



Report on Degree Progress and Placement
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The department takes placement and graduate success very seriously. We have compiled a database of all students having entered the PhD program since 1999, including their field, completion (or not) of the program, their initial job placement, and their current job placement as of the end of the 2021-22 academic year (we have relatively incomplete information about Fall 2022 placements as a number of people remain on the market as of the date of this report). Here we give an overview of attrition, success, distribution by field, and placement results for our students. Note that it is comprehensive, fully transparent, and complete. We start with progress to degree, then look at placement. Also note that this report, including the list of jobs our students currently have, does not include students who entered the program before 1999. Of course, we have students from previous generations throughout the profession in various other universities.

We pride ourselves on our graduate training and our colleagues work hard with each of their students. We work hard with our students throughout the program to ensure successful training and dissertation projects, and as they enter the job market we have a special on practice job talks, compilation of the academic or non-academic job dossier, coaching, and advice. The result, we think, is a very successful placement record in what remains nationally a challenging job market.

Our students are currently teaching in a wide range of colleges and universities in the US, Latin America, and Europe, as listed in the appendices to this report. Our web site gives a set of profiles of many of our PhD graduates. We encourage you to look at it. And be in touch if you have questions.

Progress to degree

Beginning with the entering class of Fall 1999, we have had 298 students in the PhD program. Their distribution across entering years and subfields is described in Table 1.

Table 1. Entering year by subfield

Entering Year	American	Comparative	IR	Theory	Total
1999	10	7	4	1	22
2000	1	2	1	2	6
2001	4	4	2	0	10
2002	9	10	1	1	21
2003	4	4	2	2	12
2004	9	7	4	3	23
2005	4	5	2	4	15
2006	4	3	3	2	12
2007	5	4	0	1	10

2008	3	4	5	2	14
2009	4	3	1	1	9
2010	5	2	4	3	14
2011	4	4	4	3	15
2012	4	7	2	1	14
2013	5	4	4	1	14
2014	4	5	3	2	14
2015	4	5	2	1	12
2016	4	7	2	0	13
2017	7	2	3	1	13
2018	1	7	3	1	12
2019	7	4	2	2	15
2020	1	1	3	0	5
2021	0	3	0	0	3
Total	103	104	57	34	298

Occasionally, someone gets their PhD very quickly, but on average it takes about six years. The median in each subfield is six years, five in American. Tables 2 and 3 focus on years to degree, by year entering the program, and by subfield. Note that we had very small entering classes during the Covid period, 2020 and 2021. We are looking forward to seeing the program go back to its more traditional size.

Table 2. Years to degree by entering class

Year Entering	For Students Receiving a PhD, Years to the Degree									Total with PhD	Left w/o PhD	Currently Enrolled	Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Median					
1999		3	4	5	2	3		6.0	17	5		22	
2000				1			1	7.5	2	4		6	
2001		1		3	2		1	6.0	7	3		10	
2002		3	2	3	2	1		6.0	11	10		21	
2003			2	2	2	2	1	7.0	9	3		12	
2004	1			8	2	4	3	6.5	18	5		23	
2005		2	2	2	2		1	6.0	9	6		15	
2006		1	2	3	2	1		6.0	9	3		12	
2007		1	4	1	1			5.0	7	3		10	
2008	1	1	5	2	3		1	5.0	13	1		14	
2009			3	5	1			6.0	9			9	
2010			5	1	2	1		5.0	9	5		14	
2011	1		3	2	1	1		5.5	8	7		15	
2012		1	1	9		1		6.0	12	2		14	
2013			3	6			1	6.0	10	3	1	14	
2014			4	2	2	1		6.0	9	3	2	14	
2015			2	5				6.0	7	2	3	12	
2016	1		1	4				6.0	6	2	5	13	
2017										5	8	13	
2018										1	11	12	

2019											2	13	15
2020											2	3	5
2021												3	3
Total	4	13	43	64	24	15	9	6.0	172	77		49	298

Table 3. Years to degree, by subfield

Subfield	For Students Receiving a PhD, Years to the Degree								Total	Left	Currently Enrolled	Total
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Median	with PhD	w/o PhD		
American		9	28	19	3	1	3	5.0	63	26	14	103
Comparative	1	2	7	26	14	7	4	6.0	61	21	22	104
IR	3	1	7	11	4	3	1	6.0	30	18	9	57
Theory		1	1	8	3	4	1	6.0	18	12	4	34
Total	4	13	43	64	24	15	9	6.0	172	77	49	298

Placement

Initial jobs in the first year when students leave the program are as follows. Note that a small number went to non-academic jobs (primarily in government, government-related, or military positions, but increasingly in private consulting positions or in the business world for example with jobs in data analytics); many got post docs or visiting professor positions, and 61 got tenure track jobs immediately on graduation.

