

Full-Time Academic Positions Posted to the MPSA Job Board, 2024-25

Table 1 shows all U.S.-based full-time academic positions posted to the MPSA Job Board from July 2024 through June 2025. During this time 1,188 full-time academic positions were posted, amounting to a 9.4 percent increase over the total number of full-time positions posted in 2023-24 (1,086). However, the relative share of tenure-track positions as a percentage of total full-time postings decreased by 5.7 percent, while the number and relative share of non-tenure track faculty positions increased, especially in the categories of Visiting Professor, Teaching or Instructional Professor, and Professor of Practice.

Among the tenure-track positions, postings at the rank of Assistant Professor decreased from 71.4 percent in 2023-24 to 62.5 percent, while “open rank” positions increased from 8.8 percent to 14.3 percent. The relative share of positions for tenured Associate or Full Professors remained largely the same. Among the non-tenure track faculty positions, full-time teaching appointments (Instructor, Lecturer, Teaching/Instructional Professor) accounted for 51.2 percent of postings, while Visiting Professor positions accounted for 38.0 percent (as compared with 34.3 percent in 2023-24).

The [MPSA Job Board](#) 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 not reflected here.

Table 1. All Full-Time Academic Postings, 2024-25

	Count	Percent
Academic: Tenure-Track Positions		
Assistant Professor	408	62.5%
Assistant/Associate Professor	61	9.3%
Associate Professor	13	2.0%
Associate/Full Professor	51	7.8%
Full Professor	23	3.5%
Open Rank	97	14.9%
Subtotal	653	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted</i>		55.0%
Academic: Non-Tenure Track Positions		
Visiting Professor	112	38.0%
Teaching/Instructional Professor	75	25.4%
Full-Time Lecturer/Instructor	76	25.8%
Professor of Practice	24	8.1%
Research Professor	8	2.7%
Subtotal	295	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted</i>		24.8%
Academic: Postdocs and Fellowships		
Predocctoral Fellowship	3	1.2%
Postdoctoral Fellowship	192	80.0%
Visiting Faculty Fellowship	45	18.8%
Subtotal	240	100.0%
<i>Percentage of Total Academic Positions Posted</i>		20.2%

The Academic Job Market by Subfield

Figure 1 shows the subfields specified in job advertisements for U.S.-based full-time faculty positions over the past two years. While the overall distribution across subfields remained largely the same, a few shifts are noteworthy. The only subfield which saw a decrease in job postings for 2024-25 was American Government & Politics, which declined by 13.7 percent. Political Theory postings increased by a remarkable 47.9 percent; Comparative Politics by 23.9 percent; Public Policy by 22.8 percent; and Public Law by 19.0 percent. Despite these increases, Political Theory, Public Administration, Public Law, and Methodology each accounted for less than 10.0 percent of all full-time faculty positions. Positions for which the employer did not specify a preferred subfield or area of expertise were categorized as Open Field positions, which accounted for 14.4 percent of all full-time faculty positions. Of these, a significant portion (41.7 percent) were non-tenure-track positions.

