

## Teaching workload of full-time postsecondary faculty

*Teaching students is only one aspect of a postsecondary faculty member's job. Faculty members also spend time on other activities such as research, freelance work, administrative tasks, and professional growth activities. Debates about tenure, instructional time, and the overall quality of a college education raise questions about the actual time postsecondary faculty spend teaching relative to the time they spend doing these other activities.*

- In 1992, faculty members spent 54 percent of their work hours teaching, 18 percent conducting research, and 13 percent performing administrative tasks.
- Between 1987 and 1992, the percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty members spent teaching decreased (from 57 to 54 percent); however, the number of classroom and student contact hours per week increased (see supplemental table 43-1).
- Generally, full professors tended to spend a higher percentage of their time conducting research than other professors in 1992. Assistant professors, instructors, and lecturers spent a higher proportion of time teaching than full or associate professors.
- Full-time postsecondary faculty members at 2-year institutions had more student contact hours per week in 1992 than did faculty at other institutions (over 87 percent more than those at liberal arts institutions and 67 percent more than those at research institutions) (see supplemental table 43-1).

### Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities, by academic rank and type of institution: Fall 1987 and fall 1992

Activity	Total <sup>1</sup>	Academic rank					Type of institution				
		Full professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Instructor	Lecturer	Research	Doc- total	Compre- hensive	Liberal arts	2-year
<b>Fall 1992</b>											
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Teaching <sup>2</sup>	54.4	50.2	52.3	55.3	67.8	61.1	39.0	46.0	60.2	63.6	68.7
Research/scholarship	17.6	21.5	19.4	19.7	6.0	10.2	32.4	23.0	13.3	9.7	4.5
Professional growth	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.5	5.7	5.5	3.6	4.2	5.0	4.6	5.8
Administration	13.1	15.1	13.6	9.3	10.4	12.8	12.9	14.1	12.7	14.6	12.1
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.7
Service and other	7.4	6.0	7.1	8.9	7.5	8.1	9.3	10.1	6.0	4.9	6.1
<b>Fall 1987</b>											
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Teaching <sup>2</sup>	57.1	51.3	54.2	57.4	70.1	69.3	43.3	54.1	63.5	67.1	73.1
Research/scholarship	17.3	21.1	20.3	19.0	5.9	9.5	30.3	21.9	12.0	10.2	4.2
Professional growth	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.2	7.0	5.5	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.3	5.2
Administration	13.2	16.4	13.3	10.3	9.9	8.9	13.7	13.5	13.2	13.8	11.0
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.5	2.8	2.6	1.8	2.7	3.6	2.5	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.5
Service and other	5.4	4.8	5.1	7.4	4.4	3.2	6.4	3.3	4.2	3.0	4.0

