

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Political Science Majors: 2000–01, 2008–09, and 2010–11

Summary: Data from departments in each of three years from 2000 to the present suggests that all types of departments have experienced increasing numbers of political science majors in the last few years. Notably, the public BA and MA political science departments reporting more than 200 majors doubled from 2008–09 to 2010–11; public BA mixed departments reporting more than 200 majors increased by 10% during these same years. Both private and public PhD departments reporting more than 200 majors increased by 10% and 15%, respectively; and, in 2010–11, not a single public PhD department reported fewer than 100 majors.

About the Data: The 2010–11 APSA Departmental Survey was administered to 1,419 departments of political science and public administration at 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. The response rate was 22% (n=312) for all programs. Departments offering a BA as the highest degree had an 18% (n=183) response rate; departments offering an MA as the highest degree had a 29% (n=47) response rate; and, departments offering a PhD as the highest degree had a 32% (n=82) response rate.

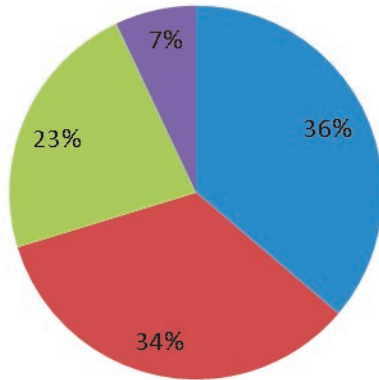
The 2001-2002 survey was mailed to the 1286 departments offering political science in four-year/two-year colleges and universities in the United States. The response rate was 35% (n=444) for all programs. Undergraduate political science departments had a 36% (n=172) response rate; undergraduate social science and combined departments had a 15% (n=78) response rate; MA departments had a 66% (n=103) response rate; and, PhD departments had a 58% (n=76) response rate.

Response rates for the 2008–09 survey are forthcoming.

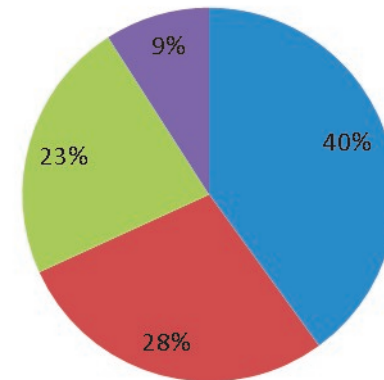
Citation: American Political Science Association. 2012. "Political Science Majors: 2000–01, 2008–09, and 2010–11 ." http://www.apsanet.org/content_16886.cfm?navID=481.

Number of Majors: BA Programs POLITICAL SCIENCE
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

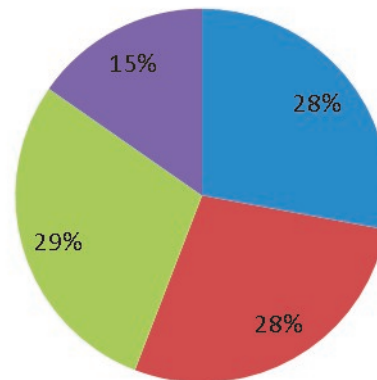
2000-01 Total



2008-09 Total



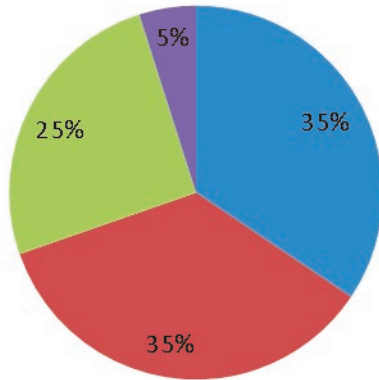
2010-11 Total



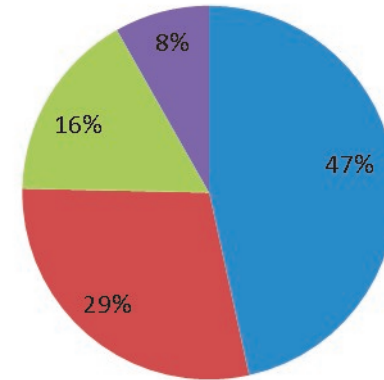
■ <51 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200 ■ 201+

Number of Majors: BA Programs POLITICAL SCIENCE
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

