

Association News

Where Do Political Scientists Teach: The Distribution of the Professoriate

Michael Brintnall
American Political Science Association

Annual departmental surveys completed by political science department chairs offer many views of the professoriate.¹ This article looks at the distribution of political science faculty among institutions of different types—those offering Ph.D. degrees,

those with their highest offering at the Masters level, publicly supported undergraduate schools, privately supported undergraduate schools, and small four-year schools that combine political science with other social sciences.²

About half of all faculty (full and part-time) teach in undergraduate institutions and about half in institutions offering advanced degrees, as illustrated in Figure 1. Over the last several years there has been growth in appointments of political scientists in institutions of almost all types.

Full-time appointments, shown in Figure 2, have increased, in particular, in Ph.D. granting programs and in private undergraduate institutions. Part-time appointments, Figure 3, have also grown in almost all institutions—especially the very smallest schools.

Women Faculty

Overall, in academic year 1989-90, women held 16% of all full-time appointments in political science departments, and 28% of all part-time appointments. Figure 4 shows these proportions for each type of institution for this period. Full-time appointments for women are relatively evenly distributed across institution types—slightly lower in masters level institutions, slightly higher in small combined programs. Women hold a disproportionate share of part-time appointments in all types of programs compared to their full-time positions, though less so in Ph.D. programs than elsewhere.

Numbers of women are increasing on full-time faculty of almost all types of institutions; only M.A. programs show no change. Numbers of women appointed to faculty of Ph.D. institutions show the most rapid increases, as shown in Figure 5.

Minority Faculty

Minority faculty remain a relatively small proportion of the professoriate. African-American faculty comprise 4% of all full-time appointments, and Latino faculty make up under 2%. The largest proportions of African-American faculty are in public undergraduate institutions and small combined social science programs; only about 2.5% of full-time faculty in Ph.D. programs are African-American. Latino faculty appointments are lowest in Ph.D. and private undergraduate departments. Figure 6 shows these proportions.

