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## Ph.D. Enrollments Continue to Decline

**Robert J-P. Hauck**

American Political Science Association

The number of graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in political science continues to decline. In the 1983-84 academic year, 4,171 graduate students were enrolled in Ph.D. programs. This marks a 35 percent decline since 1973-74. It would seem that fewer native-born males are entering graduate programs. Despite a one percent drop in the enrollment of women in 1983-84, women and foreign students are over half of total graduate enrollment. Foreign student enrollment has increased four percent since 1981.

The general pattern of growth in enrollment of women and foreign students is not replicated in black student enrollment. The percentage of blacks enrolled in graduate political science programs has remained relatively unchanged since 1974.

There is an indication that future enrollments may be higher. In Fall, 1983, a total of 838 students began Ph.D. study in political science. While this is substantially less than the 1,414 new students in Fall 1973, it does mark a slight increase over 1982 (772 students). It is far too early, however, to know whether the 1983 figures are a sign of a positive trend or only a temporary increase as occurred in 1977 and 1979. □

**Graduate Student Enrollments in Ph.D. Programs in Political Science**

Year	Total	Women	Black	Foreign			
1983-84	4,171	1,105	26%	207	5%	1,075	26%
1982-83	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1981-82	5,491	1,505	27%	319	6%	1,181	22%
1980-81	5,756	1,415	25%	373	6%	1,212	21%
1979-80	5,888	1,384	24%	406	7%	1,146	21%
1978-79	5,742	1,258	22%	432	8%	948	17%
1977-78	5,737	1,278	22%	413	7%	819	14%
1976-77	5,462	1,209	22%	402	7%	813	15%
1975-76	6,150	1,475	24%	435	7%	*	*
1974-75	6,150	1,250	20%	435	7%	*	*
1973-74	6,450	*	*	*	*	*	*

\*Figures not available.

Note: These figures are taken directly from the *Guide to Graduate Study in Political Science, 1972-1984*.

**New Students Beginning Ph.D. Study in Political Science**

Year	Total	Women		Black	
Fall, 1983	838	230	27%	51	6%
Fall, 1982	772	208	27%	39	5%
Fall, 1981	1,042	299	29%	76	7%
Fall, 1980	1,068	301	28%	104	9%
Fall, 1979	1,100	305	28%	101	9%
Fall, 1978	1,051	255	24%	102	10%
Fall, 1977	1,182	270	23%	111	10%
Fall, 1976	1,064	274	26%	100	9%
Fall, 1975	1,174	270	23%	129	11%
Fall, 1974	1,443	342	24%	131	9%
Fall, 1973	1,414	*	*	*	*
Fall, 1972	1,576	*	*	*	*
Fall, 1971	1,695	*	*	*	*
Fall, 1970	2,138	*	*	*	*
Fall, 1969	2,487	*	*	*	*

\*Figures not available.

Note: The sources are the annual issues of the *Guide to Graduate Study in Political Science* for 1971-1984, APSA surveys 1969 and 1970, and *Graduate Students and Faculty in Political Science Ph.D. and M.A. Programs*, 1981.

**Non-Academic Jobs Will Not Relieve Tight Academic Market**

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American Political Science Association

Estimates prepared from the APSA annual survey of departments show that in recent years faculty members have not been leaving their teaching positions in increasing numbers to pursue careers in applied settings.

Since 1977, the APSA annual survey of departments has collected data on the number of faculty leaving academia to pursue non-academic careers. The survey does not differentiate between tenured and non-tenured faculty leaving the academy; it only records aggregate departures. Based upon these data, it is possible to estimate that over six years an annual average of 173 faculty members from political science departments—ranging from Ph.D. granting institutions to departments offering political science at the undergraduate level as one component of a social science department—leave their appointments for careers outside the academy (Table A). If only Ph.D., M.A. and B.A. granting departments are taken into account, the estimated number of departures is an even lower figure of 110 annually for the past six years (Table E).

In fact, the number of political scientists leaving academic life is actually declining (Tables A-D). Over 200 faculty left teaching positions in 1977-78; in 1982-83 half as many left. The decline is evidenced in Ph.D., M.A. and B.A. granting departments. The data suggest that the profession runs the risk of overemphasizing the degree to which departments will ease the tight academic market in future years. □