

2013-2014 APSA DEPARTMENTAL SURVEY

Faculty Salaries

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Foreword

We report findings on salaries for faculty of political science from the 2013-2014 academic year. This includes data for starting salaries and for average salaries by faculty rank. In addition, results are separated out into reported values at public and private colleges and universities, and by the highest degree offered by political science and government departments. These data may be most beneficial to faculty of political science, department chairs, and university administrators looking to understand their faculty salaries in the context of those salaries reported by peer institutions.

Based on the data reported, we find that salaries for faculty of political science vary widely. The median starting salary for newly hired tenure track assistant professors is \$60,000, but respondents report salaries ranging from a minimum of \$35,000 to a maximum of \$95,000. Likewise, salaries reported for all assistant professors (regardless of date of hire) ranged from \$30,000 to \$106,564, while those reported for associate professors ranged from \$44,000 to \$165,688, and salaries for full professors ranged from \$54,000 to \$222,322.

These data were for the first time collected as whole number values instead of reporting for salaries in particular ranges. The 2013-14 APSA Department Survey was administered to 1,033 departments of Political Science and Government at 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. 254 departments responded to the survey for a response rate of 25.3% for all programs. Departments offering a BA as the highest degree (including departments of political science and government, combined departments of political science and another field, and social science departments) had a 20.3% (n = 159) response rate; MA-granting departments had a 32.6% (n = 43) response rate; and PhD-granting departments had a 43.7% (n = 52) response rate. These data are not weighted. The findings presented here are descriptive in nature only and may not fully represent trends in faculty salaries.

We encourage you to read the report carefully and to contact us with any specific questions you may have. To review past reports on these and a number of other subjects, please visit the American Political Science Association website at www.apsanet.org. We welcome your suggestions and ideas, and we will aim to respond to broader questions that members bring to our attention in subsequent reports, materials, and research projects. Please contact us at surveys@apsanet.org, or by calling the main APSA office number at 202-483-2512.

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Key Findings

Starting Salary

- Departments were asked to indicate the starting salary for new hires in their department in the academic year 2013-14. 113 departments reported salaries for newly hired tenure track assistant professors in 2013-2014, and 60 departments reported salaries for newly hired non-tenure track assistant professors. Because not all responding departments reported new hires, there are fewer reporting departments for these data than for responding departments overall.
- **Tenure track starting salary:** The average annual starting salary for newly hired tenure-track assistant professors was \$59,726 and the median was \$60,000, with a range from \$35,000 to \$95,000 per year (Table 1).
- **Public college and university tenure track starting salary by department's highest degree offered:** Reported annual salaries averaged \$71,085 for newly hired tenure track assistant professors at public PhD-granting departments; \$58,786 at public MA-granting departments; and \$55,000 at public BA-granting departments (Table 2).
- **Non-tenure track starting salary:** The average annual starting salary for newly hired full-time, non-tenure-track faculty was \$46,214, with salaries ranging from \$28,000 to \$76,000 per year (Table 3).

Average salary for assistant, associate and full professors

- Average salaries reported by departments had large ranges. Reported ranges were broader for associate and full professors than for assistant professors (Tables 1).
- Reported salaries for all tenure track assistant professors were only slightly higher than those reported for newly hired tenure track assistant professors. The average annual salary for assistant professors was \$60,869, and reported salaries ranged from \$30,000 to \$106,564 (Tables 1, 4).
- The average annual salary for associate professors was \$73,598, and reported salaries ranged from \$44,000 to \$165,688 (Tables 1, 5).
- The average annual salary for full professors was \$95,000, and reported salaries ranged from \$54,000 to \$222,322 (Tables 1, 6).

Citation: American Political Science Association. 2015. "2013-2014 Salaries for Political Science Faculty".