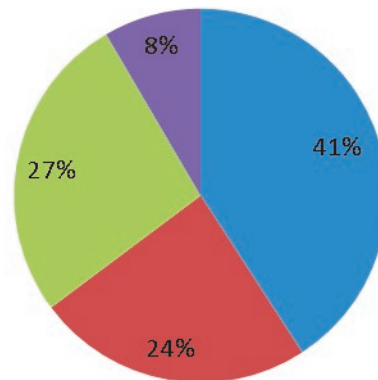
2000-01 Private



2008-09 Private



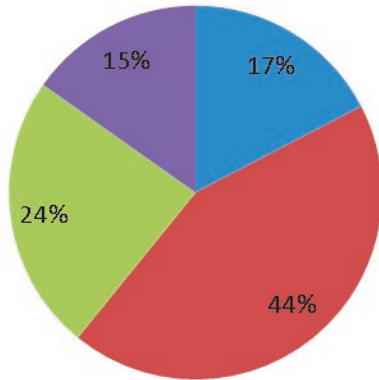
2010-11 Private



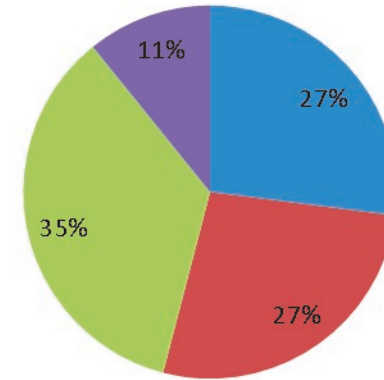
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Number of Majors: BA Programs POLITICAL SCIENCE
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

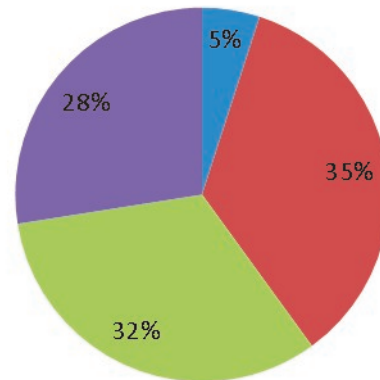
2000-01 Public



2008-09 Public



2010-11 Public



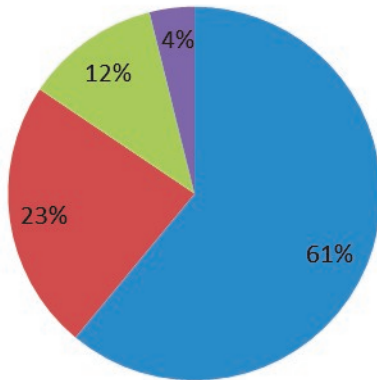
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Number of Majors: BA Programs POLITICAL SCIENCE
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

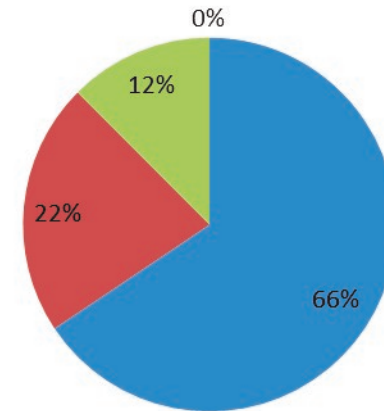
Year			<51	51-100	101-200	201+	Total BA Depts Responding		BA does not include programs combined with other disciplines, like history
2000-01	Total	N	67	63	42	13	172		
		%	39%	37%	24%	8%	100%		
	Private	N	42	43	31	6	124		
		%	34%	35%	25%	5%	100%		
	Public	N	8	20	11	7	48		
		%	17%	42%	23%	15%	100%		
2008-09	Total	N	44	31	25	10	110		
		%	40%	28%	23%	9%	100%		
	Private	N	34	21	12	6	73		
		%	47%	29%	16%	8%	100%		
	Public	N	10	10	13	4	37		
		%	27%	27%	35%	11%	100%		
2010-11	Total	N	31	31	32	17	111		
		%	28%	28%	29%	15%	100%		
	Private	N	29	17	19	6	71		
		%	41%	24%	27%	8%	100%		Of 11 Public (2010), 9 201-500 and 2 501-750.
	Public	N	2	14	13	11	40		
		%	5%	35%	33%	28%	100%		

Number of Majors: BA Programs SOCIAL SCIENCE & COMBINED
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

