

# News of the Profession

## Reports

### Finding Jobs: Placement of Political Scientists, 1982-83

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Employment opportunities for new political science Ph.D.s looking for jobs improved in 1983. The brightening of the employment picture coincides with a continuing decline in the number of new Ph.D.s entering the job market, as well as a slight upturn in enrollments.

Almost eight out of ten candidates on the job market succeeded in finding employment in 1983 (almost nine out of ten new Ph.D.s found employment in 1983). In 1982, only six out of ten job candidates were placed (Table 1). The placement success of the 1983 job candidates increased by almost 25 percent.

As in 1982, one-third of the placements were in temporary assignments contributing to the dramatic growth in part-time faculty in the nation's colleges and universities. The net effect is that half of this year's placement class will be on the market again in 1984. While this number is high, it does represent a 10 percentage point decline in the projected number of repeats in 1983.

Two-thirds of the job candidates not placed will remain in their graduate departments for another year. Some will receive financial support for another year (27 percent), more will receive no support (39 percent). Fifteen percent of the unsuccessful candidates will take employment outside the profession, and almost an equal number will simply be unemployed (17 percent).

### Future Trends

The improvement in placement success in 1983 should be played against pro-

TABLE 1  
Trends in Placement\*

	1975-79	1980	1981	1982	1983
Number of firm candidates	982	779	697	611	523
% repeats	36	36	35	36	41
Placement success of firm candidates	69	68	73	62	79
% of placement in temporary positions	31	33	28	36	33
% placement to Ph.D.s	55	54	56	64	65
Placement success of Ph.D.s (%)	77	74	81	72	87
% of placement in nonacademic jobs	17	24	18	19	19

\*Figures are estimates of total population based on samples of 97 departments in 1980 (79% response rate), 94 departments in 1981 (76% response rate), 91 departments in 1982 (76% response rate, and 87 departments (73% response rate) in 1983.

jected trends in faculty size and student enrollment.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the demand for college and university faculty members will decline by 15 percent from 1982 through 1995. The Bureau projects that the total number of faculty will decline from 744,000 to 632,000 during this period. College teaching, in fact, is listed by the Bureau as ninth on the list of the 20 most rapidly declining occupations, right behind farm laborers.<sup>1</sup>

The enrollment picture is less clear. Graduate and undergraduate enrollments actually increased in 1983. According to the American Council of Education, enrollments of graduate and undergraduate students increased by 1.7 percent over 1982, equalling 12.8 million students. Most of the growth, however, is accounted for by the increase in the level of part-time enrollment (2.7 percent). The enrollment level of full-time students increased by barely one percent.<sup>2</sup> The annual survey of graduate enrollment by the Council of Graduate Schools recorded a 1.4 percent increase in graduate enrollment in all post-graduate institutions. Enrollment increased by 2.1 percent between 1982 and 1983.<sup>3</sup>

The increase in 1983 enrollment is explained in large part by the growth in part-time students. Also having ventured out into the job market, some individuals undoubtedly are returning to school in hopes that additional training might improve their competitiveness in the tight job market. Other students have foregone testing the market and are extending their training beyond the B.A. to avoid unemployment.

The 1983 increase in enrollment tem-

porarily offsets the continuing decline in enrollment due to the decline in 18-year-olds, the major demographic change affecting college and university enrollments. The supply of high school graduates will continue to decrease until 1992 and will not return to the 1983 level until 1998. There were almost three million high school graduates in 1979, the peak year. There are expected to be slightly over two million in 1992, or a decrease in the supply of graduates by 24 percent.<sup>4</sup>

### **Academic vs. Nonacademic Employment**

The increased opportunities for political scientists in college and university teaching did not decrease nonacademic placement. As in 1982, almost 20 percent of the placement class assumed jobs in business, industry and government. Over half of the departments surveyed do not anticipate an increase in the portion of their students wishing to be placed in nonacademic settings, so the current trend is likely to continue.

Nonacademic placement is currently a male market. Only four percent of the women placed in 1983 took positions in applied settings. By contrast, 21 percent of the men placed in 1983 entered careers in applied settings.

### **Placement of Ph.D.s and ABDs**

Having a Ph.D. in hand significantly improves one's chances of finding employment. Two-thirds of the 1983 job candidates placed had a Ph.D., only 34 percent of the successful candidates were ABDs.

Slightly over a half of the ABDs on the job market were placed in 1983. Among the Ph.D.s on the market, almost 90 percent were successful in finding employment. The success of the Ph.D.s represent a significant improvement over last year when only 66 percent of the Ph.D.s found a job (Table 2).

<sup>1</sup>"U.S. Forecasts a 15 Percent Decline in Numbers of College Teachers," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Vol. 27, No. 19 (January 18, 1984), p. 20.

<sup>2</sup>American Council on Education, *Higher Education and National Affairs*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (January 27, 1984), p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Council of Graduate Schools, *Communicator*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (January 1984), pp. 8-10.

