

Explanation of Statistical Data

Full-Time Faculty. The full-time faculty members reported in the survey are those included in the US Department of Education categories of “Primarily Instructional” and “Instructional/Research/Public Service,” regardless of whether they are formally designated “faculty.” They do not include clinical or basic science faculty in schools of medicine or military faculty. Full-time faculty members on sabbatical leave with pay are counted at their regular salaries even though they may be receiving a reduced salary while on leave. Full-time replacements for those on leave with pay are not counted. All faculty members who have contracts for the full academic year are included, regardless of whether their status is considered “permanent.” Institutions are asked to exclude (a) full-time faculty members on sabbatical or leave without pay; (b) full-time faculty members whose services are valued by bookkeeping entries rather than by monetary payments unless their salaries are determined by the same principles as those who do not donate their services; (c) full-time faculty members who are in military organizations and are paid on a different scale from civilian employees; (d) administrative officers with titles such as academic dean, associate or assistant dean, librarian, registrar, or coach, even though they may devote part of their time to instruction, unless their instructional salary can be isolated; and (e) research faculty whose appointments have no instructional component.

The academic ranks assigned to full-time faculty members are those determined by the reporting institution. Not all institutions use all ranks, and the definitions vary by institution. Institutions have been instructed to report “visiting” faculty members and those with instructional postdoctoral appointments at the rank of instructor.

“No rank” full-time faculty members meet the other criteria for inclusion, regardless of whether they are formally designated as “faculty.” They may have titles such as “artist in residence” or “scholar in residence.” Institutions that do not assign faculty rank are instructed to report all full-time faculty members as “no rank.” (See also the definition of institutional category IV below.)

Part-Time Faculty. The part-time faculty members reported in the survey are those faculty members who were paid per section of course taught and defined by their institutions as employed less than full time. As with full-time faculty, part-time faculty members are those included in the US Department of Education categories of “Primarily Instructional” and “Instructional/Research/Public Service,” regardless of whether they are formally designated “faculty.” Clinical or basic science faculty in schools of medicine or military faculty are excluded. Individuals employed to meet short-term needs (for example, to cover a few weeks of a course) and students in the Federal Work-Study Program are excluded, even if their work has an instructional component.

The course sections for which part-time faculty pay is reported are those meeting the definition of an undergraduate class section in the Common Data Set for 2018–19 (<http://www.commondataset.org/>), item I-3: “an organized course offered for credit, identified by discipline and number, meeting at a stated time or times in a classroom or similar setting, and not a subsection such as a laboratory or discussion session. Undergraduate class sections are defined as any sections in which at least one degree-seeking undergraduate student is enrolled for credit. Exclude distance learning classes and noncredit classes and individual instruction such as dissertation or thesis research, music instruction, or one-to-one readings. Exclude students in independent study, co-operative programs, internships, foreign language taped tutor sessions, practicums, and all students in one-on-one classes.” (Also see the notes to survey report table 14 and appendix III.)

Salary. This figure represents the contracted academic-year salary for full-time faculty members excluding summer teaching, stipends, extra load, or other forms of remuneration. Department heads with faculty rank and no other administrative title are reported at their instructional

salary (that is, excluding administrative stipends). Where faculty members are given duties for eleven or twelve months, salary is converted to a standard academic-year basis as determined by the institution. The factor used to convert salaries is reflected in the notes to appendices I and II.

Change in Salary for Continuing Faculty. The change in salary reported is for those 2018–19 full-time faculty members who remained employed as full-time faculty at the same institution for 2019–20. The change includes both promotions in rank and increases (or decreases) due to other factors.

Benefits. These figures represent contributions by the institution, state, and local government on behalf of individual faculty members; the amounts do not include employee contributions. The benefits reported in the survey include (a) retirement plan contributions, regardless of vesting provisions, excluding payments for unfunded retirement liability, prepaid retiree health insurance, and social security; (b) medical insurance contributions, including premiums for insurance plans combining medical, dental, and other health care, but excluding long-term disability, Medicare, and life insurance; and (c) tuition benefits available to faculty dependents. As with salary figures, retirement figures are converted to a standard academic-year basis as determined by the institution. Medical insurance contributions are not converted to an academic-year basis. Dependent tuition benefits were collected for full-time faculty as a categorical variable only (see survey report table 10). For part-time faculty, retirement and medical benefits were collected as categorical variables only (see survey report table 16). Not all institutions reported all items. Institutions were asked to provide their best estimate of the data for the entire academic year.

Institutional Categories. AAUP institutional categories are assigned to institutions by the AAUP Research Office based on the following institutional characteristics:

Category I (Doctoral). Institutions characterized by a significant level and breadth of activity in doctoral-level education as measured by the number of doctorate recipients and the diversity in doctoral-level program offerings. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of thirty doctoral-level degrees annually, from at least three distinct programs. (Awards previously categorized as first-professional degrees, such as the JD, MD, and DD, do not count as doctorates for this classification. Awards in the category of “doctor’s degree–professional practice” are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.)

