

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 219 984

HE 014 998

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TITLE Report on the Council of Graduate Schools-Graduate Record Examinations Board 1981-1982 Survey of Graduate Enrollment, Part 1.
INSTITUTION Association of Graduate Schools.; Council of Graduate Schools in the U.S., Washington, D.C.; Graduate Record Examinations Board, Princeton, N.J.
PUB DATE Dec 81
NOTE 22p.; Also issued as: CGS Communicator Special Report, Volume XIV, No. 5, January 1982.
AVAILABLE FROM Graduate Record Examinations Board, Princeton, NJ 08541.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Assistantships; Chemistry; *College Applicants; Degrees (Academic); Doctoral Degrees; English Departments; *Enrollment Trends; *Fellowships; *Graduate Students; Higher Education; Masters Degrees; Private Colleges; School Surveys; State Colleges; *Student Financial Aid; Teaching Assistants; Trend Analysis

ABSTRACT

Information is presented on graduate student enrollments, applications for graduate study, availability of assistantships and fellowships, graduate degrees awarded, and stipends for teaching assistants, based on the 1981-1982 Survey of Graduate Enrollment of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)-Graduate Record Examinations Board. Of the survey questionnaires sent to the 363 CGS graduate school members, 275 were returned. Declines were found in overall total enrollment and first-time enrollments, while applications for admission to graduate schools increased at private doctoral institutions but decreased at master's institutions. Numbers of graduate assistants remained essentially unchanged, and fellowships offered showed an overall decline especially among larger doctoral schools. There was a slight overall decrease in master's degrees awarded while doctoral degrees increased at all private and public institutions. Stipends paid to teaching assistants in English Departments increased by 10.4% between 1980 and 1981 with substantially greater increases reported by private institutions. Teaching assistants in chemistry departments received stipend increases at about 8.6% during the year. The results are presented in 10 statistical tables. Most data are presented by public, private, and total schools, and some tables present data for institutions classified by highest degree awarded. In addition, information is presented on the percentage that the number of respondents represents of the total group, the total number of students reported each year, and the percentage change from 1980 to 1981. (SW)

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Report on the Council of Graduate Schools-Graduate Record
Examinations Board 1981-1982 Survey of Graduate Enrollment*

Part I
December 1981

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Introduction

As a result of the difficulty of obtaining accurate information about graduate enrollments, and particularly about trends in enrollments, the GRE Board and the Council of Graduate Schools began eleven years ago to conduct an annual series of surveys of enrollment of the membership of the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States. The Council membership consists of 363 graduate institutions which grant either the master's or doctorate as the highest degree. The members of the Council grant over 95% of the earned doctorates and 85% of the master's degrees awarded.

This year's survey, like those of previous years, is divided into two sections, the first of which was distributed in the early fall of 1981 with a request that results be returned no later than October 23, 1981. This report provides the results of the first questionnaire mailing. The results of the second questionnaire mailing will be available in the spring of 1982.

In addition to graduate enrollments, this report provides information about applications for graduate study, availability of assistantships and fellowships, graduate degrees awarded, and stipends for teaching assistants.

Summary of Conclusions

The data reported in the eleventh year of this survey series appear quite useful in ascertaining short-term trends in American graduate education.

Declines were reported in overall total enrollment and first-time enrollments. Applications for admission to graduate schools increased at private doctoral institutions but decreased at master's institutions. Numbers of graduate assistants remained essentially unchanged, and fellowships offered showed an overall decline especially among larger doctoral schools. There was a slight overall decrease in master's degrees awarded while doctoral degrees increased at all private and public institutions.

*For reference purposes, this report is also issued as "CGS Communicator Special Report Volume XIV, No. 5, January 1982.

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Stipends paid to teaching assistants in English Departments increased by 10.4% between 1980 and 1981 with substantially greater increases reported by private institutions. Teaching assistants in Chemistry Departments received stipend increases at about 8.6% during the past year.

Specific data and comments on these conclusions are included in the following section of this report.

Sample Description

Survey questionnaires were sent to each of the 363 graduate schools which are members of CGS. A total of 275 questionnaires were returned for a 76% response rate, an indication of the continued cooperation of member graduate schools. Since the primary purpose of the questionnaire is to develop comparative data between 1980 and 1981, responses to questions were included in the analysis only when data were supplied for both years. Thus, the effective response rate per question will vary from a high of 75% for the overall sample to a low of 58% for the question concerning stipends for teaching assistants in Chemistry Departments. While this variability is to be expected, it does make comparisons across some questions of restricted value.