<sup>4</sup>American Council on Education, *Higher Education and National Affairs*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (February 24, 1984), p. 3.

**TABLE 2**  
**Degree Completion and Placement Success, 1980-83 (%)**

	ABD				Ph.D.			
	1980	81	82	83	1980	81	82	83
<b>Placement Success<sup>a</sup></b>								
Total	63	66	55	54	74	81	66	87
Men	61	63	54	53	75	83	63	87
Women	70	79	58	57	72	70	79	88
<b>Percentage of Those Placed<sup>b</sup></b>								
Total	46	44	41	34	54	56	59	66
Men	43	41	40	32	57	59	60	68
Women	57	54	45	43	43	46	55	57

<sup>a</sup>Placement success measures number placed within each category as a percentage of the total candidates within each category.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of those placed measures the number placed within each category as a percentage of total number placed in all categories.

**Placement by Specialty and by Institution**

In 1983, more candidates specializing in comparative/area studies and international relations were placed than in past years. Seventy-three percent of the comparativists and area specialists, and 66 percent of the international relations specialists were placed in 1983. In 1982, only 52 percent of each of these groups found employment (Table 3).

More men than women benefited from the increased demand for comparative and international relations specialists. Seventy-five percent of the men specializing in comparative and international relations were placed in 1983. Last year 46 percent and 51 percent of the men in the respective fields were placed. The growth in opportunities for men is offset by a decline in opportunities for women. In 1983, 31 percent of the women specializing in international relations were placed. In 1982, the number had been 61 percent, in 1981, 79 percent; and in 1980, 80 percent. A similar decline, though less drastic, was experienced by women specializing in comparative politics or area studies. Only 67 percent of the women comparativists or area specialists were placed in 1983; less than the level reached in 1982, but

greater than either the 1980 or 1981 rates.

Consistent with past trends, the greatest placement success was experienced by American government specialists; the least success was experienced by job candidates trained as political theorists. Between these two poles, the once strong position of public policy and public administration specialists weakened. From 1981 through 1982, 88 percent of the public policy specialists found employment. In 1983, the rate dropped to 60 percent. Similarly, in the past two years, 96 percent of the public administration specialists were placed, but in 1983 only 73 percent found jobs.

Of the total number of candidates placed in 1983, 30 percent were placed in teaching positions in American government, 19 percent in comparative politics, 14 percent in international relations, 11 percent in public policy, 10 percent in public administration, 9 percent in political theory, and one percent in methodology. The pattern is mirrored in the listings in the *APSA Personnel Service Newsletter*. Of the 550 academic openings (excluding positions combining teaching and administrative responsibilities), 23 percent were in American government, 14 percent in comparative politics, 13

**TABLE 3**  
**Placement Success by Field of Specialization, 1980-83 (%)**

	Total				Men				Women			
	1980	81	82	83	1980	81	82	83	1980	81	82	83
<b>Placement Success<sup>a</sup></b>												
American Government	74	85	71	99	75	85	73	100	71	83	66	96
Public Policy	64	94	81	60	61	100	87	54	78	75	67	75
Comparative/Area												
Studies	55	59	52	73	55	60	46	75	55	56	74	67
International Relations	64	57	52	66	62	54	51	75	80	79	61	31
Public Administration	97	91	100	73	96	100	100	62	100	80	67	100
Political Theory	57	68	42	43	47	65	41	45	65	78	57	30
Methodology	50	81	88	80	60	83	100	80	50	100	100	—
Other	100	100	100	85	100	43	100	29	100	100	100	67
<b>Percentage of Those Placed<sup>b</sup></b>												
American Government	29	30	30	30	28	28	30	28	32	35	32	40
Public Policy	7	8	10	11	6	9	9	9	8	7	9	20
Comparative/Area												
Studies	22	21	20	19	22	20	18	20	21	22	23	15
International Relations	17	13	19	14	15	13	19	16	14	13	18	5
Public Administration	7	10	25	10	7	11	5	9	6	5	9	10
Political Theory	11	12	9	9	10	13	10	10	13	11	5	5
Methodology	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	1	0	4	—	—
Other	7	2	5	6	8	2	5	5	5	2	5	5

<sup>a</sup>Placement success measures number placed in a field as a percentage of total candidates in each of the respective fields.

<sup>b</sup>Percentage of those placed measures the total number placed in a particular field as a percentage of the total number placed in all fields.

