

Employment of 1996–97 English PhDs: A Report on the MLA's Census of PhD Placement

David Laurence

ADE Bulletin 121 (Winter 1998), pp. 58–69

ISSN: 0001-0898

CrossRef DOI: 10.1632/ade.121.58

Copyright © by The Association of Departments of English

All material published by the The Association of Departments of English in any medium is protected by copyright. Users may link to the ADE Web page freely and may quote from ADE publications as allowed by the doctrine of fair use. Written permission is required for any other reproduction of material from any ADE publication.

Send requests for permission to reprint material to the ADE permissions manager by mail (26 Broadway, New York, NY 10004-1789), e-mail (permissions@mla.org), or fax (646 458-0030).

Employment of 1996–97 English PhDs: A Report on the MLA's Census of PhD Placement

DAVID LAURENCE

About the 1996–97 Census of PhD Placement

The 1996–97 census of PhD placement is the tenth in a series the MLA initiated in 1976–77. The ten studies record the employment placements reported by PhD-granting departments in United States universities for graduates to whom they awarded doctoral degrees between 1 September and 31 August of the given survey year. The studies track placement of PhD recipients in five fields: English, foreign languages, comparative literature, linguistics, and classics. This report focuses on findings for the field of English.

The 1996–97 study provides information about job placements of doctorates who received their PhDs between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997. Data collection, which was conducted for the MLA by Response Analysis Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, began in October 1997 and concluded at the end of February 1998. Thus, the 1996–97 study, like the nine preceding it, examines only those employment placements obtained within the year the PhDs were conferred, an important limitation.

Over twenty years and ten surveys, the PhD-granting departments that provide employment information about their recent graduates have sustained a high level of support for the MLA's placement studies, and the studies have consistently achieved response rates of between 95 and 100 percent. The 1996–97 study is no exception; it has a response rate of 97 percent and can thus be regarded as a census of PhD placement in the fields of modern and classical language and literature. That is, the study provides a picture of PhD placement based on an accounting of virtually all 1996–97 doctorate recipients rather than just a representative sample. The MLA thanks those in PhD-granting departments who responded to the questionnaire for the 1996–97 survey. Without their assistance these data could not be made available.

Departments Surveyed and Responding and Number of Doctorate Recipients Reported

As data collection began in October 1997, the MLA database contained 542 United States university PhD-granting departments in English, foreign languages, comparative literature, linguistics, and classics. When data collection concluded at the end of February 1998, 524 of the departments had responded—141 English departments, 254 foreign language departments, 38 comparative literature departments, 55 linguistics departments, and 36 classics departments. Of the responding departments 429 reported granting at least one PhD between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997. They reported on a total of 2,332 PhD recipients. **Table 1** displays response rates and the numbers of graduates reported by departments in each of the five fields.

In English 133 of the 141 responding departments reported granting at least one PhD from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 1997. Eight departments reported granting no degrees. Five did not respond. The 133 English departments that awarded degrees reported on a total of 1,226 doctorate recipients. Departments were able to provide information about job placements for 1,144 of these 1,226 doctorates. In addition, departments identified 43 foreign nationals with temporary resident status who did not participate in the United States job market, because they returned to their countries of origin after receiving their degrees. When these temporary residents are excluded, departments reported known employment placements for 1,106 1996–97 PhD recipients.

David Laurence is Director of English Programs and the Association of Departments of English for the Modern Language Association.

Table 1
Numbers of Departments Responding and Numbers of Doctoral Degrees Reported, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

	English	Foreign Language	Comparative Literature	Linguistics	Classics	All Fields
Number of departments						
Contacted	146	260	39	58	39	542
Responding	141	254	38	55	36	524
Reporting graduates	133	199	31	46	20	429
Response rate	97%	98%	97%	95%	92%	97%
Number of graduates						
Reported	1,226	715	116	220	55	2,332
With known employment status	1,144	673	107	176	53	2,153
With known employment status and remaining in United States	1,106	626	95	141	52	2,020

Placement of Doctorates in and outside Higher Education

Table 2 shows the percentages of 1996–97 English PhDs placed in seven major employment categories. The placement rates in table 2 have been calculated using each of three different base numbers:

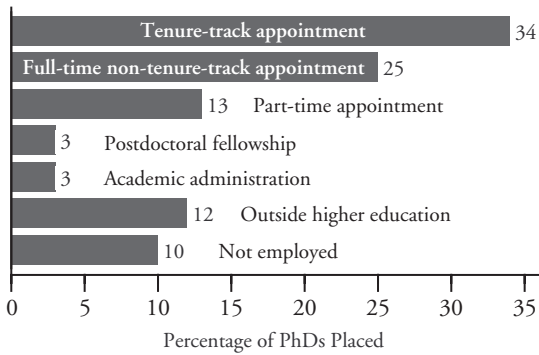
1. The 1,226 doctorate recipients PhD-granting English departments reported in 1996–97
2. The 1,144 doctorate recipients for whom departments reported a known employment status
3. The 1,106 doctorate recipients with known employment status and who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees (that is, who were not foreign students with temporary resident status who returned to their countries of origin)

