

MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages

In this section, we will provide an overview of MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments. First we will examine the total number of faculty and students. Then we will examine faculty hiring and recruiting and tenure decisions.

The 156 MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments employ about 3,370 faculty members as shown in Table MLAC1. The smallest departments are those housed at parent institutions classified as primarily bachelors-granting. Departments that offer a graduate degree as the highest degree are, on average, about 30% larger than those granting a bachelors as the highest degree. Even though about four departments in ten are housed in primarily bachelors-granting institutions, about five departments in ten offer a bachelors as the highest degree.

Table MLAC1: Faculty Members by Carnegie Classification and Highest Degree Offered¹⁶

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Departments	Total Number of Faculty Members
Baccalaureate College	18.0	61	1,100
Graduate University	23.9	95	2,270
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Departments	Total Number of Faculty Members
Bachelors	19.0	82	1,560
Graduate	24.5	74	1,810
Total	21.6	156	3,370

Table MLAC2 provides information about the distribution of faculty members by tenure status, and Table MLAC3 presents a view of employment status and the number of faculty members who are men and women. Overall, about 56% of the faculty members in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments are women, about three-fourths are employed in a full-time position, and 55% are either tenured or in a tenure-track position.

¹⁶ Totals given throughout this report are estimates of the population total.

Table MLAC2: Faculty Members by Tenure Status

Carnegie Classification	Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part Time, Non-Tenure-Track
Baccalaureate College	430	200	200	270
Graduate University	850	370	460	590
Highest Degree Offered	Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part-Time, Non-Tenure-Track
Bachelors	620	260	240	440
Graduate	660	310	420	420
Total	1,280	570	660	860

Table MLAC3: Faculty Members by Employment Status & Gender

Carnegie Classification	Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
Baccalaureate College	830	270	460	640
Graduate University	1,670	600	1,030	1,240
Highest Degree Offered	Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
Bachelors	1,110	450	660	900
Graduate	1,390	420	830	980
Total	2,500	870	1,490	1,880

Table MLAC4 depicts the distribution of departments based upon both the Carnegie classification of the parent institution and the highest degree offered. In more than 80% of the cases, the highest degree awarded is consistent with the Carnegie classification, and the highest degree awarded in most of the remaining departments is lower than the Carnegie classification of the parent institution. There are only three departments (or less than 2% of the total number of departments) where the highest degree offered exceeds the Carnegie classification of the parent institution.

Table MLAC4: Estimated Number of Departments by Carnegie Classification and Highest Degree Awarded

Carnegie Classification	Highest Degree Offered		
	Bachelors	Graduate	Total
Baccalaureate College	58	3	61
Graduate University	24	71	95
Total	82	74	156

Students are the lifeblood of any program; without students, it would difficult to justify a department. Certainly some of the courses in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments are offered to non-majors, but the number of majors is an important indicator of the vitality of the department. Table MLAC5 presents the number of bachelors degrees completed in 2006-07 and Table MLAC6 shows the number of juniors and seniors who had declared a major as of the beginning of the Fall 2007 term. The number of juniors and seniors pursuing an undergraduate major in departments that award a graduate degree accounts for about 70% of the undergraduate.

Table MLAC5: Bachelors Degrees Completed in MLA English / Foreign Languages in the 2006-07 Academic Year

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Departments	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
Baccalaureate College	24.9	61	1,520
Graduate University	15.4	95	1,460
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Departments	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
Bachelors	11.8	82	970
Graduate	27.2	74	2,010
Total	19.1	156	2,980

Table MLAC6: Number of Juniors and Seniors with Declared Major in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages Departments as of the Beginning of the Fall 2007 Term

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Departments	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
Baccalaureate College	56.4	61	3,440
Graduate University	62.3	95	5,920
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Departments	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
Bachelors	33.9	82	2,780
Graduate	88.9	74	6,580
Total	60.0	156	9,360

Some of these juniors and seniors will change majors prior to completing a degree and others will not complete a degree at all. However, considering the data presented in Tables MLAC5 and MLAC6, it appears that the number of students completing bachelor's degrees in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments will remain stable or show a slight increase for the next two years. Table MLAC7 shows the number of students completing a minor in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments during the 2006-07 Academic Year. Departments which offer a graduate degree average over twenty students minoring in programs in their department.