Comparison of Usable Sample and Base Population

	<u>Number of CGS Institutions</u>	<u>Number of Reporting Institutions</u>	<u>% (sample of each population subgroup)</u>
Total Institutions			
Public	247	186	75%
Private	<u>116</u>	<u>89</u>	77%
Total	363	275	76%
<hr/>			
Master's Highest Degree			
Public	85	60	71%
Private	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	85%
Sub-total	105	77	73%
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Ph.D. Highest Degree			
Public	162	126	78%
Private	<u>96</u>	<u>72</u>	75%
Sub-total	258	198	77%

Continued care should be exercised in attempting to compare results of this year's survey with published results of last year's survey insofar as 1980 data reported in the current survey may differ from 1980 data reported last year for several reasons. First, although the questions and definitions remain essentially unchanged from last year's survey, the actual number of institutions responding in 1981 were not identical to those responding in 1980. Second, some institutions noted that the data for 1980 which they were able to provide for this year's survey were different from, and better than, the

1980 data which they provided last year. Despite these limitations, the overall obtained sample (i.e., those submitting usable questionnaires on time) is highly representative of the total CGS population.

Comparisons of number and percentages of the available population and sample are shown on page 2. It should be noted that "Master's Highest Degree" refers, throughout this report, only to those institutions for which the master's degree is, in fact, the highest degree awarded. Data for these institutions do not reflect master's degrees offered by institutions which also offer the doctorate.

The percentages shown in the table on page 2--and in Tables 1 through 10 at the end of this report--show response rate based on the number of institutions in CGS; e.g., the 275 institutions providing responses to this survey represent 76% of the CGS institutions and a 76% response rate is noted. Since the sample of institutions with usable data becomes less complete as the complexity of the questions or the difficulty of obtaining the data increases, the number of institutions providing usable data and the response rate that number represents are given for each question in the data presentation.

In addition, in order to provide an indication of the representativeness of these data the proportion of total CGS graduate school enrollment which the responding institutions represent are provided in a footnote to each table. Based upon the results of this year's survey, combined with additional data from the Graduate Programs and Admissions Manual, one may estimate the 1981 total graduate school enrollment for CGS members at approximately 830,000. Using this estimate, it is then possible to report that the 275 institutions which responded to this year's survey represent a 76% response rate (based on percentage of CGS institutions) and also accounted for approximately 69% of the 1981 total graduate enrollment at CGS institutions. This latter figure is created by taking the 1981 total enrollment reported this year (571,182) and dividing by 830,000. For subsequent questions, a similar computation has been carried out, removing from the 571,182 the reported total graduate enrollment of each institution which failed to provide a usable response to the question.

Results

The results of the survey are displayed in Tables 1 through 10. The tables present the number of respondents with usable data to each question (i.e., data for both years and for all parts of the question), the percentage that number represents of the total group or of the subgroup, the total number of students reported each year and the percentage change from 1980 to 1981. Most data are presented by public, private, and total. In addition, Tables 1 through 4 and Tables 9 and 10 also present data for institutions classified by means of the highest degree awarded. These categories are: Public-Master's Highest; Private-Master's Highest; Public-Doctorate Highest; and Private-Doctorate Highest. This additional breakdown was not applied to other questions because it was not felt to be particularly important or because the differences were too small to affect the overall conclusions.

Discussion

Table 1 - Total enrollment this year showed a slight overall decrease (1.1%). For the most part doctoral institutions maintained their enrollments while master's level schools of all sizes reported declining enrollments. Among doctoral institutions, slight gains at private schools were offset by similar declines at public schools.

Table 2 - First-time enrollments showed an average decrease at all types and sizes of institutions (2.0%) with the largest decrease occurring at the private master's institutions (9.5%). Institutions of all sizes reported declines in first-time enrollments.

Table 3 - Total applications for admission to graduate schools increased in private doctoral institutions (3.5%) and remained essentially unchanged at public doctoral institutions. Master's level institutions showed a 4.1% decrease with schools of all sizes contributing to the decline.

Table 4 - The number of graduate assistants (service required) remained essentially unchanged.

Table 5 - The total number of fellowships (no service required) showed an overall decrease of 4.7%. The largest decreases occurred among the largest schools with public institutions reporting greater declines than private schools.

Table 6 - A very small increase occurred in the percentages of students enrolling full-time at responding institutions. Private institutions continue to report a substantially greater percentage of full-time students than do public institutions.

Table 7 - The total number of master's degrees awarded showed a slight overall decrease (1.0%). Moderate increases occurred at the larger private doctoral institutions while decreases were reported in all other categories.

Table 8 - The total number of doctoral degrees awarded showed an overall increase of 2.6%. Increases were reported at private and public institutions of all size ranges.

