Full-Time Academic Positions Posted to the MPSA Job Board, 2023-24

Table 1 shows all U.S.-based full-time academic positions posted to the MPSA Job Board from July 2023 to July 2024. During this time 1,086 full-time academic positions were posted. 60.7 percent were for tenure-track positions, and 39.3 percent were for non-tenure-track positions including postdoctoral fellowships, temporary or visiting faculty positions, and full-time instructional or teaching positions.

Among the tenure-track positions, 71.4 percent were for assistant professors, 13.3 percent were for tenured associate or full professors, 8.8 percent were open-rank positions, and 6.5 percent were for either assistant or associate professors. Among the non-tenure-track faculty positions, those for permanent full-time lecturers, instructors, or teaching/instructional assistant professors accounted for nearly two-thirds (64.0 percent) of postings. Contingent faculty positions accounted for 22.1 percent of all full-time academic jobs posted.

The MPSA Job Board is a primary source for academic job advertisements in political science, but it focuses primarily on tenure-track and full-time visiting or instructional positions. It should be noted that the data presented here represents only those jobs posted to the MPSA Job Board and not the full universe of academic jobs in political science. Contingent faculty positions, as a share of all academic job opportunities in political science, are underrepresented due to the absence of part-time adjunct positions from the MPSA Job Board.

Table 1. All Full-Time Postings by Category, 2023-24

	Count	Percent
Academic: Tenure-Track Positions		
Assistant Professor	469	71.4%
Assistant/Associate Professor	43	6.5%
Associate Professor	14	2.1%
Associate/Full Professor	31	4.7%
Full Professor	43	6.5%
Open Rank	57	8.8%
Subtotal	657	100.0%
Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted		*60.7%*
Academic: Non-Tenure Track Positions		
Visiting Professor	82	34.3%
Teaching/Instructional Professor	42	17.6%
Full-Time Lecturer/Instructor	111	46.4%
Professor of Practice	4	1.7%
Subtotal	239	100.0%
Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted		*22.1%*
Academic: Postdoctoral Fellowships		
Postdoctoral Fellow	186	100.0%
Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted		*17.2%*

The Academic Job Market by Subfield

Figure 1 shows the subfields specified in advertisements for full-time faculty positions. In keeping with the trends observed for the past several years, the most common subfields specified were American Government & Politics and International Relations, respectively. Comparative Politics, Methodology, Political Theory, Public Administration, and Public Law each accounted for less than 10.0 percent of faculty positions. Positions for which the employer did not specify a preferred subfield or specialization were categorized as Open Field positions, which accounted for 15.8 percent of faculty positions. Of these, a significant portion (43 percent) were non-tenure-track positions.

Figure 2 shows the subfields specified in advertisements for postdoctoral fellowships. Of note is the discrepancy in preferred subfields between faculty and postdoctoral positions: Methodology and Political Theory comprise a significantly higher percentage of postdoctoral opportunities as opposed to faculty positions; American Government & Politics comprises a significantly lower percentage of postdoctoral opportunities as opposed to faculty positions. It is possible that given the research-intensive nature of many postdoctoral positions, methodological skills tend to be prioritized over substantive areas of specialization.

Figure 1. Full-Time Faculty Positions by Subfield
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2023-24

Subfield	Count (Percentage)
American Government & Politics	**211** (23.5%)
International Relations	**161** (18.0%)
Open Field	**142** (15.8%)
Public Policy	**92** (10.3%)
Comparative Politics	**88** (9.8%)
Public Administration	**87** (9.7%)
Political Theory	**48** (5.4%)
Public Law	**42** (4.7%)
Methodology	**25** (2.8%)
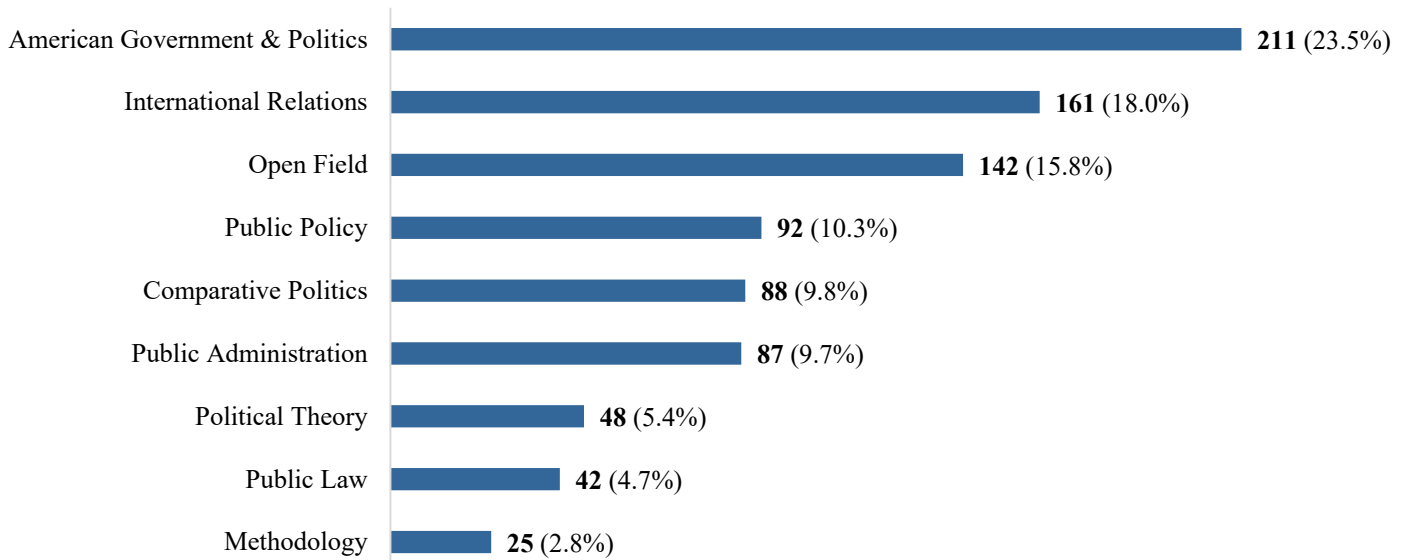
Figure 2. Postdoctoral Fellowships by Subfield
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2023-24