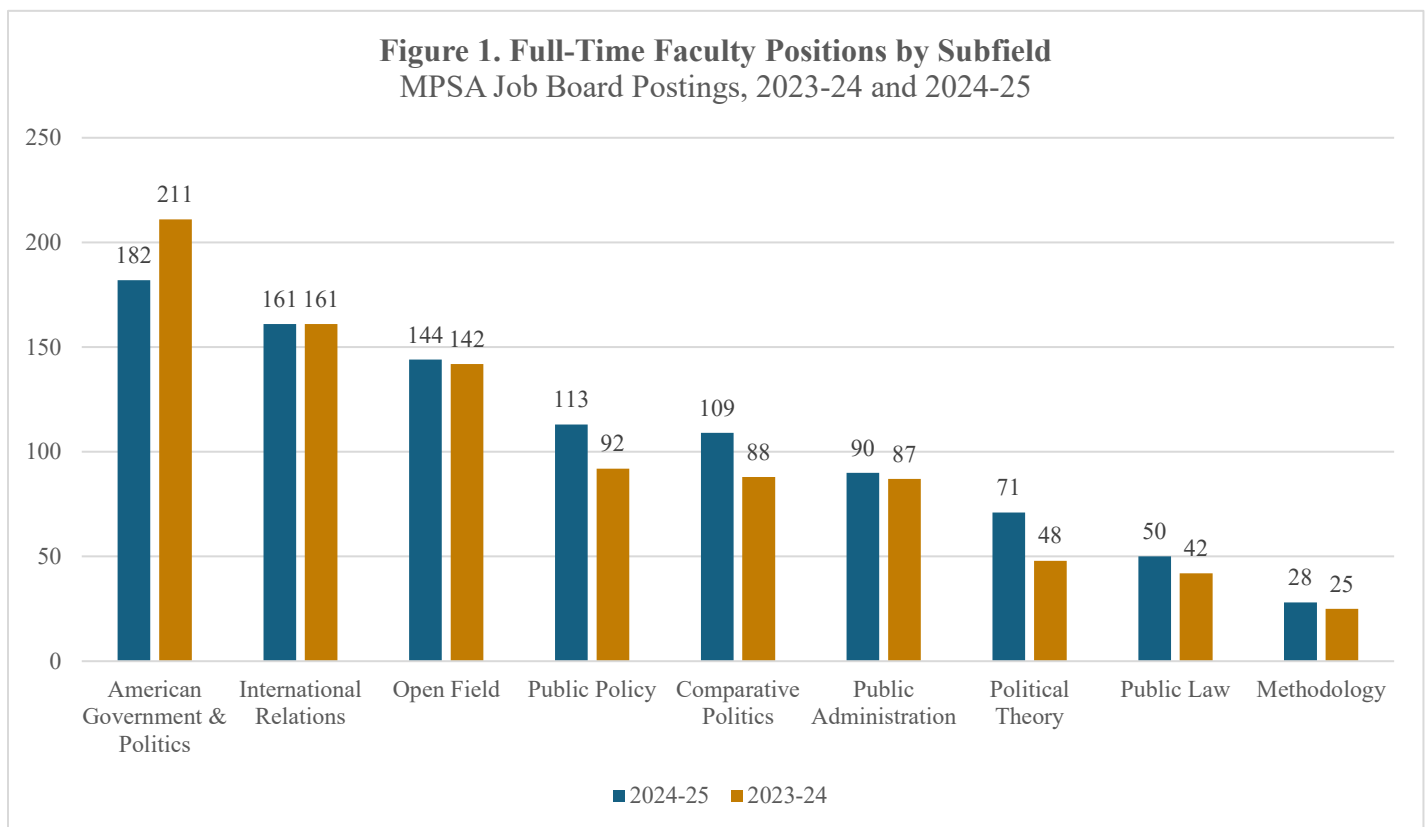
