

Graduate Study in Psychology 2016

Summary Report: Tuition and Financial Aid

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Caroline Cope, MA
Daniel S. Michalski, PhD
Garth A. Fowler, PhD



Graduate Study in Psychology Summary Report: Tuition and Financial Aid

The 2016 Graduate Study in Psychology Summary Report reflects data collected from nearly 500 departments and programs offering master's and doctoral degrees in psychology and related training. Participating departments and programs are listed in the annual *Graduate Study in Psychology* book; published each August as a joint effort of the APA Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training and the APA Office of Publications and Databases. This report represents data from the 2013-2014 academic year and aggregates these data in the following areas: survey participation; median annual tuition for the current year and over time; type of financial aid offered, average stipend and availability of tuition remission. Where meaningful, descriptive statistics are reported by institution type (public/private) as reported by the department.

Tables and figures contained in this report are reflective of the self-reporting of participants. As such, analyses are drawn from the subset of those departments and may not be generalizable to the population of graduate departments with psychology offerings. Information on master's programs housed within doctoral departments or part of doctoral degrees (i.e., non-terminal master's degrees) is included in doctoral department data. Master's-level information in departments where the master's is the highest degree offered and some terminal-level master's program information are presented by that level of training. Tuition and financial data are reported in the local currency; U.S. dollars for departments in the United States and Canadian dollars for Canadian departments. Please direct any questions to Caroline Cope, MA ccope@apa.org or Daniel Michalski, PhD dmichalski@apa.org with the APA Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training.

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Method

Each January, the APA Education Directorate contacts chairs of graduate psychology departments regarding the upcoming annual Graduate Study in Psychology survey. In February, chairs receive a secure URL to access and complete the survey. Up to five reminders are sent to departments until the survey is completed. Departments not updating information for two subsequent years are removed from the database and their information not included in the updated version of the book. Information not updated in a single year is incorporated in that year's edition, but notated that data are from the prior year in the publication.

Survey Participation

For the 2016 survey, 520 departments offering graduate degree programs in psychology or related training provided complete responses to the survey reflecting information from the 2013-2014 academic year. Table 1 breaks out the participation by the self-reported type of college/school/institution in which the department is housed. A substantial majority of departments (60%) were located within a university college of arts and sciences followed by university college/schools of education (19%).

Table 1. Departmental Participation in 2016 Graduate Study in Psychology Survey by Department Location

Type of Department	N	%
University College of Arts and Sciences	312	60.0
University College/School of Education	99	19.0
Free-standing Professional School	41	7.9
University-based Professional School	24	4.6
Medical School/Health Sciences University	8	1.5
Other	36	7.0
Total	520	100.0

Note. N=520. Departments not identifying an institutional location were excluded from analysis.

