



# 2016-2017 APSA GRADUATE PLACEMENT SURVEY: INCOMING STUDENTS REPORT

February 27, 2018

## Executive Summary

The American Political Science Association collects data on doctoral candidates and graduates through the annual Graduate Placement Survey. For the first time since the survey started, this year's survey also collected information on incoming doctoral students. This report details the findings for the 2016-2017 academic year, including the characteristics of incoming doctoral students, levels of funding, and years of funding.

Incoming doctoral students in 2016-2017 display more diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, and home country than doctoral students on the market. The proportion of incoming doctoral students receiving full funding in 2016-2017 was 88.2%, with 4.3% receiving partial funding and 6.6% receiving no funding. The median guaranteed years of funding for incoming students was 5-years. Funding appears to vary by a number of contributing factors, with notable findings including that female students and students at private institutions receive greater levels of funding and for longer. Underrepresented minorities were found to be significantly less likely to receive full funding and more likely to receive no funding than non-underrepresented minorities.

We encourage you to read the report carefully, and we welcome your questions, suggestions, or ideas. Please contact us with any specific questions about the findings. We will aim to fold in some of the broader questions that members bring to our attention through subsequent reports and materials on the American Political Science Association website, [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org). You can contact us at [surveys@apsanet.org](mailto:surveys@apsanet.org), or by calling the main APSA office at 202-483-2512.

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## About the Data

The data presented here are from the annual APSA Graduate Placement Survey. In the survey, directors of graduate studies provide individual level information about doctoral students. 2016-2017 is the first year directors provided data on their incoming doctoral classes. The survey was administered to 126 graduate departments. 81 (64.3%) of these responded to the survey. 70 of these programs reported a total of 603 incoming doctoral students.

The full *2016-2017 APSA Graduate Placement Survey: Placement Report* on doctoral students on the job market can be accessed [here](#).

These data are not weighted. The totals reported here for each survey are the complete number of students reported by departments in 2016-2017, and may not represent the complete universe of incoming students.

## Characteristics of Incoming Students (Tables 1 and 2)

- The gender breakdown of incoming students was more balanced than that of candidates currently on the market. 43.8% of incoming students were female, compared to 39.8% on the market, and 55.9% were male, compared to 60.2% on the market. The gender breakdown of incoming international students was even more balanced, with 0.6% more female than male students.
- The majority of incoming doctoral students were White/Euro American (58.2%), followed by East Asian/Asian American (10.9%), African American/Black (7.5%), and 'Other' (6.6%). As with gender, there was greater balance and diversity among incoming students than students on the market. Indeed, incoming students were 8.9% less white than those currently on the job market and a greater proportion are Hispanic/Latino/a (8.6% of incoming students compared to 5.7% of students on the market). Racial and ethnic diversity was even more pronounced among incoming international, as compared to U.S., students. Just 27.1% of international students were white, compared to 74.7% of U.S. students, and 26.0% were East Asian/Asian American, compared to 3.1% of Americans. There were also proportionally more than twice as many Hispanic/Latino/a international students than American ones (13.6% to 6.7%).
- 64.3% of incoming students were from the United States and 29.4% were international. The home countries of 6.3% of incoming students were not reported.
- When comparing the cohort of candidates from private universities with those from public universities, there are a few variations. The incoming students from private universities tend to be more balanced in terms of gender (with 5.4% more females), more racially and ethnically diverse (with 5.7% less White/Euro American and 7.3% more Hispanic/Latino/a students) and more international (with 4.3% more international students). This greater diversity at private institutions is at least in part due to this greater proportion of international students—who are generally more diverse as compared to U.S. students—being in attendance at these institutions than at public ones.