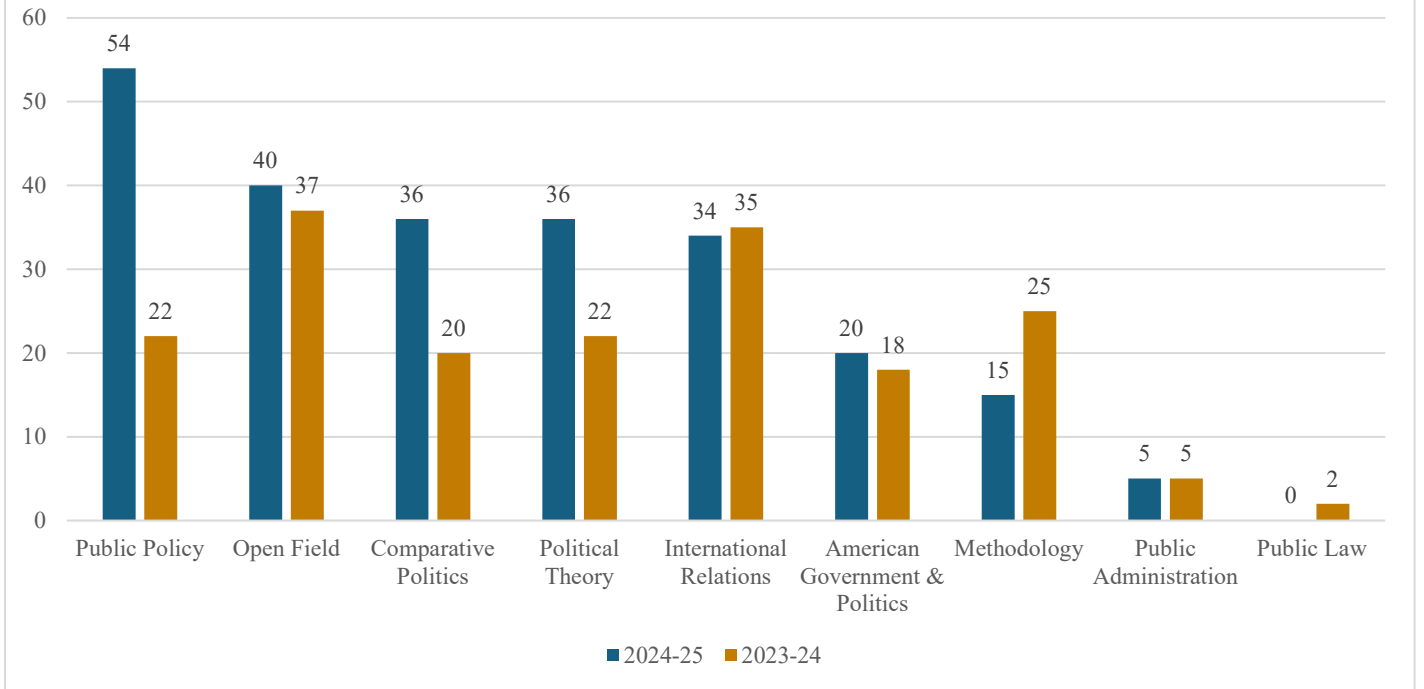