FIGURE 1.
 Political Science Faculty Distribution by Type of School

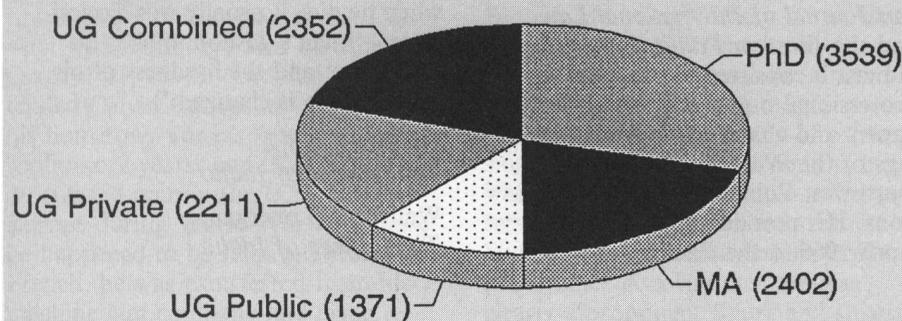


FIGURE 2.
 Full-Time Political Science Faculty by Year and Type of Institution

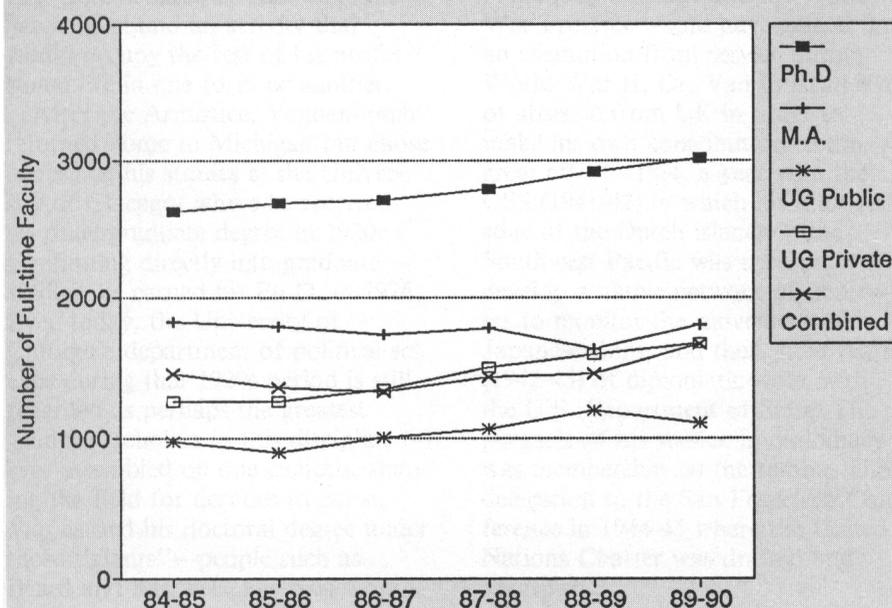


FIGURE 3.
Part-Time Political Science Faculty by Year and Type of Institution

