

MLA Survey of Placement of 2006–07 Graduates from Doctoral Programs in the United States and Canada

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THE thirteenth survey in the series of MLA surveys of doctoral student placement sought information from 560 doctoral programs in the United States and 68 doctoral programs in Canada in English and other modern languages about the employment, as of November 2007 and November 2008, of graduates who received degrees between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007. Responding were 347 (62.0%) of the programs in the United States and 39 (57.4%) of the programs in Canada; 300 of the programs in the United States and 27 of the programs in Canada reported a total of 1,578 graduates. The placement outcomes presented below exclude 72 graduates from countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin and 166 and 242 graduates whose employment status was unknown as of November 2007 and November 2008, respectively.

English

United States

One hundred ten responding departments in the United States reported 793 graduates in English for 2006–07, providing placement information on 706 of these graduates as of November 2007 and 684 of them as of November 2008 (the bases of the following percentages).

As of November 2007, 49.2% of graduates had found tenure-track jobs; as of November 2008, 55.1% of graduates had found tenure-track employment (see [table 1](#)). By November 2007, 18.6% held renewable non-tenure-track appointments, and another 10.8% held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments. By November 2008, 15.9% held renewable non-tenure-track appointments, and another 8.6% held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments.

Responding departments reported that 5.7% of graduates held postdoctoral fellowships by November 2007. Small percentages of graduates found employment by November 2007 in other areas: 5.1% in unknown postsecondary education positions; 3.0% in business, government, or not-for-profit organizations; 2.4% in postsecondary administration; and 1.7% in K–12 teaching.

The breakdown by race or ethnicity of graduates finding tenure-track jobs by November 2007 is as follows: 67.6% of African American graduates, 66.7% of American Indian graduates, 59.3% of Hispanic graduates, 47.7% of Asian or Pacific Islander graduates, and 47.2% of white graduates (see [table 2](#)).

Canada

Thirteen responding Canadian departments reported 70 graduates in English for 2006–07, providing placement information on 67 of them as of November 2007 and 66 of them as of November 2008 (the bases of the following percentages).

Of these graduates, 23.9% were in tenure-track jobs by November 2007, and 31.8% had secured tenure-track employment by November 2008 (see [table 3](#)). Nearly a third (31.3%) held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments, and another 9.0% held renewable non-tenure-track employment as of November 2007. By November 2008, 24.2% held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments, and another 9.1% held non-tenure-track renewable appointments.

A sizable 19.4% of graduates held a postdoctoral fellowship as of November 2007. The percentages of graduates who found employment by November 2007 in other areas were smaller: 6.0% found employment in unknown postsecondary education positions; 3.0% in K–12 teaching; 3.0% in business, government, or not-for-profit organizations; and 1.5% in postsecondary administration.

Modern Languages Other Than English

United States

One hundred ninety responding departments in the United States reported 686 graduates in modern languages other than English for 2006–07, providing placement information on 546 of them as of November 2007 and 505 of them as of November 2008 (the bases of the following percentages).

Of these graduates, 41.4% found tenure-track jobs by November 2007, and 49.5% found tenure-track employment by November 2008 (see [table 1](#)). A significant portion of graduates held non-tenure-track appointments: as of November 2007, 19.0% held renewable non-tenure-track appointments, and another 13.4% held non-tenure-track appointments for one-year terms or for terms of unknown length. By November 2008, 16.4% held renewable non-tenure-track appointments, and another 7.1% held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments.

Responding departments reported that 3.1% of graduates held postdoctoral fellowships by November 2007. Graduates also found employment by November 2007 in a range of other areas: 9.9% in unknown postsecondary education positions; 4.8% in business, government, or not-for-profit organizations; 2.4% in K–12 teaching; and 1.6% in postsecondary administration.

Of the graduates finding tenure-track jobs by November 2007, the breakdown by race or ethnicity is as follows: 100.0% of American Indian graduates, 52.4% of African American graduates, 48.1% of Hispanic graduates, 40.8% of white graduates, and 29.1% of Asian or Pacific Islander graduates (see [table 4](#)).

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Canada

Fourteen responding Canadian departments reported 29 graduates in modern languages other than English for 2006–07, providing placement information on 21 of them as of November 2007 and 19 of them as of November 2008 (the bases of the following percentages).

By November 2007, 14.3% of these graduates had found tenure-track jobs; by November 2008, 26.3% of them had found tenure-track employment. The percentage of graduates in non-tenure-track appointments was higher in Canada than in the United States: 28.6% held one-year-term (or terms of unknown length) non-tenure-track appointments, and another 28.6% found renewable non-tenure-track appointments as of November 2007. By November 2008, 15.8% held non-tenure-track appointments of one year or of unknown duration, and another 10.5% held non-tenure-track renewable appointments.