Figure 2 shows the subfields specified in job advertisements for U.S.-based postdoctoral fellowships. As in previous years, there is a discrepancy in preferred subfields between faculty and postdoctoral positions, with the latter having a heavier focus on Public Policy, Political Theory, and Comparative Politics. As compared with 2023-24, the number of postdoctoral opportunities in Public Policy increased by 145.5 percent; Comparative Politics by 80.0 percent; and Political Theory by 63.6 percent. During the same period of time postdoctoral opportunities in Methodology decreased by 66.6 percent.

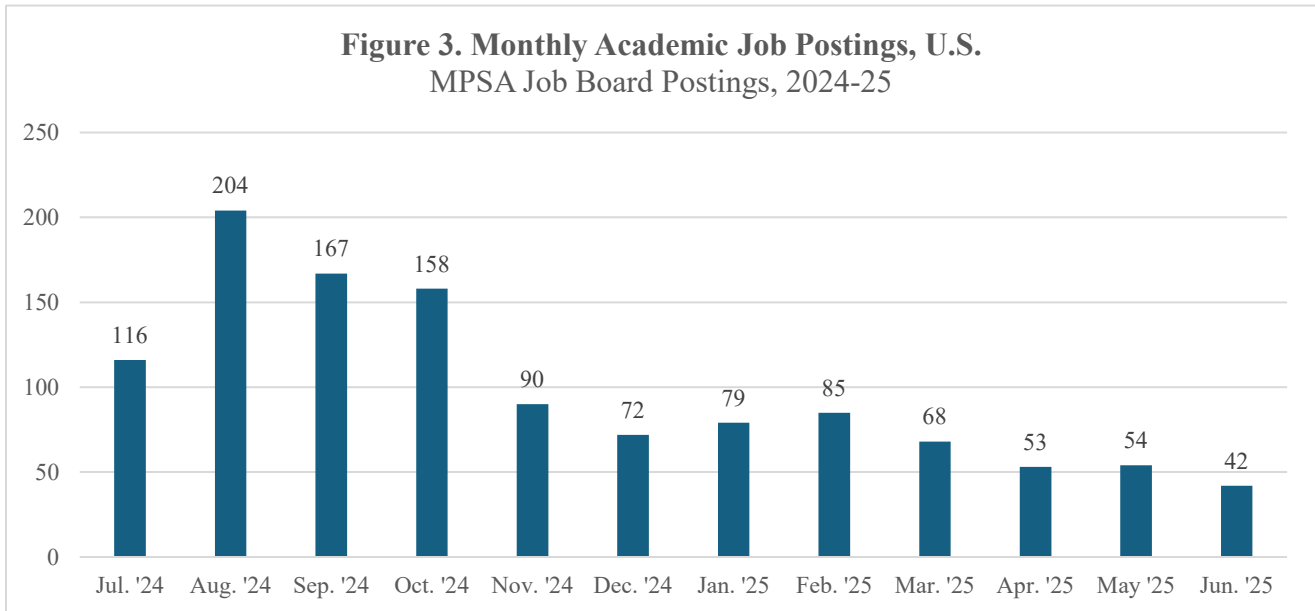
Figure 2. Postdocs and Fellowships by Subfield
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2023-24 and 2024-25



The Academic Job Market by Month

Figure 3 shows monthly postings for U.S.-based full-time academic positions during the 2024-25 hiring cycle. While the dynamics remained consistent with previous cycles, postings were slightly depressed on the back end of the cycle (December through June) relative to 2023-24.

Figure 3. Monthly Academic Job Postings, U.S.
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25



The Geography of the Academic Job Market

Table 2 shows the geographic distribution of all full-time academic job postings to the MPSA Job Board for 2024-25. The regions are based on U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Faculty positions were heavily concentrated in the South, which accounted for 47.5 percent of postings. As indicated in Figure 4, of the top ten U.S. states for faculty job opportunities, six were in the South: Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, while no Midwestern states were in the top ten. By contrast, fellowship and postdoctoral opportunities were heavily concentrated in the Northeast, which accounted for 47.1 percent of postings. As indicated in Figure 5, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, and Rhode Island accounted for 42.5 percent of all fellowship and postdoctoral positions posted.

Table 2. All Full-Time Academic Positions by U.S. Region, 2024-25

	Count	Percent
Faculty Positions		
Midwest	151	15.9%
Northeast	207	21.8%
South	450	47.5%
West	140	14.8%
<i>Total</i>	<i>948</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Postdocs & Fellowships		
Midwest	39	16.3%
Northeast	113	47.1%
South	56	23.3%
West	32	13.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

Figure 4. Full-Time Faculty Positions by State (Top 10)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25

