2024-2025 APSA DEPARTMENTAL SURVEY, FACULTY AND SALARIES:

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Research
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Summary

The second part of APSA's 2024-2025 Departmental Survey, conducted from March to April 2026, collected information about political science faculty employment and salaries during the 2024-25 academic year. This survey followed Part One of the 2024-2025 Departmental Survey, which collected information on enrollments and curriculum and was conducted from January to February of 2026. Click here to view the report for Part One of the survey, or visit the "Data on the Profession Page" on the APSA website.

The survey was sent to 1,149 departments and collected 113 responses, a total response rate of 9.8%. This response rate is slightly lower than the rate for Part One of the survey (11.2%).

This brief summarizes the survey findings with regard to the number and rank of faculty employed, average salary and pay term of faculty, and professional development resources and employee benefits offered to faculty. Reported percentages do not include question nonresponses.

Responding Departments

Forty-eight percent (n=54) of survey responses were from departments at private institutions, while fifty-two percent (n=59) were from departments at public institutions. Most departments identified themselves as departments of political science or government (88 institutions, 78%).

Table 1. Institution and department type of responding departments. Institutions that did not provide their department type (n=1) are not listed.

	Private institution	Public institution
Combined Department	4	6
Department of Political Science or Government	43	45
Department of Public Administration or Public Policy	1	0
Department of Social Science	3	2
Other Department Type	2	6

Faculty Numbers

The survey collected information about the number, rank, tenure status, and full-time status of the faculty employed by the department. Consistent with previous years, public institutions reported employing more faculty on average than public ones, regardless of tenure status or full-time status. The average number of total faculty employed was almost identical to the figure reported in 2023-24.

Table 2. Average number of faculty at responding departments.

Institution Type	Average Faculty
All	*18.5*
Public	22.4
Private	14.2

Responding public institutions employed more than twice as many tenure-track faculty as non-tenure-track faculty, while responding private institutions employed more than three times as many. Although the reported number of full-time faculty continued to far exceed the number of part-time faculty across institution types, the gap was narrower than in 2023-24.

Figure 1. Average faculty employed by political science departments by institution type (public/private) and tenure status (tenured or tenure-track/non-tenure-track).

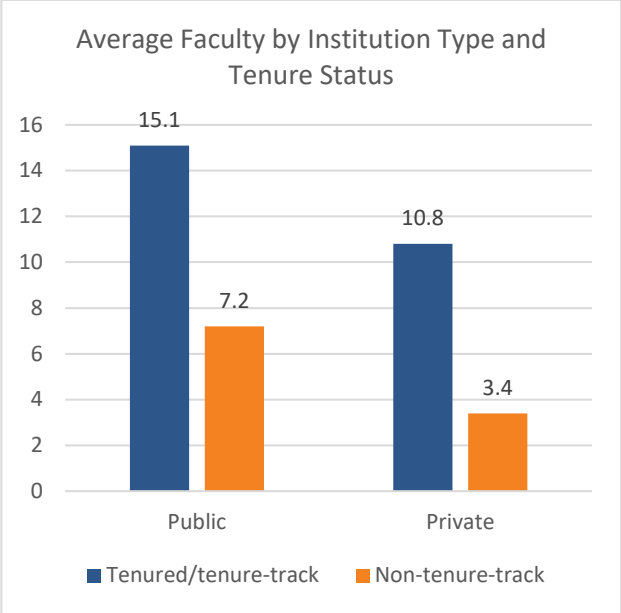


Figure 2. Average faculty employed by political science departments by institution type (public/private) and full-time status (full-time/part-time).