Responding departments reported 9.5% of graduates found postdoctoral fellowships by November 2007. Positions of unknown type in postsecondary education accounted for 14.3% of placements by November 2007, and 36.8% of placements by November 2008. Smaller percentages of graduates found employment in business, government, or not-for-profit organizations (4.8% by November 2007; 5.3% by November 2008).

Table 1
Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from United States Doctoral Programs with Known Employment Status

	Placement as of November 2007			Placement as of November 2008		
	English	Languages Other Than English	All Languages	English	Languages Other Than English	All Languages
Tenure-track	49.2	41.4	45.8	55.1	49.5	52.7
Non-tenure-track, renewable						
Full-time	14.2	15.9	14.9	12.0	13.9	12.8
Part-time	3.5	1.8	2.8	3.1	1.8	2.5
Unknown	0.8	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
Subtotal	18.6	19.0	18.8	15.9	16.4	16.1
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown						
Full-time	6.4	8.6	7.3	5.4	4.6	5.0
Part-time	2.4	3.3	2.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Unknown	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.0	1.3
Subtotal	10.8	13.4	11.9	8.6	7.1	8.0
Postdoctoral fellowship	5.7	3.1	4.6	2.5	3.2	2.8
Postsecondary administration	2.4	1.6	2.1	2.5	1.6	2.1
Postsecondary education, type unknown	5.1	9.9	7.2	6.7	12.1	9.0
K–12 teaching	1.7	2.4	2.0	1.8	2.8	2.2
Teaching, classification unknown	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.4
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	3.0	4.8	3.8	3.5	4.8	4.0
Self-employed	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.7
Employed, type unknown	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Not employed, seeking	1.4	2.4	1.8	1.5	0.8	1.2
Not seeking employment	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	706	546	1,252	684	505	1,189

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.

Table 2**Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from United States Doctoral Programs in English Language and Literature with Known Employment Status, by Race**

	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black or African American	White	Other	Race Unknown	All Graduates
Tenure-track	59.3	66.7	47.7	67.6	47.2	47.1	58.8	49.2
Non-tenure-track, renewable								
Full-time	3.7	0.0	9.1	8.1	15.9	5.9	11.8	14.2
Part-time	7.4	0.0	4.5	2.7	3.6	0.0	0.0	3.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	17.6	0.8
Subtotal	11.1	0.0	13.6	10.8	20.0	5.9	29.4	18.6
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown								
Full-time	11.1	0.0	6.8	2.7	6.6	0.0	5.9	6.4
Part-time	3.7	0.0	4.5	0.0	2.3	5.9	0.0	2.4
Unknown	3.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	1.8	5.9	5.9	2.0
Subtotal	18.5	33.3	11.4	2.7	10.7	11.8	11.8	10.8
Postdoctoral fellowship	7.4	0.0	9.1	0.0	5.9	5.9	0.0	5.7
Postsecondary administration	0.0	0.0	2.3	5.4	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.4
Postsecondary education, type unknown	0.0	0.0	6.8	5.4	4.8	23.5	0.0	5.1
K–12 teaching	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.7	1.6	5.9	0.0	1.7
Teaching, classification unknown	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.8
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	3.7	0.0	0.0	2.7	3.4	0.0	0.0	3.0
Self-employed	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.6
Employed, type unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Not employed, seeking	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
Not seeking employment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	27	3	44	37	561	17	17	706

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.

Table 3
Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from Canadian Doctoral Programs with Known Employment Status

	Placement as of November 2007			Placement as of November 2008		
	English	Languages Other Than English	All Languages	English	Languages Other Than English	All Languages
Tenure-track	23.9	14.3	21.6	31.8	26.3	30.6
Non-tenure-track, renewable						
Full-time	4.5	28.6	10.2	4.5	10.5	5.9
Part-time	4.5	0.0	3.4	4.5	0.0	3.5
Subtotal	9.0	28.6	13.6	9.1	10.5	9.4
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown						
Full-time	10.4	14.3	11.4	9.1	5.3	8.2
Part-time	20.9	9.5	18.2	15.2	10.5	14.1
Unknown	0.0	4.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal	31.3	28.6	30.7	24.2	15.8	22.4
Postdoctoral fellowship	19.4	9.5	17.0	15.2	5.3	12.9
Postsecondary administration	1.5	0.0	1.1	1.5	0.0	1.2
Postsecondary education, type unknown	6.0	14.3	8.0	7.6	36.8	14.1
K–12 teaching	3.0	0.0	2.3	1.5	0.0	1.2
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	3.0	4.8	3.4	7.6	5.3	7.1
Not employed, seeking	3.0	0.0	2.3	1.5	0.0	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	67	21	88	66	19	85

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.

