



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Increases in Psychologists in Academic Leadership

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR WORKFORCE STUDIES

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KEY FINDINGS

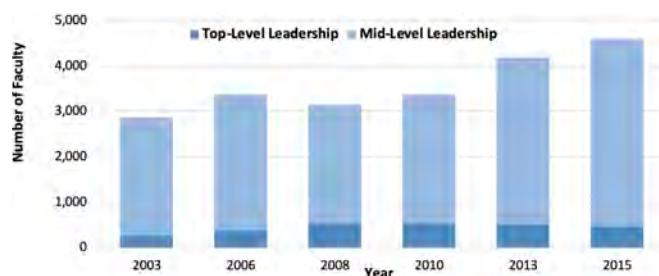
- Approximately 4,600, or 16 percent of the academic psychology workforce were in leadership positions – about 400 (2 percent) in top-level leadership and 4,200 (14 percent) in mid-level leadership.
- Between 2003 and 2015, the number of faculty in leadership positions increased by 61 percent.
- Women's representation within academic leadership increased from 40 to 56 percent between 2003 and 2015. Racial/ethnic minority's representation increased from 11 to 24 percent during the same period.

In 2015, approximately 29,300 psychology research doctorates worked as faculty (assistant, associate, or full professor). About 4,600, or 16 percent of them held leadership positions: approximately 400, or two percent, in top-level leadership (president, provost, or chancellor), and 4,200, or 14 percent, in mid-level leadership (dean, department head, or department chair).¹

Between 2003 and 2015, the number of faculty in leadership positions increased by 61 percent (73 percent increase in top-level leadership and 59 percent increase in mid-level leadership). The proportion of faculty in leadership positions increased from 13 percent in 2003 to 16 percent in 2015.

¹ All data are from National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. (2003-2015). Survey of Doctorate Recipients Restricted-Use Microdata File, Codebook, and Technical Notes. The use of NSF data does not imply NSF endorsement of the research, research methods, or conclusions contained in this report. Since the 2003 SDR, respondents were asked to choose one or more options from the following academic positions: president, provost, or chancellor (any level); dean (any level), department head, or department chair; research faculty, scientist, associate, or fellow; teaching faculty; adjunct faculty; postdoc (e.g., postdoctoral fellow or associate); research assistant; teaching assistant; other positions. Those that selected "president, provost, or chancellor (any level)" or "dean (any level), department head, or department chair" were included as leadership positions.

FIGURE 1.

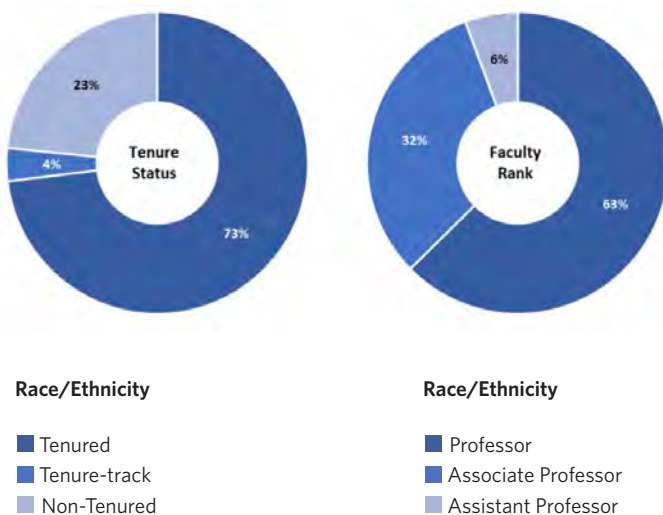
FACULTY IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, 2003-15

Source: 2003-15 Survey of Doctorate Recipients, National Science Foundation.

By tenure status and faculty rank, 77 percent of faculty in academic leadership were in tenured/tenure-track positions; 63 percent were full professors. By type of educational institution, the percentage of faculty in leadership positions was highest in 4-year colleges (18 percent).

Women's representation within academic leadership increased from 40 to 56 percent between 2003 and 2015. Racial/ethnic minority's representation increased from 11 to 24 percent during the same period.

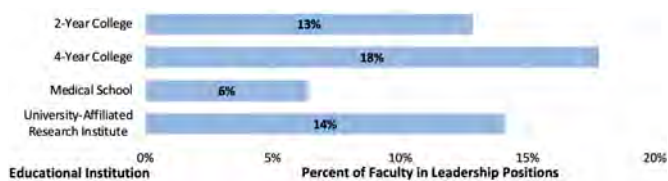
FIGURE 2.

TENURE STATUS AND RANK FOR FACULTY IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, 2015

Source: 2015 Survey of Doctorate Recipients, National Science Foundation.

Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

FIGURE 3.

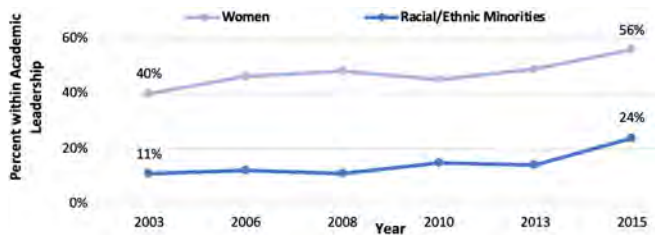
PERCENTAGE OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP WITHIN FACULTY BY TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, 2015

Source: 2015 Survey of Doctorate Recipients, National Science Foundation.

FIGURE 4.

WOMEN AND RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, 2003-2015

Source: 2003-15 Survey of Doctorate Recipients, National Science Foundation.



For more information about the academic psychology workforce, please refer to the report: *American Psychological Association. (2019). The Academic Psychology Workforce: Characteristics of Psychology Research Doctorates in Faculty Positions (1995-2015).* <https://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/academic-psychology>

SUGGESTED CITATION

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Factsheet: Increases in Psychologists in Academic Leadership.* <https://www.apa.org/workforce/publications/academic-psychology/leadership.pdf>