## Funding Status (Tables 3-5)

- Directors of Graduate Studies were asked to describe the funding status of their incoming doctoral students. The characteristics of these funding statuses are described here.
- 88.2% of incoming doctoral students have full funding, 4.3% have partial funding, and 6.6% have no funding. The proportion of incoming students with full funding is higher than for students on the job market, but the proportion with partial funding is lower. Over twice as many incoming students than students on the market have no funding.
- A majority across all races and ethnicities were in receipt of full funding. Most groups broadly reflected overall funding status proportions, with the notable exception of African American/Black and Middle Eastern/Arab American students. A significantly higher number of African American/Black and Middle Eastern/Arab Americans received no funding (26.7% and 21.1%, respectively) and these groups were less likely to receive full funding and more likely to receive partial funding than other racial or ethnic groups. There was almost no difference between Hispanic/Latino/a students and Non-Hispanic/Latino/as, with the former slightly more likely to receive full funding and the latter slightly more likely to receive partial funding.
- Incoming students not belonging to underrepresented minority (Non-URM) groups within the discipline (White/Euro American and East Asian/Asian Americans) were significantly more likely to receive full funding than underrepresented minority (URM) students (93.4% compared to 81.5%). In contrast, more than double the proportion of underrepresented minorities received no funding at the start of their program (10.5% to 4.1%). These patterns also hold when comparing Non-Hispanic/Latino/a White/Euro Americans with other racial and ethnic groups.
- These funding disparities between certain racial/ethnic groups also hold when comparing the home country status of incoming students, with URM to Non-URM disparities even more pronounced among U.S. students. For example, 16.2% of reported U.S. URM students received no funding, compared to 4.8% of U.S. Non-URM students. This disparity exists to a lesser degree among international students: 6.2% of URM students received no funding, compared to 2.5% of Non-URM students.
- There were a few differences in the funding status of males and females. While levels of partial funding were near identical, incoming male students were 3.6% less likely to receive full funding, and 3.8% more likely to receive no funding, than their female counterparts. When comparing the funding status of male and female U.S. students by race/ethnicity, gender differences remain relatively small. Male URM and Non-URM students were less likely to receive full funding and more likely to receive no funding than their female counterparts of the same racial/ethnic group.
- Private institutions were more likely to offer their incoming students full funding and less likely to offer no funding than public institutions. Indeed, almost double the percentage (8.1%) of incoming students at public institutions weren't offered funding compared to their counterparts at private ones (4.1%).

## Years of Funding (Table 6)

- Directors of Graduate Studies were asked to describe the years of guaranteed funding for their incoming doctoral students. The characteristics of these funding structures are described here.
- The vast majority of incoming students (66.8%) have some form of guaranteed funding for 5-years, with this the case across all gender, race, ethnicity, home country, and institution types.

10.3% are guaranteed funding for 4-years, 6.5% for just 1-year, 3.8% for 3-years, 3.2% for 6-years, and 1.2% for 2-years.

- Some variation exists among racial and ethnic groups when it comes to the years of funding guaranteed for incoming doctoral students. Just 40.0% of African American/Black students are guaranteed 5 or 6-years of funding, 17.9% less than the next lowest among racial groups, Middle Eastern/Arab Americans. However, this lower African American funding is at least in part due to a higher than average non-reporting rate of 33.3% by departments reporting to have incoming African American/Black students. Hispanic/Latino/a students were more likely to be guaranteed 5 or 6-years of funding than Non-Hispanic/Latino/as (88.4% to 69.9%, respectively), with a greater number of Non-Hispanic/Latino/a incoming students guaranteed between 1 and 4-years. URM students overall were less likely to receive 5 or 6-years of funding than Non-URM students (by 64.2% to 72.4%).
- Similar proportions of underrepresented minority and non-underrepresented minority incoming students received 1 to 4-years of guaranteed funding, but the former were less likely to receive 5 or 6-years. This pattern is somewhat offset when comparing Non-Hispanic/Latino/a White/Euro Americans with all other racial and ethnic groups.
- While both male and female students were highly likely to be guaranteed 5-years of funding, some differences exist. Incoming female students were more likely to be guaranteed funding for a longer duration than males: 72% of females were guaranteed 5 or 6-years of funding, compared to 68.0% of men, whereas 23.2% of males were guaranteed between 1 and 4 years, compared to 20.1% of females.
- Public institutions offer fewer years of guaranteed funding than private institutions. 88.5% of private reporting institutions offer 5 or 6-years of funding, compared to just 59.5% of public ones. In contrast, almost one in ten incoming students at public universities received just 1-year of guaranteed funding.