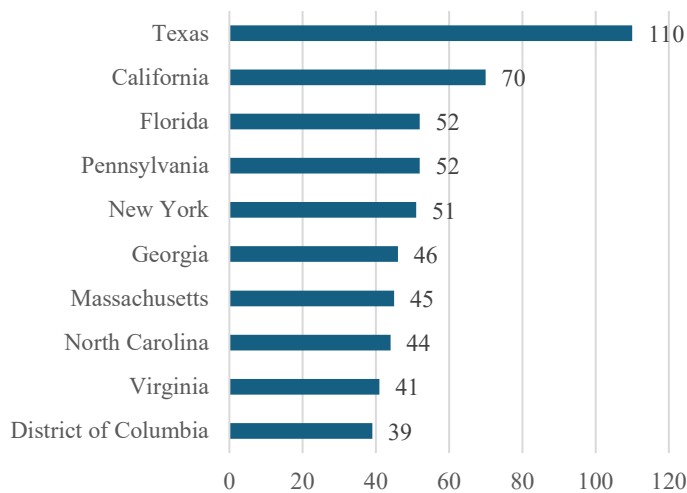
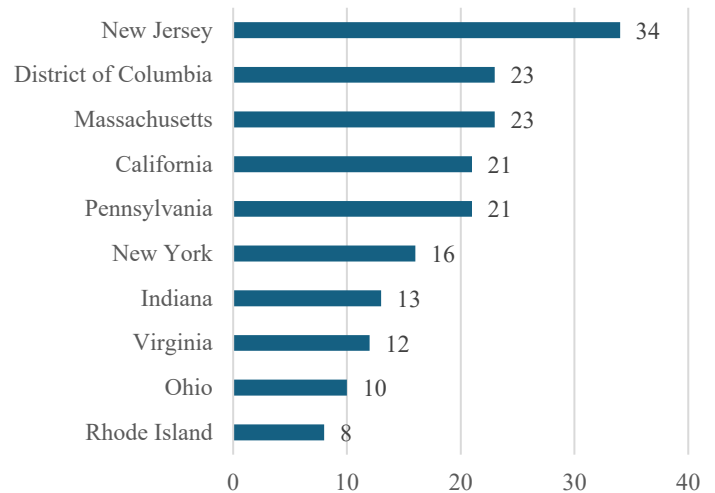
