27.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health sciences and professional fields</td>
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<td>21.7</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>22.9</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>36.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life sciences, physical sciences, and math</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>33.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
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<td>21.3</td>
<td>44.3</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>35.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Total faculty**: Increase from 8.56 million in 1970 to 19.00 million in 2005, and further to 18.64 million in 2015.
- **Non-tenure-track faculty**: Not explicitly shown but implied in the overall growth.
- **Full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty**: Increase from 0.52 million in 1995 to 0.79 million in 2005, and further to 1.00 million in 2015.

**Student Enrollment**
- Increase from 12.05 million in 1980 to 19.00 million in 2005, and further to 18.64 million in 2015.

Degree-granting, Two- and Four-Year Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions
Percentage of Faculty Members in Full-Time Tenured and Tenure-Track, Full-Time Non-Tenure-Track, and Part-Time Positions in Four-Year Institutions, 1995, 2005, 2016
Degree-granting, Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions
Distribution of Faculty Members, by Institution Type and Tenure and Employment Status, Fall 2017
Degree-granting, Two- and Four-year Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions in the 50 States and the District of Columbia

- Four-year institutions (1,137,241)
  - Part-time: 437,970
  - Full-time non-tenure-track: 316,148
  - Full-time tenure (tenure-track): 118,698
    - Full-time tenure-track: 10.4%
    - Full-time tenure: 23.3%
- Two-year institutions (320,125)
  - Part-time: 215,584
  - Full-time non-tenure-track: 52,354
  - Full-time tenure (tenure-track): 13,910
    - Full-time tenure-track: 10.4%
    - Full-time tenure: 23.3%
- Four-year institutions (N = 2,330)
  - Part-time: 385,000
  - Full-time non-tenure-track: 27,800
  - Full-time tenure (tenure-track): 10,400
    - Full-time tenure-track: 10.4%
    - Full-time tenure: 27.8%
- Two-year institutions (N = 976)
  - Part-time: 67,300
  - Full-time non-tenure-track: 16,400
  - Full-time tenure (tenure-track): 4,300
    - Full-time tenure-track: 4.3%
    - Full-time tenure: 12.0%
### Percentage of Employees Employed Full- and Part-Time, by IPEDS Occupational Category, Fall 2017

Two- and Four-Year Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education in the Fifty States and the District of Columbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Category</th>
<th>Full-time Tenured and Tenure-track</th>
<th>Full-time Non-Tenure-Track</th>
<th>Employed Part-Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employees except faculty and student and academic affairs (1,021,377)</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare practitioners and technical (115,623)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community social service, legal, arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media (179,161)</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer, engineering, and science (233,570)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and financial operations (209,121)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management (249,435)</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Librarians (40,482)</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and academic affairs (170,306)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty (1,457,366)</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>44.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of employees in each occupational category is given in parentheses.
Distribution of Faculty Members and Postsecondary Institutions, by Carnegie Classification of Institution, Fall 2017

Degree-granting, Two- and Four-year Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions in the 50 States and the District of Columbia

- **Specialized, tribal and other**
  - Number of institutions: 709
  - Percentage of institutions: 21.4%

- **Associate's**
  - Number of institutions: 1,044
  - Percentage of institutions: 31.6%

- **Baccalaureate**
  - Number of institutions: 567
  - Percentage of institutions: 17.2%

- **Master's**
  - Number of institutions: 676
  - Percentage of institutions: 20.4%

- **Doctoral/Research**
  - Number of institutions: 310
  - Percentage of institutions: 9.4%

### All faculty members (1,457,366)
- **Tenured and tenure-track faculty members (443,597)**
  - Percentage of faculty members: 31.6%
  - Percentage of tenure-track faculty members: 19.4%

### Tenured and tenure-track faculty members
- **All faculty members**
  - Percentage of all faculty members: 31.6%
  - Percentage of tenure-track faculty members: 19.4%

### Number of institutions (3,306)
- **Percentage of institutions**
  - Specialized, tribal and other: 21.4%
  - Associate's: 31.6%
  - Baccalaureate: 17.2%
  - Master's: 20.4%
  - Doctoral/Research: 9.4%
Distribution of New Hires to Full-Time Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Positions, by Carnegie Classification of Hiring Institution, Fall 2016

Note: This accounting excludes 86 institutions not classified in the 2015 Carnegie Classification. In 2015–16, 2,909 Carnegie classified institutions reported new full-time hires. 1,638 Carnegie-classified institutions hired new tenure-track faculty members and 2,200 institutions hired new non-track faculty members. Nine non-classified institutions hired 93 full-time tenure-track faculty members; 22 hired 318 full-time non-tenure-track faculty members.
Distribution of Respondents Employed in Higher Education, by Discipline and Type of Higher Education Institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline and Type of Higher Education Institution</th>
<th>Percent Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities (466)</td>
<td>College or university system: 49.1% Community or two-year college: 10.7% Liberal arts college: 18.0% Master's/regional university: 12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences (606)</td>
<td>College or university system: 65.8% Community or two-year college: 8.6% Liberal arts college: 10.4% Master's/regional university: 9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and physical sciences (937)</td>
<td>College or university system: 73.4% Community or two-year college: 4.8% Liberal arts college: 6.9% Master's/regional university: 4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health sciences and professional fields (381)</td>
<td>College or university system: 66.1% Community or two-year college: 15.2% Liberal arts college: 4.7% Master's/regional university: 10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Interdisciplinary (186)</td>
<td>College or university system: 52.7% Community or two-year college: 8.6% Liberal arts college: 13.4% Master's/regional university: 11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and computer science (289)</td>
<td>College or university system: 69.9% Community or two-year college: 2.1% Liberal arts college: 5.2% Master's/regional university: 6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of respondents that is the basis for the percentages is given in parentheses.
Distribution of Respondents by Discipline, Employment Sector, and Type of Higher Education Institution