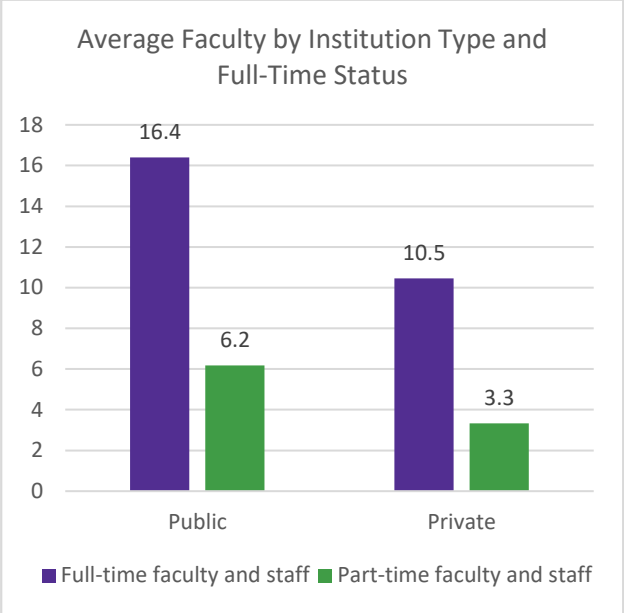
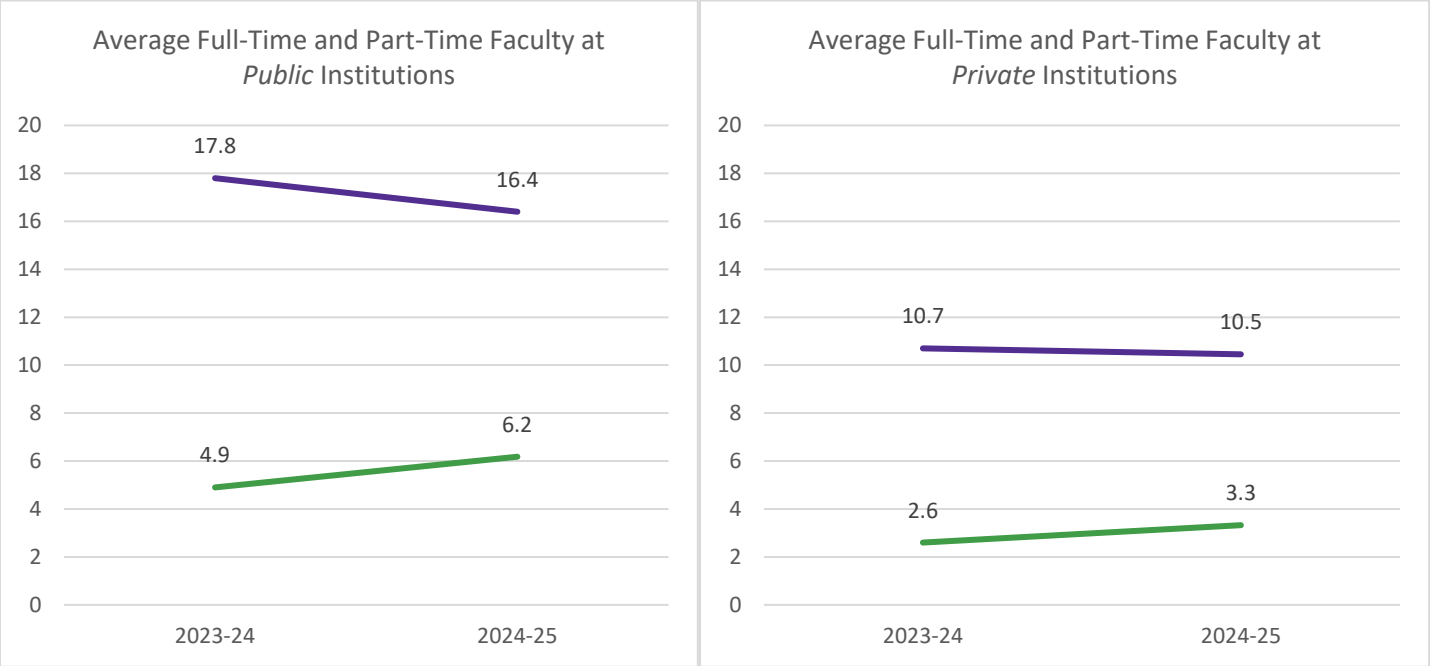
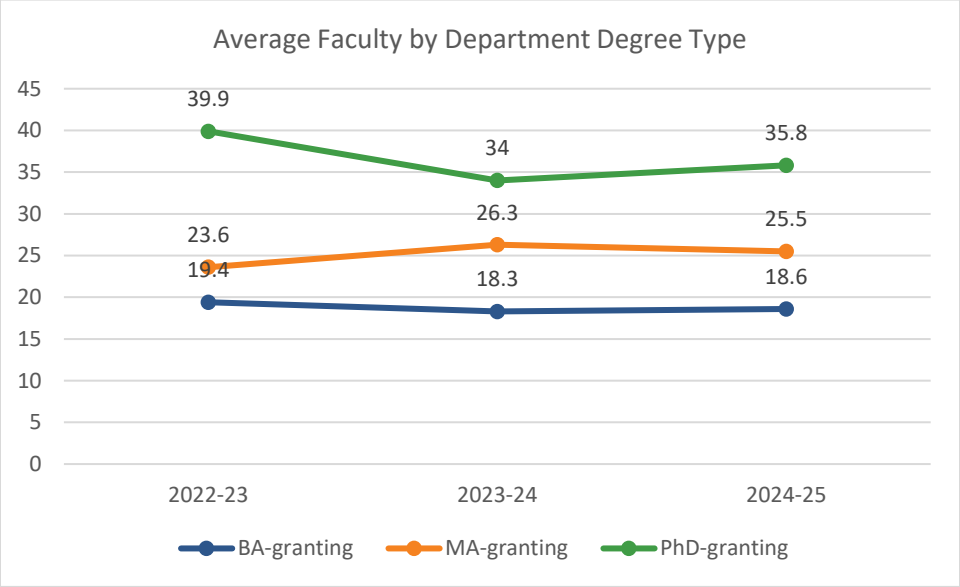