Category IIA (Master’s). Institutions characterized by diverse postbaccalaureate programs (including first professional) but not engaged in significant doctoral-level education. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of fifty postbaccalaureate degrees annually, from at least three distinct programs. Awards of postbaccalaureate certificates are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Category IIB (Baccalaureate). Institutions characterized by their primary emphasis on undergraduate baccalaureate-level education. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of fifty bachelor’s degrees annually, from at least three distinct programs, and bachelor’s and higher degrees make up at least 50 percent of total degrees awarded.

Category III (Associate’s with Academic Ranks). Institutions characterized by a significant emphasis on undergraduate associate’s degree education. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of fifty associate’s degrees annually. Associate’s degrees make up at least 50 percent, and bachelor’s and higher degrees make up less than 50 percent, of total degrees and certificates awarded.

Category IV (Associate’s without Academic Ranks). Institutions characterized by the criteria for category III but without standard academic

ranks. An institution that refers to all faculty members as “instructors” or “professors” but does not distinguish among them on the basis of standard ranks should be included in this category. However, if an institution utilizes another ranking scheme that is analogous to the standard ranks, it can be included in category I, II, or III as appropriate.

Abbreviations Used in Appendices I and II. Academic Ranks: PR = Professor; AO = Associate Professor; AI = Assistant Professor; IN = Instructor; LE = Lecturer; NR = No Rank; AR = All Ranks. All institutions that do not assign professorial ranks are listed in appendix II.

Col. (1) Institutional Category—The definition of AAUP institutional categories is given above.

Col. (2) Institutional Control—PU = Public; PI = Private-Independent; FP = Private For-Profit; PR = Private-Religiously Affiliated.

Col. (3) Average Salary by Rank and for All Ranks Combined—This figure has been rounded to the nearest hundred. “All Ranks Combined” includes the rank of lecturer and the category of “No Rank.” Salary averages are replaced by a dash (—) when the number of individuals in a given rank is fewer than three.

Col. (4) Percentage of Faculty Covered for Benefits and Benefits as a Percentage of Average Salary—Total benefit coverage for all ranks combined and expenditures as a percentage of average salary for faculty who are covered. RET = Retirement benefits (as defined above); MED = Medical benefits (as defined above).

Col. (5) Dependent Tuition Benefit—F = Full tuition waiver at this institution; P = Partial tuition waiver at this institution; FC = Full tuition waiver at specified institutions through a consortium; PC = Partial tuition waiver at specified institutions through a consortium; O = Other (with an open-text response field); N = None.

Col. (6) Percentage of Faculty by Tenure Status—T = Tenured; TT = Tenure-Track; NTT = Non-Tenure-Track. The figures represent the total number of full-time (FT) faculty members with a given tenure status.

Col. (7) Percentage Increase in Salary for Continuing Faculty—The percentage increase in salary for those 2018–19 full-time faculty members who remain employed as full-time faculty at the institution for 2019–20. This represents the average increase for individuals as opposed to a percentage change in average salary levels.

Col. (8) Number of Faculty Members by Rank and Gender—The figures represent the total number of full-time (FT) faculty members in a given rank by gender.

Col. (9) Average Salary by Rank and by Gender with Salary Equity Ratios—Same definition as that given for col (3) but by gender. Salary equity ratio is the ratio of women’s to men’s average salaries, multiplied by 100.

Abbreviations Used in Appendix III

Col. (1) Institutional Category—The definition of AAUP categories is given above.

Col. (2) Institutional Control—The definition of institutional control is given above.

Col. (3) Part-Time Faculty Pay—NO. = The number of part-time faculty members paid on a per-section basis. MIN. (\$) = Minimum pay for a standard course section, whether from actual data or by policy. MAX. (\$) = Maximum pay for a standard course section, whether from actual data or by policy. AVG. (\$) = Average (mean) pay for a standard course section.

Col. (4) Part-Time Faculty Benefits—RET = The proportion of part-time faculty members receiving an institutional contribution toward retirement benefits. MED = The proportion of part-time faculty members receiving an institutional contribution toward health-care benefits. None = no part-time faculty are eligible to receive benefits; Some = some part-time faculty are eligible to receive benefits; All = all part-time faculty are eligible to receive benefits.

Col. (5) Calendar—The institution’s academic calendar.

Any inquiries concerning the data in this report may be directed to the AAUP Research Office. Email: aaupfcs@aaup.org.

Website: <https://research.aaup.org>.

Statement on Data Quality

The AAUP Faculty Compensation Survey collects data from colleges and universities across the United States through an online portal. These data are reviewed through our internal verification process. Whenever the AAUP believes an error may have occurred, we ask institutional representatives to review the specific issues we identify. Nearly all institutions comply with our requests for additional review. If resubmitted data meet our internal standard, they are approved for inclusion in published tables and appendices. Questionable data without an institutional response may be excluded.

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