As the table makes evident, the different base numbers make little difference in the overall placement picture. In accordance with generally accepted practice for studies of this type, where possible this report uses placement percentages calculated from the base of 1,106 PhDs with known employment status (excluding temporary residents who returned to their countries of origin). Before 1993 the MLA did not collect information about the citizenship and residency status of doctorate recipients. To preserve the comparability of findings across all ten placement studies, the second number is used as the base where appropriate. There are small additional variations in the base numbers used for specific categories of findings (for example, in the tables presenting placement findings by sex, race and ethnicity, and region) as the information available about individual PhD recipients varies.

Table 2
Summary of Job Placement for English PhDs with Known Employment Status, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement (Percentages)

	Remaining in the United States	Returning Temporary Residents Included	All PhDs
Tenure-track appointment	33.6	35.0	32.6
Non-tenure-track appointment (full-time)	25.4	24.7	23.1
Non-tenure-track appointment (part-time)	13.3	12.9	12.1
Postdoctoral fellowship	3.4	3.4	3.2
Academic administration	2.8	2.7	2.5
Placement outside higher education	11.1	10.9	10.2
Not employed	9.6	9.4	8.8
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	1,106	1,144	1,226

Fig. 1
Percentage of English PhDs Placed in Seven Major Employment Categories, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement



The findings in table 2 are represented graphically in figure 1. The percentages of PhDs with a known employment status and remaining in the US are the basis for the figure. Table 3 provides historical perspective on PhD placement, summarizing findings from all ten studies of PhD placement the MLA has conducted from 1977 to 1997.

Figure 2 illustrates trends in the placement data. Particularly striking are the increase and decline in placement of new PhDs to tenure-track positions between 1984 and 1997 and the increase in placement to full- or part-time non-tenure-track positions since 1994. In 1996–97 for the first time non-tenure-track positions led tenure-track positions as the first job placement for new English PhDs. Striking as well is how directly placements outside higher education have mirrored opportunities to begin a tenure-track career in academia. (Placements to

Fig. 2
Percentage of English PhDs Placed in Selected Employment Categories, MLA Surveys of PhD Placement, 1976–97

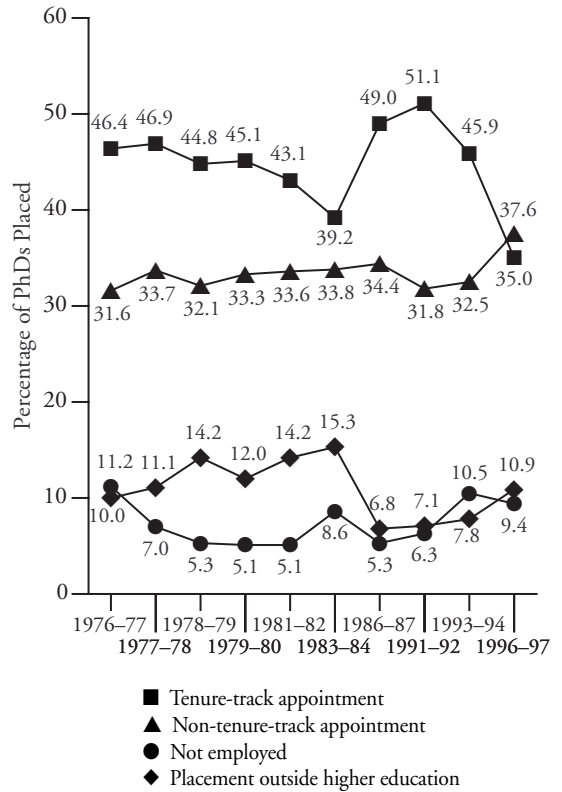


Table 3
English PhD Placement, 1976–77 to 1996–97: Findings from Ten MLA Studies (Percentages)

	1976–77	1977–78	1978–79	1979–80	1981–82	1983–84	1986–87	1991–92	1993–94	1996–97
Tenure-track appointment	46.4	46.9	44.8	45.1	43.1	39.2	49.0	51.1	45.9	35.0
Non-tenure-track appointment (full-time)	20.2	22.3	20.4	23.4	22.7	22.2	25.7	21.5	20.2	24.7
Non-tenure-track appointment (part-time)	11.4	11.4	11.7	9.9	10.9	11.6	8.7	10.3	12.3	12.9
Postdoctoral fellowship	0.9	1.3	0.9	2.3	0.9	0.5	1.8	0.9	1.8	3.4
Academic administration	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.6	2.8	2.8	1.5	2.7
Placement outside higher education	10.0	11.1	14.2	12.0	14.2	15.3	6.8	7.1	7.8	10.9
Not employed	11.2	7.0	5.3	5.1	5.1	8.6	5.3	6.3	10.5	9.4
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	1,004	1,026	873	841	742	760	681	961	895	1,144

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with a known employment status, including foreign nationals with temporary resident status who returned to their countries of origin after receiving their degrees.

