

**JACOB K. JAVITS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: 1997–98 COHORT
PARTICIPANT RESULTS**



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
October 2005

This report was produced by Office of Postsecondary Education staff.

U.S. Department of Education

Margaret Spellings

Secretary

Office of Postsecondary Education

Sally L. Stroup

Assistant Secretary

October 2005

This report is in the public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. While permission to reprint this publication is not necessary, the citation should be: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, *Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program Performance Assessment: 1997–98 Cohort Participant Results*, Washington, D.C., 2005.

This report is available on the Department's Web site at www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/report2004.doc and www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/report2004.pdf.

On request, this publication is available in alternate formats, such as Braille, large print or computer diskette. For more information, please contact the Department's Alternate Format Center at (202) 260-0852 or (202) 260-0818.

JACOB K. JAVITS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: 1997–98 COHORT PARTICIPANT RESULTS

Executive Summary

The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program¹ awards grants to selected students pursuing terminal degrees (doctorate or master of fine arts) in the arts, humanities and social sciences at accredited postsecondary institutions. The performance outcomes for the 1997–98 cohort of the fellows (the assessment of the completion rate of graduate programs and the length of time required to obtain terminal degrees) show that the program has had a positive impact. Results to date are at least as successful as the figures for the nation as a whole, and can be expected to show greater success for the program as the measurement time span for this reference cohort is extended.

Introduction

This report provides an overview of information submitted during 2004 to the U.S. Department of Education by postsecondary institutions that participate in the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program. The data are for the cohort of students who first received their fellowships during the 1997–98 school year. This report also presents Javits Fellowship Program performance measure data submitted by the grantee institutions and compiled by the Department, as required by the *Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993*.²

Program Background

The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program awards grants to selected students pursuing terminal degrees in the arts, humanities and social sciences at accredited postsecondary institutions. A master of fine arts (M.F.A.) is usually the terminal degree in the arts and a doctorate is the terminal degree in most areas of social sciences and humanities. Award winners are selected on the basis of their academic abilities, financial needs and the other qualifications presented in the application. Applications are evaluated by panels of scholars selected for their expertise in the social sciences, humanities or arts. The specific fields of study for which awards can be granted are determined annually by the Javits Fellowship Board, consisting of nine members appointed by the secretary of education.³ The Javits Fellowship is one of the most competitive and prestigious scholarship awards available to graduate students pursuing terminal degrees in the arts, humanities and social sciences.⁴

¹ The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program is authorized by the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended, Title VII, Part A, Subpart 1; program regulations are found at 34 CFR 650.

² White House Office of Management and Budget: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/gplaw2m.html. Retrieved 06/09/05.

³ Further information on the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program can be found at: www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html. Retrieved 06/09/05.

⁴ University of Colorado at Boulder: www.colorado.edu/topscholarships/sfa.htm. Retrieved 06/09/05.

The award consists of an institutional payment (accepted by the institution of higher education in lieu of all tuition and fees for the fellow) and a stipend (based on the fellow's financial need as determined by the federal needs analysis formula). In fiscal year 2005, for example, the institutional payment was \$11,822, and the maximum stipend was \$30,000. Awards are made for one year, and are renewable for three additional years, contingent upon the student making satisfactory progress toward the degree and continued congressional funding for the program. A fellowship recipient is required to enroll as a full-time student.

Program Funding

Table 1 shows appropriation levels and numbers of fellowships awarded for fiscal years 2002–05, corresponding approximately to academic years 2001–02 through 2004–05. Although program funding has been stable, there has been significant growth in the average award size, especially between fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

Table 1. Annual funding levels and number of fellowships awarded, Javits Fellowship Program: 2002–05.

Fiscal Year	Appropriated Amount	New Fellowships Awarded	Continuing Fellowships	Fellowship Amount Range	Average Fellowship Amount
2005	\$9.88 million	54	180	\$3,000–\$41,822	\$41,774
2004	\$9.94 million	44	193	\$5,000–\$41,511	\$41,483
2003	\$9.94 million	60	266	(maximum) \$32,796	NA
2002	\$10.0 million	112	285	(maximum) \$32,531	NA

Source: U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/funding.html. Retrieved 3/30/2005.

