

Report on the Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2013–14

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IN DECEMBER 2015, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, its annual report on the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), the federally sponsored census of persons who receive doctoral degrees from universities in the United States each year.¹ The 2014 SED counted 892 doctorate recipients in English and American language and literature and 676 in foreign languages between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014. The number of doctorate recipients in English is nearly even with the 887 reported in the 2013 SED; the number in foreign languages is down from the 701 reported in the 2013 SED.

Figures 1 and 2 show the larger context for these degree conferrals. **Figure 1** gives doctorates by broad field in selected years from 1984 to 2014. Across these years, the humanities' share of doctorate conferrals has remained relatively stable, ranging from 9.8% in 1989 to 12.7% in 1999.² The most dramatic decline in share was in education (from 21.7% in 1984 to 8.9% in 2014), the most dramatic increase in engineering (from 9.3% in 1984 to 17.7% in 2014).

Figure 2 shows a breakdown for various areas within the humanities for degrees conferred between 2003 and 2014. Foreign languages account for 11%–13% of humanities doctorates in each of these years, letters for 26%–30%, and history for 18%–22%.³ The overall picture for the humanities in figure 1 and for letters and foreign languages in figure 2 is one of incremental growth and a stable share.

Trends in the Number of Doctorate Recipients in English and Foreign Languages

Figure 3 shows the number of doctorate recipients in letters and in foreign languages, as reported on the SED from 1958 to 2014. The historic high in 1973 is evident, as is the trough in the 1980s. Figures 4a, 4b, and 5 break out the fields included in the category *letters* in the 2014 report: English language and literature, American literature, folklore, creative writing, classics, speech and rhetorical studies, rhetoric and composition, and comparative literature. **Figure 4a** gathers the fields that contribute to English and American language and literature, and **figure 4b** shows the remaining subfields.

The trend line for foreign languages in figure 3, unlike that for letters, remains fairly flat over most of the past ten years, with modest rises between 2011 and 2013. Over the past fifteen years, the number of foreign language doctorate recipients has ranged from 587 to 701, standing close to 630 for the five years from 1998 to 2002 and close to 600 for most survey years from 2003 to 2010 and ticking back up to 644, 684, and 702 in 2011, 2012, and 2013. The number falls to 676 in 2014.

Women accounted for 57.6% of the degrees aggregated as letters and 63.0% of foreign language doctorates in 2014 (*Doctorate Recipients . . . 2014*, table 16). Of the

doctorate recipients in all humanities fields in 2014, 49.2% were men and 50.8% women, a significant shift from the 55.4% men and 44.6% women who received humanities degrees twenty years earlier, in 1984 (table 14).

When degree recipients in English and American language and literature are counted separately from other letters fields, as they are in figure 4a, the downward trend from 1997 to 2009 is more apparent (cf. the flatter line in fig. 3). The number ticked back up slightly from 2009 to 2012: there were 926 recipients of doctorates in English and American language and literature in 2010, 900 in 2011, and 985 in 2012, but these numbers are still, respectively, 15.4%, 17.7%, and 10.0% below the recent high of 1,094 reached in 1997. Since 1995, when the number of recipients of doctorates in English literature alone grew to a recent peak of 706, the number has dropped to 354 in 2011, 423 in 2012, 398 in 2013, and 393 in 2014, declines of 49.9%, 40.1%, 43.6%, and 44.3%, respectively. (See [app. 1](#) for the numbers for all fields in letters and all years from 1958 to 2014.)

Comparing figures 4a and 4b illustrates that, in percentage terms, the growth in recent years has been steeper in the categories other than English and American language and literature (but bear in mind the different scales of the two figures). Figure 4b shows the subfields folklore, creative writing, comparative literature, classics, speech and rhetorical studies, and rhetoric and composition—a category added in 2012 that clearly takes some portion of the degrees formerly designated speech and rhetorical studies, as we see in the shift from 2011 to 2012 in figures 4b and 5. Creative writing was added in 2007 and showed modest but steady growth until 2012 and then leveled off.

Figure 5 gathers the several categories that are most usually represented in English departments: creative writing, speech and rhetorical studies and rhetoric and composition, American literature, English language, and English literature (somewhat variously aggregated over the years). Over the past twenty years, this group of degrees has fluctuated by a couple of hundred degrees between the low of 1,033 in 2009 and the recent high of 1,285 in 2012. English language and literature's share of these doctorates has declined since the early 1970s (from 68.5% in 1973 to 44.5% in 2014), whereas American literature's has gained (from 15.7% in 1973 to 28.8% in 2014), and new categories have emerged. In 2007, the SED counted 65 doctorate recipients in creative writing; the number increased to 73, 76, 81, 85, and 93 from 2008 to 2012, or from 6.2% in 2007 to 7.1% in 2012 of the total number of doctorate recipients in the subfields in figure 5. It then drops to 79 (6.5%) in 2013 and 86 (7.1%) in 2014. The rhetoric fields account for 19.6% of these doctorate recipients in 2014, American literature for 33.6%, English language for 12.2%, and English literature for 32.3%.

Trends for foreign language and literature fields show complex patterns of increases and declines, as we see in figures 6 and 7. **Figure 6** shows the number of doctorate recipients in French, German, and Spanish—the three language fields that on average graduate more than 80 doctorate recipients each year—and Italian. All these fields experienced growth from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. The number of doctorate recipients in French grew by almost 50%, from about 100 to about 150; in German by as much as a third, from about 75 to about 100; and in Spanish by nearly 60%, from about 130 to about 200. But of the three, only for Spanish has

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the increase been sustained, leveling off to about 240 over 2001–10 and ticking up to 262 in 2012 and to 281 in 2013, then dropping to 265 in 2014. The number of doctorate recipients in German in 2014 (84) was 20.0% below the number in 1993 (105); by contrast, the number for Spanish in 2014 (265, including Latin American)⁴ was 48.9% higher than that in 1993 (178).

Over the eleven years from 1987 to 1997, German, French, and Spanish graduated on average around 80, 125, and 180 doctorate recipients each year, respectively. Since 1998, the averages for German and French have hardly changed, at about 80 and 125 degree recipients per year, respectively, whereas Spanish has averaged about 240 per year, nearly 35% greater than its average for the years 1987 to 1997. Italian has shown growth in most recent years, reaching a peak of 51 doctorate recipients in 2012, twice the number of forty years ago (whereas in the same year the number of doctorate recipients in French was only half that of 1972).

Fields graduating fewer than 50 degree recipients in recent years show more erratic trends on a smaller scale in [figure 7](#). Like French and German, Russian and other Slavic languages saw increased degree production from the 1980s into the 1990s but mostly decreases since the late 1990s. In 2014, each of these languages has shown modest fluctuations from its average number of degrees since 2000: Chinese at 17 (average 24), Russian and Slavic at 25 (average 33), Japanese at 23 (average 20), and Arabic at 14 (average 8). Even where there have been increases, the number of degree recipients in these fields remains relatively small, with considerable year-to-year fluctuations, and the smaller numbers create seemingly dramatic rises and falls in graph form.

Postgraduation Plans and Job Placement

The SED inquires about doctorate recipients' postgraduation plans. [Table 1](#) presents these data, along with those for history and for other humanities fields. Of the 1,553 doctorate recipients in letters in 2014, 1,293 reported their postgraduate status. Of that number, 47.1% reported having definite employment at the time of graduation, 7.1% had definite postdoctoral study, and 41.9% were seeking positions. Of the 560 doctorate recipients in foreign languages who reported their postgraduate status, 51.1% reported having definite employment at the time of graduation, 5.7% had definite postdoctoral study, and 38.4% were seeking positions. The number of humanities doctorate recipients reporting definite employment at the time of graduation declined by 7.5% from 2012 to 2013 and by 6.6% from 2013 to 2014.

For those graduates who reported having definite employment or postgraduation study, [table 2](#) shows additional detail about the types of placements graduates reported within each postgraduation status. Placements outside postsecondary education remain rare across the humanities; in 2012, 2013, and 2014, academia was the employment destination for around nine-tenths of the graduates in foreign languages and in letters who had definite employment plans at the time of graduation. In fact, numbers in some other categories are so low that government reporting regulations require them to be suppressed.

[Figure 8](#) compares the job placement trend line for humanities degree recipients with those from education, social sciences, and other nonscience fields over the

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past twenty years; **figure 9** compares humanities with engineering, life sciences, and physical sciences. The figures pick up in 1994, just after a decline in job placement prospects that began in the 1980s. The drop in the 1990s was especially steep and deep in the humanities and in engineering—more than 11 percentage points, from 67.6% to 56.1% of humanities graduates with definite plans for employment or study at the time of graduation between 1989 and 1997 and from 67.6% to 55.7% of graduates in engineering between 1989 and 1993. The figures show modest recovery up to 2006 in the percentage of humanities graduates with definite plans for employment or study at the time of graduation and then a steady decline since then.