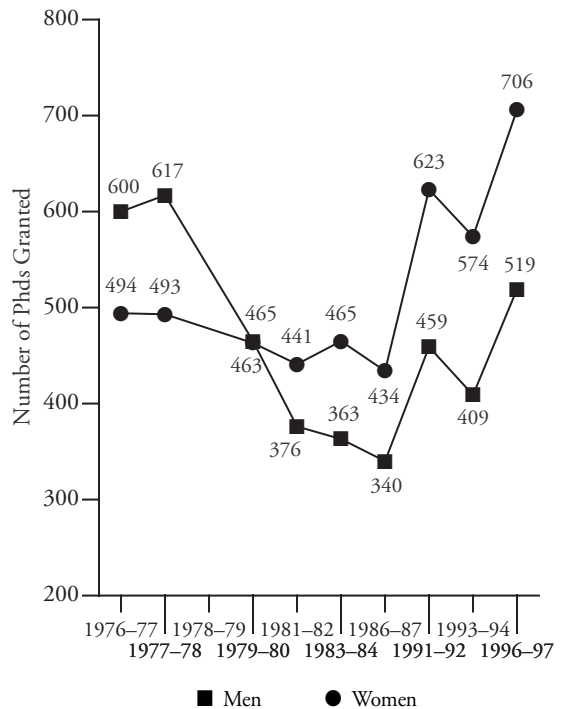
Table 4
Number and Percentage of English PhDs Placed in and outside Higher Education, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

Placement	Number	Percentage
Teaching in higher education	801	72.4
Tenure-track appointment	372	33.6
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	191	17.3
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	90	8.1
Part-time appointment	147	13.3
Tenure-track part-time appointment	1	0.1
All full-time teaching appointments (subtotal)	653	59.0
All full-time non-tenure track appointments (subtotal)	281	25.4
All non-tenure-track appointments (subtotal)	428	38.7
Other higher education placement		
Postdoctoral fellowship	38	3.4
Academic administration	31	2.8
Placement outside higher education	123	11.1
Secondary or elementary school teaching	36	3.3
Government	3	0.3
Not-for-profit organization	29	2.6
For-profit business	40	3.6
Government, not-for-profit, for-profit sectors (subtotal)	72	6.5
Self-employed	15	1.4
Other		
Teaching (classification unknown)	7	0.6
Not employed	106	9.6
Seeking employment	87	7.9
Not seeking employment	19	1.7
PhDs with known employment status	1,144	
PhDs with unknown employment status	82	
PhDs with temporary resident status who left the United States	43	
Total number of PhDs reported	1,226	
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	1,106	

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with a known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees.

full- and part-time non-tenure-track positions are combined in figure 2, and placements to postdoctoral fellowships and academic administration are not included.) Table 4 reviews placement of 1996–97 PhDs, providing more detail about the specific employment sectors where new PhDs obtained positions.

Fig. 3
Numbers of English PhDs Granted to Men and Women, MLA Surveys of PhD Placement, 1976–97



Numbers of PhDs Awarded to Men and Women; Placement of Men and Women PhDs

Of the 1,226 PhDs English departments reported in 1996–97, 42% went to men and 58% to women. Table 5 shows placement for the 1,105 men and women with a known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their doctorates and whose sex was reported.

The entry of women into the profession has been of interest from the first study of PhD placement in 1976. Figure 3 shows trends in the numbers of English degrees departments have reported granting to men and women over the course of the MLA's studies of PhD placement. (Such data were not collected for the 1978–79 survey.) Since the 1981–82 survey the number of degrees awarded to women has consistently exceeded the number awarded to men. The relative proportions awarded to men and women have remained roughly the same since the mid-1980s, after reversing in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The numbers of degrees awarded to men and women both tended to decline between 1977–78 and 1986–87. However, the number granted to men declined far more sharply, by 45% as compared with 12%

Table 5
Job Placement of English PhDs by Sex, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