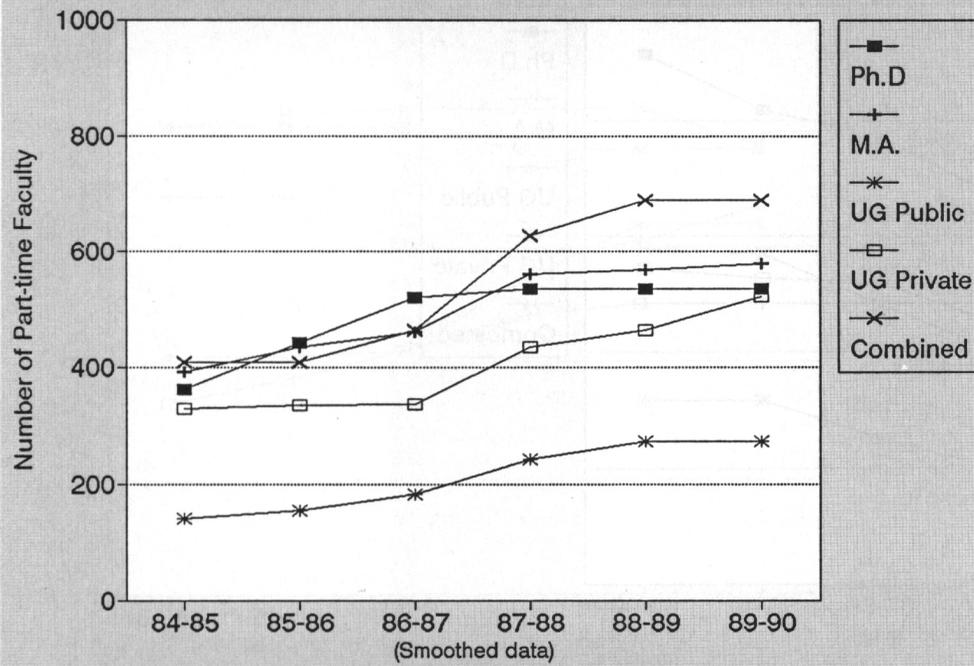


FIGURE 4.
Women as Percent of All Faculty by Year, Institution, and Appointment

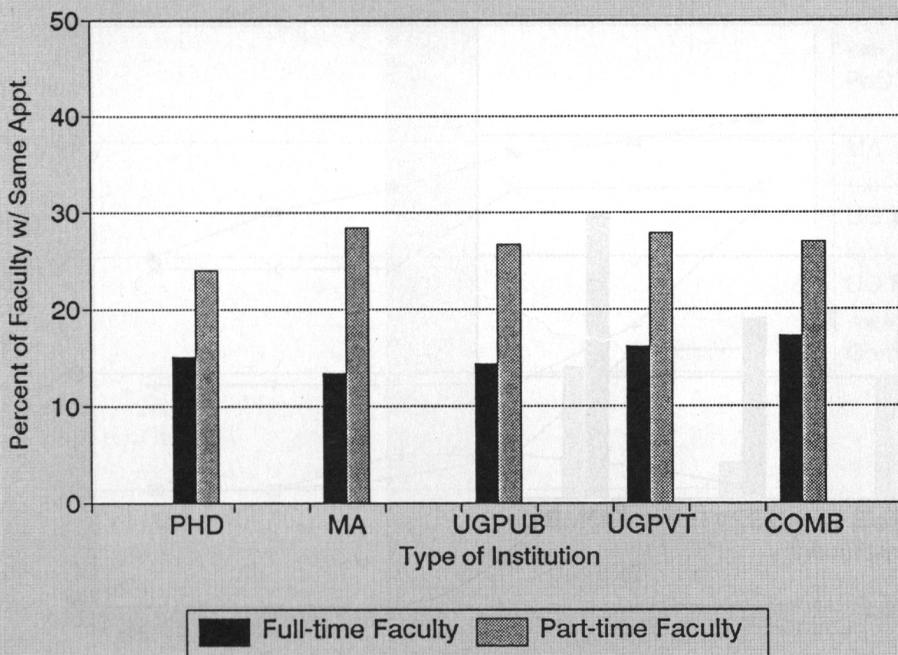


FIGURE 5.
Women Faculty by Year and Type of Institution

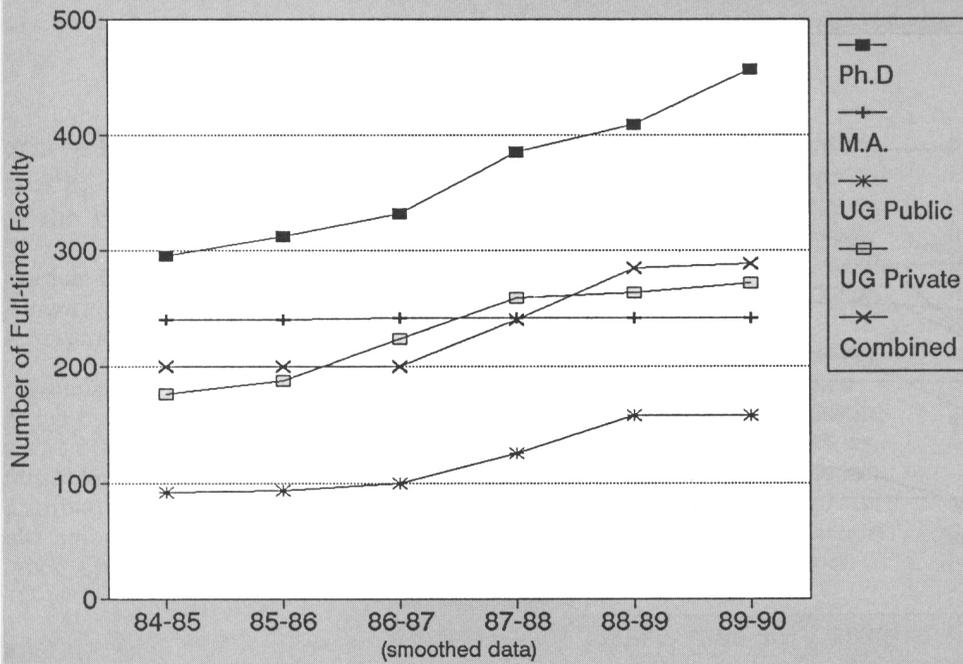


FIGURE 6.
Minority Faculty as Percent of All Full-Time Faculty

