

# Minorities in Philosophy

---

## Bachelor's Degrees

In 2014, traditionally underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities received approximately 17 percent of all bachelor's degrees in philosophy. This percentage represents an increase of eight percentage points from 1995, the first year for which data of this kind are available. The group contributing most to this rise was Hispanic students, with completions by these students rising from approximately 4.5 percent to just over 11 percent (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

## Master's Degrees

At the master's level, traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities earned approximately 10 percent of philosophy degrees awarded in 2014, up from 6.5 percent in 1995. Among traditionally underrepresented groups, Hispanics, who completed over 7 percent of philosophy master's in 2014, were the most likely to earn this type of degree. The data also reveal a surge from 2004 to 2010 in the percentage of philosophy master's degrees awarded to students of unknown ethnicity or who identified themselves as being of a race or ethnicity that is not included among the reporting categories employed by the NCES. Whether this increase is indicative of a rise in completions among members of smaller minority groups, an increasing unwillingness of students to report ethnicity data to their institutions, a growing embrace by students of racial/ethnic identifications (e.g., biracial) that could not be accommodated by NCES's classification scheme, or some combination of these phenomena is not clear. From 2010 to 2014 this percentage dropped somewhat but is still significantly large (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

## Doctoral Degrees

By 2006, completions of philosophy doctorates by traditionally underrepresented minorities had reached a high point of almost 8 percent, a level nearly three times greater than that observed in 1995. After the mid-2000s, however, these students' share of degrees declined, and they earned fewer than 5 percent of philosophy doctorates in 2009. Completing a greater share of philosophy doctorates were "temporary residents," students from other nations who come to study in the United States. In 2014, the number of philosophy doctorates by traditionally underrepresented minorities returned to 2006 levels at 7.9 percent (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

***See charts and graphs on following pages.***

---

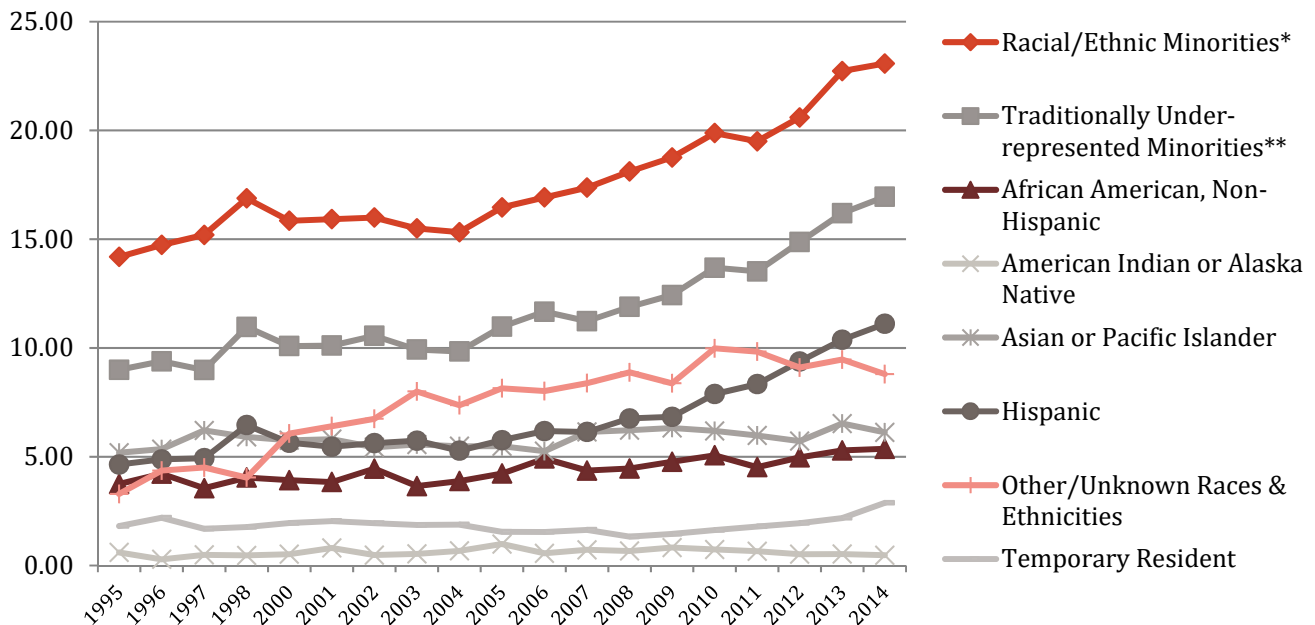
*Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS data were accessed and analyzed via the National Science Foundation's online science and engineering resources data system, WebCASPAR (<https://webcaspar.nsf.gov/>). Data assembled by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for inclusion in the [Humanities Indicators 2016](#).*