Although employment prospects for graduates in all fields rise and fall with economic cycles, graduates of doctoral humanities programs have consistently had the lowest rate of definite placement at the time of receiving the degree of all seven disciplinary areas displayed in figures 8 and 9. Only in engineering, the field where placement prospects have seen both the steepest declines and most pronounced recoveries, have graduates' postgraduation prospects fallen to a level parallel with or below that for graduates in the humanities. Not to be ignored either is the coincidence of reduced placement prospects and the significantly increased numbers of doctorate recipients in English and other modern languages that characterized the early 1990s.

At the same time, any assessment of placement trends for humanities doctorate recipients needs to be cognizant of the master's degree as a de facto degree qualification for a large share of postsecondary faculty positions in four-year as well as two-year institutions. The 2004 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:04), now a dozen years old, documented the substantial population of humanities faculty members teaching off the tenure track with a master's degree as their highest degree. In both two- and four-year institutions, 76,700 humanities faculty members held a master's degree, or 45.1% of the entire complement of 169,900 faculty members teaching in the humanities disciplines, full- or part-time, on or off the tenure track as of fall 2003 (these figures are weighted estimates from the data collection period for NSOPF:04, which was based on a sample of some 35,000 faculty members). In four-year institutions—where 94.9% of the 55,200 tenured and tenure-track faculty members in humanities fields held a doctorate—28,500 (57.2%) of the 49,800 non-tenure-track faculty members held a master's degree as their highest degree. An estimated 32,200 (29.7%) of all 108,300 humanities faculty members in four-year institutions held a master's degree as their highest degree.⁵ Thus teaching in four- as well as two-year colleges clearly figures as a significant employment destination for graduates from the field's master's degree programs, as the ADE Ad Hoc Committee on the Master's Degree remarked in its 2011 report (*Rethinking*).

Years to Degree and Amount of Educational Debt

Figure 10 shows time to degree (since receiving the baccalaureate and since starting graduate school) for humanities doctorate recipients in selected years since 1970, showing a gradual increase from 6.0 years in 1970 to a peak of 10.4 years in 1990 and then a reduction to 9.3 years in 2011, 9.0 years in 2012, and 9.2 years in 2013 and 2014—still well above the median 7.5 years for all fields and significantly

shorter only than the median for education (11.7 years). Recipients of doctorates in life sciences in 2014 took 6.7 years from starting graduate school to complete the degree, in physical sciences 6.5 years, and in social sciences 7.8 years (see table 31 in the 2014 SED report for data on time to degree for recipients of doctorates in all fields).

Table 3 shows average debt levels for the seven broad fields of study and the percentage of graduates in 2014, 2013, and 2012 in each field that graduated debt-free or with various levels of debt. Recipients of humanities doctorates in 2014 held average undergraduate educational debts of \$9,025, 13.2% higher than the \$7,976 mean for all disciplines; average graduate debt of \$22,405, 43.7% higher than the \$15,591 mean for all disciplines; and total average cumulative debt of \$29,953, 33.8% higher than the \$22,392 mean for all disciplines. Graduates in fields other than those specified in table 3, in education, and in social sciences had more cumulative educational debt in 2014—\$30,776 in other fields, \$36,260 in education, and \$34,999 in the social sciences—and the three remaining disciplines had significantly less (less than half in engineering and physical sciences) than humanities graduates.

The increases in cumulative debt from 2012 to 2014 were thus 4.2% for all fields, 2.3% for humanities, 5.0% for social sciences, 13.9% for education, 6.9% for life sciences, 1.5% for physical sciences, 4.2% for engineering, and 8.7% for other fields. Over this period, the cumulative rate of inflation in the United States was 5.2% (*US Inflation Calculator*).

Race and Ethnicity

Table 4 reports race and ethnicity for doctorate recipients in 2012, 2013, and 2014 in all fields and in humanities disciplines. In 2014, 71.1% of recipients of foreign language doctorates were white, 18.9% Hispanic, 5.1% Asian, 1.7% black, and 0.4% American Indian or Alaska Native. In letters, 83.2% of 2014 doctorate recipients were white, 5.2% Hispanic, 3.4% Asian, 2.8% black, and 0.4% American Indian or Alaska Native. Among these data, only the percentage of foreign language doctorates who are Hispanic or Latino significantly exceeds the percentage across all fields for races other than white.

Doug Steward

Notes

1. This report covers doctorates conferred in humanities subfields from 1958 to 2014. Over that span, the categories the SED used to report data by humanities subfield changed several times. The historical breakdown of doctorates conferred by subfield over the period 1958–2012 is drawn from a custom data run of the SED for the MLA by the NORC, at the University of Chicago.

2. As constituents of the major category *humanities*, the SED includes *foreign languages*, *history*, *letters*, and *other humanities*. Where totals are broken out in more detail—by gender, for example, as in SED table 16—numbers for some subfields (like *creative writing*) that have smaller numbers of degree recipients are not reported separately but collected within a subcategory named, somewhat confusingly, *letters, aggregated*.

3. The category *letters* is complex and, as figures 4a, 4b, and 5 show, changes over time. In 1958–68, English degrees were labeled *English and American literature*. In 1969–82, they were split between *English language and literature* and *American literature*. In 1983–2013, the categories were *English language*, *English literature (British and Commonwealth)*, and *American literature*. In 1958–75, the only other letters

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categories were *speech and rhetorical studies* and *classics*. In 1976–2003, the categories included *comparative literature*, *speech and rhetorical studies*, and *classics*. The category *folklore* was added in 2004, and *creative writing* in 2007.

In 2012, *rhetoric and composition* was added, apparently taking some share of the degrees previously labeled *speech and rhetorical studies*. The category *speech and rhetorical studies* runs the entire length of the SED's series, that of *rhetoric and composition* only the most recent years. The two categories have been combined in figures 4b and 5, as the new category clearly drew from the older, which drops notably in 2012.

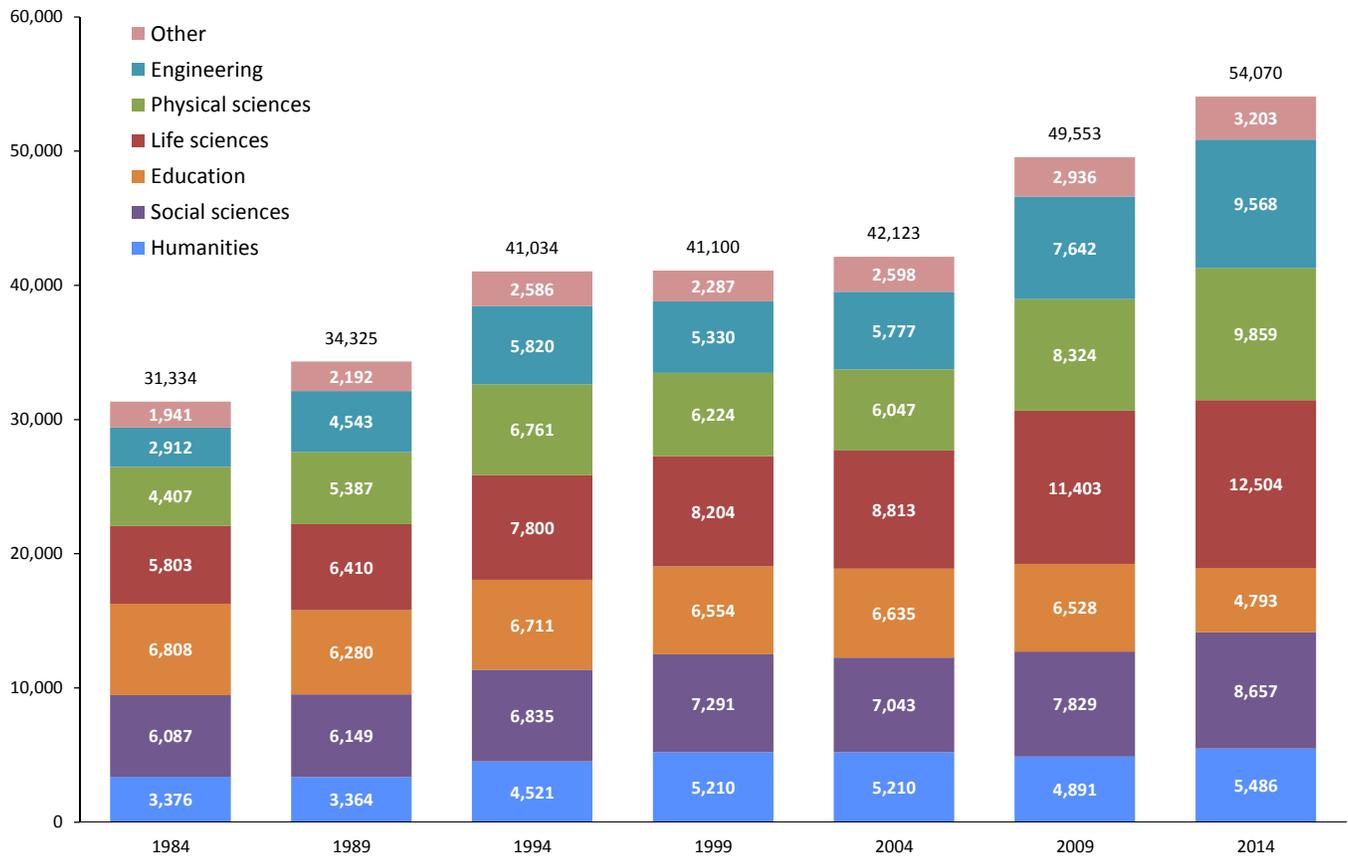
4. The category *Latin American languages and literatures* was added in 2012 as a way of allowing degree recipients to distinguish themselves from those specializing in peninsular literatures. The category is not specifically Spanish-language, however; it could logically include not only Portuguese and French but also Native languages in Latin America. Figure 6 does combine *Latin American* with *Spanish*, since the vast majority of degrees in the new category would have been counted among the degrees in Spanish in previous years.