Table 4. Initial placement outcomes, by subfield

Subfield	Left Program	Currently Enrolled	No Job Yet	Non Academic	Post- Doc	Non- Tenure Track	Tenure Track	Total
American	26	14	2	7	10	11	33	103
Comparative	21	22	0	4	26	15	16	104
IR	18	9	0	7	6	7	10	57
Theory	12	4	0	3	3	10	2	34
Total	77	49	2	21	45	43	61	298

Among the 172 students having gotten their PhD during the period of review, where are they today? Table 5 shows the Fall 2021 (or Fall 2022, if available) positions held by our students.

Table 5. Fall 2021 placement outcomes by subfield for those with PhD degrees

Subfield	No Job	Non Academic	Post- Doc	Non-Tenure Track	Tenure Track	Tenured	Total
American	2	12	1	6	15	27	63
Comp	0	7	9	6	11	28	61
IR	0	9	2	1	10	8	30
Theory	0	7	0	4	4	3	18
Total	2	35	12	17	40	66	172

It is important to recognize that the academic job market is constantly dynamic. One’s first job placement is often not permanent. Table 6 compares the initial job outcome for the student in the year when they got their PhD or took their first job, with their current, Fall 2021 job. To read this table, read across the rows. For example, there were 45 students whose first job was a post-doc. Of those, 10 are now on a tenure-track position, and 16 have already gotten tenure. Among the 43 individuals starting with a non-tenure-track position, 33 are now either tenured or on a tenure-track position. Looking down the columns allows an assessment of where individuals currently in a given job type started out. Among the 66 individuals currently tenured, 16 started in a post-doc, 11 in a non-tenure track position, and 39 started on the tenure track for their first job.

Table 6. Initial placement compared to Fall 2021 placement

Initial Placement	Fall 2021 Placement								Total
	Left Program	Currently Enrolled	No Job	Non Academic	Post-Doc	Non-Tenure Track	Tenure Track	Tenured Fall 2021	
Left Program	77								77
Currently Enrolled		49							49
No Job			2						2
Non-Academic				20		1			21
Post-Doc				2	12	5	10	16	45
Non-Tenure Track				12		8	12	11	43
Tenure Track				1		3	18	39	51
Total	77	49	2	35	12	17	40	66	298

Often, it takes a few years for the academic job market to play out. So, Table 7 shows the placement results for all 172 students and separately for those whose PhD dates from before 2015 and before 2012. By 2021, where were they?

Table 7. Current (Fall 2021) job outcomes, all students and students graduating before 2015 and 2012

Outcome	All Students		PhD before 2015		PhD before 2012	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No job recorded	2	1	0	0	0	0
Nonacademic	35	20	20	20	12	15
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	12	7	0	0	0	0
Non-TT Academic	17	10	7	7	5	6
Tenure-Track Academic	40	23	9	9	5	6
Currently Tenured	66	38	66	65	60	73
Total	172	100	102	100	82	100

So, 79 percent of our PhD’s from before 2012 are either tenured or on the tenure track, as are 74 percent with PhD’s from before 2015. Smaller numbers have followed a military / government/

or other non-academic track, and small numbers are in non-tenure-track academic positions. Table 8 flips the attention to our most recent graduates.

Table 8. Current (Fall 2021) job outcomes for students with a PhD later than 2018.

Outcome	PhD 2019 or later	
	N	%
No job recorded	2	6
Nonacademic	9	29
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	11	39
Non-TT Academic	4	13
Tenure-Track Academic	5	16
Currently Tenured	0	0
Total	31	100

Thirty-one students have gotten their degrees in 2019, 2020, or 2021, and their job placements are as shown in Table 8. Nine students went the non-academic route, an increase from previous generations, double the rate from those graduating before 2012. About half are in post-docs or in non-tenure track positions, attesting to the increasing pattern of temporary jobs before landing a tenure-track position. Based on the data as well as my own impressions as someone who observes these things, this appears to be similar to patterns we saw in previous generations, but accentuated. That is, there is nothing new about the pattern of starting with a post-doc or a visiting position, but this is becoming even more common as the years go by.