Table 4

Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from United States Doctoral Programs in Modern Languages and Literatures Other Than English with Known Employment Status, by Race

	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black or African American	White	Other	Race Unknown	All Graduates
Tenure-track	48.1	100.0	29.1	52.4	40.8	45.5	32.1	41.4
Non-tenure-track, renewable								
Full-time	15.7	0.0	14.5	9.5	17.8	9.1	7.1	15.9
Part-time	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.8
Unknown	2.8	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.3
Subtotal	18.5	0.0	20.0	9.5	21.2	9.1	7.1	19.0
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown								
Full-time	9.3	0.0	7.3	4.8	6.5	27.3	28.6	8.6
Part-time	0.0	0.0	5.5	4.8	3.7	0.0	7.1	3.3
Unknown	0.9	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.5
Subtotal	10.2	0.0	14.5	9.5	12.1	27.3	35.7	13.4
Postdoctoral fellowship	0.0	0.0	7.3	4.8	3.4	0.0	3.6	3.1
Postsecondary administration	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	3.6	1.6
Postsecondary education, type unknown	17.6	0.0	10.9	9.5	8.1	9.1	0.0	9.9
K–12 teaching	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	3.6	2.4
Teaching, classification unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	0.0	0.0	9.1	4.8	5.0	0.0	14.3	4.8
Self-employed	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.7
Employed, type unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Not employed, seeking	0.0	0.0	5.5	9.5	2.2	9.1	0.0	2.4
Not seeking employment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	108	2	55	21	321	11	28	546

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.

Table 5
Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from United States Doctoral Programs in English Language and Literature with Known Employment Status, by Gender

	Placement as of November 2007			Placement as of November 2008		
	Female	Male	All Placements	Female	Male	All Placements
Tenure-track	48.2	49.8	48.8	52.7	58.5	54.9
Non-tenure-track, renewable						
Full-time	12.2	17.9	14.3	11.2	13.5	12.0
Part-time	3.0	4.6	3.6	3.3	2.7	3.1
Unknown	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.4	0.9
Subtotal	16.1	22.8	18.7	15.7	16.5	16.0
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown						
Full-time	6.7	6.1	6.5	5.5	5.4	5.4
Part-time	3.0	1.5	2.4	2.1	0.8	1.6
Unknown	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.6
Subtotal	11.5	9.5	10.8	9.5	7.3	8.7
Postdoctoral fellowship	4.6	7.6	5.7	2.1	3.1	2.5
Postsecondary administration	3.0	1.5	2.4	2.9	1.9	2.5
Postsecondary education, type unknown	6.7	2.7	5.2	8.6	3.8	6.8
K–12 teaching	2.1	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8
Teaching, classification unknown	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.7
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	3.7	1.9	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.5
Self-employed	0.9	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.4
Employed, type unknown	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.3
Not employed, seeking	1.8	0.8	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.5
Not seeking employment	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	434	263	697	421	260	681

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status or gender was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.

Table 6**Percentage of 2006–07 Graduates from United States Doctoral Programs in Modern Languages and Literatures Other Than English with Known Employment Status, by Gender**

	Placement as of November 2007			Placement as of November 2008		
	Female	Male	All Placements	Female	Male	All Placements
Tenure-track	36.8	47.9	41.3	44.4	56.5	49.4
Non-tenure-track, renewable						
Full-time	16.9	14.6	16.0	15.2	12.1	13.9
Part-time	2.1	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.8
Unknown	2.1	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.8
Subtotal	21.2	16.0	19.1	18.5	13.5	16.5
Non-tenure-track, one year or term unknown						
Full-time	8.0	9.6	8.6	4.7	4.3	4.6
Part-time	3.7	2.7	3.3	1.3	1.9	1.6
Unknown	1.8	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
Subtotal	13.5	13.2	13.4	7.1	7.2	7.1
Postdoctoral fellowship	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.2
Postsecondary administration	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.6
Postsecondary education, type unknown	10.4	9.1	9.9	12.8	11.1	12.1
K–12 teaching	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.8
Teaching, classification unknown	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business, govt., or not-for-profit orgs.	5.8	3.2	4.8	5.7	3.4	4.8
Self-employed	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.5	1.0
Employed, type unknown	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2
Not employed, seeking	2.8	1.8	2.4	1.3	0.0	0.8
Not seeking employment	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of graduates (basis for percentages)	326	219	545	297	207	504

Note: Excluded here are graduates who were reported but whose employment status or gender was unknown and graduates who were citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada who returned to their country of origin.