Figure 3. Average full-time and part-time faculty employed at public and private institutions, 2023-24 academic year compared to 2024-25 academic year. Purple (upper line) indicates full-time faculty; green (lower line) indicates part-time faculty.



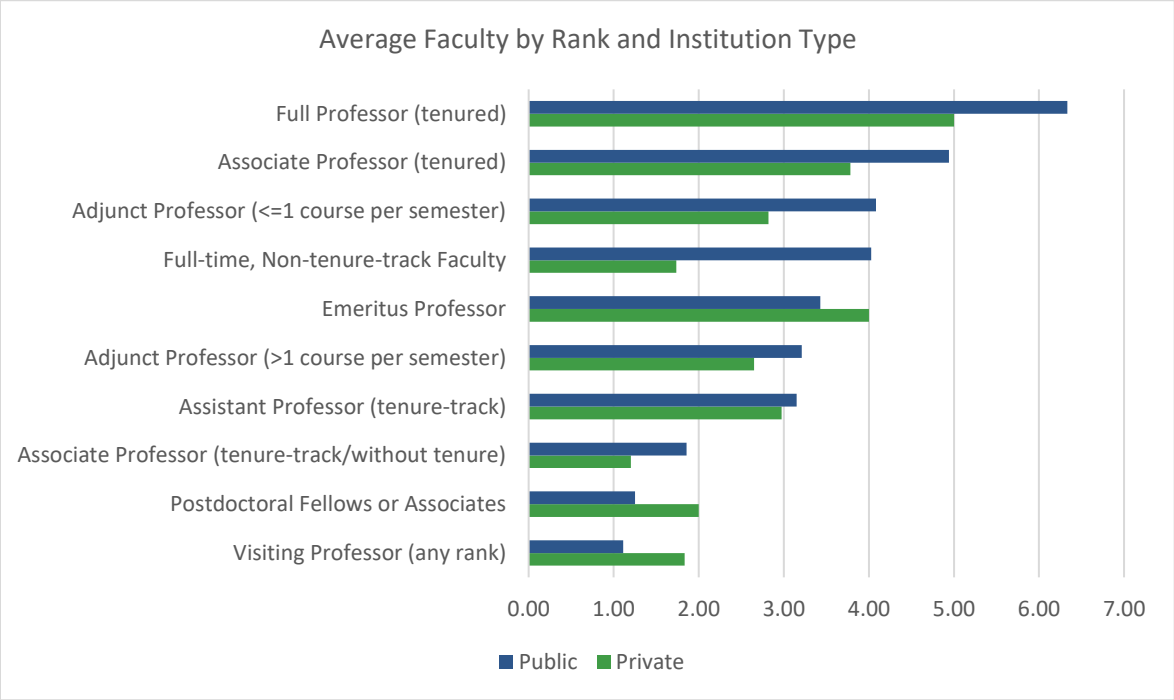
As in previous years, responding PhD-granting departments employed the most faculty on average, followed by MA-granting and then BA-granting departments. For each department type, the reported number of average faculty employed was similar to the number reported in 2023-24.

Figure 4. Average faculty employed by political science departments from 2022-23 to 2024-25 by department type (BA-granting, MA-granting, PhD-granting).



The survey also collected information about the number of faculty employed by academic rank. Among survey respondents, both public and private institutions employed full and associate professors in the greatest numbers, followed by adjunct and full-time non-tenure track faculty (for public institutions) and assistant professors (for private institutions). In general, public institutions employed more faculty than private ones across ranks, with the exception of visiting professors and postdoctoral fellows.

Figure 5. Average number of faculty employed by political science departments by institution type (public/private) and faculty rank, 2024-25 academic year.