	Men		Women	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
PhDs granted	519	42.4	706	57.6
Teaching in higher education	332	70.3	468	73.9
Tenure-track appointment	170	36.0	201	31.8
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	73	15.5	118	18.6
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	33	7.0	57	9.0
Part-time appointment	56	11.9	91	14.4
Tenure-track part-time appointment	0	0.0	1	0.2
All full-time teaching appointments (subtotal)	276	58.5	376	59.4
All full-time non-tenure track appointments (subtotal)	106	22.5	175	27.6
All non-tenure-track appointments (subtotal)	162	34.3	266	42.0
Other higher education placement				
Postdoctoral fellowship	18	3.8	20	3.2
Academic administration	11	2.3	20	3.2
Placement outside higher education	61	12.9	62	9.8
Secondary or elementary school teaching	18	3.8	18	2.8
Government	0	0.0	3	0.5
Not-for-profit organization	12	2.5	17	2.7
For-profit business	23	4.9	17	2.7
Government, not-for-profit, for-profit sectors (subtotal)	35	7.4	37	5.8
Self-employed	8	1.7	7	1.1
Other				
Teaching (classification unknown)	1	0.2	6	0.9
Not employed	49	10.4	57	9.0
Seeking employment	47	10.0	40	6.3
Not seeking employment	2	0.4	17	2.7
PhDs with known employment status	496		647	
PhDs with unknown employment status	22		55	
PhDs with temporary resident status who left the United States	25		18	
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	472		633	

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with a known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees. Data about sex was not reported for one PhD; this missing case has been subtracted from the base numbers used to perform the placement calculations.

for women. Since the 1986–87 survey, the numbers of degrees awarded to men and women have both increased, by 34% for men and 39% for women.

The MLA began to collect data on the employment status of men and women degree recipients with the 1979–80 placement survey. **Table 6** presents the percentages of men and women in the seven major placement categories for the five survey years 1979–80, 1983–84, 1991–92, 1993–94, and 1996–97. The top two rows of table 6 show the numbers and percentages of PhDs the doctorate-granting departments that provided placement

information reported awarding to men and women in each year.

As noted above, table 5 and table 6 show placement rates for men and women who received PhDs in 1996–97 and the nine prior survey years. The next two tables answer a different question: What proportions of the total numbers of placements in various categories went to men and what to women? **Table 7** and **table 8** show these percentages, along with the total number of placements PhDs were reported to have obtained in the various employment categories, for 1996–97 and 1993–94, the two most recent survey years. The placement percentages in

Table 6
Employment Status of English PhDs by Sex and MLA Survey Year (Percentages)

	1979–80		1983–84		1991–92		1993–94		1996–97	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
PhDs granted										
Number	463	465	363	465	459	623	409	574	519	706
Percentage	49.9	50.1	43.3	56.2	42.4	57.6	41.6	58.4	42.4	57.6
Tenure-track appointment	48.4	41.6	45.5	34.3	49.6	52.8	44.5	46.9	37.7	32.8
Non-tenure-track appointment (full-time)	25.3	21.5	22.5	22.0	25.0	18.3	22.7	18.2	21.6	27.2
Non-tenure-track appointment (part-time)	6.0	13.9	9.6	13.1	7.8	11.8	12.5	12.2	11.5	14.1
Postdoctoral fellowship	3.0	1.5	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.7	3.8	3.1
Academic administration	2.3	2.2	1.5	3.5	2.6	3.1	0.3	2.3	2.2	3.1
Placement outside higher education	11.6	12.4	13.8	16.4	7.6	6.7	8.8	7.2	12.3	9.9
Not employed	3.3	7.1	6.9	9.9	6.4	6.4	9.3	11.4	10.3	8.8
No. of recipients on which placement percentages are based	430	411	334	426	421	519	375	516	496	647

Table 7
Percentage of Placements Obtained by Men and Women in Various Employment Categories, PhDs in English, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

	Men	Women	Unknown	Basis for Percentages (No. of degree recipients)
PhDs granted				
Number	519	706	1	
Percentage	42.3	57.6	0.1	1,226
Tenure-track appointment	45.7	54.0	0.3	372
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	38.2	61.8	0.0	191
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	36.7	63.3	0.0	90
Part-time appointment	38.1	61.9	0.0	147
Tenure-track part-time appointment	0.0	100.0	0.0	1
Postdoctoral fellowship	47.4	52.6	0.0	38
Academic administration	35.5	64.5	0.0	31
Elementary school teaching	0.0	100.0	0.0	1
Secondary school teaching	51.4	48.6	0.0	35
Government	0.0	100.0	0.0	3
Not-for-profit organization	41.4	58.6	0.0	29
For-profit business	57.5	42.5	0.0	40
Self-employed	53.3	46.7	0.0	15
Teaching, classification unknown	14.3	85.7	0.0	7
Seeking employment	54.0	46.0	0.0	87
Not seeking employment	10.5	89.5	0.0	19
PhDs with a known employment status and remaining in the United States	42.7	57.2	0.1	1,106
PhDs with an unknown employment status and remaining in the United States	28.6	71.4	0.0	77