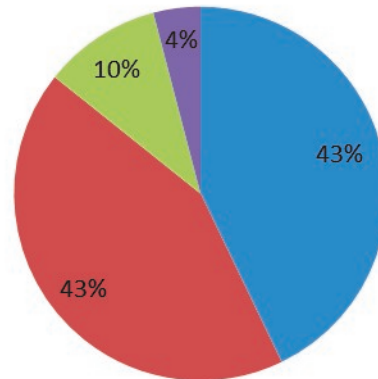
2000-01 Total



2008-09 Total



2010-11 Total



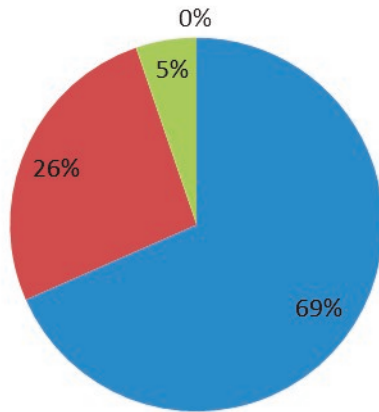
■ <51 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200 ■ 201+

2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

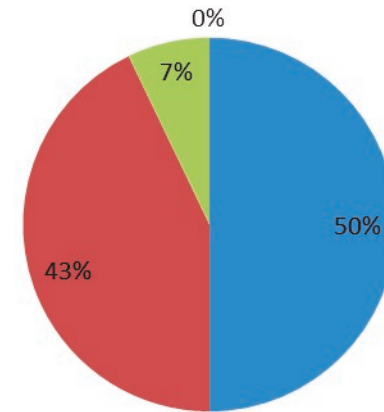
Number of Majors: BA Programs SOCIAL SCIENCE & COMBINED

Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

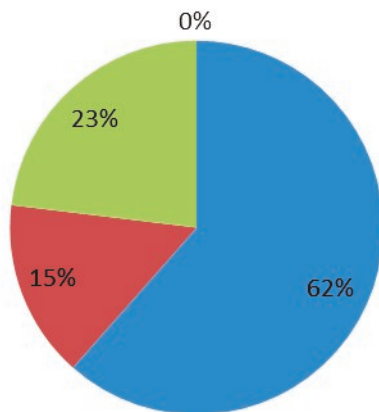
2008-09 Private



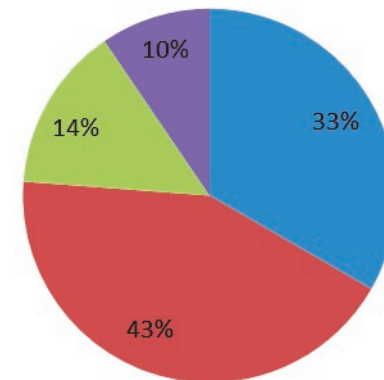
2010-11 Private



2008-09 Public



2010-11 Public



■ <51 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200 ■ 201+

2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: BA Programs SOCIAL SCIENCE & COMBINED

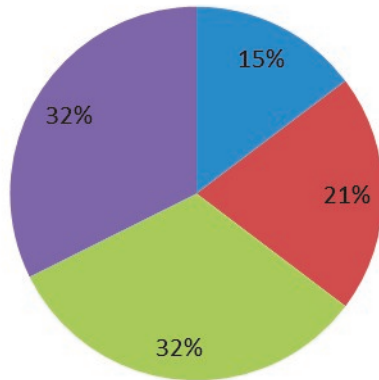
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

Year			<51	51-100	101-200	201+	Total BA Depts Responding
2000-01	Total	N	47	18	9	3	77
		%	61%	23%	12%	4%	100%
2008-09	Total	N	21	7	4	0	32
		%	66%	22%	13%	0%	100%
	Private	N	13	5	1	0	19
		%	68%	26%	5%	0%	100%
	Public	N	8	2	3	0	13
		%	62%	15%	23%	0%	100%
2010-11	Total	N	21	21	5	2	49
		%	43%	43%	10%	4%	100%
	Private	N	14	12	2	0	28
		%	50%	43%	7%	0%	100%
	Public	N	7	9	3	2	21
		%	33%	43%	14%	10%	100%

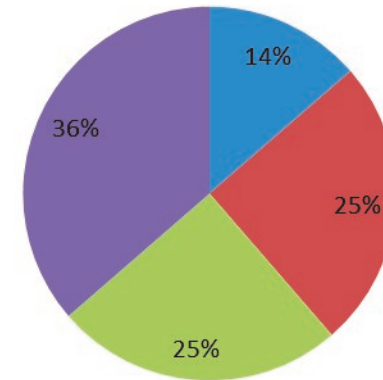
2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: MA Programs
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