Tables 9 and 10 - Recent surveys in this series have requested data regarding level of stipends paid to teaching assistants in an English Department. This year the same information was also requested for teaching assistants in a Chemistry Department. Any effort to determine the level of financial remuneration to teaching assistants invariably encounters a confusing array of institutional practices with respect to issues such as payment of tuition, variation across departments, variations by experience, taxability, tuition remission and hours of service. In response to continuing interest in such data about stipends and in an effort to make meaningful comparisons, institutions were requested to provide assistantship stipends for a "model" first-time teaching assistant who commits 20 hours per week to assistantship duties in an English Department and in a Chemistry Department. Data received from responding institutions are summarized in Table 9 for English Departments and Table 10 for Chemistry Departments.

English Departments--The data indicate that teaching assistant stipends increased by about 10.4% between 1980 and 1981. Private institutions reported substantially greater average percentage stipend increases than public institutions. Doctoral level departments reported greater increases than master's level departments in the stipends paid to teaching assistants in English Departments.

Chemistry Departments--An overall increase of 8.6% was reported in stipends paid to teaching assistants in Chemistry Departments between 1980 and 1981. The largest increases occurred at doctoral level institutions with little difference between the increases reported by public and by private institutions.

Because of variations in institutional practices regarding assistantships, caution should be exercised in using the average dollar values reported in the tables. Percentage changes in stipend levels, on the other hand, can reasonably be interpreted to reflect changes made by institutions in their stipend levels.

TABLE 1

Total Graduate School* Enrollment by Type of Institution

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%**</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	60	71%	96,079	90,946	5.3% decrease
Private	<u>17</u>	<u>85%</u>	<u>15,112</u>	<u>15,014</u>	0.6% decrease
Sub-Total	77	73%	111,191	105,960	4.7% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	122	75%	342,933	339,950	0.9% decrease
Private	<u>72</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>123,290</u>	<u>125,272</u>	1.6% increase
Sub-Total	194	75%	466,223	465,222	0.2% decrease
Total Institutions					
Public	182	74%	439,012	430,896	1.8% decrease
Private	<u>89</u>	<u>77%</u>	<u>138,402</u>	<u>140,286</u>	1.4% increase
Total	271	75%***	577,414	571,182	1.1% decrease

*For purposes of this survey, institutions were asked to include all students considered as registered in the graduate school, including education, engineering, social work, medical and business programs leading to MA/MS or Ph.D., Ed.D., or other doctorates.

**Percentage figures are the number of institutions responding to this question as a percentage of the number available in the total group. For example, 60 Public Master's Highest Degree institutions responded out of a possible 85 such institutions in the CGS membership for a 71% response rate for that group of institutions.

***Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 271 institutions responding to this question represent 75% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 69% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 2

First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Type of Institution

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	52	61%	21,710	20,857	3.9% decrease
Private	<u>16</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>4,425</u>	<u>4,006</u>	9.5% decrease
Sub-Total	68	65%	26,135	24,863	4.9% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	116	72%	81,011	79,929	1.3% decrease
Private	<u>71</u>	<u>74%</u>	<u>34,372</u>	<u>33,833</u>	1.6% decrease
Sub-Total	187	72%	115,383	113,762	1.4% decrease
Total Institutions					
Public	168	68%	102,721	100,786	1.9% decrease
Private	<u>87</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>38,797</u>	<u>37,839</u>	2.5% decrease
Total	255	70%*	141,518	138,625	2.0% decrease

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 255 institutions responding to this question represent 70% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 63% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 3

Number of Applications for Graduate Study

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	52	61%	44,047	42,154	4.3% decrease
Private	<u>14</u>	<u>70%</u>	<u>6,521</u>	<u>6,339</u>	2.8% decrease
Sub-Total	66	63%	50,568	48,493	4.1% decrease
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	102	63%	238,535	238,555	0.0
Private	<u>66</u>	<u>69%</u>	<u>121,611</u>	<u>125,813</u>	3.5% increase
Sub-Total	168	65%	360,146	364,368	1.2% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	154	62%	282,582	280,709	0.7% decrease
Private	<u>80</u>	<u>69%</u>	<u>128,132</u>	<u>132,152</u>	3.1% increase
Total	234	64%*	410,714	412,861	0.5% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3 the 234 institutions responding to this question represent 64% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 58% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 4

Number of Graduate Assistants (Service Required)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	57	67%	4,869	4,822	1.0% decrease
Private	<u>16</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>420</u>	14.8% increase
Sub-Total	73	70%	5,235	5,242	0.1% increase
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	112	69%	66,872	66,928	0.1% increase
Private	<u>63</u>	<u>66%</u>	<u>19,891</u>	<u>20,090</u>	1.0% increase
Sub-Total	175	68%	86,763	87,018	0.3% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	169	68%	71,741	71,750	0.0
Private	<u>79</u>	<u>68%</u>	<u>20,257</u>	<u>20,510</u>	1.2% increase
Total	248	68%*	91,998	92,260	0.3% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 248 institutions responding to this question represent 68% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 61% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 5