**Table 1: Characteristics of Incoming Doctoral Students and Doctoral Students on the Market, 2016 - 2017**

	Incoming Doctoral Students n = 603	Students on the Market n = 601
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	43.8%	39.8%
Male	55.9%	60.2%
Other	0.3%	0.0%
<b>Race</b>		
African American/Black	7.5%	5.3%
Native Am./AK Native	0.5%	0.2%
White/Euro American	58.2%	67.1%
East Asian/Asian Am.	10.9%	8.7%
South Asian/Indian Am.	4.1%	1.7%
Middle Eastern/Arab Am.	3.2%	3.5%
Two or More Races	0.8%	0.7%
Other	6.6%	7.2%
DK/Not Reported	8.2%	5.8%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic/Latino/a	8.6%	5.7%
Not Hispanic/Latino/a	79.4%	83.0%
Not Reported	11.9%	11.3%
<b>Home Country</b>		
United States	64.3%	65.7%
International	29.4%	26.0%
Not Reported	6.3%	8.3%
<b>Funding Status</b>		
Full Funding	88.2%	79.4%
Partial Funding	4.3%	14.3%
No Funding	6.6%	3.0%
Don't Know	0.8%	3.3%
<b>Years of Guaranteed Funding</b>		
1-Year	6.5%	--
2-Years	1.2%	--
3-Years	3.8%	--
4-Years	10.3%	--
5-Years	66.8%	--
6-Years	3.2%	--
Funding Not Offered	2.5%	--
Not Reported	5.8%	--

**Table 2: Characteristics of Incoming Doctoral Students by Home Country, 2016 - 2017**

		<b>United States</b>	<b>International</b>
		<b>n = 388</b>	<b>n = 177</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
	<b>Female</b>	42.8%	50.3%
	<b>Male</b>	56.7%	49.7%
	<b>Other</b>	0.5%	0.0%
<b>Race</b>			
	<b>African American/Black</b>	9.3%	4.5%
	<b>Native Am./AK Native</b>	0.8%	0.0%
	<b>White/Euro American</b>	74.7%	27.1%
	<b>East Asian/Asian Am.</b>	3.1%	26.0%
	<b>South Asian/Indian Am.</b>	1.3%	11.3%
	<b>Middle Eastern/Arab Am.</b>	0.8%	6.8%
	<b>Two or More Races</b>	1.3%	0.0%
	<b>Other</b>	2.8%	15.8%
	<b>DK/Not Reported</b>	5.9%	8.5%
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
	<b>Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	6.7%	13.6%
	<b>Not Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	84.8%	75.7%
	<b>Not Reported</b>	8.5%	10.7%
<b>Institution Type</b>			
	<b>Public</b>	66.2%	60.5%
	<b>Private</b>	33.8%	39.5%
<b>Funding Status</b>			
	<b>Full Funding</b>	89.2%	90.4%
	<b>Partial Funding</b>	3.4%	3.4%
	<b>No Funding</b>	6.7%	5.1%
	<b>Don't Know</b>	0.8%	1.1%
<b>Years of Guaranteed Funding</b>			
	<b>1-Year</b>	4.4%	4.0%
	<b>2-Years</b>	1.5%	0.6%
	<b>3-Years</b>	3.6%	5.1%
	<b>4-Years</b>	10.3%	12.4%
	<b>5-Years</b>	67.8%	68.9%
	<b>6-Years</b>	3.6%	2.8%
	<b>Funding Not Offered</b>	2.1%	4.0%
	<b>Not Reported</b>	6.7%	2.3%