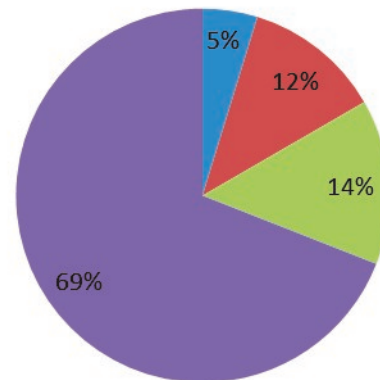
2000-01 Total



2008-09 Total



2010-11 Total

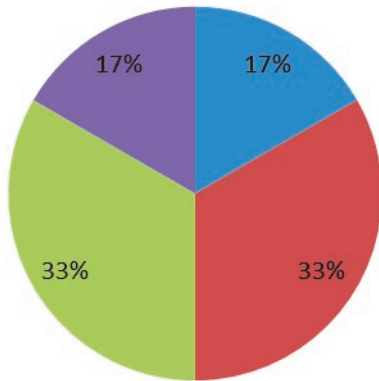


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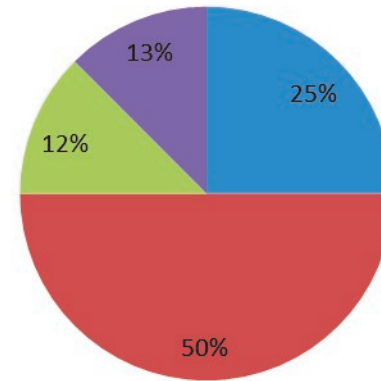
2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: MA Programs
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

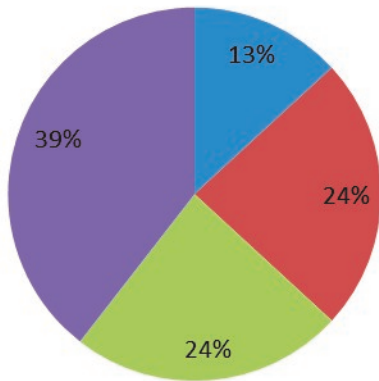
2008-09 Private



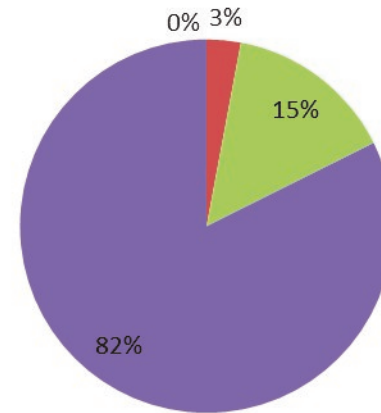
2010-11 Private



2008-09 Public



2010-11 Public



■ <51 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200 ■ 201+

2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: MA Programs

Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

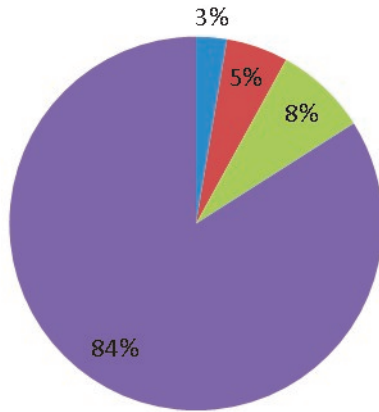
Year			<51	51-100	101-200	201+	Total MA Depts Responding		
2000-01	Total	N	15	21	33	33	103		
		%	15%	20%	32%	32%	100%		
2008-09	Total	N	6	11	11	16	44		
		%	14%	25%	25%	36%	100%		
	Private	N	1	2	2	1	6		
		%	17%	33%	33%	17%	100%		
	Public	N	5	9	9	15	38		
		%	13%	24%	24%	39%	100%		
2010-11	Total	N	2	5	6	29	42		
		%	5%	12%	14%	69%	100%		
	Private	N	2	4	1	1	8		
		%	25%	50%	13%	13%	100%		
	Public	N	0	1	5	28	34		
		%	0%	3%	15%	82%	100%		

Five departments reported the number of majors between 501-750; three departments reported between 751-1,000; and two departments reported over 1,000 majors.