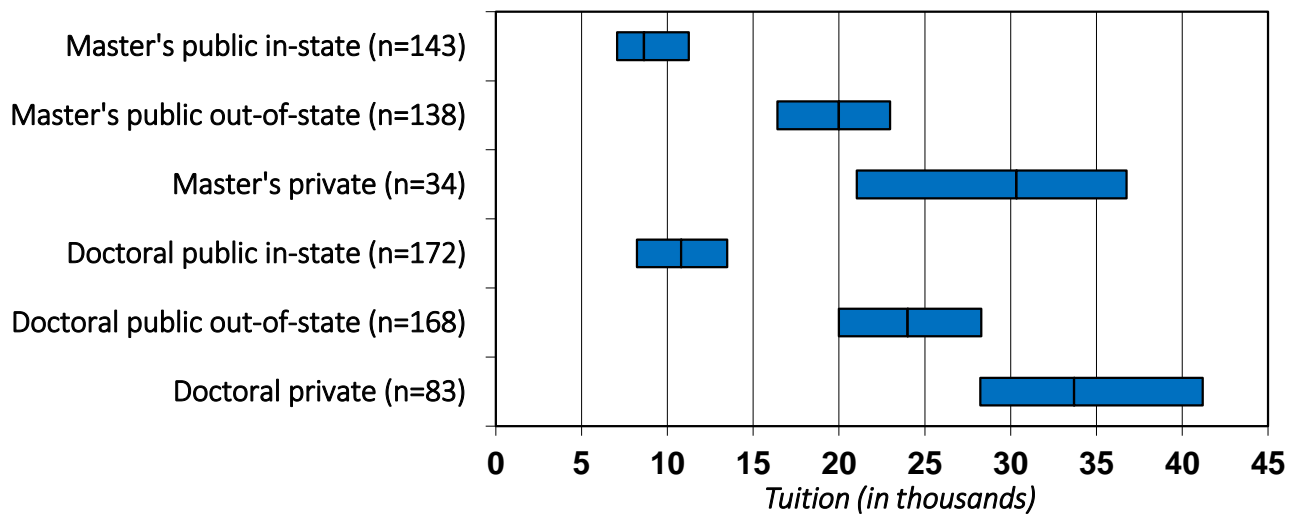
Tuition

Figure 1 shows the interquartile ranges for annual tuition for master's and doctoral programs at public (in-state and out-of-state) and private universities. A total of 496 U.S. departments provided information about annual and hourly tuition required by the institution. Of those, 422 (307 in public universities and schools and 115 in private) reported annual tuition rates. Seventy four departments only provided information on hourly tuition rates and thus were excluded from this analysis.

Median in-state tuition for master's programs at public institutions was \$8,640, with out-of-state tuition at just under \$20,000. Full-time tuition for a master's program at a private institution was slightly more than \$30,000 per year.

For doctoral programs in public institutions, in-state tuition was just under \$11,000, with out-of-state tuition at exactly \$24,000. At private institutions, median annual tuition for doctoral degrees was just under \$34,000.

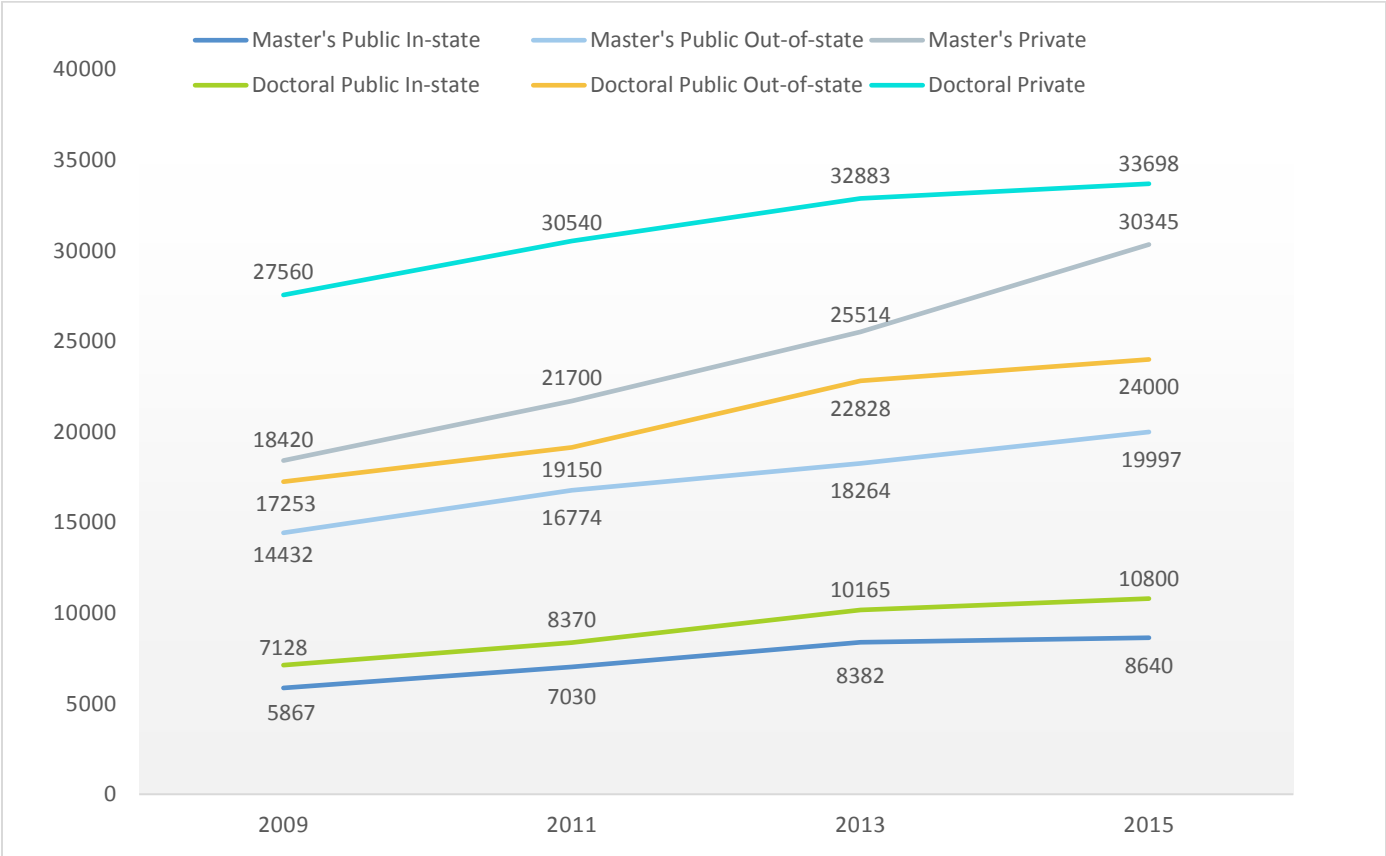
Figure 1. Interquartile Annual Tuition Ranges by Type of Institution and Degree Level