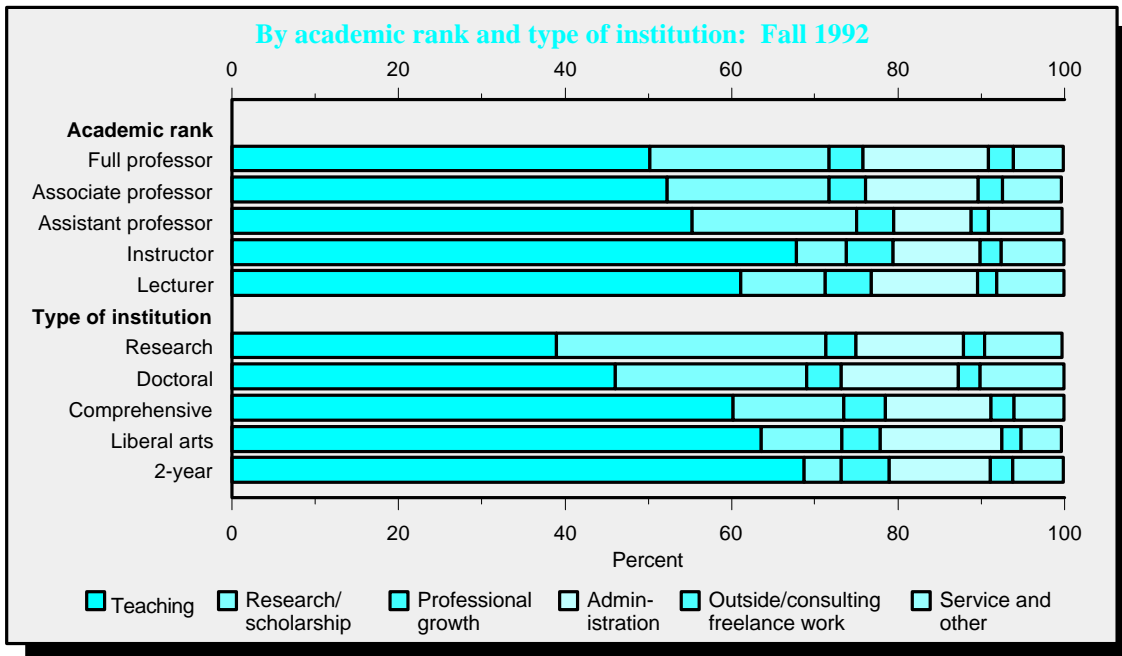
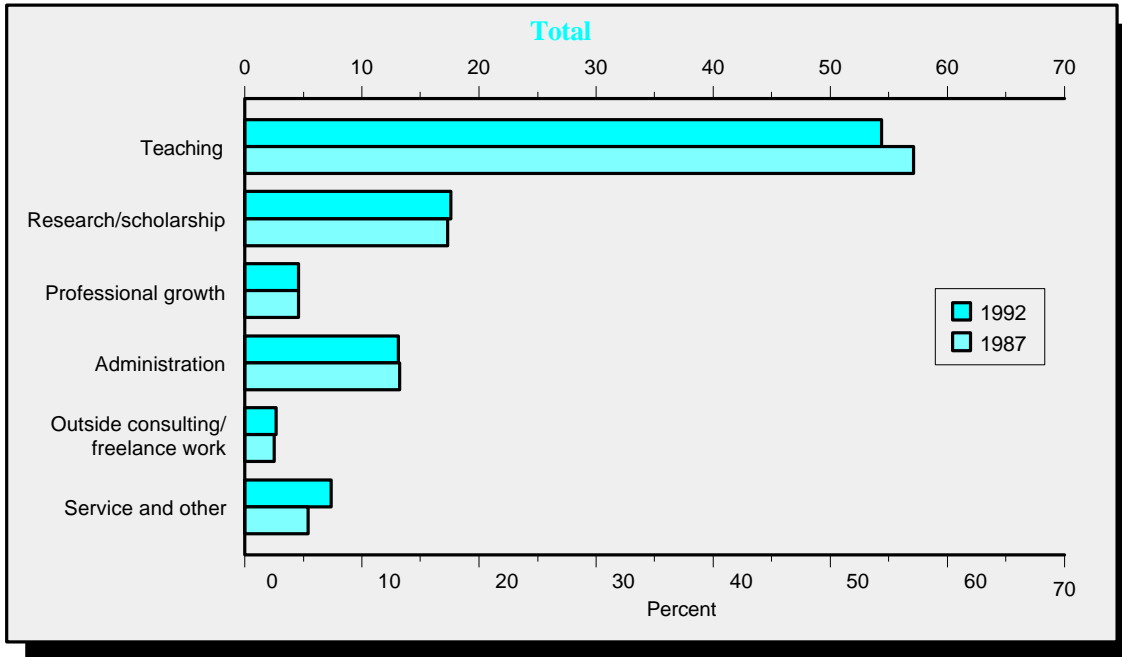
<sup>1</sup> Included in the total but not shown separately are other academic ranks and types of postsecondary institutions.

<sup>2</sup> Includes other activities besides teaching in the classroom such as grading papers, preparing for class, developing new curricula, advising or supervising students, and working with student organizations or intramural athletics.

NOTE: Data are revised from previously published figures. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. See the supplemental note to this indicator for further definitions of time spent by faculty.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities:  
Fall 1987 and fall 1992



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

## Note to Indicator 43: Teaching workload and research production of full-time postsecondary faculty

The 1988 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF) was a survey of faculty who had at least some instructional duties (such as teaching one or more courses) in for-credit, higher education courses during the fall 1987 term.

Unlike NSOPF-88, which was limited to faculty whose regular assignments included instruction, the faculty universe for NSOPF-93 was expanded to include anyone who was designated as faculty, whether or not their responsibilities included instruction, as well as other (nonfaculty) personnel with instructional responsibilities.

The analyses for this indicator include all those who had any instructional duties in the fall of 1987 and 1992. Therefore, it includes those faculty whose principal activity that semester was research, technical, clinical, service, or administration, as long as the faculty member taught at least one class for credit. In fact, in fall 1992, 15 percent of all faculty who taught at least one class for credit had a principal activity other than teaching.