Table 3: Characteristics of Incoming Doctoral Students by Funding Status, 2016 - 2017

n = 598		Full Funding	Partial Funding	No Funding	DK/Not Reported
<b>TOTAL</b>		88.2%	4.3%	6.6%	0.8%
<b>Gender</b>					
	<b>Female</b>	90.2%	4.2%	4.5%	1.1%
	<b>Male</b>	86.6%	4.5%	8.3%	0.6%
	<b>Other</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>					
	<b>URM</b>	81.5%	4.9%	10.5%	3.1%
	<b>Non-URM</b>	93.4%	2.6%	4.1%	0.0%
<b>Race</b>					
	<b>African American/Black</b>	55.6%	8.9%	26.7%	8.9%
	<b>Native Am./AK Native</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>White/Euro American</b>	92.9%	3.1%	4.0%	0.0%
	<b>East Asian/Asian Am.</b>	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
	<b>South Asian/Indian Am.</b>	92.0%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0%
	<b>Middle Eastern/Arab Am.</b>	63.2%	10.5%	21.1%	5.3%
	<b>Two or More Races</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>Other</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
	<b>Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	94.2%	1.9%	3.8%	0.0%
	<b>Not Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	88.7%	3.8%	6.5%	1.0%
<b>Home Country</b>					
	<b>United States</b>	89.2%	3.4%	6.7%	0.8%
	<b>International</b>	90.4%	3.4%	5.1%	1.1%
<b>Institution Type</b>					
	<b>Public</b>	86.0%	6.0%	8.1%	0.0%
	<b>Private</b>	92.2%	1.4%	4.1%	2.3%
<b>Years of Guaranteed Funding</b>					
	<b>1-Year</b>	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>2-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>3-Years</b>	95.7%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>4-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>5-Years</b>	97.8%	2.0%	0.2%	0.0%
	<b>6-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Note: Excluded from this table are characteristics not known or not reported by departments – as a result, percentages may not add up to 100.



Table 4: Funding Status of Incoming Doctoral Students by Home Country, 2016 - 2017

n = 565		United States				International			
		Full Funding	Partial Funding	No Funding	DK/No Response	Full Funding	Partial Funding	No Funding	DK/No Response
<b>TOTAL</b>		89.2%	3.4%	6.7%	0.8%	90.4%	3.4%	5.1%	1.1%
<b>Gender</b>									
	<b>Female</b>	88.6%	4.8%	4.8%	1.8%	92.1%	3.4%	4.5%	0.0%
	<b>Male</b>	89.5%	2.3%	8.2%	0.0%	88.6%	3.4%	5.7%	2.3%
	<b>Other</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	--	--	--	--
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>									
	<b>URM</b>	75.7%	4.1%	16.2%	4.1%	86.4%	4.9%	6.2%	2.5%
	<b>Non-URM</b>	92.1%	3.1%	4.8%	0.0%	97.5%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%
<b>Race</b>									
	<b>African American/Black</b>	52.8%	8.3%	30.6%	8.3%	62.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
	<b>Native Am./AK Native</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	--	--	--	--
	<b>White/Euro American</b>	92.4%	3.1%	4.5%	0.0%	95.8%	2.1%	2.1%	0.0%
	<b>East Asian/Asian Am.</b>	91.7%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	97.8%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%
	<b>South Asian/Indian Am.</b>	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%	95.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>Middle Eastern/Arab Am.</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	8.3%	33.3%	8.3%
	<b>Two or More Races</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	--	--	--	--
	<b>Other</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
	<b>Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	87.5%	4.2%	8.3%	0.0%
	<b>Not Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	87.8%	4.0%	7.3%	0.9%	89.6%	3.7%	5.2%	1.5%
<b>Institution Type</b>									
	<b>Public</b>	88.3%	4.7%	7.5%	0.0%	88.8%	3.7%	7.5%	0.0%
	<b>Private</b>	90.8%	0.8%	1.4%	2.3%	92.9%	2.9%	1.4%	2.9%
<b>Years of Funding</b>									
	<b>1-Year</b>	76.5%	23.5%	0.0%	0.0%	85.7%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>2-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>3-Years</b>	92.9%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>4-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>5-Years</b>	98.9%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	95.1%	4.1%	0.8%	0.0%
	<b>6-Years</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Note: Excluded from this table are characteristics not known or not reported by departments – as a result, percentages may not add up to 100.

