

Council of Graduate Schools 1999-2009 Enrollment Report Summary

Comparing Communication programs to Arts/Humanities and Social/Behavioral Science programs

The following tables use the Council of Graduate School's (CGS) annual survey data to compare enrollment data for "Communications and Journalism" (This is the official CGS terminology/category. They do not report separate numbers for each area) programs to Arts/Humanities programs and Social/Behavioral Science (SBS) programs. Data are available in the full report (available for a free download at: www.cgsnet.org/default.aspx?tabid=168) for other types of graduate programs (eg, education, business, engineering) but this summary will focus on comparing communication to relevant liberal arts categories. The first table focuses on total enrollment growth over a ten-year period. The second table looks at average first time graduate enrollment change from 1999 to 2009.

Total Enrollment in Communications and Journalism Graduate Programs 1999-2009

The following table compares the average annual percentage of change each year (growth) over a 10-year period in total graduate enrollment from 1999 to 2009 among communication and journalism programs to arts/humanities programs and social and behavioral science programs. These tables reveal a healthy growth in total enrollment over time. In some instances Communication(s) is outperforming Arts & Humanities and Social and Behavior Science programs in some demographic categories and in others Communication(s) is lagging behind.

	Comm/Journ	Arts/Humanities	SBS
Total Percentage Growth	2.3%	3.7%	3.4%
	Sorted by	Gender	
Male	2.1%	3.0%	2.2%
Female	2.4%	4.2%	4.6%
	Sorted by	Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	4.8%	3.3%	6.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.4%	2.0%	7.5%
Black/African American	3.4%	1.6%	10%
Hispanic/Latino	9.5%	2.8%	8.1%
White	1.1%	0.1%	2.2%
	Sorted by	Citizenship	
Citizens/Perm Res.	1.9%	0.4%	3.6%
Temp. Res.	0.9%	1.1%	2.5%

Average Growth in First-Time Enrollment in Communications and Journalism Graduate Programs 1999-2009

This second set of tables looks at average first time graduate enrollment growth from 1999-2009 based on the same set of criteria used above. Communication(s) performed well in attracting new graduate students over that ten-year period

	Comm/Journ	Arts/Humanities	SBS
Percentage Growth In First Time Enrollment	3.2%	1.9%	4.4%
Sorted by		Gender	
Male	2.5%	2.0%	4.0%
Female	3.5%	1.9%	4.8%
Sorted by		Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.6%	4.2	5.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.0%	3.1%	10.0%
Black/African American	3.9%	3.3%	9.3%
Hispanic/Latino	11.6%	6.4%	10%
White	2.3%	1.5%	3.8%
Sorted by		Citizenship	
Citizens/Perm Res.	2.5%	2.0%	5.5%
Temp. Res.	0.0%	-.01%	1.4%

Conclusion

Limited conclusions can be drawn from this data. Communications and Journalism programs have enjoyed a steady if modest growth in overall numbers and first time enrollment numbers from 1999 to 2009. One possible reason for continued modest growth could be that according to a report from the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education titled, "Communicating the PhD Experience: Communication PhD's 5+ years after Graduation" most PhD's in communication seek and find faculty jobs more readily than other social science fields. The market clearly is slowing down since the study was conducted in 2008 but there are still a number of faculty positions advertised each year.

The discipline has done better than average in growth among Latinos and has growth in all race/ethnicity categories. The discipline also shows greater growth in

numbers among women pursuing graduate degrees in the field compared to men. One possible reason for this healthy growth in race/ethnicity/gender categories could be the existence of healthy and highly active caucuses focused on these areas in NCA and other academic organizations. CGS does not report completion data for specific disciplines, but the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) does report completion data for BA's/MA's and PhD's in Communication, Journalism and Related Programs. You can find that data on the NCES website in the Digest of Education Statistics. The fact that the discipline reports a sustained, modest growth in total numbers and first time enrollments indicates that there still is a healthy interest in the discipline.