*Note: Data were not published for 1999.*

*Throughout this document, in describing racial/ethnic identities, we use the terminology the National Center for Education Statistics uses in gathering and presenting its data.*

## Percentages of Bachelor's Degrees in Philosophy Awarded to Members of Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups, 1995–2014

	Racial/ Ethnic Minorities*	Traditionally Under- represented Minorities**	African American, Non- Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Other/ Unknown Races & Ethnicities	Temporary Resident
1995	14.18	9.00	3.75	0.60	5.19	4.64	3.29	1.81
1996	14.74	9.39	4.22	0.29	5.35	4.88	4.37	2.19
1997	15.20	8.99	3.56	0.49	6.21	4.94	4.50	1.69
1998	16.88	10.97	4.04	0.47	5.91	6.46	4.04	1.77
2000	15.85	10.09	3.92	0.52	5.76	5.64	6.07	1.95
2001	15.92	10.11	3.84	0.81	5.81	5.46	6.41	2.05
2002	16.00	10.56	4.45	0.48	5.44	5.62	6.74	1.94
2003	15.49	9.93	3.65	0.54	5.57	5.74	8.00	1.87
2004	15.32	9.84	3.88	0.68	5.49	5.28	7.37	1.88
2005	16.46	10.98	4.23	0.99	5.48	5.76	8.15	1.55
2006	16.92	11.67	4.92	0.56	5.26	6.18	8.02	1.54
2007	17.37	11.23	4.37	0.73	6.14	6.14	8.38	1.64
2008	18.11	11.89	4.46	0.67	6.22	6.76	8.88	1.33
2009	18.76	12.43	4.77	0.83	6.32	6.83	8.38	1.45
2010	19.88	13.69	5.07	0.74	6.19	7.88	9.98	1.63
2011	19.50	13.52	4.52	0.66	5.98	8.34	9.83	1.79
2012	20.59	14.87	4.97	0.52	5.72	9.38	9.10	1.95
2013	22.73	16.20	5.29	0.53	6.53	10.38	9.47	2.18
2014	23.07	16.95	5.37	0.47	6.12	11.11	8.80	2.88



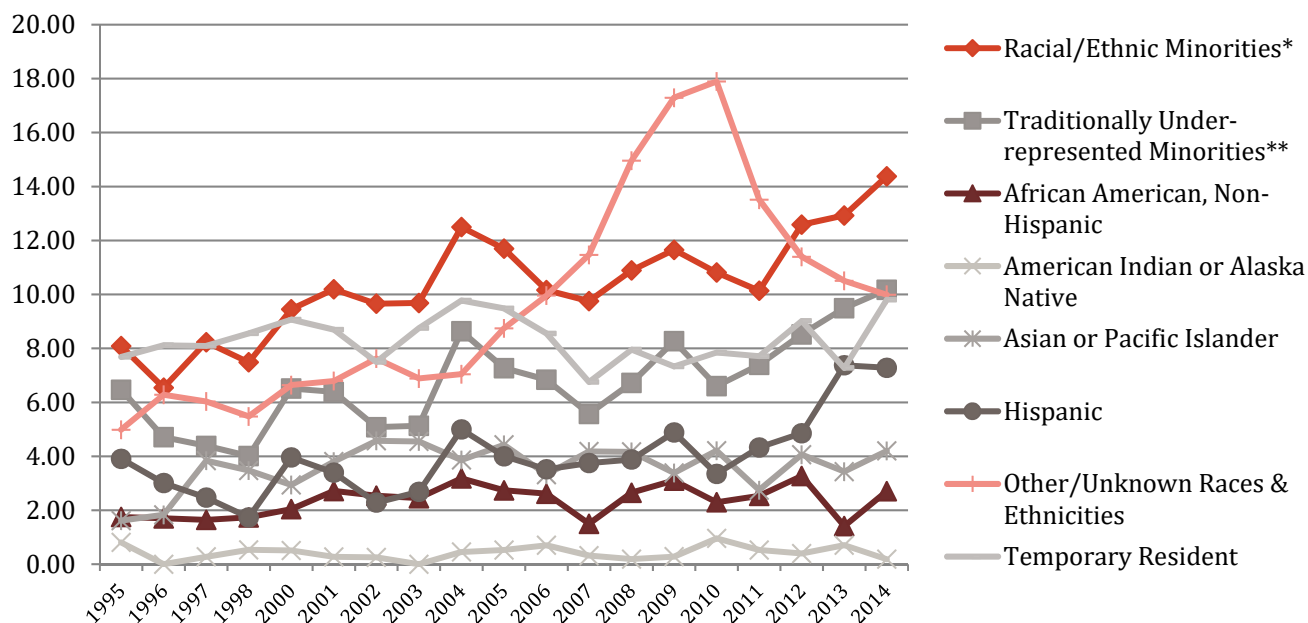
\* Includes students who are citizens or permanent residents and who are identified by their institutions as African American (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