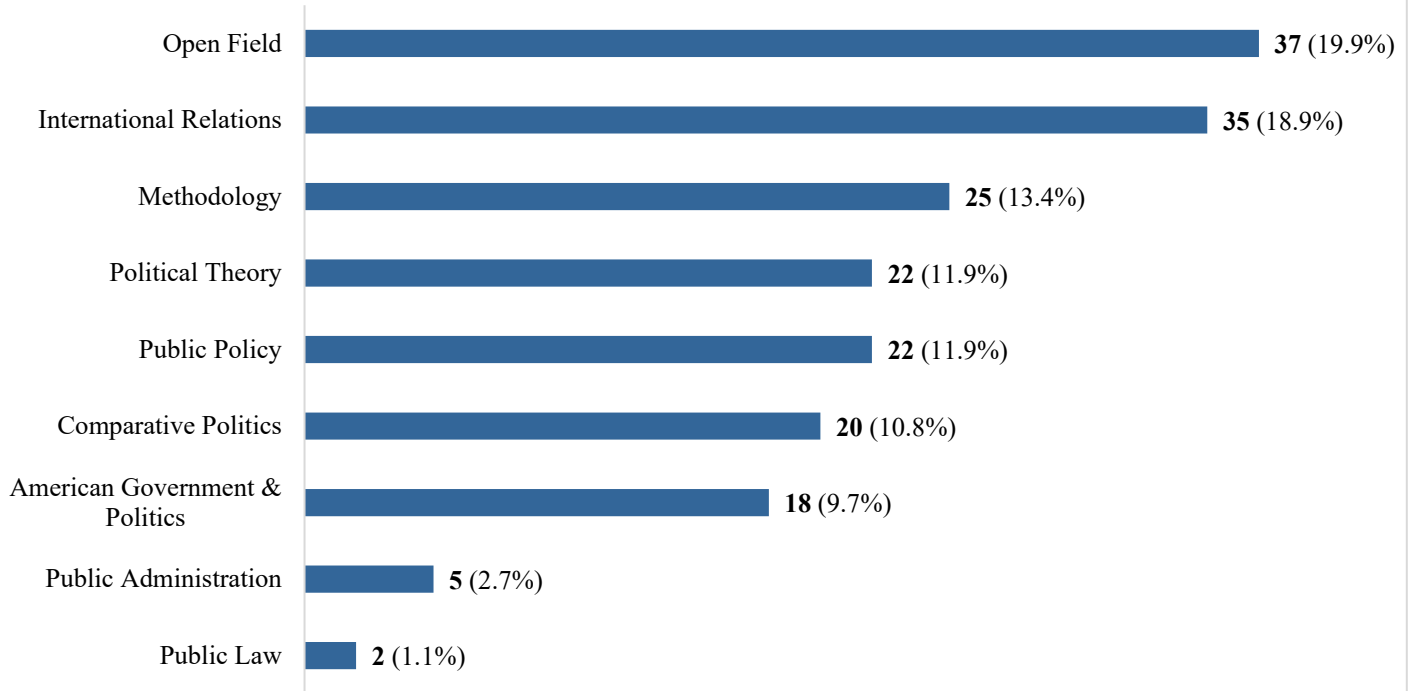| Subfield	Count (Percent)
Open Field	37 (19.9%)
International Relations	35 (18.9%)
Methodology	25 (13.4%)
Political Theory	22 (11.9%)
Public Policy	22 (11.9%)
Comparative Politics	20 (10.8%)
American Government & Politics	18 (9.7%)
Public Administration	5 (2.7%)
Public Law	2 (1.1%)

Figure 3. Monthly Academic Job Postings, U.S.
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2023-24

Month	Postings
Jul. '23	89
Aug. '23	173
Sep. '23	130
Oct. '23	133
Nov. '23	89
Dec. '23	82
Jan. '24	73
Feb. '24	93
Mar. '24	67
Apr. '24	56
May '24	42
Jun. '24	55