Table 8
Percentage of Placements Obtained by Men and Women in Various Employment Categories, PhDs in English, 1993–94 MLA Census of PhD Placement

	Men	Women	Unknown	Basis for Percentages (No. of degree recipients)
PhDs granted				
Number	409	574	4	
Percentage	41.4	58.2	0.4	987
Tenure-track appointment	39.2	60.3	0.5	385
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	50.0	49.1	0.9	112
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	38.3	60.0	1.7	60
Part-time appointment	43.4	56.6	0.0	106
Postdoctoral fellowship	40.0	60.0	0.0	15
Academic administration	7.7	92.3	0.0	13
Secondary school teaching	40.9	59.1	0.0	22
Government	50.0	50.0	0.0	2
Not-for-profit organization	40.0	60.0	0.0	5
For-profit business	40.0	60.0	0.0	15
Self-employed	33.3	66.7	0.0	9
Seeking employment	43.9	56.1	0.0	98
Not seeking employment	0.0	100.0	0.0	3
PhDs with a known employment status and remaining in the United States	41.1	58.5	0.5	845
PhDs with an unknown employment status and remaining in the United States	34.6	65.4	0.0	78

these tables should be read in relation to the figures showing the percentages of men and women in the entire pool of doctorate recipients—the second row of figures in each table. When the placement percentage for men or women in a given row exceeds, matches, or falls short of the percentage of men or women in the entire pool of PhDs, the placements obtained by men or women ex-

ceed, match, or fall short of their representation in the pool of PhDs granted. For example, in 1996–97, men made up 42% of the PhDs and obtained 46% of the tenure-track appointments reported; in the same survey women made up 58% of the PhDs and obtained 54% of the tenure-track appointments. Thus in 1996–97 the tenure-track appointments obtained by men somewhat

Fig. 4
Percentage of English PhDs Granted and Tenure- and Non-Tenure-Track Appointments Obtained, by Sex of Degree Recipients, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

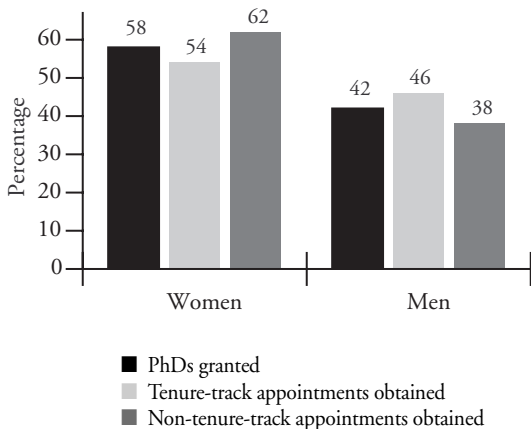
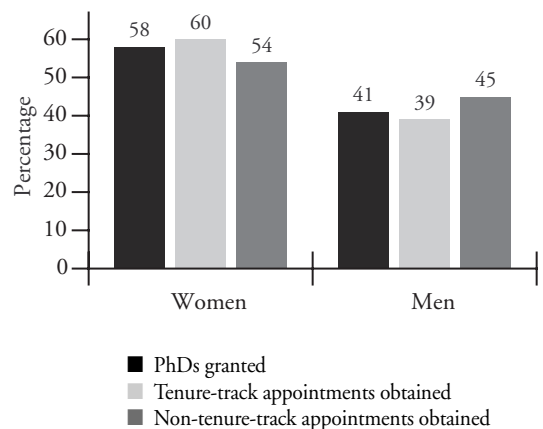


Fig. 5
Percentage of English PhDs Granted and Tenure- and Non-Tenure-Track Appointments Obtained, by Sex of Degree Recipients, 1993–94 MLA Census of PhD Placement



exceeded the proportion of men among all PhDs granted, while those obtained by women fell somewhat short of women's representation in the pool. One should exercise caution when interpreting percentages for rows where the number of placements—the basis for the percentages—is small, since small differences in placement outcomes would make large differences in the percentages.

Figure 4 and figure 5 show these relations in graphic form for tenure-track and non-tenure-track academic placements for the two most recent survey years. The first

column in each group of three shows the percentage of PhDs awarded to men or women; the second and third show the percentage of tenure- and non-tenure-track appointments men and women obtained. When the second or third column stands higher than the first column, the group obtained placements in that category exceeding its representation in the entire pool of doctorates. When one of these columns stands lower, the placements of that type the group obtained fell short of its representation in the pool.