Note: NA – Not Available.

Evaluation of Program Performance

The Department of Education’s GPR *Strategic Plan* specifies two primary performance measures for evaluating the Javits Fellowship Program:

1. **Graduation rate:** The percentage of Javits fellows who complete the terminal degree within seven years; and
2. **Median time to completion:** The median length of time that the Javits fellows spend completing their terminal degrees.⁵

The Department has established annual targets for these two measures from 2004 through 2010. Table 2 shows the target values for both measures by year.

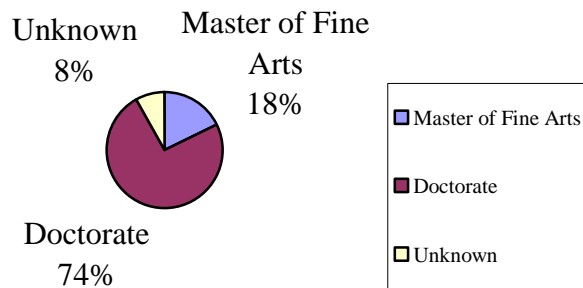
⁵ The original entry in the Department’s *Strategic Plan* specified using the average time to degree completion rather than the median. For technical reasons, the median is superior to the mean in this case, and is used in this report.

Table 2. Target Values for the Performance of Javits Fellowship Program: 2004–10

Performance Measures	Annual Target Values						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Percentage of Javits fellows completing a doctoral degree within seven years	31	32	32	32	32	33	33
Median time (years) for completion of a degree	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1

Source: PART Performance Assessment, Javits Fellowship Program, available at: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/pma/education.pdf. Retrieved 06/09/05.

Figure 1. Javits Fellows, by Degree Type: 1997–98 Cohort (n=101)



Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

To assess the outcomes of the Javits Program, it is necessary to allow sufficient time for students to complete their graduate studies. According to the 2002 Survey of Earned Doctorates from the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago⁶, the median time to complete a doctoral degree in the United States is 9.0 years in the humanities and 7.8 years in the social sciences. The overall median time for all doctorates is 7.5 years.

The present report is based on data collected during 2003–04, and summarizes the evaluation results for the 1997–98 cohort of fellows participating in the Javits Fellowship Program;⁷ it thus covers a seven-year time span for the cohort. Calculations based on

⁶ Hoffer, T., S. Sederstrom, L. Selfa, V. Welch, M. Hess, S. Brown, S. Reyes, K. Webber, and I. Guzman-Barron. 2003. *Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities: Summary Report 2002*, National Opinion Research Center: University of Chicago.

⁷ The U.S. Department of Education, through its Policy and Program Studies Service, plans to undertake the Graduate Fellowships Outcomes Study, which will look at graduation rates and times-to-degree-completion for fellowship recipients in the Javits and GAANN programs. The first impact data are expected in fiscal year 2006. See www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-1/032305a.html.

NORC survey data show that 29 percent of doctoral degree recipients in the arts, humanities and social sciences in the United States during 2001–02 completed the degree within seven years.

Participants and Demographics

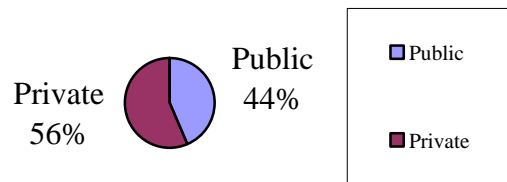
As table 3 shows, the 1997–98 Javits Fellowship cohort consisted of 101 students: 44 students attended 21 public institutions, and 57 attended 17 private institutions. Seventy five (80 percent) of the 93 fellows whose degree programs were reported were in doctoral programs, and 18 fellows (19 percent) were in master of fine arts programs. Degree program information was not reported for eight students.