Number of Graduate Fellows. (No Service Required)

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Public	158	64%	11,085	10,105	8.8% decrease
Private	74	64%	13,079	12,921	1.2% decrease
Total	232	64%*	24,164	23,026	4.7% decrease

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 232 institutions responding to this question represent 64% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 57% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 6

Full-time - Part-time** Total Enrollment

			<u>1980</u>				<u>1981</u>			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Full-Time Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Part-time Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Full-time Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Part-time Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Master's Highest	73	70%	19,950	19%	85,891	81%	19,798	20%	81,232	80%
Ph.D. Highest	184	71%	203,542	47%	232,334	53%	205,367	47%	229,082	53%
Total	257	71%***	223,492	41%	318,225	59%	225,165	42%	310,314	58%

**Institutions were directed to apply their own institutional definitions to "part-time" and "full-time."

***Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 257 institutions responding to this question represent 71% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 65% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 7

Number of Master's Degrees

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Public	185	75%	101,705	99,633	2.0% decrease
Private	<u>88</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>32,203</u>	<u>32,898</u>	2.2% increase
Total	273	75%*	133,908	132,531	1.0% decrease

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 273 institutions responding to this question represent 75% of the CGS institutions and accounted for approximately 69% of the 1980 total student enrollment at CGS institutions.

TABLE 8

Number of Ph.D. Degrees

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1979-80</u>	<u>1980-81</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Public	126	78%	13,335	13,787	3.4% increase
Private	<u>71</u>	<u>74%</u>	<u>7,071</u>	<u>7,145</u>	1.0% increase
Total	197	76%	20,406	20,932	2.6% increase

*Based on the computations described under Sample Description on page 3, the 197 institutions responding to this question represent 76% of the CGS doctoral institutions.

TABLE 9

Stipends for Teaching Assistants in English Departments

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	49	58%	\$3,198	\$3,376	5.6% increase
Private	<u>9</u>	45%	\$2,691	\$2,798	4.0% increase
Sub-Total	58	55%	\$3,119	\$3,287	5.4% increase
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	114	70%	\$3,931	\$4,253	8.2% increase
Private	<u>44</u>	46%	\$3,577	\$4,377	22.4% increase
Sub-Total	158	61%	\$3,832	\$4,288	11.9% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	163	66%	\$3,711	\$3,990	7.5% increase
Private	<u>53</u>	46%	\$3,426	\$4,109	19.9% increase
Sub-Total	216	60%	\$3,641	\$4,019	10.4% increase

These data are compiled from responses to the following question:

Approximate net payment made in 9-10 months to a first-time teaching assistant working for 20 hours per week. Since the comparability across graduate schools of assistantship stipends may be influenced by tax status, experience, department, educational level, and tuition waivers, this question requests teaching assistant stipends for a "model" first-time graduate assistant. The reported stipend should be the payment for 9-10 months of effort, excluding any tuition and fees paid by the student or provided by the institution as part of the assistantship package, for a "model" first-time teaching assistant who commits 20 hours per week to assistantship duties in an English Department.

The respondents to this question include about 10 schools whose data were unable to be included in other tables in this report.

TABLE 10

Stipends for Teaching Assistants in Chemistry Departments

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Master's Highest					
Public	40	47%	\$3,351	\$3,535	5.5% increase
Private	<u>7</u>	35%	\$2,803	\$2,856	1.9% increase
Sub-Total	47	45%	\$3,269	\$3,434	5.0% increase
Ph.D. Highest					
Public	115	71%	\$4,393	\$4,807	9.4% increase
Private	<u>49</u>	51%	\$4,294	\$4,700	9.5% increase
Sub-Total	164	64%	\$4,363	\$4,775	9.4% increase
Total Institutions					
Public	155	63%	\$4,124	\$4,478	8.6% increase
Private	<u>56</u>	48%	\$4,108	\$4,469	8.8% increase
Sub-Total	211	58%	\$4,120	\$4,476	8.6% increase

These data are compiled from responses to the following question:

Approximate net payment made in 9-10 months to a first-time teaching assistant working for 20 hours per week. Since the comparability across graduate schools of assistantship stipends may be influenced by tax status, experience, department, educational level, and tuition waivers, this question requests teaching assistant stipends for a "model" first-time graduate assistant. The reported stipend should be the payment for 9-10 months of effort, excluding any tuition and fees paid by the student or provided by the institution as part of the assistantship package, for a "model" first-time teaching assistant who commits 20 hours per week to assistantship duties in a Chemistry Department.

The respondents to this question include about 10 schools whose data were unable to be included in other tables in this report.