



ASA Department Chairs Conference 2016

How Does Your Department Compare? Structure of Sociology Departments in 2016

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In winter 2016, the ASA Department of Research conducted a survey of sociology departments that granted a bachelor’s degree or higher. The purpose of this session is to present some early findings from the survey and stimulate discussion about sociology department structures and characteristics, and to better understand what types of information department chairs seek and how they use it.

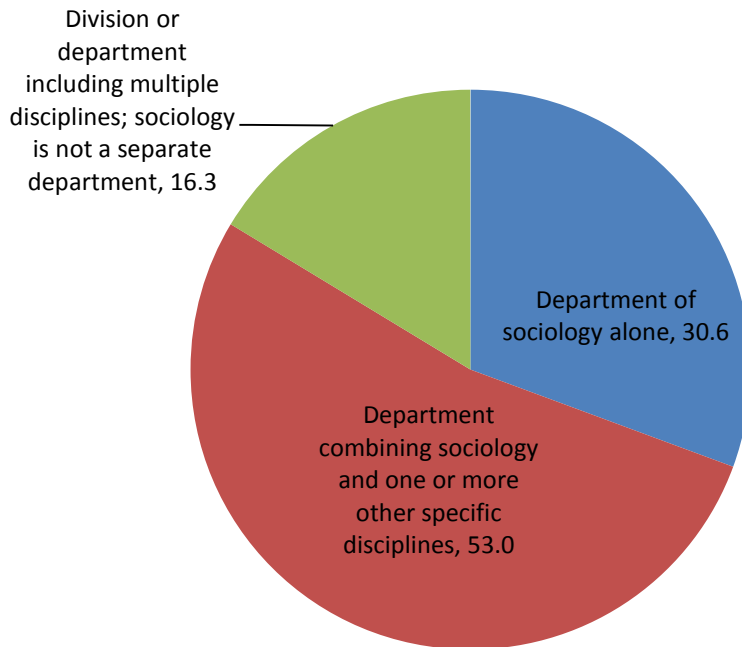
- We had valid contact information for 989 sociology department chairs or administrators.
- 637 departments completed the survey.
- We adjusted the final responses to correct for survey nonresponse, based on the universe of sociology degree-granting departments: those offering bachelor’s degree only and those offering a bachelor’s degree or higher, and whether institutions were public or private.
- We plan to conduct regular brief surveys of sociology departments to obtain additional data and information important to faculty members and administrators.
- Please be sure to keep your key department contact information up to date with ASA so that we may reach as many departments as possible in our future surveys and provide timely and informative results for you!

Academic Department Type and Structure (Percent): Winter 2016

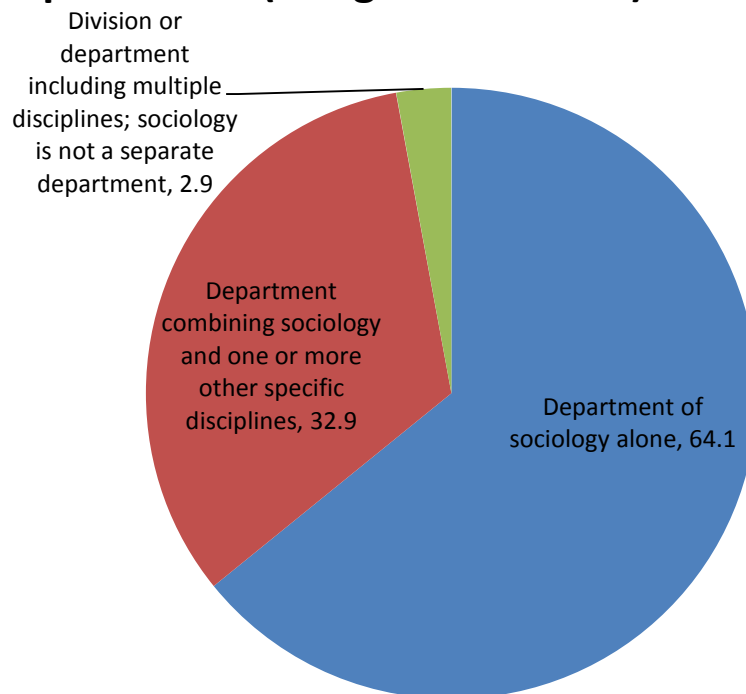
Department Structure	Number of Departments	Department Type		Total
		Undergraduate Only (n=465)	Graduate Degree-Granting (n=172)	
Department of sociology alone	251	30.6	64.1	39.4
Department combining sociology and one or more other specific disciplines	304	53.0	32.9	47.8
Division or department including multiple disciplines; sociology is not a separate department	82	16.3	2.9	12.8
Total	637	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: American Sociological Association Census of Academic Sociology Departments, 2016. Percentages are weighted to adjust for survey nonresponse, based on the universe of sociology degree-granting departments (bachelor's or higher). Percentages might not equal 100 due to rounding.