Table 9
Number of English PhDs Granted and Placements Obtained, by Race and Ethnicity, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Unknown	All English PhDs
PhDs granted							
Number	71	40	36	6	1,070	3	1,226
Percentage	5.8%	3.3%	2.9%	0.5%	87.3%	0.2%	–
Teaching in higher education	46	33	25	4	722	2	832
Tenure-track appointment	34	28	13	3	320	2	400
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	4	2	6	0	181	0	193
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	2	1	2	0	85	0	90
Part-time appointment	6	2	4	1	135	0	148
Tenure-track part-time appointment	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other placement in higher education							
Postdoctoral fellowship	1	2	2	1	33	0	39
Academic administration	1	0	0	0	30	0	31
Placement outside higher education	9	2	2	0	112	0	125
Secondary school teaching	1	0	1	0	33	0	35
Elementary school teaching	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Government	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Not-for-profit organization	2	1	0	0	26	0	29
For-profit business	5	0	0	0	35	0	40
Self-employed	1	0	0	0	15	0	16
Other							
Teaching, classification unknown	2	0	1	0	6	0	9
Not employed	6	2	3	1	95	1	108
Seeking employment	6	2	3	1	76	1	89
Not seeking employment	0	0	0	0	19	0	19
PhDs with known employment status	65	39	33	6	998	3	1,144
PhDs with unknown employment status	6	1	3	0	72	0	82
PhDs with temporary resident status who left the United States	26	2	4	0	10	1	43

Note: The numbers of placements shown in this table represent PhDs with a known employment status, including foreign nationals with temporary resident status who returned to their countries of origin after receiving their degrees.

Table 10
Employment Status of New PhDs in English by Race and Ethnicity, 1993–94 and 1996–97, MLA Censuses of PhD Placement (Percentages)

	1993–94		1996–97	
	Minority	White	Minority	White
PhDs granted				
Number	107	863	153	1,070
Percentage	10.8	87.4	12.5	87.3
Tenure-track appointment	67.5	43.2	48.2	31.9
Non-tenure-track appointment (full-time)	7.4	21.8	14.0	26.8
Non-tenure-track appointment (part-time)	10.4	12.7	11.4	13.5
Postdoctoral fellowship	1.3	1.8	5.3	3.2
Academic administration	1.3	1.6	0.9	3.0
Placement outside higher education	2.6	6.7	10.5	11.2
Not employed	7.8	12.3	8.8	9.6
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	77	762	114	990

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees.

In 1993–94 departments did not report information about race or ethnicity for 17 PhDs (1.7% of all PhDs reported), 16 of whom had a known employment status. In 1996–97 departments did not report this information for 3 PhDs (0.2% of all PhDs reported), all of whom had a known employment status. These missing cases are included in the total number used to calculate the proportion of PhDs granted; therefore, the proportions do not sum to 100%.

Numbers and Placements of Minority PhDs

The MLA studies of PhD placement first gathered data about the racial and ethnic background of PhD recipients with the 1991–92 survey. Reliable data about placement by racial and ethnic group became available beginning in 1993–94, when a change in the questionnaire permitted identification of the significant subgroup of minority foreign nationals who return to their countries of origin after receiving their degrees and thus do not participate in the United States job market. **Table 9** shows the number of 1996–97 PhD recipients in the five racial and ethnic groups designated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Very few PhDs are awarded to members of minority groups, and the pool of candidates for entry-level academic positions remains overwhelmingly white.

Table 10 shows placement rates of new minority and white English PhDs for the 1993–94 and 1996–97 place-

ment surveys, the two surveys for which such data have been collected. The proportion of PhDs departments reported awarding to minorities increased from 10.8% in the 1993–94 survey to 12.5% in 1996–97. Between the two surveys the rates of placement to tenure-track positions fell sharply and comparably for both white PhDs (by 26%) and minority PhDs (by 28%), even as the numbers of PhDs departments reported awarding increased by 27% for whites and by 46% for minorities.

While in 1996–97 minority PhDs continued to have a significantly higher rate of placement to tenure-track positions than did whites (49% versus 32%), the number of minority PhDs is so small that the group accounted for only 15% of the PhDs who obtained tenure-track positions. (The comparable figure for 1993–94 is 14%.) The group's presence in the total pool of job seekers is too small to have a significant effect on the ability of whites to secure tenure-track positions.

Placement Findings by Geographic Region of Degree-Granting Institution

PhD placement varies notably by the geographic locations of the degree-granting institutions. **Table 11** shows the job placements obtained by 1996–97 PhDs who received their degrees from institutions located in four regions of the United States. Institutions located in the Northeast had a significantly higher rate of placement to tenure-track appointments in 1996–97 than did institutions in the other three regions. **Table 12** compares placement by region of degree-granting institution for the two most recent survey years, 1993–94 and 1996–97. As the tables indicate, in the three-year interval between the two placement surveys the regional proportions of PhDs awarded remained relatively stable, while the percentages of graduates placed in tenure-track positions changed, particularly in the Midwest and South.