The analysis for the indicators using NSOPF categorizes institutions of higher education into five types, as shown below. Remaining institutions, such as religious or specialized institutions, were included in the totals but are not shown separately.

### Types of institutions

*Research university:* Institution among the 100 leading universities that receives federal research funds. Each of these universities awards substantial numbers of doctorates across many fields.

*Doctoral university:* Institution that offers a full range of baccalaureate programs and Ph.D. degrees in at least three disciplines, but tends to be less focused on research and receives fewer federal research dollars than the research universities.

*Comprehensive institution:* Institution that offers liberal arts and professional programs. The master's degree is the highest degree offered.

*Liberal arts institution:* Institution that is smaller and generally more selective than comprehensive colleges and universities. A liberal arts institution primarily offers bachelor's degrees, although some offer master's degrees.

*2-year institution:* Institution that offers certificate or degree programs through the Associate of Arts level. Two-year institutions, with few exceptions,

offer no bachelor's degrees, although some offer master's degrees.

### Time allocation

NSOPF survey respondents were asked to estimate the percentage of total working hours they spent on each of the activities below:

*Teaching:* Includes teaching; grading papers; preparing courses; developing new curricula; advising or supervising students; or working with student organizations or intramural sports.

*Research/scholarship:* Includes conducting research; reviewing or preparing articles or books; attending or preparing for professional meetings or conferences; reviewing proposals; seeking outside funding; giving performances or exhibitions in the fine or applied arts; or giving speeches.

*Professional growth:* Includes taking courses or pursuing an advanced degree or other professional development activities to remain current in their field of practice.

*Administration:* Performing administrative activities.

*Outside consulting or freelance work:* Conducting outside consulting or other employment.

*Service/other:* Includes providing legal or medical service or psychological counseling to clients or patients; providing paid or unpaid community or public service, or service to professional societies/associations; or participating in other activities or work not listed above.

### Classroom and student contact hours

*Classroom hours:* The number of hours per week faculty members spent teaching.

*Student contact hours:* The sum of the number of hours per week faculty members spent teaching over all classes, multiplied by the number of students in each class.

*Class size:* The total number of student contact hours divided by the mean number of classroom hours faculty spent per week.

## Research Production

List below are the specific types of research produced by faculty and the corresponding categories used to discuss these activities in *Indicator 59*.

Articles/Creative works	Articles published in refereed professional or trade journals
	Articles published in nonrefereed professional or trade journals
	Creative works published in juried media
	Creative works published in nonjuried media or in-house newsletters
Books	Chapters in edited volumes
	Textbooks
	Other books
	Monographs
Presentations/exhibitions	Presentations at conferences, workshops, etc.
	Exhibitions or performances in the fine or applied arts
Other published reviews of books, articles, or creative works	Research or technical reports disseminated internally or to clients
	Patents or copyrights
	Computer software products

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Profiles of Faculty in Higher Education Institutions*, 1988.

**Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities, by academic rank and type of institution: Fall 1987 and fall 1992**

Activity	Total <sup>1</sup>	Academic rank					Type of institution				
		Full professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Instructor	Lecturer	Research	Doc- total	Compre- hensive	Liberal arts	2- year
<b>Fall 1992</b>											
Total <sup>1</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teaching <sup>4</sup>	54.4	50.2	52.3	55.3	67.8	61.1	39.0	46.0	60.2	63.6	68.7
Research/scholarship	17.6	21.5	19.4	19.7	6.0	10.2	32.4	23.0	13.3	9.7	4.5
Professional growth	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.5	5.7	5.5	3.6	4.2	5.0	4.6	5.8
Administration	13.1	15.1	13.6	9.3	10.4	12.8	12.9	14.1	12.7	14.6	12.1
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.7
Service and other	7.4	6.0	7.1	8.9	7.5	8.1	9.3	10.1	6.0	4.9	6.1
<b>Fall 1987</b>											
Total <sup>1</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Teaching <sup>4</sup>	57.1	51.3	54.2	57.4	70.1	69.3	43.3	54.1	63.5	67.1	73.1
Research/scholarship	17.3	21.1	20.3	19.0	5.9	9.5	30.3	21.9	12.0	10.2	4.2
Professional growth	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.2	7.0	5.5	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.3	5.2
Administration	13.2	16.4	13.3	10.3	9.9	8.9	13.7	13.5	13.2	13.8	11.0
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.5	2.8	2.6	1.8	2.7	3.6	2.5	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.5
Service and other	5.4	4.8	5.1	7.4	4.4	3.2	6.4	3.3	4.2	3.0	4.0

<sup>1</sup> Included in the total but not shown separately are other academic ranks and types of postsecondary institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Includes other activities besides teaching in the classroom such as grading papers, preparing for class, developing new curricula, advising or supervising students, or working with student organizations or intramural athletics.