Faculty Salaries

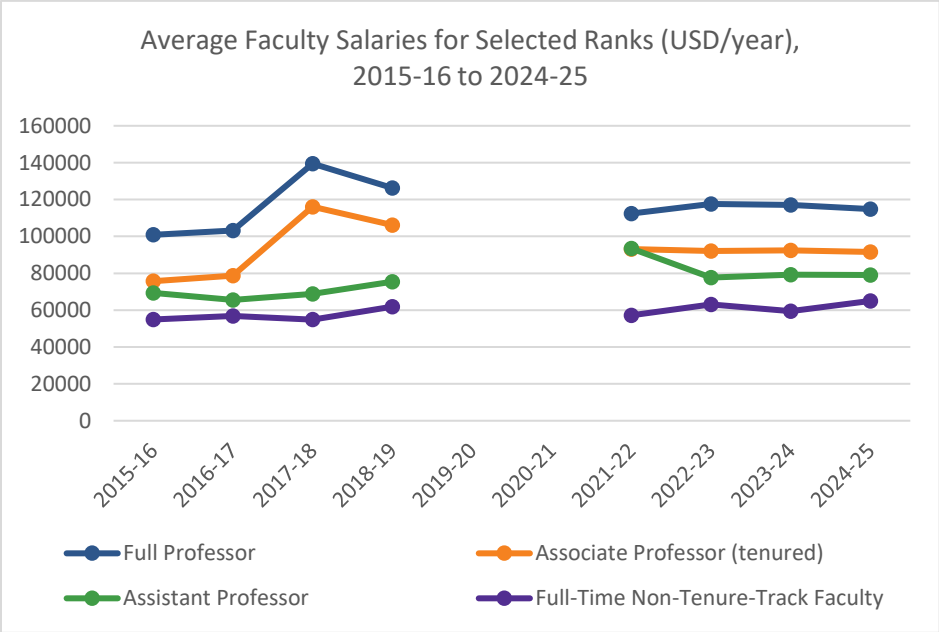
Among both tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty, reported average salary increased with rank. Among tenured faculty, full professors drew the largest salaries, while full-time non-tenure-track faculty and postdoctoral fellows earned the most among untenured employees.

Table 3. Average faculty salary per pay term (USD) by faculty rank.

Faculty Rank	Average Salary Per Pay Term (USD)
Assistant Professor	78,990
Associate Professor (tenure-track/untenured)	82,770
Associate Professor (tenured)	91,630
Full Professor	114,750
Adjunct Faculty (<=1 course per semester)	4,810
Adjunct Faculty (>1 course per semester)	12,000
Visiting Professor	53,970
Postdoctoral Fellow	62,110
Full-Time Non-Tenure-Track Faculty	65,010

Reported salaries remained largely consistent compared to 2023-24.

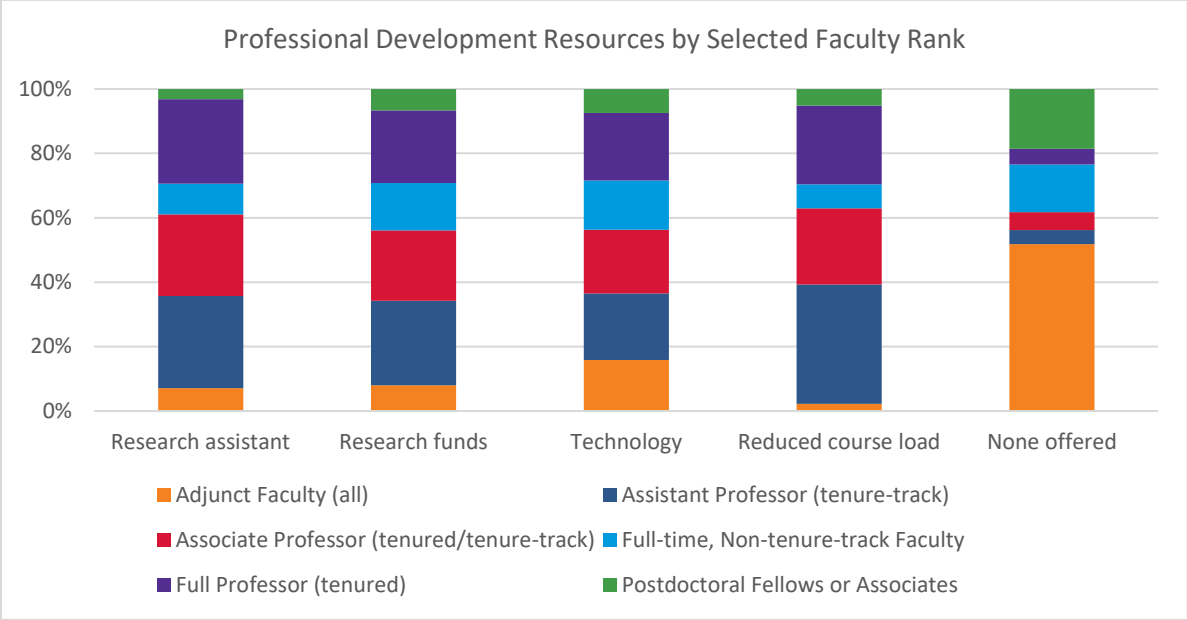
Figure 6. Average faculty salary, in USD/year, by faculty rank for academic years 2015-16 to 2024-25. Data is unavailable for 2019-20 and 2020-21.