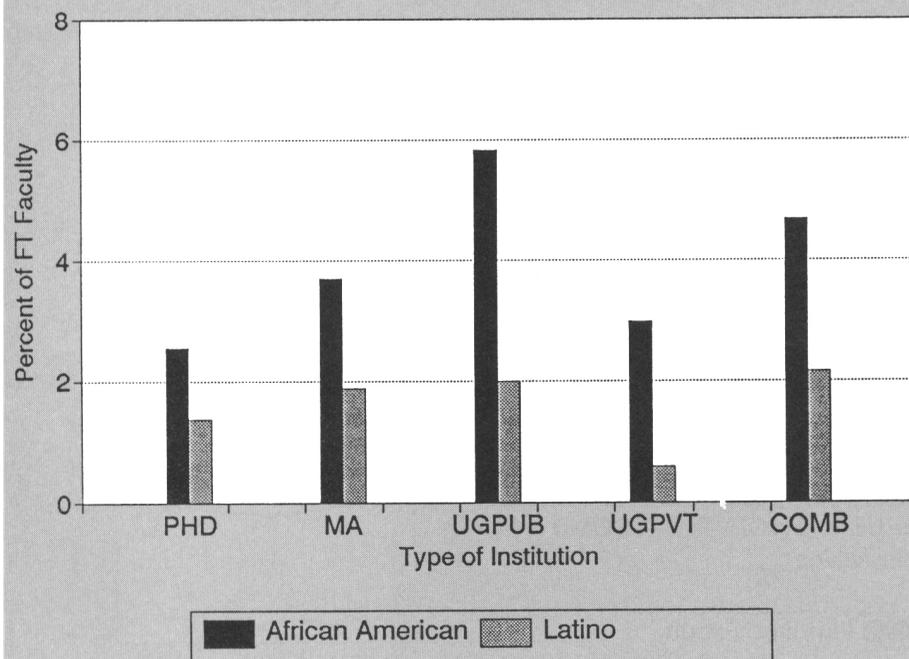


FIGURE 7.
African-American Faculty by Year and Type of Institution

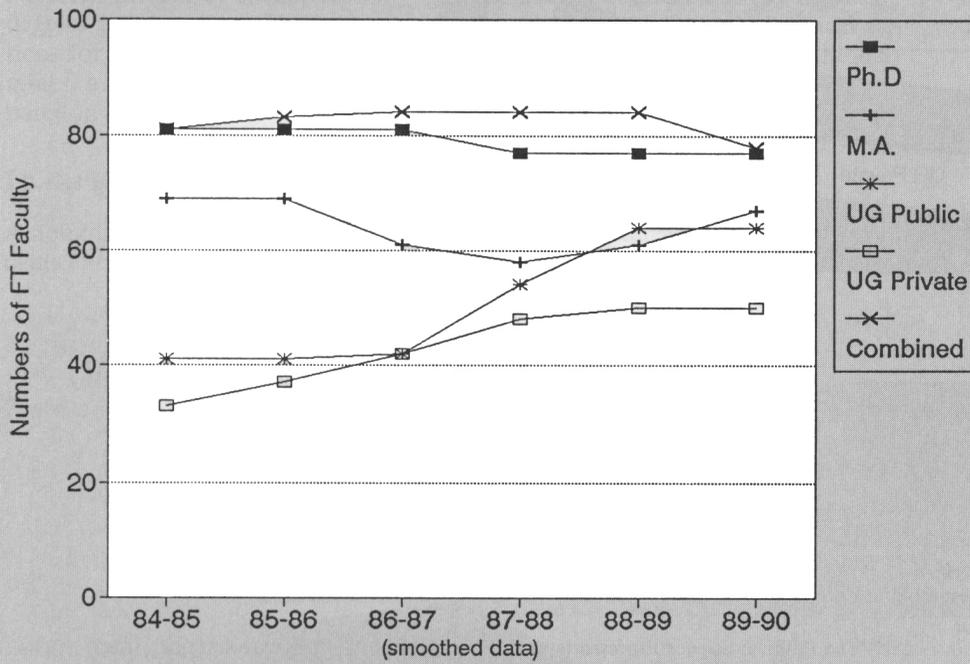


FIGURE 8.
Latino Faculty by Year and Type of Institution

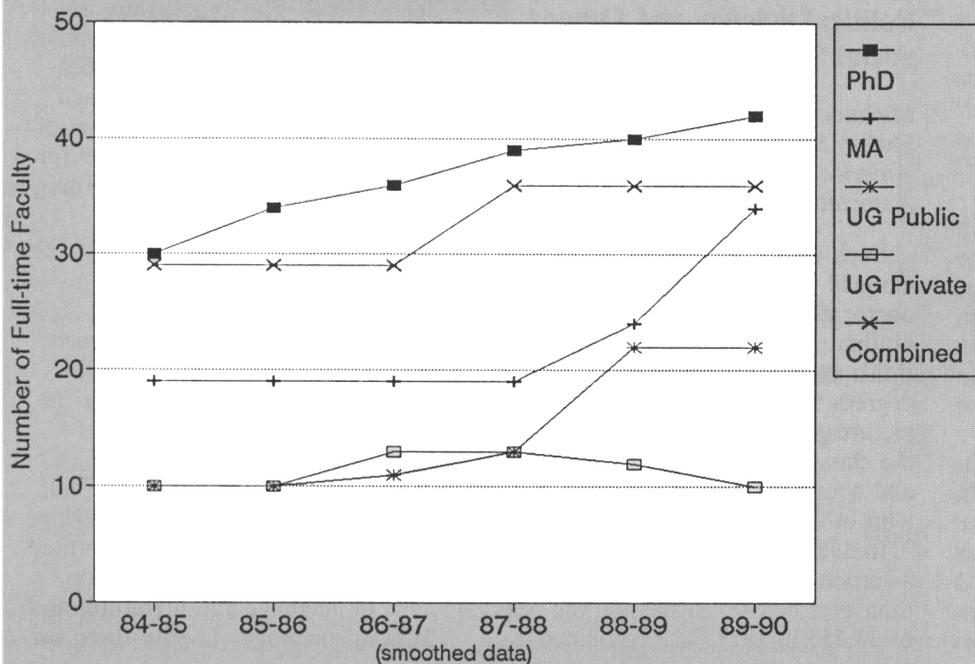
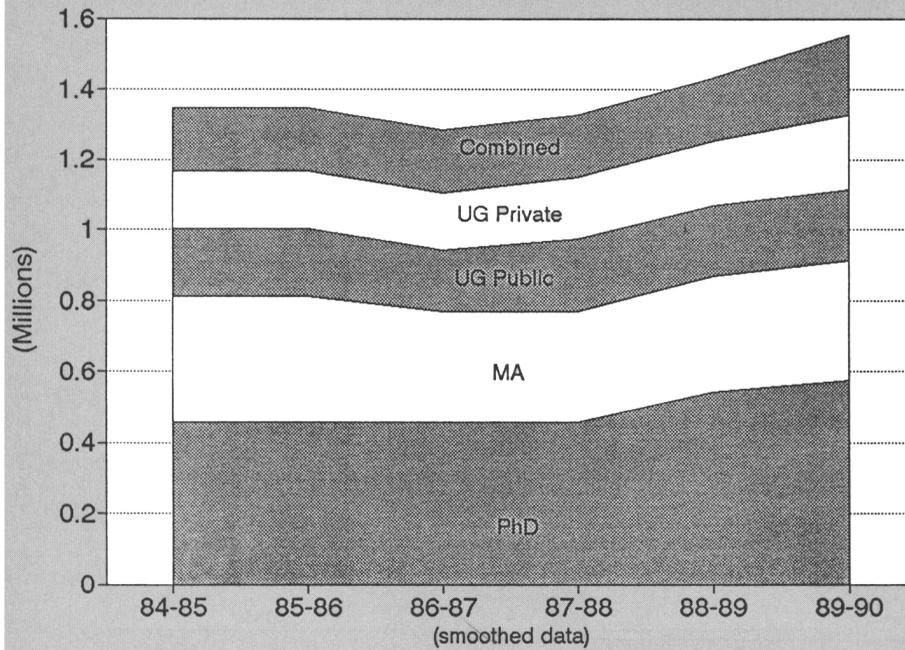