Table 3. Javits Fellows, by Degree Program and Educational Institution: 1997–98 Cohort

Degree Program Type	Educational Institution Type		Total
	Public	Private	
Master of Fine Arts	12	6	18
Doctorate	26	49	75
Unknown	6	2	8
Total	44	57	101

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004.*

Figure 2. Javits Fellows, by Educational Institution Type: 1997–98 Cohort (n=101)

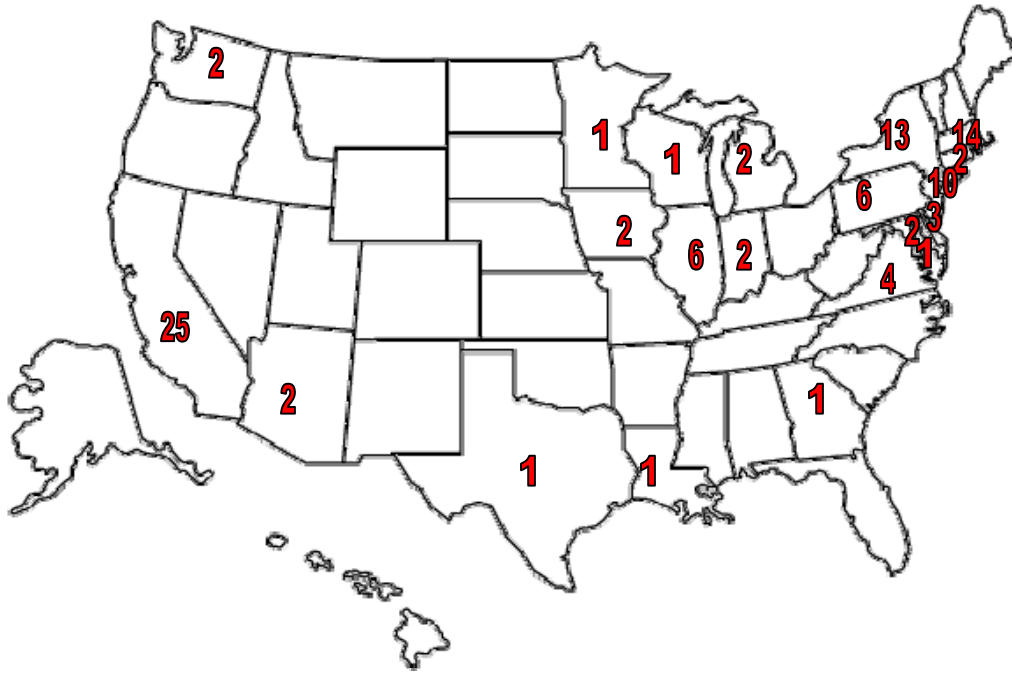


Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004.*

The largest contingent of fellows from a single public institution was 14 at the University of California, Berkeley. The largest number of fellows attending a single private institution was 10 at Yale University. While the 38 schools were spread across the nation in 21 states and the District of Columbia, the northeastern states (Massachusetts, 14; New York, 13; Connecticut, 10; Pennsylvania, 6; New Jersey, 3; and Rhode Island, 2) had the

largest number of fellows (48). However, as a single state, California had the largest number of fellows (25).

Figure 3. State Distribution of Javits Fellows: 1997–98 Cohort



Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

As table 4 shows, 46 of the fellows were male and 47 fellows were female; gender information was not reported for eight students. The gender distributions were even between male and female for both degree programs.

Table 4. Javits Fellows, by Gender and Degree Program: 1997–98 Cohort

Degree Program Type	Sex			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Master of Fine Arts	9	9	N/A	18
Doctorate	37	38	N/A	75
Unknown	N/A	N/A	8	8
Total	46	47	8	101

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

Note: N/A – Not Applicable

Table 5 shows the race/ethnic distribution of the 101 students: white, 77; Asian, 4; black, 5; Hispanic, 3; others, 4; and unknown, 8. Sixteen (17 percent) of the 93 fellows whose race/ethnic information was reported were from minority groups. Five (28 percent) of the 18 fellows in the M.F.A. programs were minorities, while 11 fellows (15 percent) of the 75 in the doctoral programs were from minority race/ethnic groups.

