

# News of the Profession

## Political Science Degrees Awarded: An Update

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The National Research Council reports that the number of individuals receiving Ph.D.s changed only slightly in 1983, continuing a six-year trend of relative stability. Between July 1982 and June 1983, there were 31,190 doctorates awarded in the United States, only slightly above the 1982 level of 31,048. Of greater significance to the future of graduate education is the portion of the population entering and completing a doctoral program. Compared with 1960, fewer men and women among the 25-to-34-year-old cohort pursued and completed a doctoral program in 1983.

The lower portion of the population earning a doctorate challenges the assumption that graduate enrollments and job opportunities will significantly increase in the 1990s as the offspring of the "baby-boom" generation enter and graduate from college. The National Research Council's 1983 *Summary Report* states:

... any future increases in the number of graduates from doctoral programs cannot be expected solely from population growth, but would have to come from the overall increases in proportions of U.S. college graduates going on to earn the doctorate, from attracting underrepresented populations—women and minority group members—into graduate study, or from foreign citizens entering graduate study in the United States (National Research Council, *Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities, Summary Report 1983*, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1984:8).

Among the social sciences, the number of doctoral recipients continued a second

year of decline, recording the lowest level since 1973. The number of Ph.D.s in political science also declined to a new low of 542, continuing the downward trend that was briefly halted in 1982.

The profiles of men and women Ph.D. recipients are very similar. The average male Ph.D. in political science is married, a U.S. citizen, and 34 years of age. The average female Ph.D. in political science is also married, a U.S. citizen, but only 32 years old.

The majority of men and women received their B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in the same field. Most men (85 percent) and women (85 percent) anticipate employment after completing their degree program. Men sought employment in education (58 percent), government (13 percent) and business/industry (7 percent); women sought employment in education (62 percent), business/industry (8 percent), and government (5 percent). Men wished to become involved in teaching (58 percent), research (15 percent), and administration (12 percent); women wished to teach (66 percent), do research (25 percent), or administer (4 percent).

The gender composition of all Ph.D.s and social science Ph.D.s continued to change in 1983. The number of women receiving doctorates reached a new high (10,485), or 34 percent of the new doctorates. This represents a two percent increase over the previous year. The number of women among social science Ph.D.s increased by four percent over 1982. Among political scientists, the number of women receiving doctorates declined to 1974 levels, but the percentage of Ph.D.s awarded to women increased (23 percent).

The percentage of political science Ph.D.s awarded to minority groups remained unchanged. American Indians,

**Number of Doctorates Awarded by United States Universities by Field and Sex, 1972-83\***

Year	All Ph.D.s		Social Science Ph.D.s			Political Science Ph.D. <sup>a</sup>		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
1983	20,705	10,485	6,055	3,675	2,380	542	418	124
1982	20,991	10,057	6,250	3,959	2,291	708	554	154
1981	21,460	9,882	6,512	4,196	2,316	679	594	135
1980	21,607	9,406	6,253	4,085	2,168	729	585	144
1979	22,299	8,936	6,392	4,283	2,109	766	626	140
1978	22,552	8,321	6,465	4,510	1,955	851	701	150
1977	23,860	7,858	6,528	4,691	1,837	881	739	142
1976	25,262	7,684	6,590	4,857	1,734	885	748	137
1975	25,750	7,201	6,311	4,711	1,600	862	720	142
1974	26,594	6,453	6,173	4,727	1,446	907	784	123
1973	27,670	6,085	5,938	4,692	1,246	906	788	118
1972	27,756	5,287	5,611	4,558	1,053	811	817	94

\*Source: National Research Council, *Summary Report 1983, Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*, Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, 1984: pp. 24-25.

<sup>a</sup> Includes Ph.D.s awarded in political science, public administration, public policy studies, and international relations.

**Political Science Ph.D. Recipients by Race and Ethnic Group, 1977-82\***

Year	Total Doctorates	Doctorates: Non-U.S. Citizens, Temporary Visas	Doctorates: U.S. Citizens, Non-U.S. Citizens with Permanent Visas					Minorities as Percent of Total <sup>a</sup>
			Total	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	
1983	542	83	436	1	10	25	17	12.6
1982	708	111	597	1	15	45	15	12.7
1981	679	86	593	1	19	34	9	10.6
1980	729	87	642	3	16	26	10	8.6
1979	766	103	663	2	17	36	16	10.7
1978	851	95	756	0	13	48	16	10.2
1977	881	95	786	8	22	47	11	11.2

\*Source: *Summary Report 1983, '81, '80, '79, '78, '77, Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*, National Research Council.

<sup>a</sup> Total of doctorates who are citizens and non-U.S. citizens with permanent visas.

Asians, Blacks, and Hispanics accounted for 12.6 percent of the political science Ph.D.s awarded in 1983, compared with 12.7 percent in 1982. □

## Trends in Political Science Funding at the National Science Foundation, 1980-1984

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This is a report on the health of the Political Science Program at NSF at the end of my two-year tenure as director. My term at NSF has been a time of rebuilding for the program. When I arrived in September 1982 the program was suffering the effects of the social science budget cuts which reduced political science funding at NSF by more than 40 percent between FY 1980 and FY 1982. In the aftermath of these reductions, proposal submissions to the program fell dramatically; funding for the National Election Studies (NES) was extended for only two years and with a "minimum maintenance" budget; and the program was unable to hire a replacement for Gerald Wright at the conclusion of his term as director. Although the budget cuts and restorations at NSF were distributed relatively equally across the social sciences, the absence of a full-time program director handicapped political science when the thaw in social science budgets began to occur in FY 1982.

Two years later, the program appears to be making slow but steady progress toward recovery. The program's budget is on the rise; proposal submissions have returned to pre-1980 levels and are growing; the NES has been renewed for an additional five years at a level which insures the maintenance of the core time

series through the 1988 elections while providing opportunities for research innovations; the program has regained its standing relative to the other social sciences at NSF; and Lee Sigelman of the University of Kentucky has been appointed as my successor effective January 1985. To be sure, the program's budget still lags far behind its 1979 and 1980 levels in real dollars discounted for inflation. But recent trends are encouraging. This brief report documents these trends and provides some basic information on program actions and funding patterns over the past five years. (The data reported here are derived from the Foundation's proposal information database and have been coded so as to maximize their comparability to previous reports of program activity, especially Gerald Wright's October 1980 report in *PS*, "Trends in NSF Political Science Program Activities, 1975-1979.")

### Budget and Proposal Trends

Table 1 provides an overview of long-term budget trends and makes obvious the roller coaster pattern of political science funding over the past decade. After a period of modest but essentially steady state funding in the early 1970s, the program enjoyed a series of healthy budget increases in the late 1970s which enabled it to grow both in real dollars and relative to the two principal other disciplinary programs in the Division of Social and Economic Science (Economics and Sociology). The early 1980s witnessed the budget miseries whose effects continue to be felt despite small budget increases in 1983 and 1984 and a proposed 33 percent increase for 1985.

Less obvious in these data are two important if countervailing points about the relationship between the program's budget and the National Election Studies. On the one hand it should be noted that the budget increases since 1982 and the proposed increase for 1985 are not entirely what they seem since they have been accompanied by a requirement that the program bear an increasing share of the cost of the NES. In 1984, for example, while the program's budget in-

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