Another significant departure from previous generations appears to be the attraction of the private sector, given the number of jobs available in data science-related positions. The academic market is changing in one important element. In the early years of the period described here, it was highly unusual (not unheard of, but unusual) for a PhD in political science to move into the private sector except in a position related to public opinion polling, political consulting, or in some cases defense- or intelligence-related fields making use of knowledge of comparative politics or international relations expertise. In today's job market, it is no longer unusual for our PhDs (and even many ABDs) to find exciting job opportunities in the public and private sectors using their data analytics, data mining, text-as-data, and other methodological skills as these are increasingly in demand. Increasingly, there is a pull factor for these jobs since they often can be quite interesting and also sometimes quite lucrative. These non-academic jobs involve a different approach to the job market than jobs in academic settings, and we are committed to helping our students find these positions as well.

List of tenured, tenure track, and non-tenure track positions currently held

A. Tenured Positions currently held

American University	Texas A&M University
Appalachian State University	Texas Tech University
Aurora University	Tulane University
Binghamton University, SUNY	United Nations University
Bucknell University	Universidad Catolica del Uruguay
Coastal Carolina University	Universidad de Chile
Colorado College	University of California, Santa Cruz
Cornell University	University of Essex
Davidson College	University of Essex
Doane College	University of Georgia
Ewha Woman's University	University of Iowa
Georgia State University	University of Kansas
Grand Valley State University	University of Maryland
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	University of Missouri-Kansas City
High Point University	University of North Carolina- Charlotte
Indiana University	University of North Carolina- Charlotte
James Madison University	University of Notre Dame
Lander University	University of Notre Dame
Lund University (Sweden)	University of Notre Dame
Maastricht University	University of Richmond
Michigan State University	University of Richmond
Missouri State University	University of Richmond
Mount Holyoke College	University of Southern Mississippi
North Carolina State University	University of Tennessee
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University of Tennessee
Ohio State University	University of Texas at Austin
Penn State-Altoona	University of Virginia
Pennsylvania State University	University of Virginia
Pennsylvania State University	Villanova University
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Washington University in St. Louis- Law school
Sciences Po (Paris)	Waterloo University (Canada)
Slippery Rock University	Yonsei University
SUNY-Buffalo	
Syracuse University	

B. Tenure-track positions currently held

Auburn University at Montgomery	Texas Tech University
Cedar Crest College	Texas Tech University
Dickinson College	Trinity College Dublin
Drake University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Gettysburg College	University of Colorado, Boulder
Global and International Studies Graduate School	University of Iowa
Hamilton College	University of Massachusetts-Lowell
Indiana University Bloomington	University of Missouri
King's College London	University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Loyola Marymount University	University of South Alabama
Loyola University Chicago	University of South Carolina
National Louis University	University of South Carolina
National University of Singapore	University of Tennessee
Notre Dame University	University of Texas at Austin
Ohio State University	University of Virginia
Oklahoma State University	University of Wisconsin La Crosse
Oklahoma State University	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Plymouth State University	Washington and Lee University
Sam Houston State University	Western New England University
St. Olaf College	Wheaton College

C. Non-tenure track positions and post-docs currently held

Aiken Technical College	Pennsylvania State University
Brown University	Princeton University
Centre College	University of London
Chelsea Clark Consulting/ Research Associate	Southwestern University
Dartmouth College	Stanford University
EUI	Tulane University
Gettysburg College	University of Bergen
Grinnell College	University of Colorado Boulder
Hamilton College	University of Exeter
Kenyon College	University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Lincoln Memorial University	University of Pennsylvania
London School of Economics and Political Science	University of Southern Denmark
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Zurich
Max Planck Sciences Po Center	University of Zurich
Northeastern University	

D. Non-academic positions currently held

American Political Science Association	NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
Amivero	North Carolina Budget and Tax Center
Banking and finance industry, Toronto	Parker Analytics, LLC
Bayer Crop Science	Pinkston Strategies
California Forward	Private consultant
Capital One	Public Opinion Start-Up
Carolina Day School	RS21
Center for Open Science	State of Oregon Elections Office
Cisco	US Department of Commerce
James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal	US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
K-12 Education	US Government
Korean Institute for Defense Analysis	US Military
Langer Research Associates	US State Department
Middle East Forum	Yoga Teacher/Writer
NC Pandemic Recovery Office	