Note. N=496. Graph includes first quartile, median, and third quartile values.

Figure 2 presents the median annual tuition of master’s and doctoral programs in public and private school over a six-year timeframe, with tuition rates from 2009, 2011, and 2013 added to the current year’s data. The largest change comes from Master’s programs in private universities, with an increase of nearly 65 percent between 2009 and 2015. In-state tuition for doctoral programs at public universities also increased by more than 50 percent. The smallest increase in tuition costs was for doctoral programs at private universities, at just 22 percent.

Figure 2. Median Annual Tuition over Time



Financial Aid

A total of 495 US departments, 366 that offer master’s and doctoral or just doctoral degrees and 129 that only offer master’s degrees, provided information on financial support offered to students. Of the 366 doctoral department respondents, 216 were in public institutions and 150 were in private institutions. Ninety-four of the 129 master's department respondents were in public institutions, with the remaining 35 in private institutions. Departments were asked to provide information on three types of financial support – teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and fellowships/scholarships¹ – for students.

Table 2 displays the availability of teaching assistant (TA) positions for first-year and advanced students, by highest degree offered in the department, in public and private institutions. The table also shows the median stipend amount offered for those positions as well as the percentage of departments that include full tuition remission. Students in doctoral departments at public universities are most likely to receive this type of financial support, with nearly 85 percent of departments offering these positions to first-year students and more than 95 percent to advanced students.

The data for research assistantships (RA) is presented in Table 3. As with teaching assistantships, nearly 90 percent of doctoral departments in public universities offer research assistantships to their first-year students. Slightly more than eighty percent of these departments also offer full tuition remission with both the teaching and research assistantships.

Master’s departments at private universities are the least likely to have TA and RA positions for their students. Just over one-third of departments have TA positions available for first-year students and slightly less than one half offer them for advanced students. For research assistantships, just under half of departments offer them to first-year students and less than 60 percent have them available for advanced students.

Table 2. Availability of Teaching Assistantships and Tuition Remission by Public and Private Institution

			% offering	Median stipend (\$)	% full waiver
Public	Master’s	1 st year	55.3	5,000	41.7
		advanced	66.0	5,056	47.4
	Doctoral	1 st year	84.7	14,400	79.7
		advanced	95.4	15,000	80.7
Private	Master’s	1 st year	34.3	4,000	42.9
		advanced	48.6	3,200	55.6
	Doctoral	1 st year	40.7	14,000	70.2
		advanced	78.7	6,250	64.7

¹ The following definitions were used by departments when providing information: (a) teaching assistantship: funds awarded to students in return for teaching services; (b) research assistantship: funds awarded to students in return for services related to research, including funds from faculty research grants, general university funds, university training grants, and training grants given to students from funding agencies; and (c) fellowships/scholarships: funds awarded to students that do not require any service in return.