Table 5. Javits Fellows, by Race/Ethnicity and Degree Program Type: 1997–98 Cohort

Degree Program Type	Race						Total
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Others	Unknown	
Master of Fine Arts	0	4	0	13	1	N/A	18
Doctorate	4	1	3	64	3	N/A	75
Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	8
Total	4	5	3	77	4	8	101

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004.*

Note: N/A – Not Applicable

Performance Measure Outcomes

The Percentage of Fellows Completing the Terminal Degree Within Seven Years

The data used to determine the rate of completion included 64 of the 75 Javits fellows enrolled in doctoral programs. The academic status of 11 fellows was not reported.

Table 6 shows the distribution of fellows in doctoral programs by postsecondary institution type and program completion status.

Table 6. 2004 Academic Status of Javits Fellows in Doctoral Programs, by Education Institution Type: 1997–98 Cohort

Academic Status in 2004	Education Institution Type		Total
	Public	Private	
Completed doctorate	8	11	19
Still enrolled in program	16	24	40
Withdrew from program	0	5	5
Status unknown	2	9	11
Total	26	49	75

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004.*

Nineteen (30 percent) of the 64 fellows in doctoral programs completed a doctoral degree within seven years, while 40 fellows (62.5 percent) were still enrolled in their programs of study. Five fellows (8 percent) had withdrawn from the programs in which they were

enrolled. The 30 percent value for the seven-year completion rate of the 1997–98 Javits fellows was slightly higher than the national value (29 percent) reported in 2002 NORC survey data. While the number of students completing their degrees within seven years was greater at private institutions, the percentage completion rate was lower. The seven-year completion rate for fellows in public institutions was 33 percent (8 out of 24), while the seven-year completion rate for fellows in private institutions was 28 percent (11 out of 40).

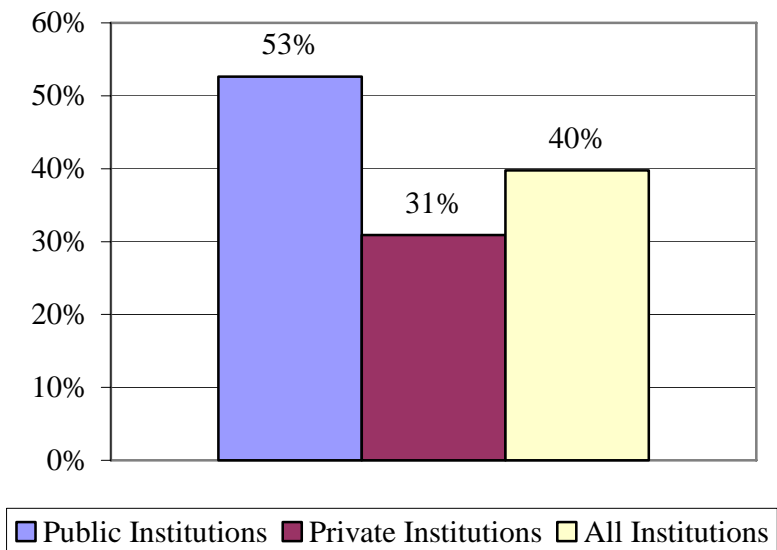
There was no difference in the completion rates for public and private schools for Javits fellows enrolled in M.F.A. programs. All of the 18 Javits fellows who were enrolled in M.F.A. programs in 1997–98 reported the completion of the degree within seven years. Thirteen of the 18 fellows completed master's degrees at public institutions, while five finished the degree at private institutions.

The overall seven-year completion percentages for all terminal degrees, including both doctorates and M.F.A. degrees, for the 1997–98 cohort are as follows:⁸

Public institutions: 20 out of 38 (53 percent)
 Private institutions: 17 out of 55 (31 percent)

The total seven-year completion rate, including that of master's degrees, for all postsecondary institutions for the 1997–98 cohort: 37 out of 93 (40 percent).