Outside higher education
College or university system
Community or two-year college
Liberal arts college
Master's/regional university
Research university

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Employment Sector</th>
<th>Type of Higher Education Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities (546)</td>
<td>Outside higher education</td>
<td>Research university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences (808)</td>
<td>College or university system</td>
<td>Liberal arts college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and physical sciences (1,750)</td>
<td>Community or two-year college</td>
<td>Master's/regional university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health sciences and professional fields (522)</td>
<td>Master's/regional university</td>
<td>Research university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Interdisciplinary (260)</td>
<td>Research university</td>
<td>Engineering and computer science (873)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Percentage of Respondents with Known Employment Who Are Employed as Faculty Members, Selected Disciplines, by Exit Year (Grouped)
Percentage of Respondents Employed in Higher Education Who Are Employed as Researchers, Selected Disciplines, by Exit Years (Grouped)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities (516)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences (604)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and physical sciences (935)</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>52.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Interdisciplinary (184)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Computer Science (289)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of respondents that is the basis for the percentages is given in parentheses.
Faculties, tenured, 52.4%

Faculty, tenure-track, 3.9%

Faculty, non-tenure-track, full-time, 11.6%

Faculty, non-tenure-track, part-time, 2.6%

Senior administrator with faculty status, 3.9%

Non-faculty, higher education professional, 4.8%

K–12 education, 3.5%

Business, government, or nonprofit organization, 13.8%

Self-employed or freelance, 2.6%

Retired, 1.0%

Outside higher education, 20.9%

In higher education, 79.1%

Faculty members, 70.4%

Modern Language Association • 2017 Follow-Up Survey of Modern Language PhDs
Current (2017) Employment of Modern Language Doctorate Recipients, by Year Degree Was Received
311 Respondents Who Provided Information about Current Employment

- Faculty, tenured
- Faculty, tenure-track
- Faculty, not on the tenure track
- Administrator or professional staff
- Employed outside of higher education

Legend:

- 1996–98 (76): 35.5% Faculty, tenured, 1.3% Faculty, tenure-track, 18.4% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 15.8% Administrator or professional staff, 28.9% Employed outside of higher education
- 1999–2001 (81): 69.1% Faculty, tenured, 4.9% Faculty, tenure-track, 6.2% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 4.9% Administrator or professional staff, 19.8% Employed outside of higher education
- 2002–05 (74): 54.1% Faculty, tenured, 5.4% Faculty, tenure-track, 13.5% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 6.8% Administrator or professional staff, 20.3% Employed outside of higher education
- 2006–08 (42): 57.1% Faculty, tenured, 14.3% Faculty, tenure-track, 16.7% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 7.1% Administrator or professional staff, 4.8% Employed outside of higher education
- 2009–15 (23): 34.8% Faculty, tenured, 4.3% Faculty, tenure-track, 30.4% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 4.3% Administrator or professional staff, 26.1% Employed outside of higher education
- All Years (311): 52.1% Faculty, tenured, 3.9% Faculty, tenure-track, 14.1% Faculty, not on the tenure track, 8.7% Administrator or professional staff, 21.2% Employed outside of higher education

Modern Language Association • 2017 Follow-Up Survey of Modern Language PhDs

- **Blue Line**: Positions announced in the JIL's English edition
- **Red Line**: Doctorate recipients in English and letters (Survey of Earned Doctorates)
New Hires to Full-Time Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Positions and Other Full-Time Professional Positions in Two-and Four-Year Institutions, 1995–2015

- **Tenure-track faculty positions**
- **Non-tenure-track faculty positions**
- **Other professional positions**
Percentage of All New Full-Time Hires Hired to Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Positions and Other Professional Positions, 1995–2015

- Other professional positions
- Non-tenure-track faculty positions
- Tenure-track faculty positions
Ratio of New Doctorate Recipients to New Hires to Tenure-Track Faculty Positions in Four-Year Institutions, 1995–2015

- All doctorate recipients
- US citizens or permanent residents
Distribution of Earnings: Humanities
(Percentage of Respondents at Different Earnings Levels)

- <$50K: 19.78%
- $50K - <$80K: 38.11%
- $80K - $100K: 16.70%
- $100K - <$150K: 15.43%
- >$150K: 9.98%
Distribution of Earnings: Arts and Interdisciplinary

(Percentage of Respondents at Different Earnings Levels)
Distribution of Earnings: Social Sciences

(Percentage of Respondents at Different Earnings Levels)
Distribution of Earnings: Life and Physical Sciences
(Percentage of Respondents at Different Earnings Levels)

- <$50K: 11.27%
- $50K - <$80K: 25.82%
- $80K - $100K: 16.16%
- $100K - <$150K: 28.44%
- >$150K: 18.31%
Distribution of Earnings: Engineering
(Percentage of Respondents at Different Earnings Levels)
“The contempt of risk and the presumptuous hope of success are in no period of life more active than at the age at which young people choose their professions.”

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776