NOTE: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. See the supplemental note to this indicator for further definitions of time spent by faculty.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

**Table 43-1 Mean classroom hours per week, mean student contact hours per week, and average class size for full-time postsecondary faculty, by academic rank, type and control of institution, and academic discipline of class taught: Fall 1987 and fall 1992**

Characteristics	Mean classroom hours per week	Mean student contact hours per week	Average class size
		<b>Fall 1992</b>	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>337.4</b>	<b>30.6</b>
Academic rank			
Full professor	9.6	323.7	33.6
Associate professor	10.1	324.9	31.5
Assistant professor	10.6	312.5	30.1
Instructor	15.9	434.0	26.3
Lecturer	9.0	301.8	34.8
Type of institution			
Research	6.9	270.3	38.9
Doctoral	9.2	356.7	39.7
Comprehensive	10.8	318.5	29.1
Liberal arts	11.0	242.2	21.4
2-year	16.2	451.9	27.3
Control of institution			
Public	11.4	358.5	31.8
Private	10.0	286.2	27.8
Academic discipline of class taught			
Agriculture	11.0	311.1	28.3
Business	11.0	317.9	29.2
Education	10.2	276.9	25.8
Engineering	9.6	243.9	25.3
Fine arts	12.4	269.3	21.5
Humanities	10.9	296.0	26.8
Natural sciences	10.2	376.4	36.4
Social sciences	9.5	357.9	36.0
		<b>Fall 1987</b>	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>300.4</b>	<b>30.0</b>
Academic rank			
Full professor	8.6	277.9	32.8
Associate professor	9.1	314.5	33.6
Assistant professor	9.3	262.2	28.0
Instructor	13.4	371.2	26.9
Lecturer	9.2	424.2	41.6
Type of institution			
Research	6.5	252.5	38.5
Doctoral	8.4	279.0	33.8
Comprehensive	10.5	305.5	29.0
Liberal arts	10.6	235.7	21.4
2-year	15.0	416.6	26.5
Control of institution			
Public	10.2	324.1	31.5
Private	8.8	247.4	28.3
Academic discipline of class taught			
Agriculture	8.8	247.0	29.6
Business	10.6	327.5	29.9
Education	9.8	259.7	24.5
Engineering	9.5	256.4	27.2
Fine arts	12.1	279.5	22.1
Humanities	10.1	276.9	26.6
Natural sciences	9.4	352.9	36.0
Social sciences	8.7	328.5	37.0

\* Included in the total but not shown separately are other types of academic ranks, institutions, and academic disciplines.

NOTE: See the supplemental note to this indicator for definitions of classroom and student contact hours.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

**Table 43-2 Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities, by control of institution and academic discipline of class taught: Fall 1987 and fall 1992**

Control of institution and academic discipline	Total	Teaching <sup>1</sup>	Research/scholarship	Professional growth	Administration	Outside consulting/freelance work	Service and other
<b>Fall 1992</b>							
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Control of institution							
Public	100.0	55.1	17.6	4.7	12.5	2.6	7.4
Private	100.0	52.7	17.7	4.5	14.6	2.8	7.6
Academic discipline of class taught							
Agriculture	100.0	45.3	27.0	4.4	13.0	2.5	7.9
Business	100.0	57.8	14.0	5.5	11.9	4.8	5.9
Education	100.0	54.6	11.4	5.4	16.5	2.8	9.1
Engineering	100.0	52.2	24.2	3.9	10.8	3.6	5.1
Fine arts	100.0	57.9	14.6	5.9	11.9	4.2	5.5
Humanities	100.0	63.1	14.6	4.1	12.4	1.5	4.1
Natural sciences	100.0	55.3	23.6	3.8	11.0	1.9	4.3
Social sciences	100.0	52.8	20.4	4.1	13.3	2.8	6.4
<b>Fall 1987</b>							
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Control of institution							
Public	100.0	58.1	16.9	4.7	12.9	2.6	5.0
Private	100.0	55.1	18.2	4.2	13.8	2.3	6.5
Academic discipline of class taught							
Agriculture	100.0	54.9	23.3	4.3	12.7	1.9	2.9
Business	100.0	64.5	12.4	4.2	11.5	4.9	2.5
Education	100.0	62.0	9.5	4.3	16.4	2.2	5.6
Engineering	100.0	60.6	18.5	3.6	11.5	4.2	1.7
Fine arts	100.0	57.0	18.1	7.4	11.3	3.5	2.6
Humanities	100.0	64.8	14.7	3.0	14.0	1.3	2.5
Natural sciences	100.0	58.6	21.9	3.7	11.7	2.0	2.1
Social sciences	100.0	56.6	19.6	3.3	13.4	2.5	4.6