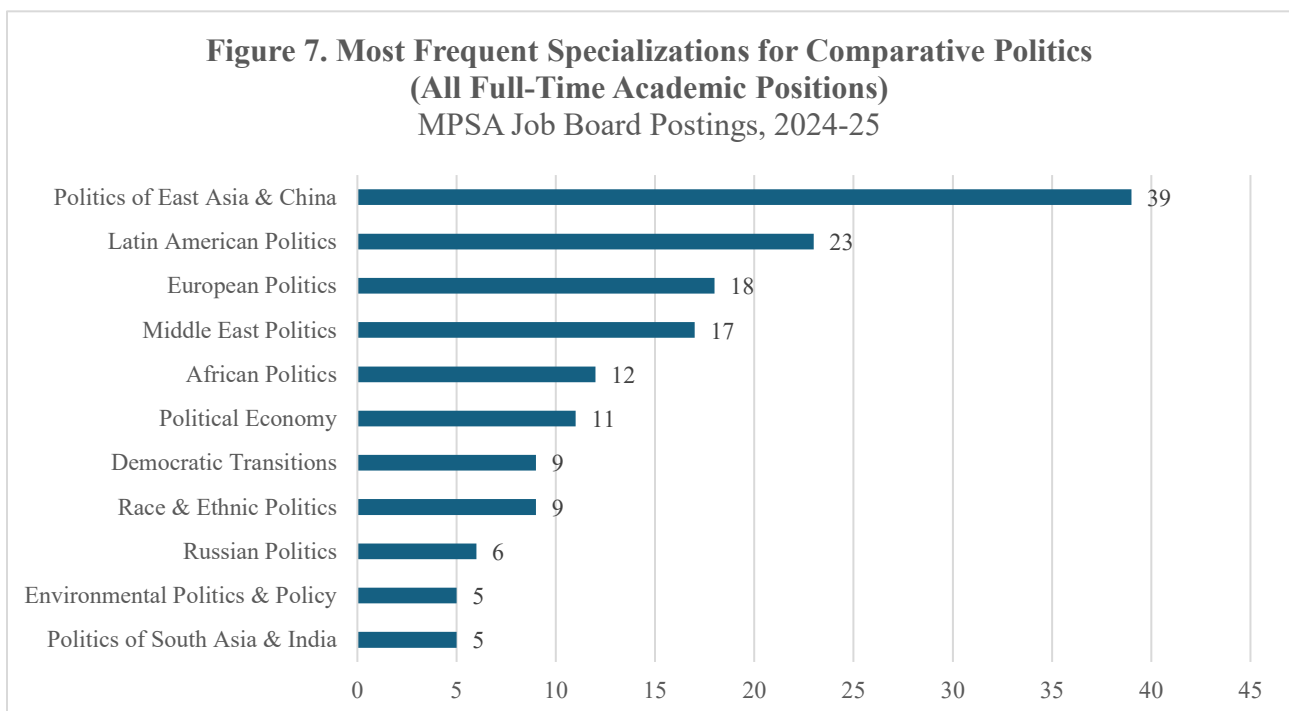
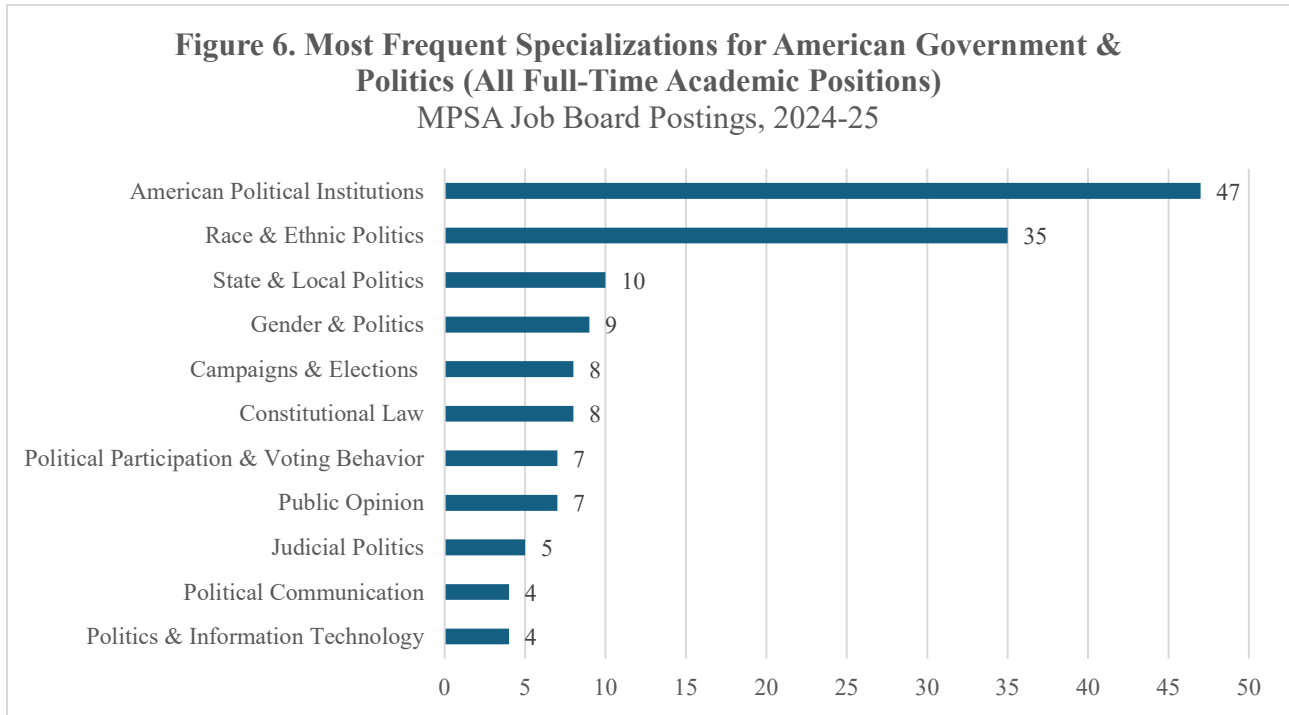


