

History of Science

In this section, we will provide an overview of the 19 History of Science programs that had awarded the most graduate degrees in a five-year period. We used NSF and Department of Education data to identify these departments. History of Science cannot be disaggregated from History of Technology in the federal databases. In consultation with the director of the History of Science Society, we have included programs in History of Science *and Technology*. We refer to these programs as programs in History of Science. First we will examine the total number of faculty and students. Then we will examine faculty hiring and recruiting and tenure decisions.

The 19 programs that awarded the most graduate degrees in History of Science employ about 170 faculty members as shown in Table HoS1. This is a fairly homogeneous group of departments with almost all housed in parent institutions classified as a Doctoral University and almost all offering a doctorate as the highest degree, so no breakdowns are provided by Carnegie classification or by highest degree offered.

Table HoS1: Faculty Members in History of Science¹³

Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Programs	Total Number of Faculty Members
8.9	19	170

Table HoS2 provides information about the distribution of faculty members by tenure status, and Table HoS3 presents a view of employment status and the number of faculty members who are men and women. Overall, about 65% of the faculty members in programs that offer degrees in History of Science are men, almost all are employed in a full-time position, and 88% are either tenured or in a tenure-track position.

Table HoS2: Faculty Members by Tenure Status

Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part Time, Non-Tenure-Track
120	30	10	10

Table HoS3: Faculty Members by Employment Status & Gender

Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
160	10	110	60

Table HoS4 is not included.

We do not provide breakdowns by Carnegie classification or highest degree because the programs in the sample were not chosen to be, and are not, representative of all History of Science programs. Rather, History of Science was included as an experiment to see if program

¹³ Totals given throughout this report are estimates of the population total.

The 2007-08 Humanities Departmental Survey

heads would be able to answer the questions. The 19 programs in the sample were chosen because they offered the highest number of graduate degrees. Virtually all of the programs in History of Science in the sample offer a doctorate as the highest degree, and virtually of them are housed in parent institutions classified as a Doctoral Universities.

Students are the lifeblood of any program; without students, it would difficult to justify a program. Certainly some of the courses in History of Science are offered to non-majors, but the number of majors is an important indicator of the vitality of the department. Table HoS5 presents the number of bachelors degrees completed in 2006-07 and Table HoS6 shows the number of juniors and seniors who had declared a major as of the beginning of the Fall 2007 term.

Table HoS5: Bachelors Degrees Completed in History of Science in the 2006-07 Academic Year

Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Programs	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
17.4	19	330

Table HoS6: Number of Juniors and Seniors with Declared Major in History of Science as of the Beginning of the Fall 2007 Term

Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Programs	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
35.3	19	670

Some of these juniors and seniors will change majors prior to completing a degree and others will not complete a degree at all. However, considering the data presented in Tables HoS5 and HoS6, it appears that the number of students completing bachelor's degrees in programs that offer a degree in History of Science will remain stable or show a slight increase for the next two years. Table HoS7 shows the number of students completing a minor in History of Science during the 2006-07 Academic Year.

Table HoS7: Number of Students Completing a Minor in History of Science during the 2006-07 Academic Year

Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Programs	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
3.7	19	70

We also asked respondents about the number of graduate students in their department or program. Table HoS8 provides a summary of their answers. Since the term "graduate student" was not defined in the questionnaire, it is possible that these numbers include undergraduates

The 2007-08 Humanities Departmental Survey

enrolled in dual-degree programs, post-baccalaureate students who are not necessarily seeking a degree, and students working toward a masters or doctorate.

Table HoS8: Number of Graduate Students During the Fall 2007 Term

Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Programs	Total Number of Graduate Students
18.9	19	360

Tables HoS9, HoS10, and HoS11 present data about who is teaching upper division undergraduate classes, graduate classes, and graduate-level independent study in History of Science programs. The total number of upper division sections does not necessarily equal the sum of the sections taught by various faculty members. When the total of the sections taught by various faculty members exceeds the total number of sections offered, it is possible that more than one faculty member taught the same section.

Table HoS9: Upper Division Course Sections in History of Science Programs, Fall 2007

Total Number of Upper Division Sections	90
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	90
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-
Taught by Part-time Faculty	10
Taught by Graduate Students	-
Number of Students Enrolled	2,620
Average Students per Section	29.1

Almost all of the upper division courses in History of Science are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, and about 11% of these courses are staffed by a part-time faculty member.

Table HoS10: Graduate Level Course Sections in History of Science Programs, Fall 2007

Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	80
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	80
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-
Number of Students Enrolled	330
Average Students per Section	3.7

All of the instructors for graduate courses are tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members.

Table HoS11: Graduate Level Independent Study in History of Science Programs, Fall 2007

Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	140
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	80
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-
Taught by Part-time Faculty	60
Average Number of Students per Department	7.4

Almost half of the students enrolled in graduate level independent study are working with part-time faculty. Perhaps these students are working with part-time faculty members who are full-time employees outside the university who bring unique perspectives to the topics under consideration.

Some data on recruiting, hiring and tenure has already been presented for all disciplines included in this report. (See pages 4 and 5.) We will now focus on recruiting, hiring, and tenure of faculty members for programs that offer degrees in History of Science.

In summary, departments or programs that award degrees in History of Science employ about 160 faculty members in full-time positions and 10 faculty members in part-time positions. There are approximately 120 tenured faculty members and 30 tenure-track faculty members. As summarized in Table HoS12, History of Science programs recruited about 7 tenured, tenure-track, or permanent faculty members for 2008-09 and had hired about 7 for 2007-08. This represents about 4% of the full-time faculty workforce. The 2 faculty members who were granted tenure comprise about one-sixteenth of the tenure-track faculty corps. An additional 7% of those in tenure-track positions were either denied tenure or left before the tenure decision was made. A cautionary note is in order: the estimates on recruiting, hiring, and tenure decisions are based on an extremely small sample and are not necessarily reflective of these activities in other years.

Table HoS12: Faculty Tenure Decisions and Recruiting*

Faculty Status	Number	Relative to ...
Tenured Faculty Members	120	70% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members (not yet tenured)	30	18% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members Granted Tenure	2 per year*	7% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Faculty Members Denied Tenure or Leaving Prior to Tenure Decision	2 per year*	7% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Recruited for 2008-09	7*	7% of full-time faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Hired for 2007-08	7*	6% of full-time faculty

* The estimates on recruiting, hiring, and tenure decisions are based on an extremely small sample and are not necessarily reflective of these activities in other years.