Table 1. Average Salaries by Faculty Rank

	Starting Salary: Full Time Tenure Track	Starting Salary: Full Time Non- Tenure Track	Assistant Professor	Associate Professor	Full Professor
N	113	60	167	168	163
Mean	\$ 59,726	\$ 46,214	\$ 60,870	\$ 73,598	\$ 95,091
Median	\$ 60,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 70,856	\$ 90,000
Minimum	\$ 35,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 44,000	\$ 54,000
Maximum	\$ 95,000	\$ 76,000	\$ 106,564	\$ 165,688	\$ 222,322

Table 2. Average Starting Salary for Newly Hired Tenure-Track Assistant Professors

	All Depts.	PhD-granting Depts.	MA-granting Depts.	BA Depts. (Political Science only)	BA Depts. (Combined w/ other field)	Social Science Depts.
Public	n 76	27	21	17	8	3
	Mean \$ 61,129	\$ 71,085	\$ 58,786	\$ 55,412	\$ 48,375	\$ 54,333
	Median \$ 61,002	\$ 70,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 47,500	\$ 50,000
Private	n 37	5	1	25	3	3
	Mean \$ 56,845	\$ 76,800	\$ 60,000	\$ 55,971	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,667
	Median \$ 58,000	\$ 76,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 48,000

Table 3. Average Starting Salary for Newly Hired Non-Tenure-Track Assistant Professors

	All Depts.	PhD-granting Depts.	MA-granting Depts.	BA Depts. (Political Science only)	BA Depts. (Combined w/ other field)	Social Science Depts.
Public	n 43	17	12	8	5	1
	Mean \$ 46,584	\$ 50,229	\$ 43,019	\$ 45,375	\$ 46,800	\$ 36,000
	Median \$ 45,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 40,500	\$ 40,000	\$ 36,000
Private	n 17	3	1	11	1	1
	Mean \$ 45,278	\$ 54,333	\$ 48,000	\$ 44,885	\$ 37,000	\$ 28,000
	Median \$ 44,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 28,000

Table 4. Average Salary for Assistant Professors							
		All Departments	PhD-granting Depts.	MA-granting Depts.	BA Depts. (Political Science only)	BA Depts. (Combined w/ other field)	Social Science Depts.
Public	n	100	29	28	27	11	5
	Mean	\$ 61,120	\$ 73,676	\$ 60,679	\$ 55,012	\$ 48,636	\$ 51,200
	Median	\$ 60,000	\$ 73,742	\$ 60,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 45,000
Private	n	67	9	4	42	8	4
	Mean	\$ 60,497	\$ 83,078	\$ 59,250	\$ 58,148	\$ 55,425	\$ 45,750
	Median	\$ 60,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 59,500	\$ 59,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 48,000

Table 5. Average Salary for Associate Professors							
		All Departments	PhD-granting Depts.	MA-granting Depts.	BA Depts. (Political Science only)	BA Depts. (Combined w/ other field)	Social Science Depts.
Public	n	96	28	27	26	10	5
	Mean	\$ 73,691	\$ 89,928	\$ 72,459	\$ 66,462	\$ 57,500	\$ 59,400
	Median	\$ 72,689	\$ 86,287	\$ 70,711	\$ 65,000	\$ 55,500	\$ 52,000
Private	n	72	9	4	48	8	3
	Mean	\$ 73,472	\$ 110,391	\$ 75,000	\$ 69,270	\$ 63,313	\$ 55,000
	Median	\$ 68,000	\$ 101,404	\$ 75,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 60,000

Table 6. Average Salary for Full Professors							
		All Departments	PhD-granting Depts.	MA-granting Depts.	BA Depts. (Political Science only)	BA Depts. (Combined w/ other field)	Social Science Depts.
Public	n	95	28	27	25	11	4
	Mean	\$ 97,795	\$ 124,895	\$ 92,547	\$ 84,946	\$ 75,909	\$ 84,000
	Median	\$ 92,823	\$ 121,212	\$ 92,814	\$ 80,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 71,000
Private	n	68	8	4	44	8	4
	Mean	\$ 91,314	\$ 140,606	\$ 98,750	\$ 85,261	\$ 78,750	\$ 77,000
	Median	\$ 85,000	\$ 128,607	\$ 95,000	\$ 82,488	\$ 72,500	\$ 75,000