FIGURE 9.
Undergraduate Course Enrollments by Year and Type of Institution



In the largest and smallest departments—Ph.D. institutions and combined social science programs—numbers of African-American faculty have remained level in the last several years; appointments in undergraduate departments have increased. Numbers of Latino faculty in full-time positions have generally increased in all types of institutions except private undergraduate schools. These trends are shown in Figures 7 and 8.

Undergraduate Enrollment

We can also look at where most students are learning about political science. Figure 9 shows total numbers of individual enrollments in political science classes, stacked by type of department. Total undergraduate enrollments have increased in the last five years, especially because of growth in large, Ph.D.-granting institutions and in private undergraduate institutions. Data on awarding of undergraduate degrees shows similar patterns, particularly growth in all types of schools with substantial increases in the Ph.D. programs.

Notes

1. All data in this article have been drawn from APSA Departmental Surveys, weighted to reflect the universe of 1,300 departments.

See "The Political Science Professoriate: A Report on the Profession," *PS*, March 1991, pp. 81-85 for more information about the data and about the profession. Time series sequences in this article have been smoothed using running medians of 3.

2. This article does not report on political science faculty teaching in two-year schools because APSA does not regularly gather information about them. *PS* will report on this component of our professoriate in a future issue.

National Research Council Survey Highlights 1989 Doctoral Recipients in Political Science and Other Social Science Fields

Michael Brintnall
Shelley Sallee
American Political Science Association

Each year, the National Research Council publishes a survey of earned doctorates, based on surveys that graduate students complete as they finish requirements for their doctoral degrees.* These survey data allow pictures both of the composition of the class of new Ph.D.s in general, and comparison of political science with other disciplines.

In 1988-89, 34,319 Ph.D.s were awarded in all fields, more degrees than ever before, surpassing the peak of 33,755 in 1973. The combined

fields of political science, international relations, and public policy accounted for 601 of these degrees. In the disciplines commonly thought of as social sciences, degree production in political science was exceeded only by economics in which 898 degrees were awarded; 435 degrees were awarded in sociology, 324 in anthropology, and 105 in geography. Figure 1 shows political science degrees as slices of the social science pie.

Ph.D. production in the social sciences is the smallest of major academic fields. The largest rates of Ph.D. production occur in the physical and life sciences, and in education, with over 5,000 Ph.D.s each year. Figure 2 shows the number of new Ph.D.s awarded in 1988-89 for major fields, and for selected disciplines within them.

Ph.D.s Received by Women

Across all fields, women earned 12,510 doctorates—36% of all degrees and a 1% increase over the past three years. In some major fields, and some social sciences, women account for more than half of the doctorates earned—receiving, for example, 56% of the doctorates in psychology, 58% in education, 59% in language and literature, and 51% in sociology. Twenty-seven per-