Professional Development Resources and Employee Benefits

Departments were asked to describe the professional development resources they offer to faculty. Overall, as in 2023-24, technology and research funds were the resources most commonly offered. When broken down by rank, tenured and tenure-track faculty were more likely to receive course reductions or a research assistant than their untenured peers. Adjunct faculty were by far the most likely to receive no resources, followed by postdoctoral fellows and full-time non-tenure-track faculty.

Figure 7. Professional development resources offered to faculty. Percentages reflect a faculty role's share of a given resource; e.g., of faculty roles offered research funds, 23% were full professors. Visiting professors and emeritus faculty were not included in percentage calculations.



Similarly, adjunct faculty (followed by postdoctoral fellows and full-time non-tenure-track faculty) were the most likely groups to receive no employee benefits. Outside of the "none offered" category, benefits were distributed similarly across all categories, with tenure-track faculty accounting for roughly two-thirds to three-quarters of faculty offered a given benefit. Medical insurance and employer retirement contributions were the most commonly offered benefits.

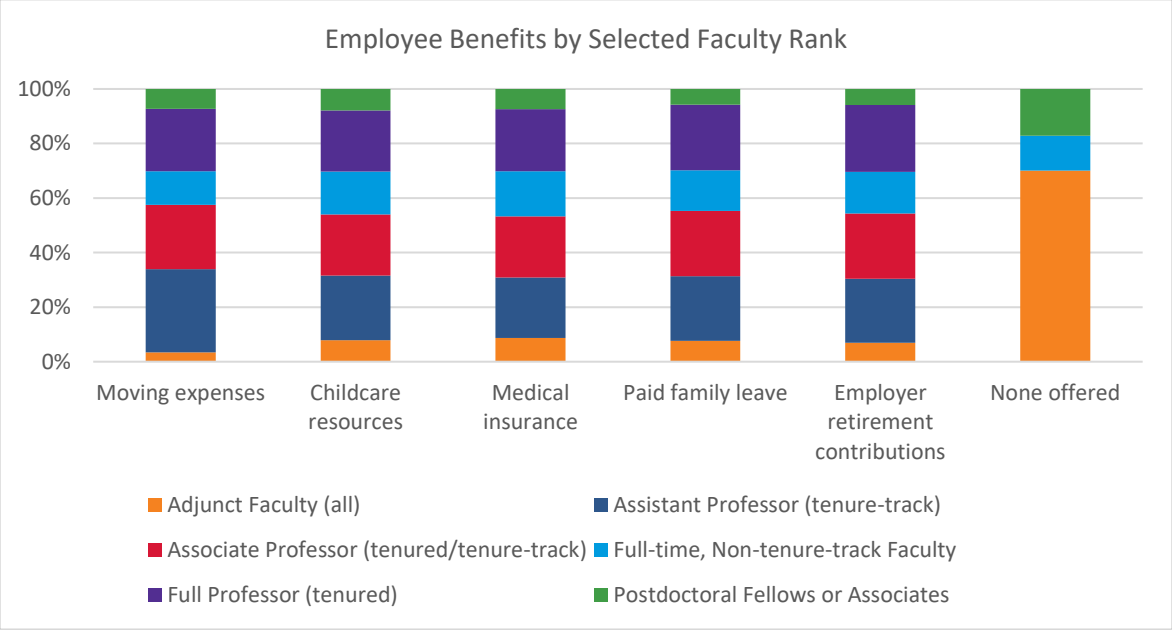



Figure 8. Employee benefits offered to faculty. Percentages reflect a faculty role's share of a given benefit; e.g., of faculty roles offered childcare resources, 22% were full professors. Visiting professors and emeritus faculty were not included in percentage calculations.