<sup>1</sup>Includes other activities besides teaching in the classroom such as grading papers, preparing for class, developing new curricula, advising or supervising students, and working with student organizations or intramural athletics.

<sup>4</sup> Included in the total but not shown separately are other types of academic disciplines. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

**Table S43 Standard errors for the text table in Indicator 43**

Activity	Academic rank						Type of institution					
	Total	Full professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Instructor	Lecturer	Research	Doc-toral	Compre-hensive	Liberal arts	2-year	
<b>Fall 1992</b>												
Teaching	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	2.4	0.8	1.2	0.6	0.8	0.8	
Research/scholarship	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.2	
Professional growth	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Administration	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	
Outside consulting/ freelance work	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Service and other	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	2.4	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.3	
<b>Fall 1987</b>												
Teaching	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.7	2.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	
Research/scholarship	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.3	
Professional growth	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	
Administration	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	
Outside consulting/ freelance work	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Service and other	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.



**Table S43-1 Standard errors for table 43-1**

Characteristics	Mean class-room hours per week	Mean student contact hours per week	Average class size
<b>Fall 1992</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Academic rank			
Full professor	0.2	12.8	0.8
Associate professor	0.2	10.2	0.7
Assistant professor	0.2	9.8	0.6
Instructor	0.4	19.9	0.5
Lecturer	0.5	30.1	3.8
Type of institution			
Research	0.2	13.6	1.2
Doctoral	0.3	34.6	2.2
Comprehensive	0.2	6.6	0.5
Liberal arts	0.3	9.3	0.5
2-year	0.3	13.5	0.4
Control of institution			
Public	0.2	7.0	0.4
Private	0.3	18.3	1.1
Academic discipline of class taught			
Agriculture	0.9	36.9	2.2
Business	0.3	9.6	0.7
Education	0.3	17.7	0.9
Engineering	0.5	14.2	1.0
Fine arts	0.4	10.1	0.7
Humanities	0.2	7.8	0.4
Natural sciences	0.3	19.9	1.1
Social sciences	0.2	17.9	0.9
<b>Fall 1987</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Academic rank			
Full professor	0.3	12.4	1.1
Associate professor	0.2	19.5	1.3
Assistant professor	0.3	11.9	0.8
Instructor	0.5	24.2	1.1
Lecturer	0.6	62.1	4.9
Type of institution			
Research	0.2	14.4	1.8
Doctoral	0.3	19.6	2.3
Comprehensive	0.3	10.8	1.0
Liberal arts	0.6	18.3	0.9
2-year	0.3	18.6	0.7
Control of institution			
Public	0.2	8.4	0.6
Private	0.3	15.3	1.3
Academic discipline of class taught			
Agriculture	0.8	22.0	2.7
Business	0.3	13.3	1.0
Education	0.4	19.9	0.9
Engineering	0.4	15.1	1.3
Fine arts	0.5	17.4	0.9
Humanities	0.2	10.3	0.5
Natural sciences	0.3	23.4	1.7
Social sciences	0.3	17.0	1.8

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

**Table S43-2 Standard errors for table 43-2**

Control of institution and academic discipline	Teaching	Research/ scholarship	Professional growth	Admin- istration	Outside consulting/ freelance work	Service and other
<b>Fall 1992</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Control of institution						
Public	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
Private	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5
Academic discipline of class taught						
Agriculture	2.2	2.5	0.5	1.9	0.5	0.8
Business	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.4
Education	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.5
Engineering	1.6	1.4	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.6
Fine arts	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5
Humanities	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2
Natural sciences	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
Social sciences	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4
<b>Fall 1987</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Control of institution						
Public	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3
Private	1.6	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	1.0
Academic discipline of class taught						
Agriculture	2.8	2.3	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.7
Business	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.2
Education	1.4	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.7
Engineering	1.7	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.2
Fine arts	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.3
Humanities	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.2
Natural sciences	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
Social sciences	1.2	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.5

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.