**TABLE 4**  
**Placement by Type of Hiring Institution, 1980-83 (%)**

	Total				Men				Women			
	1980	81	82	83	1980	81	82	83	1980	81	82	83
Ph.D. department	31	36	29	34	32	36	29	32	38	35	31	40
M.A. department	17	18	20	18	16	18	20	18	20	13	18	15
Undergraduate												
political science	22	25	25	27	21	24	26	27	26	33	21	29
Undergraduate												
social science	4	2	4	1	4	2	3	—	5	—	6	8
2-year college	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	6	—
Nonacademic	24	18	24	19	24	18	20	21	19	18	17	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>96</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**Placement of Job Candidates in the Eighties, by Sex**

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Number of Firm Candidates</b>			
1980	779	630	149
1981	667	596	101
1982	611	485	126
1983	523	390	133
<b>Number Placed</b>			
1980	560	451	109
1981	511	437	75
1982	379	298	81
1983	414	326	88
<b>Placement Success (%)</b>			
1980	68	68	68
1981	73	73	73
1982	62	61	64
1983	79	79	66
<b>Percent in Temporary Positions</b>			
1980	33	32	35
1981	28	28	28
1982	36	37	36
1983	33	32	39

percent in international relations, one percent in methodology, six percent in political theory, 10 percent in public administration, nine percent in public law, seven percent in public policy, and 17 percent in other.

Over half of the successful job candidates were placed in graduate institutions. Thirty-four percent of those placed took positions in Ph.D. granting institutions, 18 percent in departments in which the highest degree offered is an M.A., and 27 percent in undergraduate political science programs (Table 4). Few candidates were placed in either social science departments or two-year colleges. Political science Ph.D.s do not appear to be a part of the growth in faculty in public two-year institutions which has been taking place over the past five years.

**Sex, Race and Ethnic Background**

There was a change in the placement performance of women in 1983. The proportion of women in the placement class increased incrementally as it has since 1980. In 1980, women comprised 19

percent of the placement class. By 1983, women comprised one-quarter of the placement class. Men and women have been equally successful in finding employment from 1980 through 1982. For the first time women have had significantly less success at finding employment than men. Two-thirds of the women candidates were placed in 1983 compared with almost four-fifths of the men candidates (Table 5).

In 1983, there was also a marginal increase in the placement of women in temporary positions. Thirty-nine percent of the women and 32 percent of the men found only temporary positions in either academia or applied settings.

There was no significant change in 1983 in the placement performance of blacks and Hispanics. The number of blacks and Hispanics in the placement class remains small, six percent and two percent respectively. The estimated total number of Hispanic political scientists was 10. The placement success of black political scientists (43 percent) was comparable to 1982. The same percentage of Hispanic political scientists were placed in

1983. This, however, is a sharp drop from 1982 when 78 percent of the Hispanics were placed. As was true for all job candidates, minority job candidates with Ph.D.s in hand were more successful (52 percent) than ABDs (22 percent), but blacks and Hispanics fared much less well than whites in securing employment. □

## **Group Meets to Discuss Changes in Constitution**

**Howard J. Silver**

Consortium of Social Science Associations

The Committee on the Constitutional System held its fourth general meeting on March 9 and 10 at the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Chaired by Lloyd Cutler, former adviser to President Carter, and C. Douglas Dillon, former Treasury Secretary to President Kennedy, the committee was formed in 1981 to initiate discussion about possible constitutional changes in the structure of government to overcome what is perceived as a deadlock—induced by the separation of powers—in the government's ability to solve the nation's crucial problems.

At the meeting over 70 political scientists, historians, journalists, and former congressional and executive branch officials discussed proposals that they hoped would lead to more government accountability and party responsibility. A workbook prepared by Professor Donald Robinson of Smith College which included analyses by James Sundquist, James MacGregor Burns, Charles Jones, Don Price, Louis Koenig and Richard Pious, among others, served to focus the discussions. Senators Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) and Robert Dole (R-KS) addressed the group on the difficulties of solving the enormous federal budget deficit problem.

Among the proposals debated were: (1) four-year terms for House members running concurrently with the president (an idea President Johnson pushed unsuccessfully in 1967); (2) repeal of the

22nd amendment limiting presidents to two terms; (3) a single six-year non-renewable term for president (an idea rejected by the panel I was on, but resurrected later in the general meeting); (4) holding congressional elections two weeks after the presidential election (an idea borrowed from the French system); (5) popular election of the president and elimination of the electoral college; (6) a bicameral nomination process where the party's congressional wings would have an equal say with the electorate in nominating presidential candidates; (7) an item veto for presidents; (8) giving the House a role in the treaty ratification process; and (9) a mandated once-every-ten-year convocation of federal, state and local officials that would adopt principles and guidelines for better inter-governmental relations (proposed by former Congressman Henry Reuss (D-WI).)

People interested in this effort can contact Peter Schauffler, Coordinator, Committee on the Constitutional System, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 410, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 387-8787. □

## **Announcements**

### **National Science Foundation Requests Budget Increase**

The National Science Foundation's budget request for FY 1985 is \$1,051.8 million, an increase of 13.6 percent over its FY 1984 budget. This includes increases for social sciences and international affairs support. In the social sciences increased attention will be given to the extension of key socioeconomic data resources and a strengthening of related methodological and theoretical research, as well as studies of human origins, the learning process, and the development of cognitive capacities, including language.

A new program, Research Opportunities for Women, will be initiated at a level of \$0.5 million. In addition, support for Presidential Young Investigators Research Awards will increase from