Table MLAC7: Number of Students Completing a Minor in an MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages Department during the 2006-07 Academic Year

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Departments	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
Baccalaureate College	11.5	61	700
Graduate University	16.2	95	1,540
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Departments	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
Bachelors	8.3	82	680
Graduate	21.1	74	1,560
Total	14.4	156	2,240

We also asked respondents about the number of graduate students in their department or program. Table MLAC8 provides a summary of their answers. Since the term “graduate student” was not defined in the questionnaire, it is possible that these numbers include undergraduates enrolled in dual-degree programs, post-baccalaureate students who are not necessarily seeking a degree, and students working toward a masters or doctorate. It is surprising that there are graduate students in departments or programs with a bachelors degree as the highest degree awarded. In addition to dual-degree programs and non-degree seeking students who have already earned a bachelors, it is possible that a few of these students are completing programs that have since been eliminated. Furthermore, it is possible that departments which award a bachelors degree as the highest degree offer graduate courses that support graduate programs in other departments.

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Table MLAC8: Number of Graduate Students During the Fall 2007 Term

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Departments	Total Number of Graduate Students
Baccalaureate College	-	61	-
Graduate University	1,240	95	13.1
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Departments	Total Number of Graduate Students
Bachelors	0.6	82	50
Graduate	16.1	74	1,190
Total	7.9	156	1,240

Tables MLAC9, MLAC10, and MLAC11 present data about who is teaching upper division undergraduate classes, graduate classes, and graduate-level independent study in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments. The data are presented by Carnegie classification and the highest degree the department offers. The total number of upper division sections does not necessarily equal the sum of the sections taught by various faculty members. If the total of the sections taught by various faculty members exceeds the total number of sections offered, it is possible that more than one faculty member taught the same section; if the total is less, then it is possible that the other courses were taught by instructors not falling into one of the faculty classifications included on the survey form.

Table MLAC9: Upper Division Course Sections in English Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification			
	Baccalaureate College	Graduate University	Total
Total Number of Upper Division Sections	740	1,390	2,130
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	700	1,200	1,900
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	80	210	290
Taught by Part-time Faculty	40	90	130
Taught by Graduate Students	-	*	*
Number of Students Enrolled	7,620	30,210	37,830
Average Students per Section	10.3	21.7	17.3
By Highest Degree Offered			
	Bachelors	Graduate	Total
Total Number of Upper Division Sections	990	1,140	2,130
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	910	990	1,900
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	100	190	290
Taught by Part-time Faculty	75	55	130
Taught by Graduate Students	-	*	*
Number of Students Enrolled	12,200	25,630	37,830
Average Students per Section	12.3	22.5	17.3

Almost ninety percent of the upper division courses in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, and about 14% of these courses are staffed by full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members. One in seventeen upper division courses is taught by a part-time faculty member.

Table MLAC10: Graduate Level Course Sections in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification			
	Baccalaureate College	Doctoral University	Total
Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	60	440	500
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	-	370	370
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	60	20	80
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	50	50
Number of Students Enrolled	460	2,890	3,350
Average Students per Section	7.7	6.6	6.7
By Highest Degree Offered			
	Bachelors	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	-	500	500
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	-	370	370
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-	80	80
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	50	50
Number of Students Enrolled	-	3,350	3,350
Average Students per Section	-	6.7	6.7

About three-fourths of the graduate courses in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, and about 16% of these courses are staffed by full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members.

Table MLAC11: Graduate Level Independent Study in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification			
	Baccalaureate College	Graduate University	Total
Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	-	330	330
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	-	330	330
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-	30	30
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	20	20
Average Number of Students per Department*	-	3.5	2.1
By Highest Degree Offered			
	Bachelors	Graduate	Total
Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	-	330	330
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	-	330	330
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	-	30	30
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	20	20
Average Number of Students per Department*	-	4.5	2.1

* Even though the number of students is the same, the average changes because the number of departments differs by category.

All of the students enrolled in graduate level independent study are in departments that offer a graduate degree. The data suggest that some students are working with more than one faculty member.

Some data on recruiting, hiring and tenure has already been presented for all disciplines included in this report. (See pages 4 and 5.) We will now focus on recruiting, hiring, and tenure of faculty members in MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages.

In summary, MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments employ about 2,500 faculty members in full-time positions and 870 faculty members in part-time positions. There are approximately 1,280 tenured faculty members and 570 tenure-track faculty members. As summarized in Table MLAC12, MLA Combined English / Foreign Languages departments recruited about 140 tenured, tenure-track, or permanent faculty members for 2008-09 and had hired about 140 for 2007-08. This represents about 6% of the full-time faculty workforce. The 75 faculty members who were granted tenure comprise about one-eighth of the tenure-track faculty corps. An additional 7% of those in tenure-track positions were either denied tenure or left before the tenure decision was made.

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Table MLAC12: Faculty Tenure Decisions and Recruiting

Faculty Status	Number	Relative to ...
Tenured Faculty Members	1,280	38% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members (not yet tenured)	570	17% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members Granted Tenure	75 per year	13% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Faculty Members Denied Tenure or Leaving Prior to Tenure Decision	40 per year	7% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Recruited for 2008-09	140	6% of full-time faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Hired for 2007-08	140	6% of full-time faculty