Structure for Undergraduate-Only Degree-Granting Departments (Weighted Percent): Winter 2016



Structure for Graduate Degree-Granting Departments (Weighted Percent): Winter 2016



Other Disciplines in Combined Departments (Percent), by Department Type

	Department Type		
	Undergraduate Only	Graduate Degree-Granting	Total
Anthropology	56.7	26.0	55.8
Criminal Justice	27.0	28.9	27.4
Criminology	18.5	29.1	20.3
Social Work	19.6	16.6	19.1
Psychology	8.4	0.0	6.9
Political Science	7.1	0.0	5.9
Geography	3.9	3.7	3.8
History	4.3	0.0	3.6
Gerontology	2.9	3.7	3.0
Gender/Women's Studies	2.1	7.4	3.0
Human Services	3.5	0.0	2.9
Communications	1.8	3.7	2.1
Family/Child and Family Studies	2.0	0.0	1.6
International or Global Studies/Relations/Affairs	1.7	0.0	1.4
Urban Studies	1.4	0.0	1.1
Public Health/Health	0.5	3.7	1.0
Economics	1.2	0.0	1.0
Nonprofit Studies	0.8	0.0	0.6
Justice/Social Justice Studies	0.8	0.0	0.7
Environmental Studies	0.9	0.0	0.8
Philosophy	0.4	0.0	0.3
Education	0.5	0.0	0.4
Total Departments Reporting More than One Discipline	236	51	287

Source: American Sociological Association Census of Academic Sociology Departments, 2016.

Percentages are weighted to adjust for survey nonresponse, based on the universe of sociology degree-granting departments (bachelor's or higher). Seventeen combined departments did not report a discipline name.

Percentages will exceed 100.

Some factoids

In addition to sociology,

- 57.9 percent of combined departments include **one** other discipline.
- 28.1 percent include **two** other disciplines.
- 10.3 percent include **three** disciplines.
- 1.7 percent include **four** disciplines.
- 1.4 percent include **five** disciplines.
- 0.7 percent include **six** disciplines.

Name(s) of Division in Which Sociology Program Is Housed (Percent), for Undergraduate Programs

	Percent
Social Science(s)	81.3
Behavioral Science(s)	27.7
Arts and Sciences	2.8
Human Science(s) or Human Ecology	1.4
Liberal Arts	2.6
Interdisciplinary (Studies)	2.4
Other	11.8
Total Divisions Reporting	76

Source: American Sociological Association Census of Academic Sociology Departments, 2016. Percentages are weighted to adjust for survey nonresponse, based on the universe of sociology degree-granting departments (bachelor's or higher).

Three graduate degree-granting programs also reported division names (data not shown). Percentages will exceed 100.

Breakdown of "Other"	Number
History	2
Global Studies	1
Cultural Studies	1
History and Philosophy	1
Natural Sciences	1
School of Public Policy	1
Unspecified	2
Total	9

Some Factoids

- 72.3 percent of programs housed in a division include **one** name in that division.
- 26.6 percent include **two** names.
- 1.2 percent include **three** names.