

Minorities in Philosophy

Bachelor's Degrees

In 2009, traditionally underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities received approximately 12 percent of all bachelor's degrees in philosophy. This percentage represents an increase of three percentage points from 1995, the first year for which data of this kind are available. The group contributing most to this rise was Hispanics, with completions by students of this ethnicity rising from approximately 4.5 percent to almost 7 percent (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

Master's Degrees

At the master's level, traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities earned approximately 8 percent of philosophy degrees awarded in 2009, up from 6.5 percent in 1995. Among traditionally underrepresented groups, Hispanics, who completed almost 5 percent of philosophy master's in 2009, were the most likely to earn this type of degree. The data also reveal a surge from 2004 to 2009 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 (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

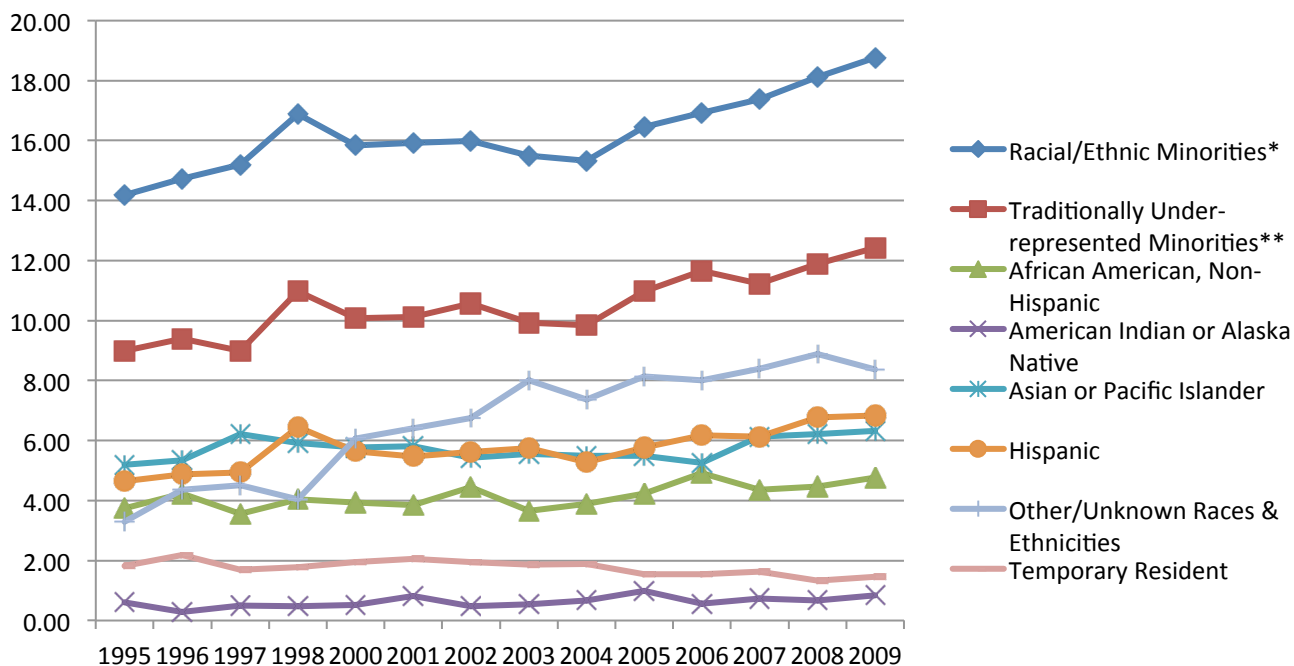
Doctoral Degrees

By 2006, completions of philosophy doctorates by traditionally underrepresented minorities had reached a high point of almost 8%, 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% 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 2009, approximately a fifth of all philosophy doctorates from U.S. institutions were awarded to such students (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

See charts and graphs on following pages.

Percentages of Bachelor'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	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



† Data were not published for 1999.