Figure 5. Postdoc/Fellowship Positions by State (Top 10)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25

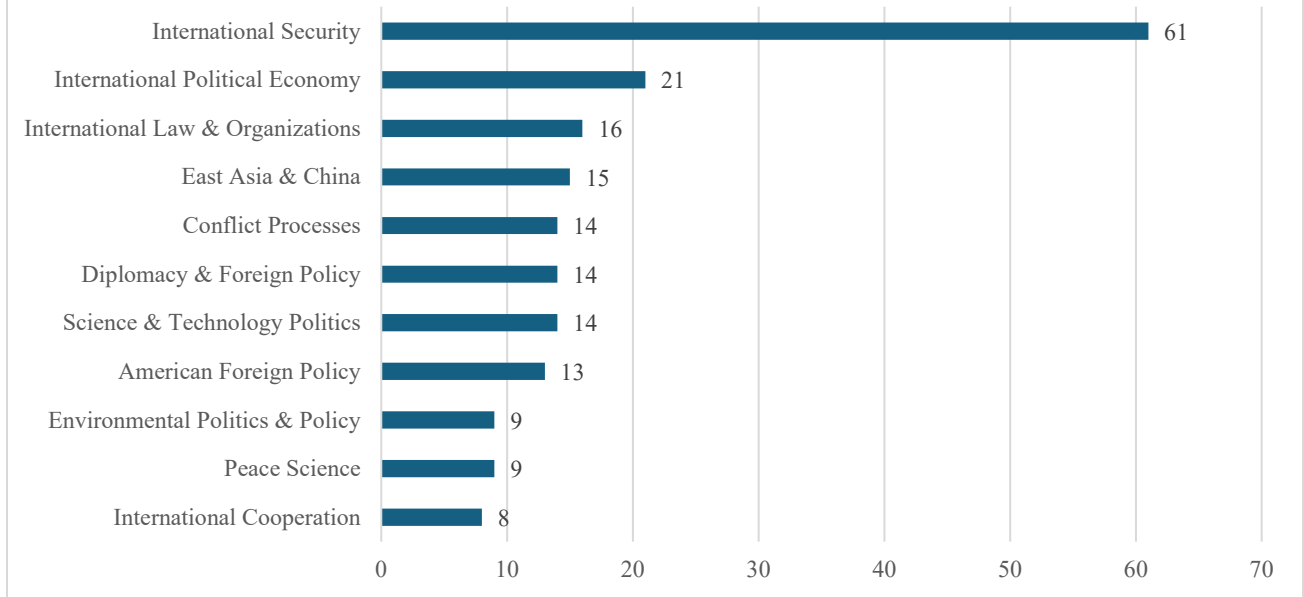


Areas of Specialization in the 2024-25 Job Market

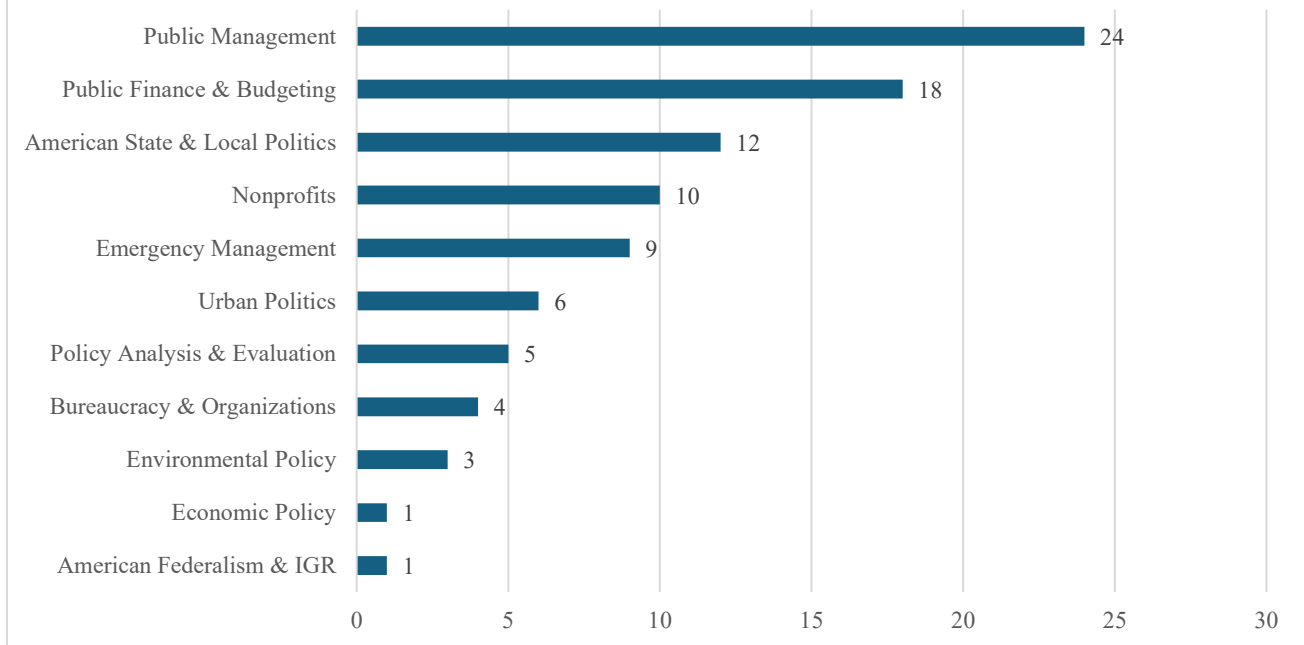
Figures 6 through 11 show the preferred areas of specialization, according to subfield, for all U.S.-based full-time academic positions posted to the MPSA Job Board for 2024-25. In addition to the broader subfield designation, up to two areas of specialization can be selected for each job posting. The counts in the figures below indicate the number of times that each area of specialization was selected within each subfield. 33.5 percent of job postings did not specify a preferred area of specialization.