Table 3. Availability of Research Assistantships and Tuition Remission by Public and Private Institution

			% offering	Median stipend (\$)	% full waiver
Public	Master's	1 st year	60.6	5,196	48.6
		advanced	60.6	5,400	48.6
	Doctoral	1 st year	88.0	15,000	81.3
		advanced	92.6	15,226	81.4
Private	Master's	1 st year	48.6	3,100	30.0
		advanced	57.1	4,000	45.5
	Doctoral	1 st year	65.3	10000	67.7
		advanced	75.3	9000	67.6

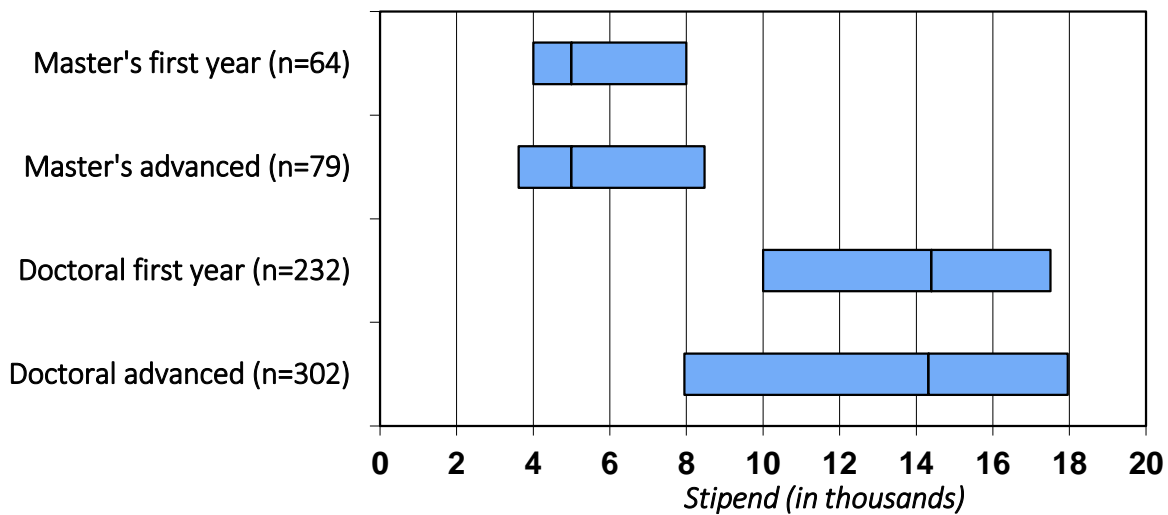
Table 4 displays the availability of fellowships/scholarships for first-year and advanced students. As with TA and RA positions, doctoral departments at public universities are most likely to offer this type of aid. More than 70 percent of these departments have fellowships/scholarships available, and more than eighty percent offer full tuition remission with the award for both first-year and advanced students.

Table 4. Availability of Fellowships/Scholarships and Tuition Remission by Public and Private Institution

			% offering	Median stipend (\$)	% full waiver
Public	Master's	1 st year	43.6	2,000	38.1
		advanced	40.4	1,500	43.8
	Doctoral	1 st year	72.2	16,500	84.7
		advanced	73.6	16,500	82.9
Private	Master's	1 st year	34.3	4,000	28.6
		advanced	28.6	15,930	42.9
	Doctoral	1 st year	77.3	10,000	56.1
		advanced	78.7	8,000	56.5