5. By comparison, NSOPF:04 found that 17.0% of faculty members in the social sciences and 16.8% of faculty members in the natural sciences at four-year institutions held a master's degree as their highest degree.

Works Cited

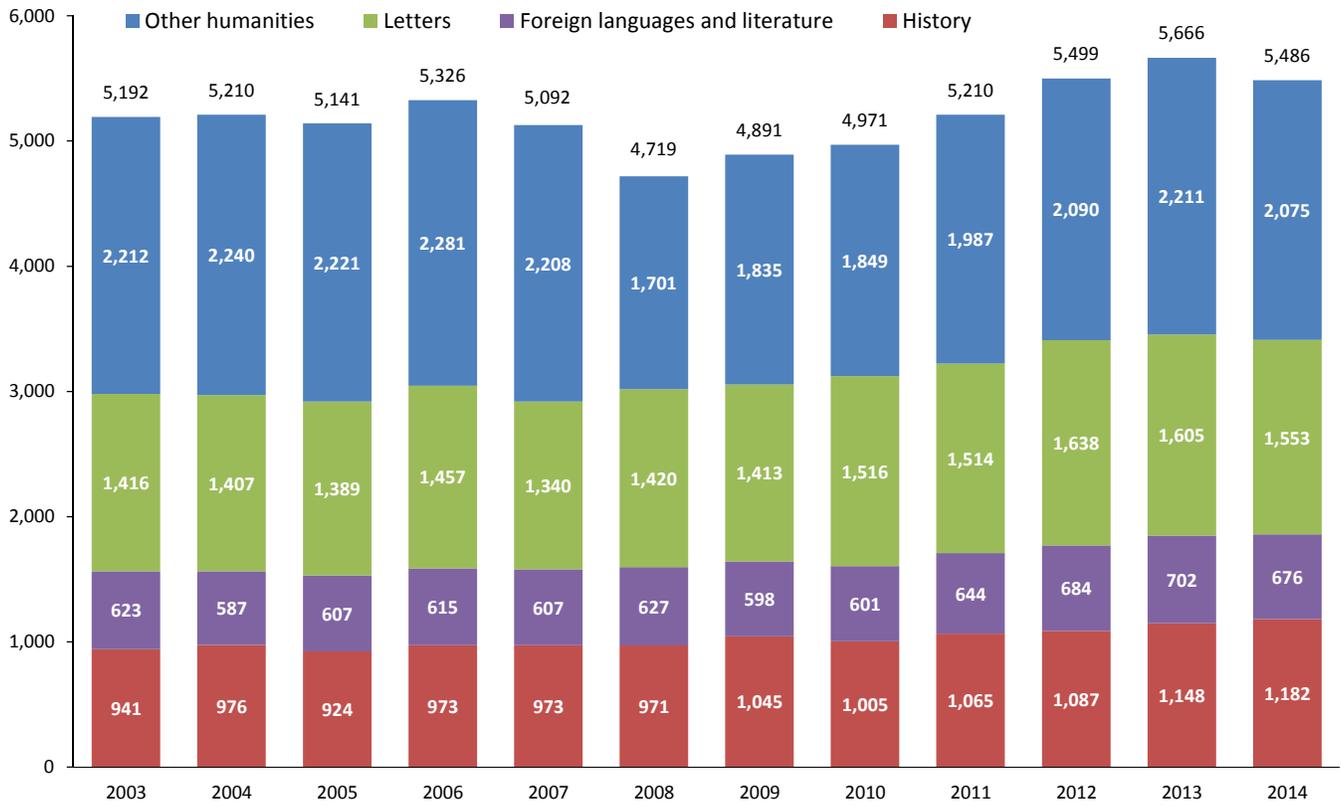
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Fig. 1
Number of Doctorate Recipients by Broad Field, 1984–2014



Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, table 12.

Fig. 2
Number of Humanities Doctorate Recipients, 2003–14



Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, table 13.

Fig. 3
Number of Doctorate Recipients in Letters and Foreign Languages, 1958–2014

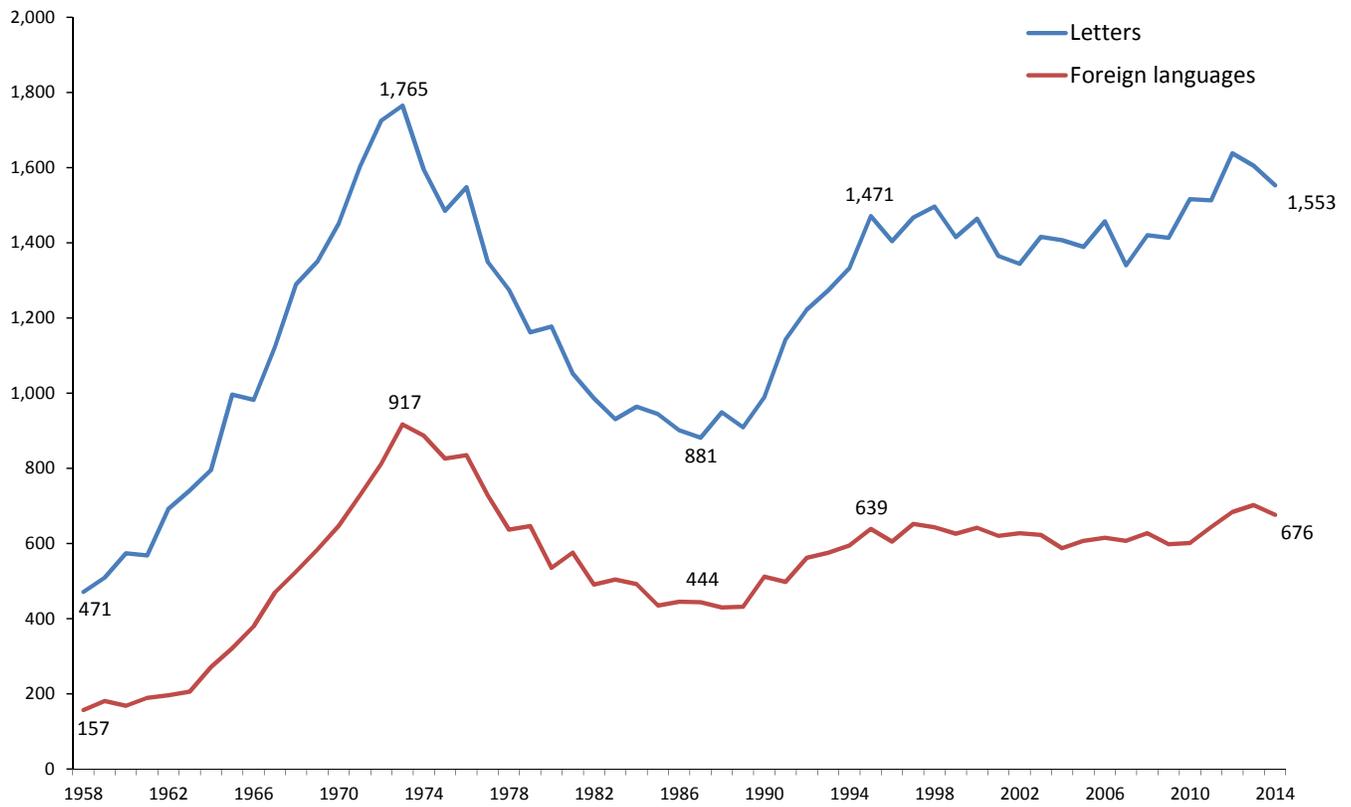


Fig. 4a
Number of Doctorate Recipients in English and American Language and Literature, 1958–2014