Figure 6 and **figure 7** display these relations for the 1996–97 and 1993–94 surveys, respectively, showing the percentage of PhDs awarded by each region and the percentage shares of tenure-track and non-tenure-track positions graduates from the regions obtained. When the bars within a region are of roughly the same length, the graduates from that region obtained shares of tenure-track and non-tenure-track positions roughly equivalent to their representation in the pool of PhDs.

Figure 6 shows that in 1996–97 institutions in the Northeast awarded 25% of all doctorate degrees and that those doctorates obtained 33% of all tenure-track positions. Midwestern institutions awarded 26% of all doctorate degrees and their graduates obtained 23% of all tenure-track positions. Institutions in the South awarded 29% of all doctorate degrees and their graduates ob-

Table 11
Job Placement of English PhDs by Geographic Region of Degree-Granting Institution, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement (Percentages)

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	All Regions
Number of departments					
Contacted	37	36	46	27	146
Responding	35	35	44	27	141
Granting PhDs	35	32	39	27	133
PhDs reported					
Number	318	318	349	241	1,226
Percentage	25.9	25.9	28.5	19.7	100.0
Teaching in higher education	75.6	69.6	70.6	74.8	72.4
Tenure-track appointment	44.4	29.4	32.3	27.5	33.6
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	10.8	20.1	16.8	22.5	17.3
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	6.8	7.2	10.8	7.3	8.1
Part-time appointment	13.3	13.0	10.8	17.4	13.3
Tenure-track part-time appointment	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other placement in higher education					
Postdoctoral fellowship	3.2	3.8	2.8	4.1	3.4
Academic administration	2.9	4.4	2.8	0.5	2.8
Placement outside higher education	8.6	10.6	14.2	10.6	11.1
Secondary school teaching	2.9	2.0	4.7	2.8	3.2
Elementary school teaching	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1
Government	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.3
Not-for-profit organization	1.4	2.7	3.7	2.3	2.6
For-profit business	3.2	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.6
Self-employed	1.1	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.4
Other					
Teaching, classification unknown	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.6
Not employed	8.6	10.9	8.9	10.1	9.6
Seeking employment	6.1	10.2	6.0	9.6	7.9
Not seeking employment	2.5	0.7	2.8	0.5	1.7
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	279	293	316	218	1,106

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with a known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees.

tained 27% of all tenure-track positions. Institutions in the West awarded 20% of all doctorate degrees and their graduates obtained 16% of all tenure-track positions.

These regional differences have not remained constant over the two surveys for which these data have been coded. Figure 7 shows how different the pattern was in the 1993–94 survey. In 1993–94 institutions in the Northeast awarded 27% of all doctorate degrees and those doctorates obtained 24% of all tenure-track positions. Midwestern institutions awarded 27% of all doctorate degrees and their graduates obtained 30% of all tenure-track positions. Institutions in the South awarded 28% of all doctorate degrees and their graduates obtained 31% of all tenure-track positions. Institu-

tions in the West awarded 19% of all 1993–94 doctorates and their graduates obtained 14% of all tenure-track positions.

Placement Findings by Type of Degree Program

Table 13 shows numbers of English doctorates and placements reported in four English programs, literature, rhetoric and composition, creative writing, and other (including critical and cultural studies). Placements are reported numerically rather than by percentages because of the relatively small numbers of doctorates awarded by nonliterature programs.

Table 12
Job Placement of English PhDs by Region of Institution, 1993–94 and 1996–97 MLA Censuses of PhD Placement (Percentages)

	Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
	1993–94	1996–97	1993–94	1996–97	1993–94	1996–97	1993–94	1996–97
Number of departments granting PhDs	36	35	31	32	40	39	21	27
PhDs granted								
Number	262	318	266	318	272	349	187	241
Percentage	26.5	25.9	27.0	25.9	27.6	28.5	18.9	19.7
Tenure-track appointment	42.3	44.4	50.7	29.4	52.3	32.3	33.3	27.5
Non-tenure-track appointment (full-time)	20.9	17.6	16.7	27.3	16.7	27.5	23.9	29.8
Non-tenure-track appointment (part-time)	13.5	13.3	14.1	13.0	9.8	10.8	13.1	17.4
Postdoctoral fellowship	0.5	3.2	1.3	3.8	1.7	2.8	4.2	4.1
Academic administration	2.3	2.9	2.2	4.4	1.3	2.8	0.0	0.5
Placement outside higher education	8.4	8.6	4.4	10.6	7.2	14.2	4.8	10.6
Not employed	12.1	8.6	10.6	10.9	6.8	8.9	20.8	10.1
No. of degree recipients on which placement percentages are based	215	279	227	293	235	316	168	218

Note: The placement percentages shown in this table are based on the number of PhDs with a known employment status who remained in the United States after receiving their degrees.