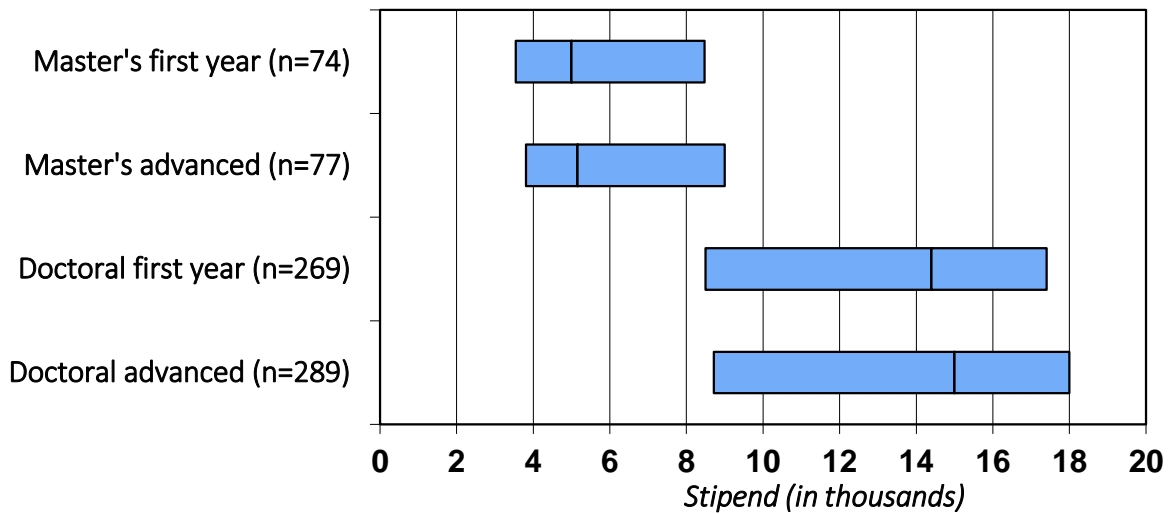
Figure 3 presents the interquartile ranges of stipends for teaching assistantship positions, for first-year students and advanced, by highest degree offered in the department. For both master’s and doctoral departments, there is little difference between the median stipend offered to first year and advanced students. The median stipends for first-year and advanced master’s students are both exactly \$5,000; for doctoral students, they are both slightly under \$14,500. Figure 4 shows the ranges of stipends for research assistantships. The median stipend offered to advanced students in doctoral departments is slightly higher than that offered to first-year students; however, there is little difference between those offered to first-year and advanced students in master’s departments. Stipends for fellowships/scholarships, as shown in Figure 5, displayed the greatest variance. This variance is evident in both terminal master’s and in doctoral departments.

Figure 3. Stipend for Teaching Assistantship by Degree Level



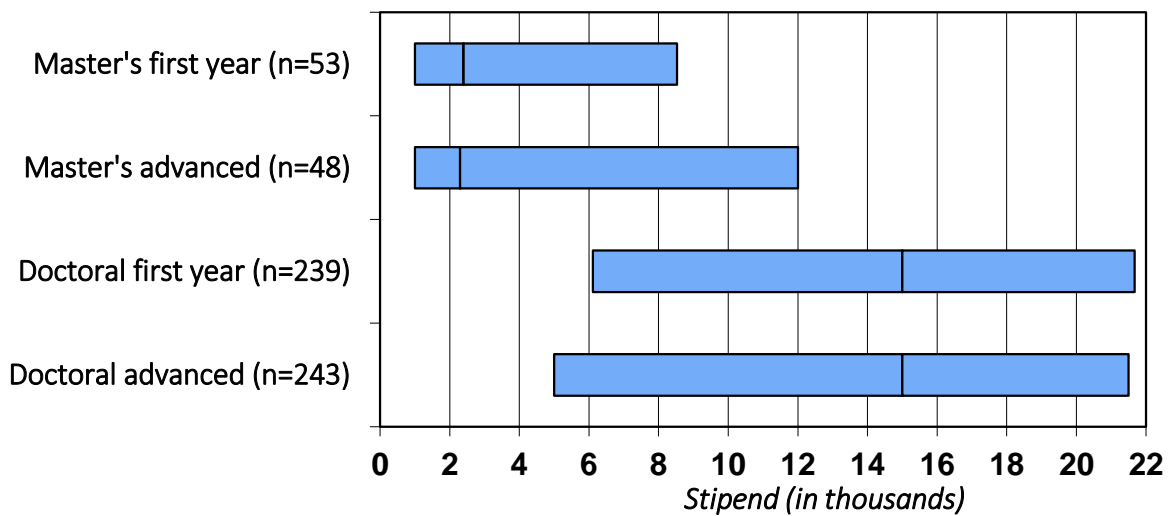
Note. Graph includes first quartile, median, and third quartile values.

Figure 4. Stipend for Research Assistantship by Degree Level



Note. Graph includes first quartile, median, and third quartile values.

Figure 5. Stipend for Fellowship/Scholarship by Degree Level



Note. Graph includes first quartile, median, and third quartile values.