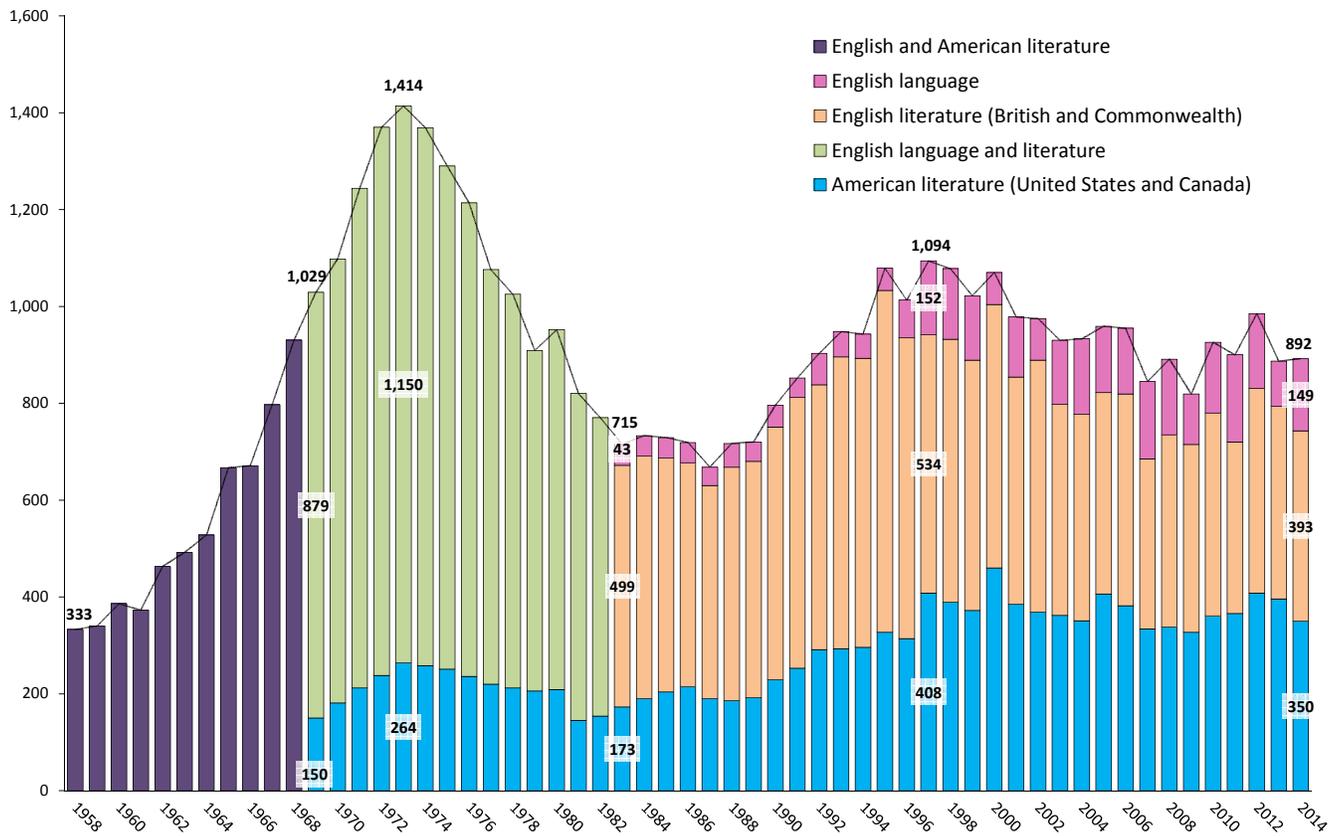


Fig. 4b
Number of Doctorate Recipients in Other Letters Fields, 1958–2014

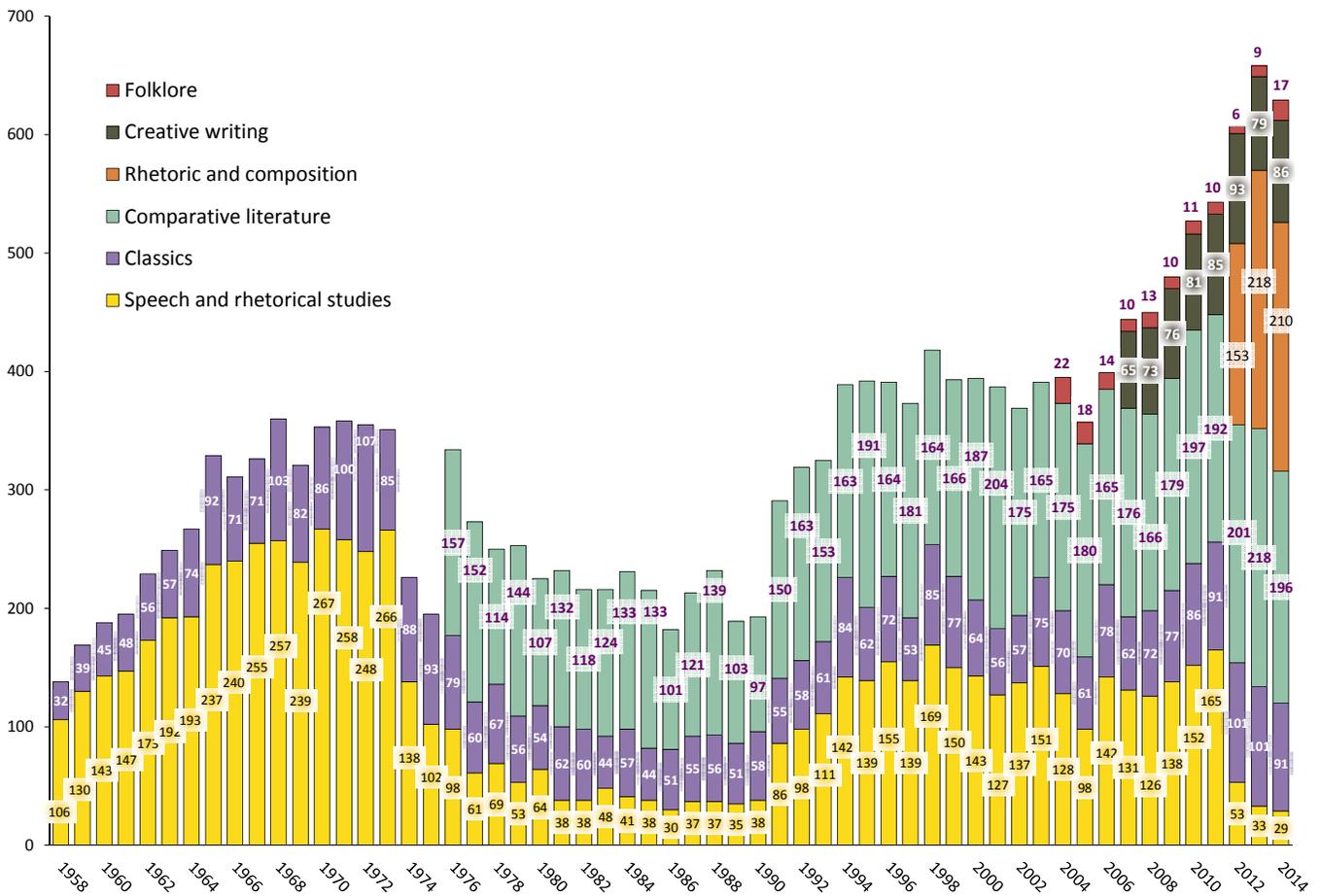


Fig. 5
Number of Doctorate Recipients in English and American Language and Literature, Speech and Rhetorical Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, and Creative Writing, 1958–2014