Fig. 6
Percentage of English PhDs Granted and Tenure- and Non-Tenure-Track Appointments Each Region's Graduates Obtained, 1996–97 MLA Census of PhD Placement

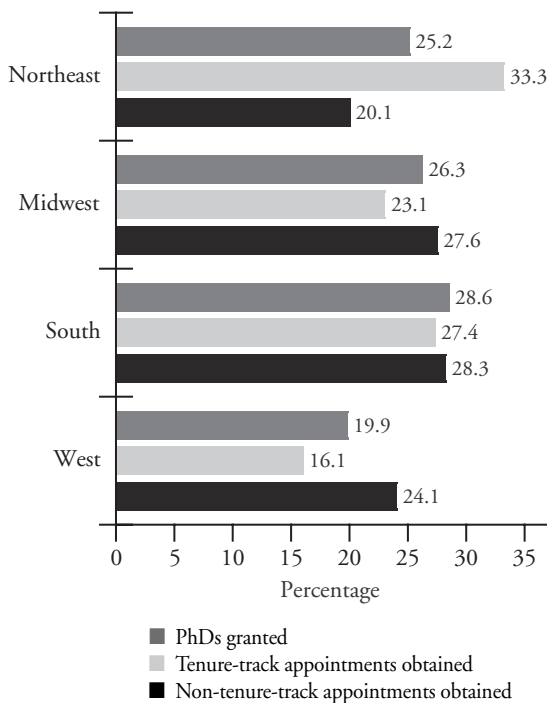


Fig. 7
Percentage of English PhDs Granted and Tenure- and Non-Tenure-Track Appointments Each Region's Graduates Obtained, 1993–94 MLA Census of PhD Placement

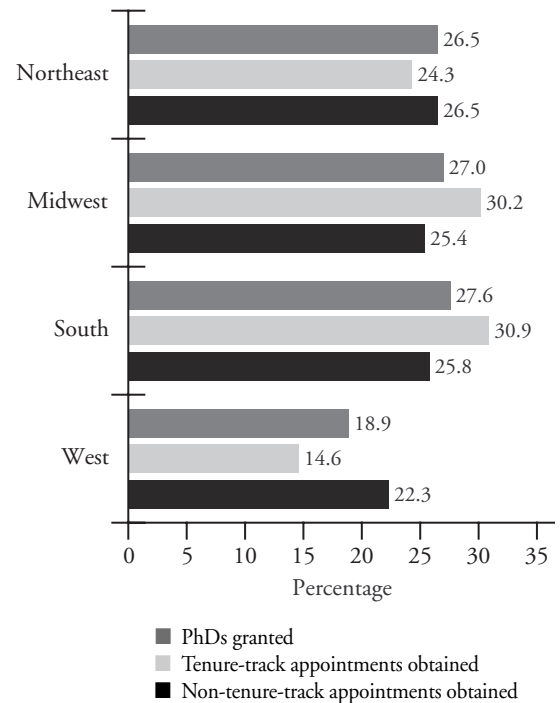


Table 13
Numbers of 1996–97 English PhDs Granted and Placed, by Type of Degree Program

	Literature	Rhetoric	Creative Writing	Other	Total
PhDs granted					
Number	968	116	50	92	1,226
Percentage	79.0%	9.5%	4.1%	7.5%	–
Teaching in higher education	651	95	30	56	832
Tenure-track appointment	309	64	8	19	400
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, renewable	145	24	6	18	193
Full-time non-tenure-track appointment, one-year	75	2	6	7	90
Part-time appointment	121	5	10	12	148
Tenure-track part-time appointment	1	0	0	0	1
Other higher education placement					
Postdoctoral fellowship	32	1	1	5	39
Academic administration	22	4	1	4	31
Placement outside higher education	107	4	3	11	125
Secondary school teaching	31	1	0	3	35
Elementary school teaching	1	0	0	0	1
Government	2	1	0	1	4
Not-for-profit organization	27	1	0	1	29
For-profit business	32	1	2	5	40
Self-employed	14	0	1	1	16
Other					
Teaching, classification unknown	6	0	0	3	9
Not employed	86	7	8	7	108
Seeking employment	72	6	5	6	89
Not seeking employment	14	1	3	1	19
Employment unknown	64	5	7	6	82

Note: The numbers of placements shown in this table represent PhDs with known employment status, including foreign nationals with temporary resident status who returned to their countries of origin after receiving their degrees.