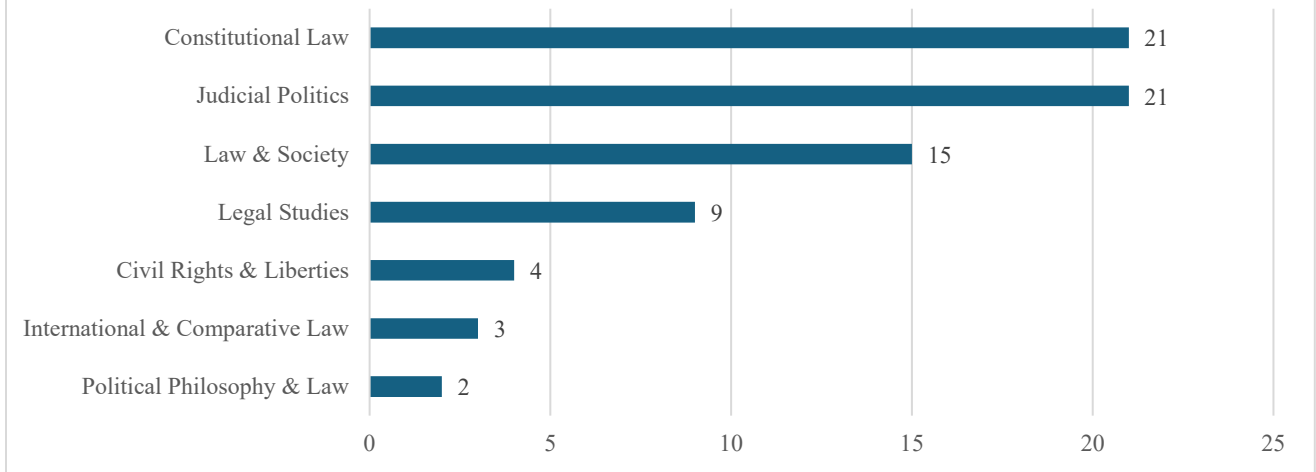
**Figure 8. Most Frequent Specializations for International Relations
(All Full-Time Academic Positions)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25**



**Figure 9. Most Frequent Specializations for Public Administration
(All Full-Time Academic Positions)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25**



**Figure 10. Most Frequent Specializations for Public Law
(All Full-Time Academic Positions)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25**



**Figure 11. Most Frequent Areas of Specialization for Public Policy
(All Full-Time Academic Positions)
MPSA Job Board Postings, 2024-25**