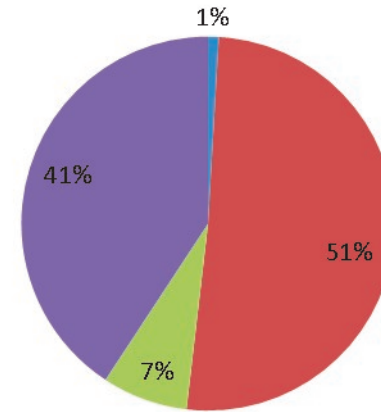
2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: PhD Programs
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

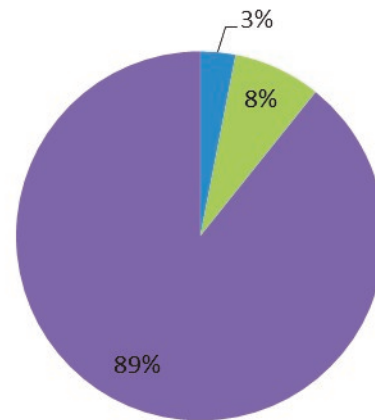
2000-01 Total



2008-09 Total



2010-11 Total

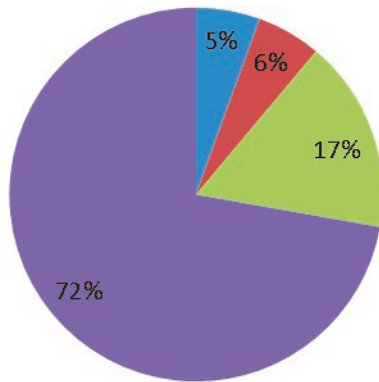


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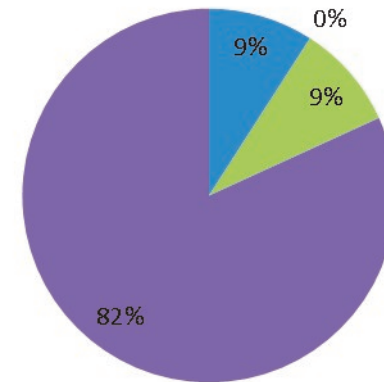
2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: PhD Programs
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

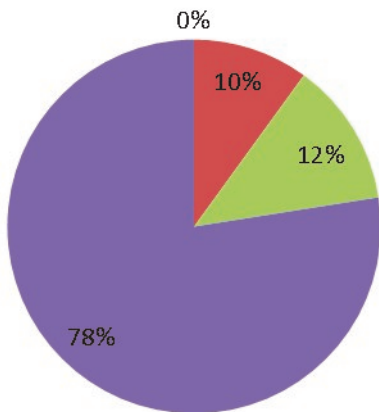
2008-09 Private



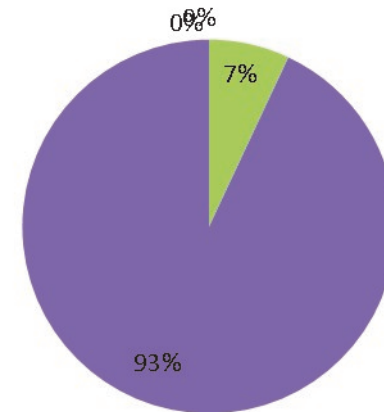
2010-11 Private



2008-09 Public



2010-11 Public



■ <51 ■ 51-100 ■ 101-200 ■ 201+

2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.

Number of Majors: PhD Programs
Source: APSA Departmental Survey 2001-02, 2008-09, 2010-11

Year			<51	51-100	101-200	201+	Total PhD Depts Responding		
2000-01	Total	N	2	4	6	63	75		
		%	3%	5%	8%	84%	100%		
2008-09	Total	N	1	55	8	44	58		
		%	2%	95%	14%	76%	100%		
	Private	N	1	1	3	13	18		
		%	6%	6%	17%	72%	100%		
	Public	N	0	4	5	31	40		
		%	0%	10%	13%	78%	100%		
2010-11	Total	N	2	0	5	58	65		
		%	3%	0%	8%	89%	100%		
	Private	N	2	0	2	18	22		
		%	9%	0%	9%	82%	100%		
	Public	N	0	0	3	40	43		
		%	0%	0%	7%	93%	100%		

Four departments reported the number of majors between 501-750; and two departments reported 751-1,000

Fifteen departments reported the number of majors between 501-750; seven departments reported 751-1,000; and five departments reported over 1,000 majors.

2000-01 private-public distinction not available at this time.