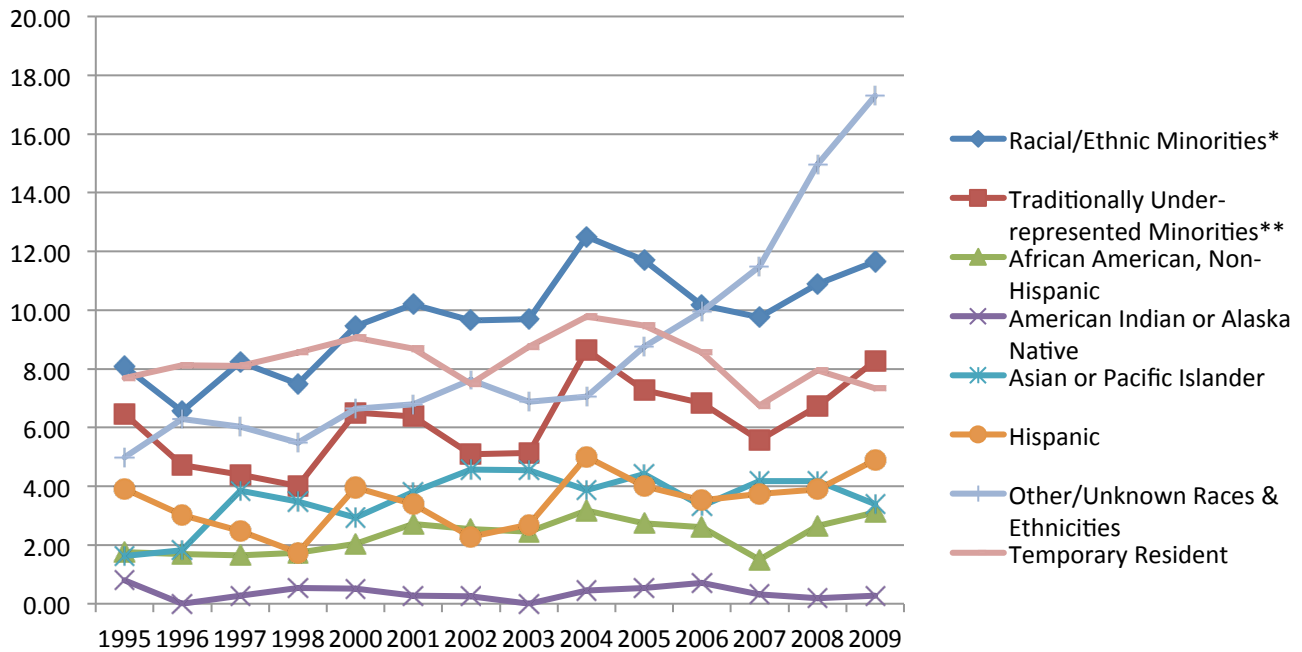
* Includes students who are citizens or permanent residents and who are identified by their institutions as African American (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

** Students counted under “Racial/Ethnic Minorities” minus Asians and Pacific Islanders.

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 2012](#). (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



[†] Data were not published for 1999.

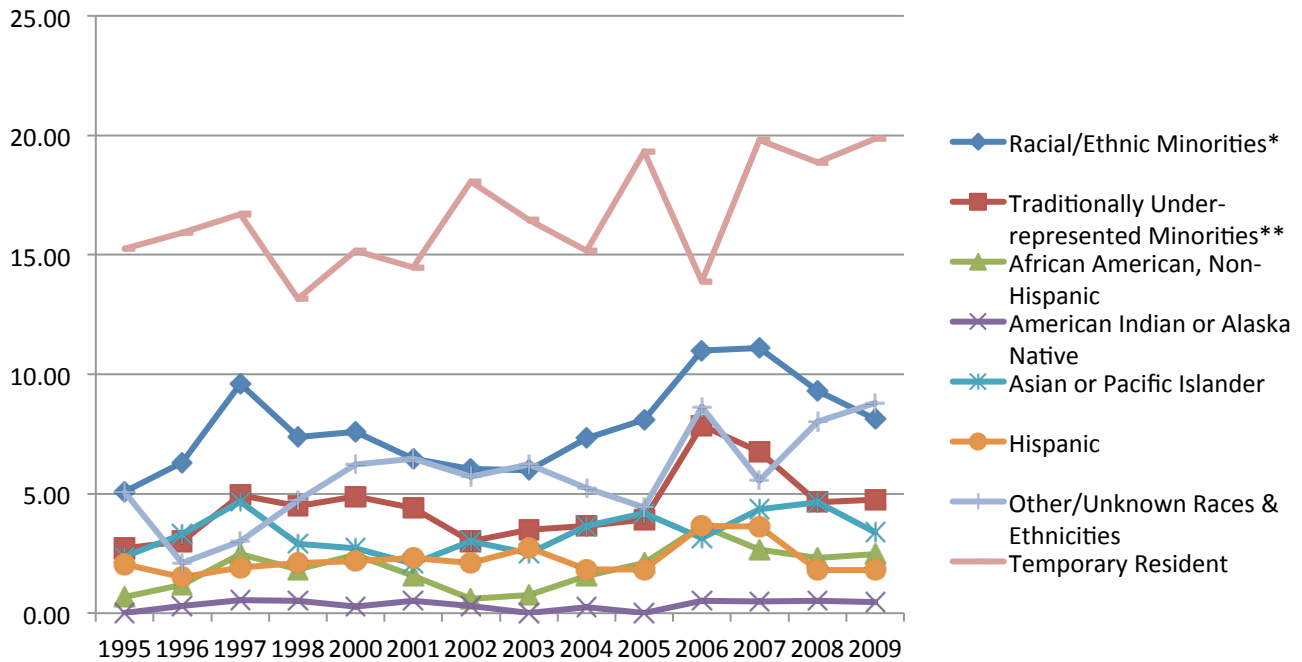
* Includes students who are citizens or permanent residents and who are identified by their institutions as African American (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

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**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



[†] Data were not published for 1999.

* 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.

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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 2012](#). (Figure II-21f)