\*\* Students counted under "Racial/Ethnic Minorities" minus Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21d](#)

## Percentages of Master's Degrees in Philosophy Awarded to Members of Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups, 1995–2009

	Racial/ Ethnic Minorities*	Traditionally Under- represented Minorities**	African American, Non- Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Other/ Unknown Races & Ethnicities	Temporary Resident
1995	8.09	6.47	1.75	0.81	1.62	3.91	4.99	7.68
1996	6.54	4.71	1.70	0.00	1.83	3.01	6.28	8.12
1997	8.23	4.39	1.65	0.27	3.84	2.47	6.04	8.09
1998	7.49	4.01	1.74	0.53	3.48	1.74	5.48	8.56
2000	9.45	6.51	2.04	0.51	2.94	3.96	6.64	9.07
2001	10.19	6.39	2.72	0.27	3.80	3.40	6.79	8.70
2002	9.66	5.08	2.54	0.25	4.57	2.29	7.62	7.50
2003	9.68	5.13	2.45	0.00	4.55	2.68	6.88	8.75
2004	12.50	8.64	3.18	0.45	3.86	5.00	7.05	9.77
2005	11.70	7.27	2.74	0.53	4.43	4.00	8.75	9.48
2006	10.16	6.84	2.62	0.70	3.32	3.52	9.96	8.55
2007	9.75	5.57	1.50	0.32	4.18	3.75	11.47	6.75
2008	10.89	6.72	2.65	0.19	4.17	3.88	14.96	7.95
2009	11.65	8.27	3.10	0.28	3.38	4.89	17.29	7.33
2010	10.81	6.60	2.30	0.96	4.21	3.35	17.89	7.85
2011	10.14	7.39	2.53	0.53	2.75	4.33	13.52	7.71
2012	12.59	8.52	3.27	0.40	4.06	4.86	11.40	9.02
2013	12.93	9.49	1.41	0.71	3.43	7.37	10.51	7.27
2014	14.38	10.18	2.71	0.19	4.20	7.28	9.99	9.80