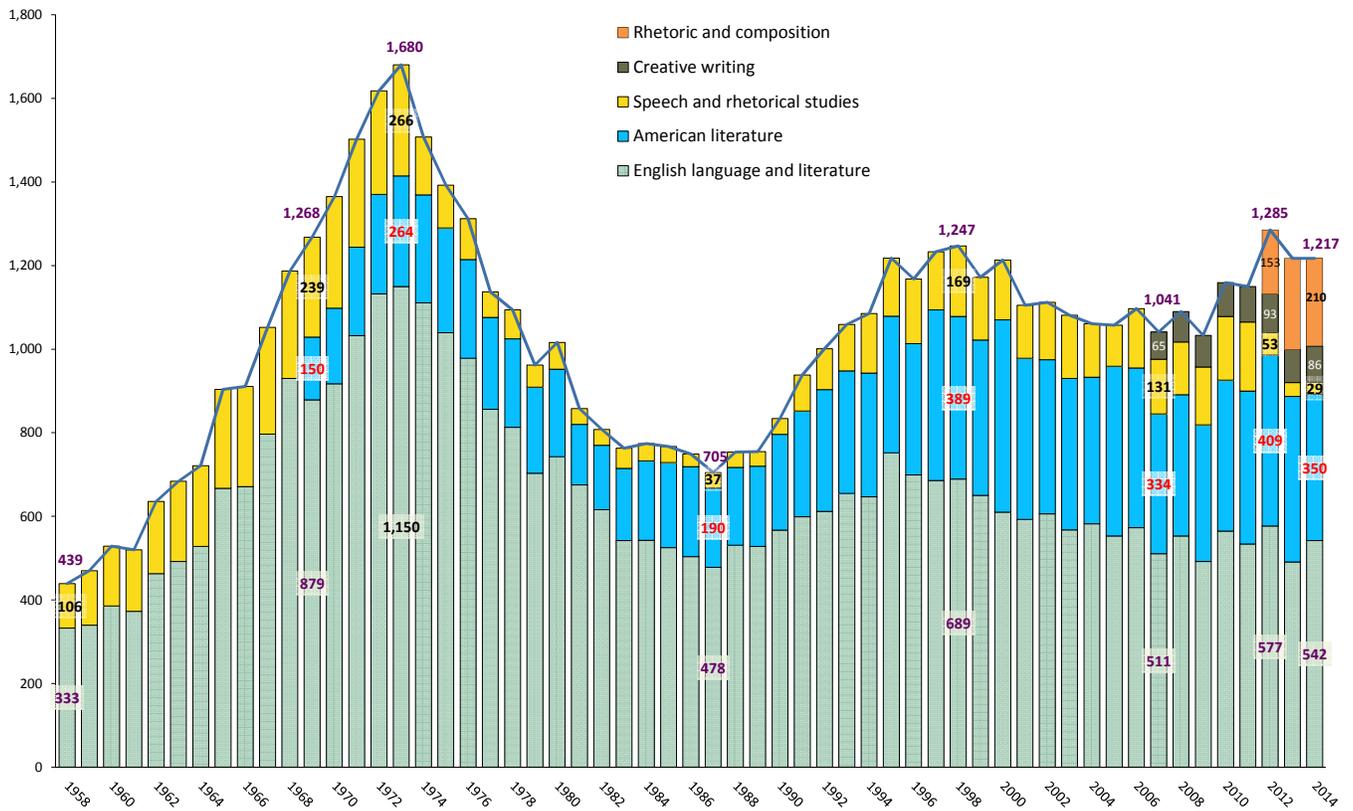


Fig. 6
Number of Doctorate Recipients in Spanish and Latin American, French, German, and Italian, 1962–2014

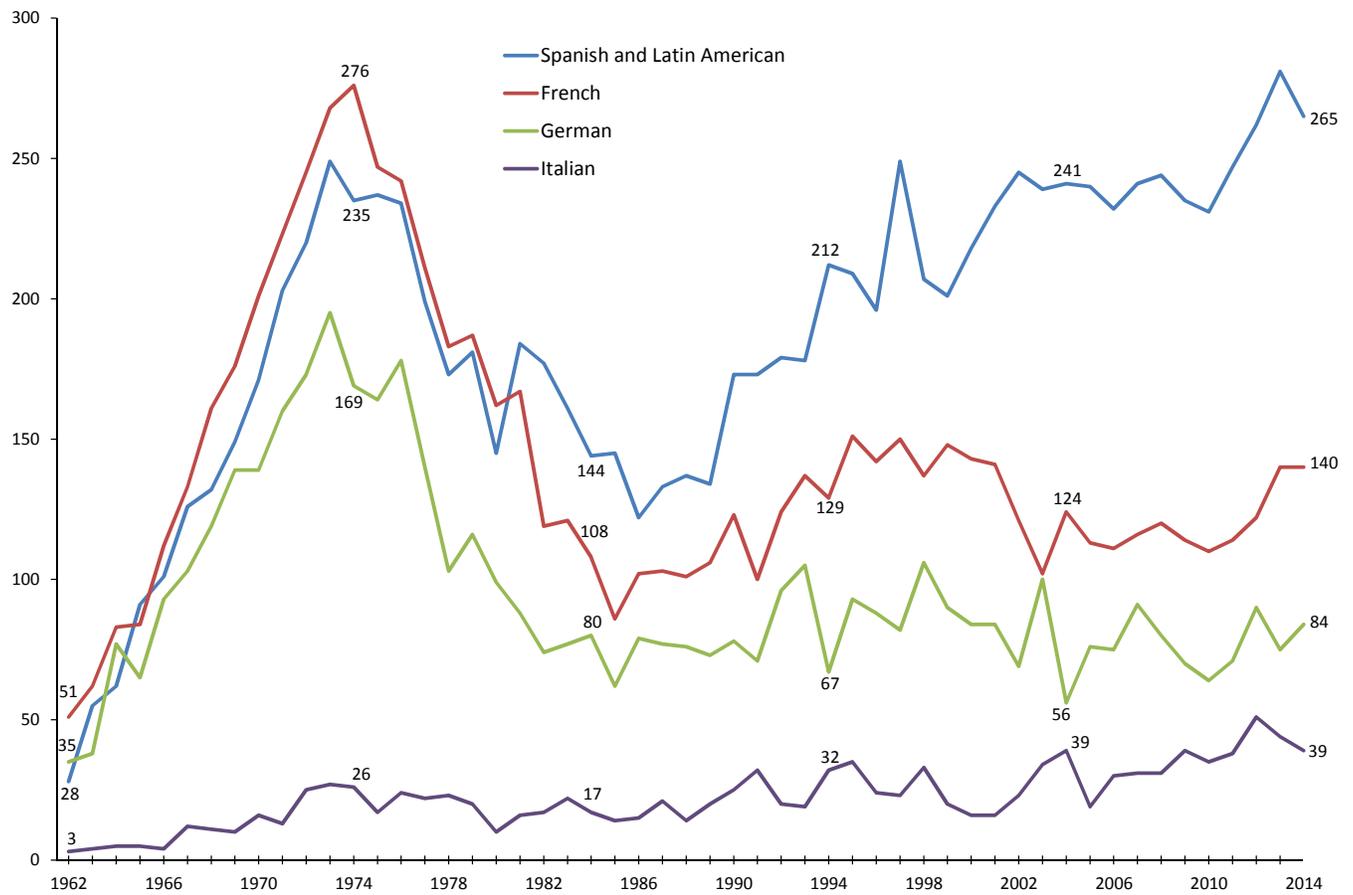


Fig. 7
Number of Doctorate Recipients in Russian and Slavic, Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic, 1962–2014

