



June/July 2009

## Doctoral-Level Faculty Numbers Continue to Decline

The proportion of academically qualified faculty at both the participative and supportive level has experienced an overall decline, according to data collected annually from AACSB member schools. At the same time, faculty who are considered professionally qualified (or those that do not hold a doctoral-level degree) have increased.

AACSB categorizes faculty into two basic areas: 1) those who hold a doctoral-level degree and 2) those who do not have a doctorate but have a master's degree in a business-related field and who are considered as highly experienced professionals. Within these two categories, individuals are additionally classified as either participating or supporting faculty. Participating faculty members are defined as individuals (full-time or part-time) who teach, serve on committees, work with student groups, take part in planning, or otherwise participate more fully in the life of the school. Supporting faculty are considered as individuals (full-time or part-time) who teach but do not otherwise participate in the life of the school.

2007-08 data found that nearly 64% of all faculty reported were listed as academically qualified (or those who hold a doctoral-level degree). Among faculty listed as participating, the percentage was even higher at 82.7%. The largest proportion of faculty listed as professionally qualified (or those who do not hold a doctoral-level degree) was 78.7% among those faculty listed as supporting. These numbers show a fairly significant shift in some areas since 2002-03. During 2002-03, slightly more than 76% of all faculty were listed as academically qualified with the proportion among participating faculty equating to 91.2%. The proportion of faculty who are professionally qualified has risen in both the participating and supporting categories.

Figure 1.

	AQ Participating Faculty	PQ Participating Faculty	AQ Supporting Faculty	PQ Supporting Faculty
07-08	82.7%	17.3%	21.3%	78.7%
02-03	91.2%	8.8%	30.6%	69.4%

Within the same time period, academically qualified faculty has declined less among individuals in full-time positions. Although, there is still a declining percentage of full-time faculty who hold doctoral degrees at a controlled set of schools.

Figure 2.

	Full-Time Faculty with Doctorates	Full-Time Faculty with Doctorates at AACSB-Accredited School
07-08	82.8%	82.5%
02-03	86.8%	86.3%

\*The data provided within this article is collected annually by the AACSB Business School Questionnaire (BSQ) and is available to schools through DataDirect.