**Table 5: Funding Status of Incoming U.S. Doctoral Students by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2016 - 2017**

<b>n = 565</b>		<b>Female</b>				<b>Male</b>			
		<b>Full Funding</b>	<b>Partial Funding</b>	<b>No Funding</b>	<b>DK/No Response</b>	<b>Full Funding</b>	<b>Partial Funding</b>	<b>No Funding</b>	<b>DK/No Response</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		90.2%	4.2%	4.5%	1.1%	86.6%	4.5%	8.3%	0.6%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>									
	<b>URM</b>	82.7%	4.0%	9.3%	4.0%	80.5%	5.7%	11.5%	2.3%
	<b>Non-URM</b>	94.3%	3.4%	2.3%	0.0%	92.6%	1.9%	5.6%	0.0%
<b>Race</b>									
	<b>African American/Black</b>	50.0%	15.0%	20.0%	15.0%	60.0%	4.0%	32.0%	4.0%
	<b>Native Am./AK Native</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>White/Euro American</b>	94.1%	3.9%	2.0%	0.0%	91.9%	2.5%	5.6%	0.0%
	<b>East Asian/Asian Am.</b>	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
	<b>South Asian/Indian Am.</b>	93.8%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>Middle Eastern/Arab Am.</b>	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	61.5%	15.4%	15.4%	7.7%
	<b>Two or More Races</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	<b>Other</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>									
	<b>Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	96.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	92.6%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
	<b>Not Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	88.7%	5.0%	5.0%	1.4%	88.7%	2.7%	7.8%	0.8%

Note: Excluded from this table are characteristics not known or not reported by departments – as a result, percentages may not add up to 100.

Table 6: Characteristics of Incoming Doctoral Students by Years of Guaranteed Funding, 2016 - 2017

<b>n = 568</b>	<b>1-Year</b>	<b>2-Years</b>	<b>3-Years</b>	<b>4-Years</b>	<b>5-Years</b>	<b>6-Years</b>	<b>DK/No Response</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	6.5%	1.2%	3.8%	10.3%	66.8%	3.2%	5.8%
<b>Gender</b>							
<b>Female</b>	4.9%	1.5%	4.2%	9.5%	68.9%	3.4%	4.5%
<b>Male</b>	7.7%	0.9%	3.6%	11.0%	65.0%	3.0%	6.8%
<b>Other</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>							
<b>URM</b>	5.6%	0.6%	4.3%	11.1%	59.3%	4.9%	10.5%
<b>Non-URM</b>	5.9%	1.5%	4.1%	11.0%	69.6%	2.8%	3.3%
<b>Race</b>							
<b>African American/Black</b>	8.9%	0.0%	8.9%	4.4%	37.8%	2.2%	33.3%
<b>Native Am./AK Native</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>White/Euro American</b>	5.7%	1.7%	4.0%	10.8%	69.2%	3.1%	3.4%
<b>East Asian/Asian Am.</b>	4.5%	0.0%	3.0%	9.1%	81.8%	0.0%	1.5%
<b>South Asian/Indian Am.</b>	8.0%	0.0%	12.0%	12.0%	56.0%	8.0%	0.0%
<b>Middle Eastern/Arab Am.</b>	15.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	57.9%	0.0%	10.5%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Other</b>	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	25.0%	60.0%	12.5%	0.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
<b>Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	5.8%	84.6%	3.8%	0.0%
<b>Not Hispanic/Latino/a</b>	4.8%	1.3%	4.8%	10.6%	66.4%	3.5%	5.8%
<b>Home Country</b>							
<b>United States</b>	4.4%	1.5%	3.6%	10.3%	67.8%	3.6%	6.7%
<b>International</b>	4.0%	0.6%	5.1%	12.4%	68.9%	2.8%	2.3%
<b>Institution Type</b>							
<b>Public</b>	9.9%	1.3%	4.9%	15.3%	59.5%	0.0%	5.2%
<b>Private</b>	0.5%	0.9%	1.8%	1.4%	79.8%	8.7%	6.9%
<b>Funding Status</b>							
<b>Full Funding</b>	5.1%	1.3%	4.1%	11.7%	74.1%	3.6%	0.2%
<b>Partial Funding</b>	46.2%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	30.8%	0.0%	19.2%

Note: Excluded from this table are characteristics not known or not reported by departments and those individuals who received no funding – as a result, percentages may not add up to 100.