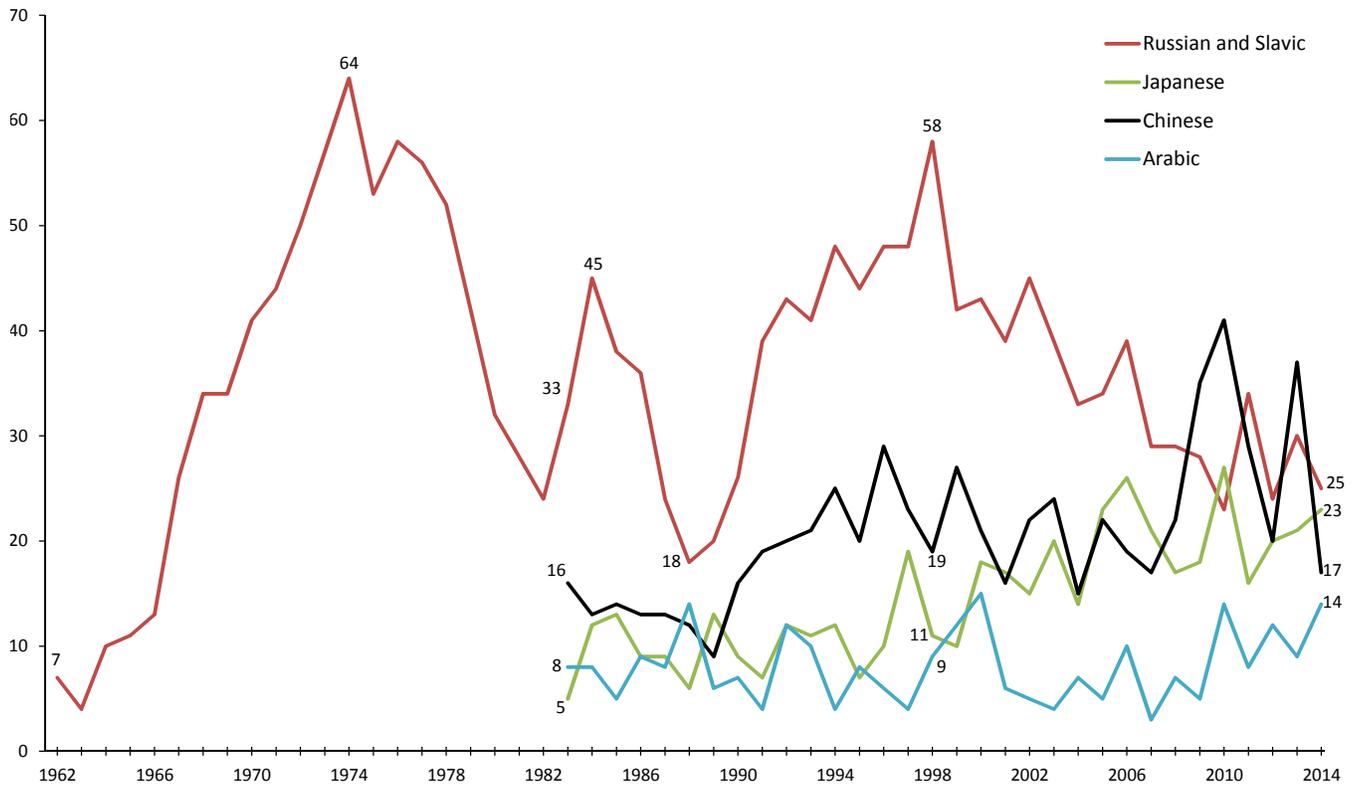
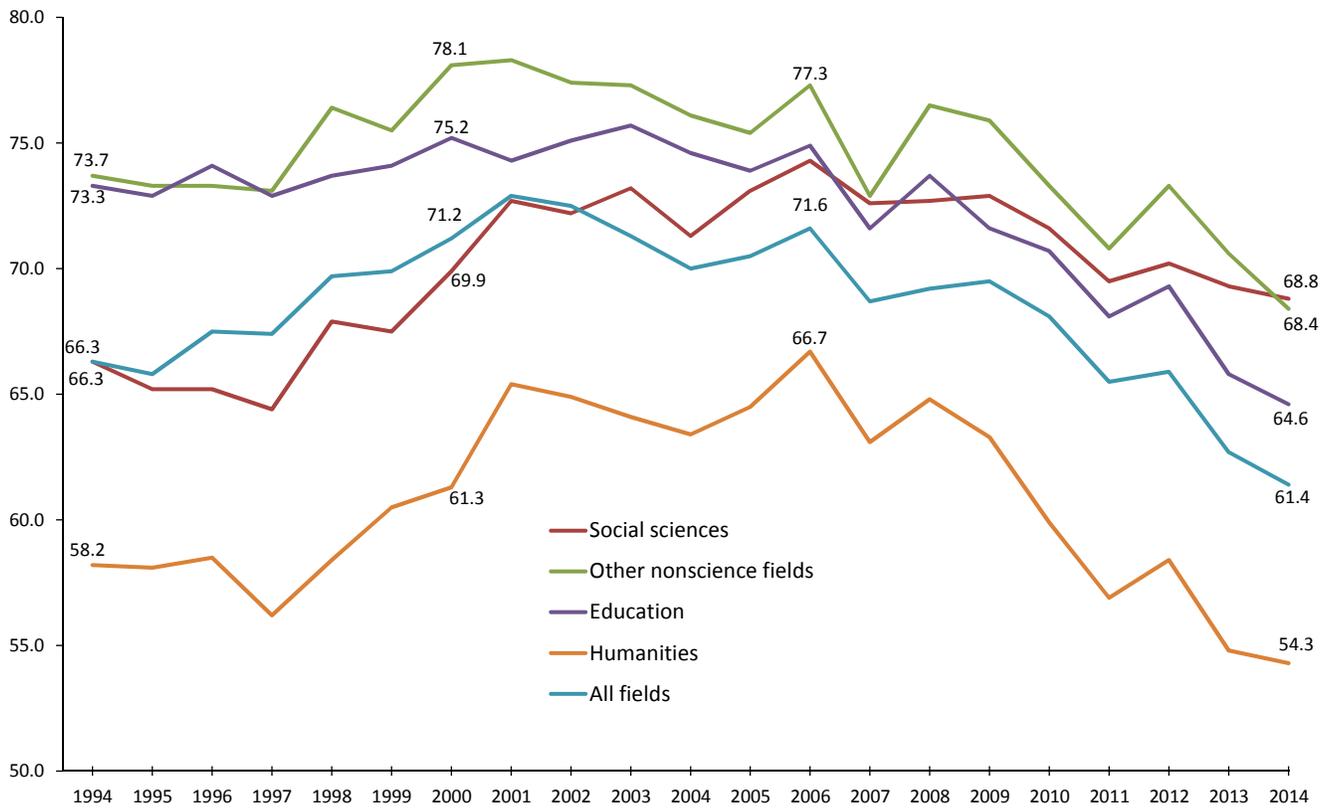
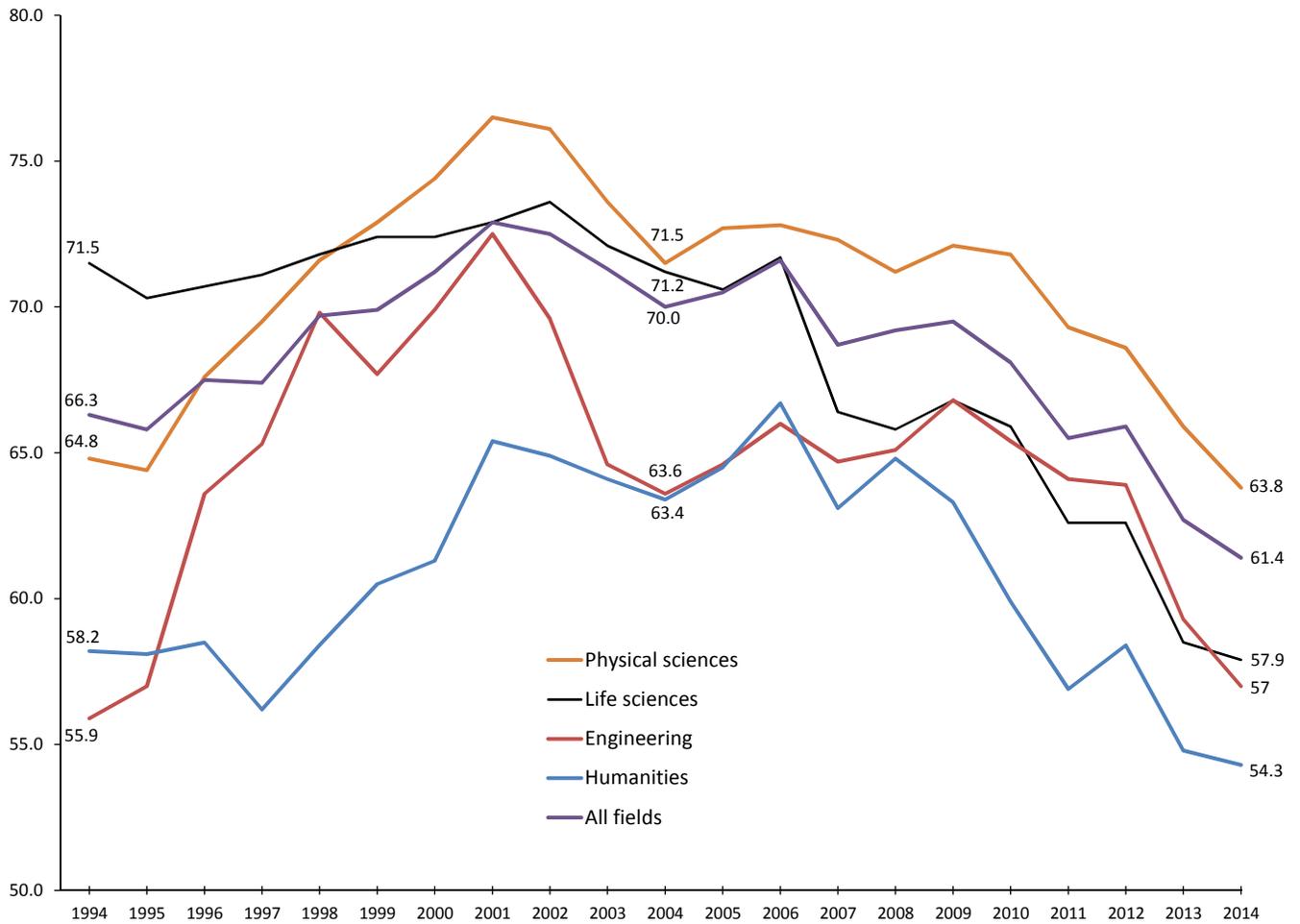


Fig. 8
Percentage of Graduates with Definite Employment or Study Commitments at Time of Doctorate Award:
Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Other Nonscience Fields of Study, 1994–2014