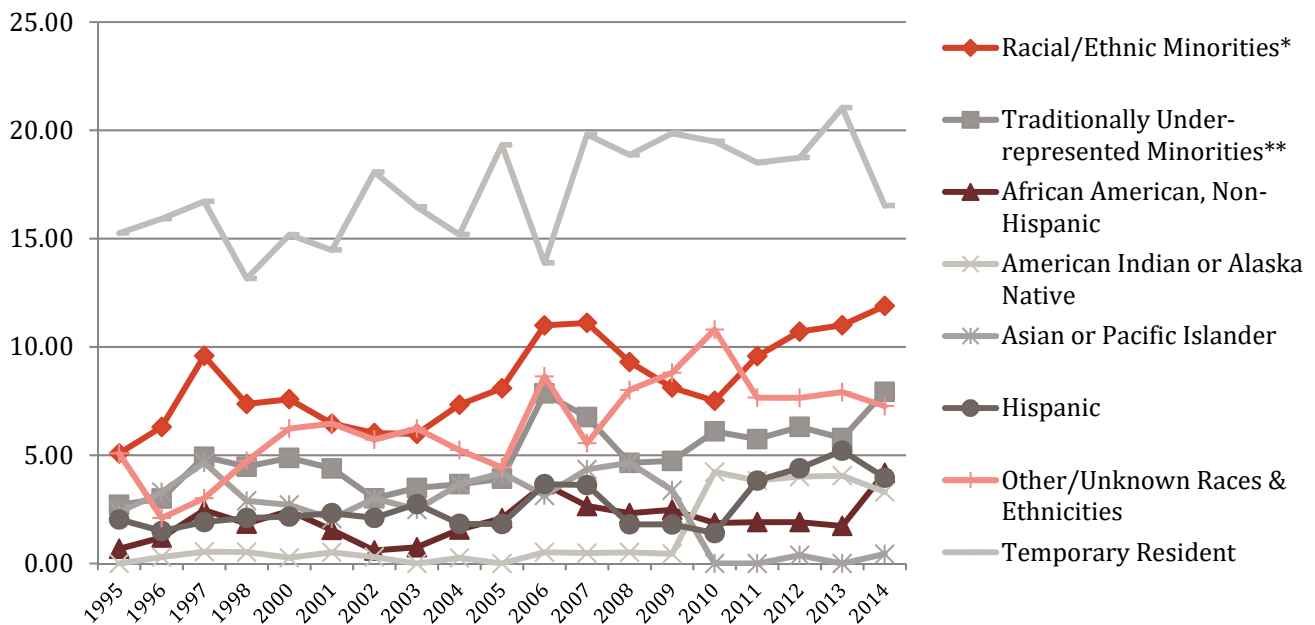
\* Includes students who are citizens or permanent residents and who are identified by their institutions as African American (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

\*\* Students counted under "Racial/Ethnic Minorities" minus Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21e](#)

## Percentages of Doctoral Degrees in Philosophy Awarded to Members of Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups, 1995–2009

	Racial/ Ethnic Minorities*	Traditionally Under- represented Minorities**	African American, Non- Hispanic	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Other/ Unknown Races & Ethnicities	Temporary Resident
1995	5.08	2.71	0.68	0.00	2.37	2.03	5.08	15.25
1996	6.31	3.00	1.20	0.30	3.30	1.50	2.10	15.92
1997	9.59	4.93	2.47	0.55	4.66	1.92	3.01	16.71
1998	7.37	4.47	1.84	0.53	2.89	2.11	4.74	13.16
2000	7.59	4.88	2.44	0.27	2.71	2.17	6.23	15.18
2001	6.46	4.39	1.55	0.52	2.07	2.33	6.46	14.47
2002	6.02	3.01	0.60	0.30	3.01	2.11	5.72	18.07
2003	5.99	3.49	0.75	0.00	2.49	2.74	6.23	16.46
2004	7.33	3.66	1.57	0.26	3.66	1.83	5.24	15.18
2005	8.09	3.92	2.09	0.00	4.18	1.83	4.44	19.32
2006	10.99	7.85	3.66	0.52	3.14	3.66	8.64	13.87
2007	11.11	6.76	2.66	0.48	4.35	3.62	5.56	19.81
2008	9.30	4.65	2.33	0.52	4.65	1.81	8.01	18.86
2009	8.13	4.74	2.48	0.45	3.39	1.81	8.80	19.86
2010	7.51	6.10	1.88	4.23	0.00	1.41	10.80	19.48
2011	9.57	5.74	1.91	3.83	0.00	3.83	7.66	18.51
2012	10.71	6.31	1.91	4.02	0.38	4.40	7.65	18.74
2013	11.00	5.79	1.74	4.05	0.00	5.21	7.92	21.04
2014	11.89	7.93	4.19	3.30	0.44	3.96	7.27	16.52



\* Includes students who are citizens or permanent residents and who are identified by their institutions as African American (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

\*\* Students counted under "Racial/Ethnic Minorities" minus Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21f](#)