Figure 3. 2004 Javits Terminal Degree Seven-Year Completion Percentage: 1997–98 Cohort



Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

Note: Completion rates of doctorate and M.F.A. degrees are combined.

⁸ For two fellows at public institutions and nine fellows at private institutions (a total of 11 fellows), no information on academic status was reported.

Length of Time (Years) Spent Completing the Terminal Degree

The median time period spent in graduate school for the 19 Javits fellows who reported completing a doctoral degree by 2004 was six years. The eight fellows who completed doctoral degrees at public institutions had a median value of 6.5 years, while the median value for the 11 fellows who completed doctoral degrees at private institutions was six years.

The 18 Javits fellows who completed master of fine arts degrees took a median 3.6 years to obtain their degrees. The 13 fellows who completed their degrees at public institutions had a median value of 3.5 years, while the five fellows who completed their degrees at private institutions had a median value of four years.

It is important to note that this measure was calculated on the basis of information available at the end of seven years. As table 6 shows, 40 of the 64 fellows (62.5 percent) in doctoral programs were still enrolled as students (that is, they had not yet completed their doctorates) as of fall 2004.

According to national data reported by the NORC survey, median time to the completion of a doctoral degree is 9.0 years in the humanities and 7.8 years in the social sciences.⁹

Table 7 shows the number and percentage of the 1997–98 Javits fellows who completed a doctoral degree in or before 2004; the numbers in parentheses are the total number of fellows in doctoral programs. As noted previously, the overall completion rate was higher in public institutions (31 percent) than for private institutions (22 percent). The completion rate of the male fellows (35 percent) was higher than that of female fellows (16 percent).

Table 7. Number and Percentage of Javits Fellows Who Earned a Doctoral Degree in Seven Years, by Gender and Education Institution Type: 1997–98 Cohort

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Public	6(15) – 40%	2(11) – 18%	8(26) – 31%
Private	7(22) – 32%	4(27) – 15%	11(49) – 22%
Total	13(37) – 35%	6(38) – 16%	19(75) – 25%

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

Note: Numbers in parentheses are the total numbers of Javits fellows in the categories.

⁹ Hoffer, T., et al. 2003. *Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities: Summary Report 2002*, National Opinion Research Corporation: University of Chicago.

As table 8 shows, the doctoral degree completion rate of minority fellows (27 percent) was higher than the overall figures for 1997–98 Javits fellows (25 percent).

Table 8. Number and Percent of Javits Fellows Who Earned a Doctoral Degree in Seven Years, by Race/Ethnicity and Education Institution Type: 1997–98 Cohort

Institution	White	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	Minority Total	Total
Public	7(20)	1(2)	0(0)	0(2)	0(2)	1(6) – 17%	8(26) – 31%
Private	9(44)	0(2)	0(1)	1(1)	1 (1)	2(5) – 40%	11(49) – 22%
Total	16(64)	1(4)	0(1)	1(3)	1(3)	3(11) – 27%	19(75) – 25%

Source: *Javits Program Annual Performance Report, 2004*.

Note: Numbers in parentheses are the total numbers of Javits fellows in the categories.

Summary

The seven-year terminal degree completion rate for the 1997–98 cohort of the Javits Fellowship Program is comparable to national levels: for doctoral students in the social sciences and humanities, the seven-year completion rate was 30 percent, while the national rate (NORC, 2003) was 29 percent. The seven-year completion rate for master of fine arts students was 100 percent. No comparable national data are available for this measure.

The standard measure of median time to complete the terminal degree is based on seven-year measurement point, and for the 1997–98 cohort of doctoral fellows, it was six years. No comparable national data are available for this measure.

The Javits Program information available to date provides an encouraging initial picture. The program, judged by the outcomes currently available for a single cohort of fellows, has had outcomes at least as successful as those for the nation as a whole.