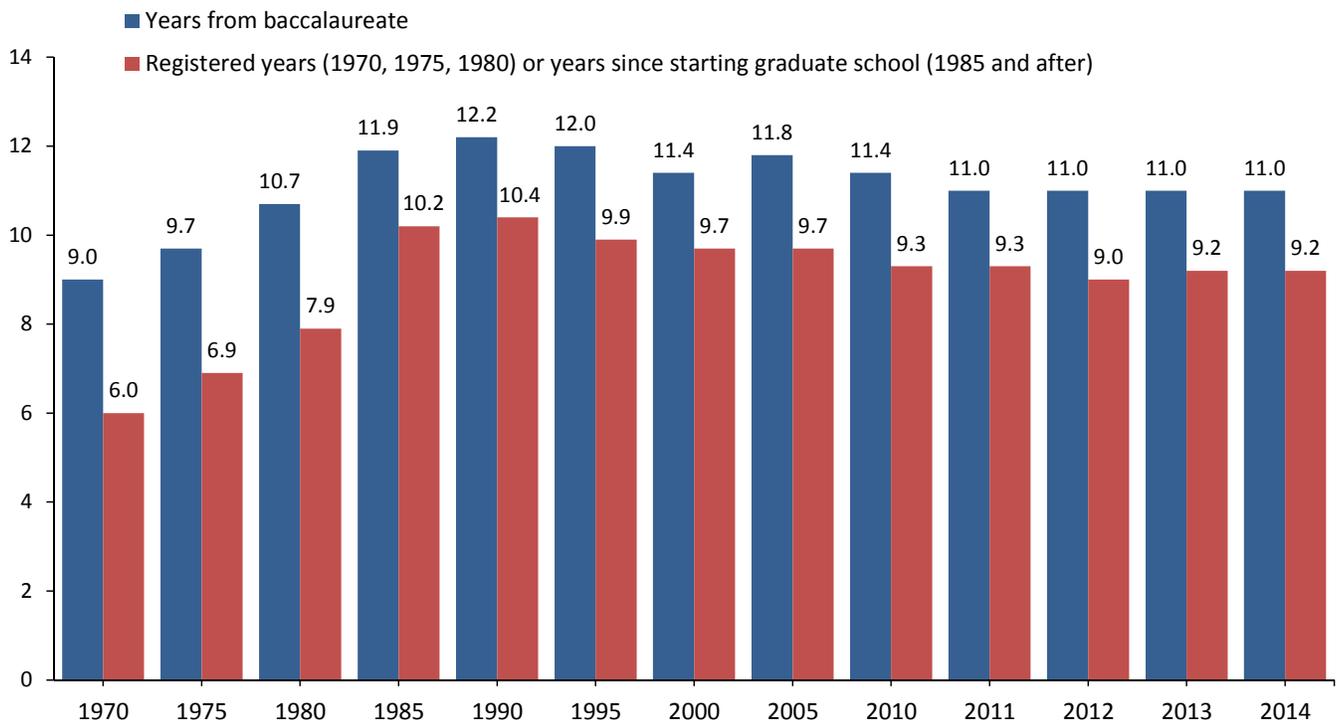
Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2009*, figures 5-A and 5-B (1994–2009); table 42 (2010–14).

Fig. 9
Percentage of Graduates with Definite Employment or Study Commitments at Time of Doctorate Award:
Humanities, Engineering, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences, 1994–2014



Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2009*, figures 5-A and 5-B (1994–2009); table 42 (2010–14).

Fig. 10
Time to Degree in Years for Humanities Doctorate Recipients, Selected Years



Note: The data for 1970–80 are drawn from table 8 of the 1995 SED report; the data for 1985–2010 are drawn from table 31 of the 2010 report; the data for 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 are drawn from table 31 of the report for each of those years.

Table 1
Doctorate Recipients' Postgraduation Plans

2014	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment	1,937	286	609	389	653
Definite postgraduation study	444	32	92	147	173
Seeking employment or study	2,039	215	542	479	803
Other	205	27	50	31	97

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, data table 67.

2013	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment	2,074	285	623	416	750
Definite postgraduation study	388	30	92	109	157
Seeking employment or study	2,130	258	591	427	854
Other	172	20	50	34	68

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2013*, data table 67.

2012	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment	2,241	290	750	427	774
Definite postgraduation study	432	40	107	124	161
Seeking employment or study	1,928	230	527	389	782
Other	158	25	45	24	64

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2012*, data table 67.

Table 2
Doctorate Recipients' Postgraduation Plans: Percentage of Doctorate Recipients Placed in Different Employment Sectors and Forms of Postdoctoral Study

2014	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment					
Academia	83.3	91.3	89.7	77.6	77.2
Government	2.2	0	0.8	5.9	2.1
Industry or business	4.4			4.9	6.0
Nonprofit organization	5.5			5.9	11.3
Other or unknown	4.6	5.9	4.6	5.7	3.4
Number (basis for percentages)	1,937	286	609	389	653
Definite postgraduation study					
Postdoctoral fellowship	83.6			83.7	81.5
Postdoctoral research associateship	15.5			15.0	17.3
Other	0.9	0	0	1.4	1.2
Number (basis for percentages)	444	32	92	147	173

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, data table 67.

Blank cells indicate where regulations governing reportage require data to be suppressed.

2013	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment					
Academia	82.7	91.6	88.8	79.8	76.0
Government	2.7			6.7	2.3
Industry or business	4.5			5.0	6.5
Nonprofit organization	5.1			3.1	10.9
Other or unknown	5.0	4.2	6.1	5.3	4.3
Number (basis for percentages)	2,074	285	623	416	750
Definite postgraduation study					
Postdoctoral fellowship	80.9	73.3	84.8	78.9	81.5
Postdoctoral research associateship	15.7	20.0	10.9	18.3	15.9
Other	3.4	6.7	4.3	2.8	2.5
Number (basis for percentages)	388	30	92	109	157

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2013*, data table 67.

Blank cells indicate where regulations governing reportage require data to be suppressed.

2012	All Humanities	Foreign Languages	Letters	History	Other Humanities
Definite employment					
Academia	82.8	90.3	89.9	79.4	76.0
Government	2.1			6.1	1.3
Industry or business	4.2	2.1	2.5	3.3	7.1
Nonprofit organization	5.1			3.5	10.9
Other or unknown	5.8	4.8	6.0	7.7	4.8
Number (basis for percentages)	2,241	290	750	427	774
Definite postgraduation study					
Postdoctoral fellowship	82.4	65.0	81.3	87.1	83.9
Postdoctoral research associateship	14.6	32.5	14.0	11.3	13.0
Other	3.0	2.5	4.7	1.6	3.1
Number (basis for percentages)	432	40	107	124	161

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2012*, data table 67.

Blank cells indicate where regulations governing reportage require data to be suppressed.

Table 3
Cumulative Educational Debt of Recent Recipients of Doctoral Degrees

2014	All Fields	Humanities	Social Sciences	Education	Life Sciences	Physical Sciences	Engineering	Other
No debt (%)	52.3	39.5	38.9	39.5	53.1	64.9	65.7	46.7
\$10,000 or less (%)	9.1	9.5	8.2	8.7	9.4	9.1	10.2	7.7
\$10,001–\$30,000 (%)	13.6	16.3	13.9	11.4	15.8	12.4	11.7	10.8
More than \$30,000 (%)	24.9	34.9	38.9	41.4	21.7	13.5	12.5	34.8
Number of doctorate recipients (basis for percentages)	48,606	4,950	7,585	4,257	11,399	8,979	8,685	2,751
Mean cumulative total debt	\$22,392	\$29,953	\$34,999	\$36,260	\$19,605	\$12,365	\$11,654	\$30,776
Mean graduate debt	\$15,591	\$22,405	\$26,931	\$28,412	\$12,049	\$6,708	\$6,690	\$24,251
Mean undergraduate debt	\$7,976	\$9,025	\$9,622	\$10,105	\$7,976	\$6,328	\$5,714	\$8,060

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, data table 38.

2013	All Fields	Humanities	Social Sciences	Education	Life Sciences	Physical Sciences	Engineering	Other
No debt (%)	51.8	39.9	38.8	39.5	52.5	64.3	65.6	46.4
\$10,000 or less (%)	9.4	10.4	8.1	8.8	10.0	9.2	10.3	8.2
\$10,001–\$30,000 (%)	14.2	17.0	14.2	13.5	16.1	13.7	11.6	11.8
More than \$30,000 (%)	24.5	32.7	38.9	38.3	21.3	12.8	12.4	33.6
Number of doctorate recipients (basis for percentages)	48,069	5,130	7,549	4,467	11,365	8,570	8,152	2,836
Mean cumulative total debt	\$22,027	\$28,912	\$34,395	\$33,904	\$19,122	\$12,136	\$11,529	\$29,640
Mean graduate debt	\$15,372	\$21,485	\$26,222	\$26,566	\$11,905	\$6,342	\$7,031	\$23,282
Mean undergraduate debt	\$7,756	\$8,844	\$9,749	\$9,473	\$8,175	\$6,396	\$5,121	\$7,808

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2013*, data table 38.

2012	All Fields	Humanities	Social Sciences	Education	Life Sciences	Physical Sciences	Engineering	Other
No debt (%)	52.1	39.2	38.6	42.7	53.1	64.0	66.1	48.2
\$10,000 or less (%)	9.6	10.0	8.8	9.0	10.1	9.3	10.8	8.1
\$10,001–\$30,000 (%)	14.2	17.1	14.8	12.2	16.4	13.5	11.1	11.7
More than \$30,000 (%)	24.1	33.9	37.7	36.1	20.3	13.1	12.0	31.9
Number of doctorate recipients (basis for percentages)	46,708	5,037	7,478	4,412	11,242	8,225	7,723	2,591
Mean cumulative total debt	\$21,482	\$29,281	\$33,346	\$31,848	\$18,334	\$12,177	\$11,183	\$28,315
Mean graduate debt	\$14,479	\$21,408	\$24,851	\$23,761	\$10,724	\$6,276	\$6,479	\$21,452
Mean undergraduate debt	\$7,118	\$8,035	\$8,677	\$8,312	\$7,707	\$5,958	\$4,746	\$7,025

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2012*, data table 38.

