

The Growth and Changing Composition of Anthropology 1966-2002

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The data presented below show some of the growth and change in the fields of anthropology during the period from 1966 to 2002. The information was obtained from *The AAA Guides* that have been published annually by the American Anthropological Association since 1966.

Table 1 shows a steady rise in the number of B.A. degrees awarded starting in 1971 and peaking in 1978 at 6324. The trend reverses in the 1980s and persists throughout the decade with an annual mean of 3749 for the period; we associate this decline with the recession of the 1980s. The trend reverses again during the 1990s and peaked in 2002 when 10,544 B.A. degrees were awarded. A similar trend occurs in the number of Masters degrees awarded. In 1977, 1114 degrees were awarded; that number declined to 516 in 1978 and 391 in 1979. The numbers fluctuate during the 1980s with an annual mean of about 840. In 1992 the trend stabilizes, then gradually increases, peaking in 2001 at 1519. The processes exhibited by PhD degrees do not exhibit the same pattern. There is a steady rise from 1966-1976 peaking at 445 graduates in 1976-1977. The number diminishes and between 1977 to 1993 and fluctuates with an annual mean of 393 graduates. From 1994 onward, there is a steady increase, peaking in 2001 when 1025 Ph.D. degrees were awarded.

Table 2 shows the number of Ph.D. degrees awarded annually to men and women in cultural, archaeological, and biological anthropology; it also includes an "unknown" category which includes names that are not sex-specific. The table shows the different tempos and unevenness of the subfields. A majority of the degrees in sociocultural anthropology were received by men from 1967 to 1983. From 1984 onward, women received a majority of the degrees; another way of expressing this is that, women received 37% of the doctorates between 1967 and 1984 and 52% between 1985 and 2002. In 2002, 60% of the Ph.D. degrees in sociocultural anthropology were awarded to women. In biological anthropology, men received a majority of the doctorates until 1982; this was followed by a decade of flux in which a majority of the degrees were awarded to women one and men the next. Since 1993, women received 61% of the doctorates awarded. In archaeology, men have received about 71% of the doctorates awarded between 1966 and 2002; the percentage received by women varied from 8% in 1971 to about 40% in 2001.

The demographic trends in anthropology reflect socioeconomic in the wider society.

TABLE 1

PUB. YEAR	# OF B.A/B.S	M.A/M.S	PhD MALES	PhD FEMALES	UNK GENDER	TOTAL P.H.D
2001-2002	9,728	1519	213	280	2	1,025
2000-2001	10,544	1,512	214	252	41	641
1999-2000	10,079	1,449	253	283	22	616
1998-1999	9,229	1,483	207	233	58	508
1997-1998	9,186	1,501	203	235	53	486
1996-1997	8,742	1,464	186	224	42	476
1995-1996	7,555	1,364	167	219	23	464
1994-1995	7,184	1,206	129	130	18	400
1993-1994	5,813	1,052	129	178	19	445
1992-1993	5,945	1,048	173	179	41	367
1991-1992	not available					
1990-1991	not available					
1989-1990	not available					
1988-1989	3,888	911	163	174	30	375
1987-1988	3,686	873	174	158	27	369
1986-1987	3,490	839	198	194	28	420
1985-1986	3,624	839	196	173	30	393
1984-1985	3,686	855	175	189	25	403
1983-1984	3,572	918	112	87	11	402
1982-1983	3,610	909	302	233	49	360
1981-1982	3,876	937	226	152	29	422
1980-1981	3,623	929	205	146	40	389
1979-1980	4,440	391	228	132	27	394
1978-1979	6,324	516	242	171	25	414
1977-1978	5,346	1,114	227	147	28	402
1976-1977	6,008	1,078	287	150	31	445
1975-1976	N/I	N/I	257	129	27	413
1974-1975	6,166	935	259	115	19	409
1973-1974	6,121	886	204	90	17	295
1972-1973	5,803	954	209	76	16	295
1971-1972	4,057	821	191	76	11	209
1970-1971	N/I	N/I	168	60	9	237
1969-1970	not available					
1968-1969	not available					
1967-1968	not included	N/I	107	29	5	141
1966-1967	not included	N/I	80	25	4	111

TABLE 2

PUB. YR.	CULT	(M)	(F)	ARCH	(M)	(F)	BIO	(M)	(F)	# (M)	# (F)	UNK	TOTAL
2001-2002	316	117	196	127	76	50	52	20	32	213	278	4	495
2000-2001	323	118	179	130	68	43	54	26	27	212	249	46	507
1999-2000	357	153	187	132	75	55	69	26	40	254	282	22	558
1998-1999	323	126	149	119	56	52	56	21	26	203	227	68	498
1997-1998	309	112	160	129	71	43	54	22	29	205	232	54	491
1996-1997	275	89	148	117	68	42	60	26	30	183	220	49	452
1995-1996	230	85	128	125	66	57	54	19	31	170	216	23	409
1994-1995	169	73	80	75	44	29	33	15	16	132	125	20	277
1993-1994	197	67	116	86	46	35	43	18	25	131	176	19	326
1992-1993	228	83	118	121	69	38	44	22	18	174	174	45	393
1991-1992		data	not	avail.									
1990-1991		data	not	avail.									
1989-1990		data	not	avail.									
1988-1989	243	87	130	95	61	29	29	14	13	162	172	33	367
1987-1988	226	95	105	82	53	28	51	30	19	174	156	29	359
1986-1987	266	111	130	109	71	34	45	17	28	198	193	29	420
1985-1986	274	116	131	73	52	21	52	29	21	197	173	29	399
1984-1985	231	95	117	114	63	46	44	18	26	176	189	24	389
1983-1984	120	63	48	70	39	29	20	10	10	112	87	11	210
1982-1983	380	176	165	123	80	37	81	46	30	302	232	50	584
1981-1982	256	131	103	91	69	18	60	26	32	226	153	28	407
1980-1981	270	127	108	80	57	19	41	21	20	205	147	39	391
1979-1980	282	156	104	74	51	20	31	21	8	228	132	27	387
1978-1979	315	160	133	75	49	23	48	34	14	242	171	25	438
1977-1978	248	124	105	95	67	24	59	37	19	228	148	26	402
1976-1977	313	183	106	107	83	21	48	22	25	288	152	28	468
1975-1976	261	149	96	94	69	19	58	42	12	260	127	26	413
1974-1975	269	165	92	71	56	11	50	38	9	259	112	19	390
1973-1974	222	134	75	62	51	11	27	22	5	207	91	13	311
1972-1973	204	135	60	65	52	10	32	24	8	211	78	12	301
1971-1972	186	115	63	61	55	5	31	21	9	191	77	10	278
1970-1971	172	113	51	49	41	7	16	13	3	167	61	9	237
1969-1970		data	not	avail.									
1968-1969		data	not	avail.									
1967-1968	111	83	23	19	15	3	11	8	3	106	29	6	141
1966-1967	80	54	22	27	24	3	4	3	1	81	26	4	111