Table 4
Race and Ethnicity of Recent Recipients of Humanities Doctorates, Citizens and Permanent Residents of the United States, by Percentage

2014	Number of Degree Recipients (Basis for Percentages)	Hispanic or Latino ¹	American Indian / Alaska Native	Asian	Black	White	Two or More Races	Other / Unknown Race
All Fields	34,005	6.5	0.3	8.5	6.4	73.0	2.6	0.8
Humanities	4,360	7.2	0.4	4.3	3.8	79.1	2.7	0.9
Foreign language and literature	470	18.9	0.4	5.1	1.7	71.1	0.2	0.9
History	965	7.6	0.1	4.8	5.0	77.5	2.3	1.6
Letters	1,303	5.2	0.4	3.4	2.8	83.2	2.9	0.8
Other humanities	1,622	5.2	0.5	4.6	4.5	79.0	3.0	0.8

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2014*, data table 24.

2013	Number of Degree Recipients (Basis for Percentages)	Hispanic or Latino ¹	American Indian / Alaska Native	Asian	Black	White	Two or More Races	Other / Unknown Race
All Fields	33,942	6.3	0.4	8.5	6.4	72.9	2.5	3.1
Humanities	4,520	7.4	0.5	4.3	3.7	78.4	2.5	3.1
Foreign language and literature	466	21.5	0.2	3.0	1.9	67.8	2.6	3.0
History	945	7.2	0.6	4.1	5.2	77.5	2.0	3.4
Letters	1,349	4.7	0.4	4.0	3.9	81.8	2.3	2.8
Other humanities	1,760	5.9	0.6	5.0	3.2	79.1	3.0	3.2

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2013*, data table 24.

2012	Number of Degree Recipients (Basis for Percentages)	Hispanic or Latino ¹	American Indian / Alaska Native	Asian	Black	White	Two or More Races	Other / Unknown Race
All Fields	32,927	6.5	0.3	9.1	6.3	73.5	2.5	1.8
Humanities	4,391	7.6	0.3	4.7	4.3	78.6	2.6	1.9
Foreign language and literature	473	21.6	0.0	4.7	1.3	68.3	1.9	2.3
History	889	6.6	0.1	4.4	6.6	77.7	2.5	2.0
Letters	1,378	5.7	0.4	3.6	4.6	81.1	2.6	2.0
Other humanities	1,651	5.8	0.2	5.9	3.7	80.0	2.9	1.6

Source: *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities, 2012*, data table 24.

¹Includes persons reporting Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, whether singly or in combination with at least one other race.

Appendix 1: Doctorate Recipients in Letters, 1958–2014

Year	English & Amer. Lit.	English Lang. & Lit.	English Lit. (British & Commonwealth)	Amer. Lit. (US & Canada)	English Lang.	Creative Writing	Rhetoric & Composition	Speech & Rhetorical Studies	Classics	Compar. Lit.	Folklore	All Letters Fields
1958	333							106	32			471
1959	340							130	39			509
1960	386							143	45			574
1961	373							147	48			568
1962	463							173	56			692
1963	492							192	57			741
1964	528							193	74			795
1965	667							237	92			996
1966	671							240	71			982
1967	797							255	71			1,123
1968	930							257	103			1,290
1969		879		150				239	82			1,350
1970		917		181				267	86			1,451
1971		1,032		212				258	100			1,602
1972		1,132		238				248	107			1,725
1973		1,150		264				266	85			1,765
1974		1,111		258				138	88			1,595
1975		1,039		251				102	93			1,485
1976		978		236				98	79	157		1,548
1977		856		220				61	60	152		1,349
1978		813		212				69	67	114		1,275
1979		703		206				53	56	144		1,162
1980		743		209				64	54	107		1,177
1981		675		145				38	62	132		1,052
1982		616		154				38	60	118		986
1983			499	173	43			48	44	124		931
1984			501	190	42			41	57	133		964
1985			483	204	42			38	44	133		944
1986			462	215	42			30	51	101		901
1987			440	190	38			37	55	121		881
1988			482	186	49			37	56	139		949
1989			488	192	40			35	51	103		909
1990			522	229	45			38	58	97		989
1991			559	253	40			86	55	150		1,143
1992			547	291	65			98	58	163		1,222
1993			603	293	52			111	61	153		1,273
1994			597	296	50			142	84	163		1,332
1995			706	327	46			139	62	191		1,471
1996			621	314	78			155	72	164		1,404
1997			534	408	152			139	53	181		1,467
1998			543	389	146			169	85	164		1,496
1999			517	372	133			150	77	166		1,415
2000			544	460	66			143	64	187		1,464
2001			469	385	124			127	56	204		1,365
2002			520	369	86			137	57	175		1,344
2003			436	362	132			151	75	165		1,321
2004			426	351	156			128	70	175	22	1,328
2005			416	406	137			98	61	180	18	1,316
2006			437	382	136			142	78	165	14	1,354
2007			351	334	160	65		131	62	176	10	1,289
2008			397	338	156	73		126	72	166	13	1,341
2009			388	327	104	76		138	77	179	10	1,299
2010			419	361	146	81		152	86	197	11	1,453
2011			354	366	180	85		165	91	192	10	1,443
2012			423	409	154	93	154	53	101	201	6	1,594
2013			398	397	92	79	219	33	101	218	9	1,546
2014			393	350	149	86	210	29	91	196	17	1,521

Appendix 2: Doctorates in Languages Other Than English, 1958–2014

Year	Arabic	Chinese	French	German	Hebrew	Italian	Japanese	Russian	Slavic (Other Than Russian)	Spanish ¹	Other Langs. and Lits.	Total
1958												157
1959												181
1960												168
1961												189
1962			51	35		3		7		28	72	196
1963			62	38		4		4		55	43	206
1964			83	77		5		10		62	34	271
1965			84	65		5		11		91	65	321
1966			112	93		4		13		101	57	380
1967			133	103		12		26		126	70	470
1968			161	119		11		34		132	69	526
1969			176	139		10		34		149	76	584
1970			201	139		16		41		171	79	647
1971			223	160		13		44		203	85	728
1972			245	173		25		50		220	99	812
1973			268	195		27		57		249	121	917
1974			276	169		26		64		235	117	887
1975			247	164		17		53		237	108	826
1976			242	178		24		58		234	99	835
1977			211	140		22		56		199	100	728
1978			183	103		23		52		173	103	637
1979			187	116		20		42		181	100	646
1980			162	99		10		32		145	87	535
1981			167	88		16		28		184	93	576
1982			119	74		17		24		177	80	491
1983	8	16	121	77	11	22	5	24	9	161	50	504
1984	8	13	108	80	13	17	12	33	12	144	52	492
1985	5	14	86	62	9	14	13	28	10	145	49	435
1986	9	13	102	79	11	15	9	28	8	122	49	445
1987	8	13	103	77	13	21	9	19	5	133	43	444
1988	14	12	101	76	12	14	6	13	5	137	40	430
1989	6	9	106	73	10	20	13	13	7	134	41	432
1990	7	16	123	78	14	25	9	19	7	173	41	512
1991	4	19	100	71	11	32	7	25	14	173	42	498
1992	12	20	124	96	20	20	12	28	15	179	36	562
1993	10	21	137	105	15	19	11	28	13	178	38	575
1994	4	25	129	67	10	32	12	38	10	212	55	594
1995	8	20	151	93	11	35	7	28	16	209	61	639
1996	6	29	142	88	12	24	10	37	11	196	50	605
1997	4	23	150	82	7	23	19	39	9	249	47	652
1998	9	19	137	106	8	33	11	43	15	207	55	643
1999	12	27	148	90	4	20	10	25	17	201	72	626
2000	15	21	143	84	11	16	18	29	14	218	73	642
2001	6	16	141	84	6	16	17	27	12	233	62	620
2002	5	22	121	69	8	23	15	26	19	245	74	627
2003	4	24	102	100	5	34	20	28	11	239	56	623
2004	7	15	124	56		39	14	25	8	241	58	587
2005	5	22	113	76		19	23	21	13	240	75	607
2006	10	19	111	75		30	26	28	11	232	73	615
2007	3	17	116	91		31	21	25	4	241	58	607
2008	7	22	120	80		31	17	27	2	244	77	627
2009	5	35	114	70		39	18	18	10	235	54	598
2010	14	41	110	64		35	27	23		231	56	601
2011	8	29	114	71		38	16	34		247	87	644
2012	12	20	122	90		50	20	24		262	84	684
2013	9	37	140	75		44	21	30		281	64	701
2014	14	17	140	84		39	23	25		265	69	676

¹The number of degrees in Spanish in 2012, 2013, and 2014 include, respectively, 57, 66, and 63 doctorates in the new category Latin American languages and literatures.