

Degree Completion in Philosophy

Bachelor's Degrees

Bachelor's degree completions in philosophy more than doubled from 1987 to 2014, and the percentage of bachelor's degrees issued in philosophy as a percentage of all bachelor's degrees awarded, though small, rose slowly but steadily throughout that same time period (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

Master's Degrees

Master's degree completions in philosophy approximately doubled between 1987 and 2014. Growth occurred in much the same way that it did at the bachelor's level, with two surges separated by a period of stagnation, one that in this case started in the early 1990s and lasted through the end of that decade. Philosophy degrees represented 0.14 percent to 0.20 percent of all master's and first professional degrees awarded in each year of the two-decade span examined here. However, the share of master's degrees in philosophy remained relatively stable since 1987 (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

Doctoral Degrees

The number of doctoral degrees completed in philosophy grew steadily from 1987 to the turn of the century, as did the discipline's share of all doctorates conferred. The mid-2000s were a period of stasis for these completions, but a combination of increasing doctoral completions across all fields as well as a reduction in philosophy doctoral degree completions in 2014 reduced the share of completions to 1987's levels (Academy of Arts and Sciences).

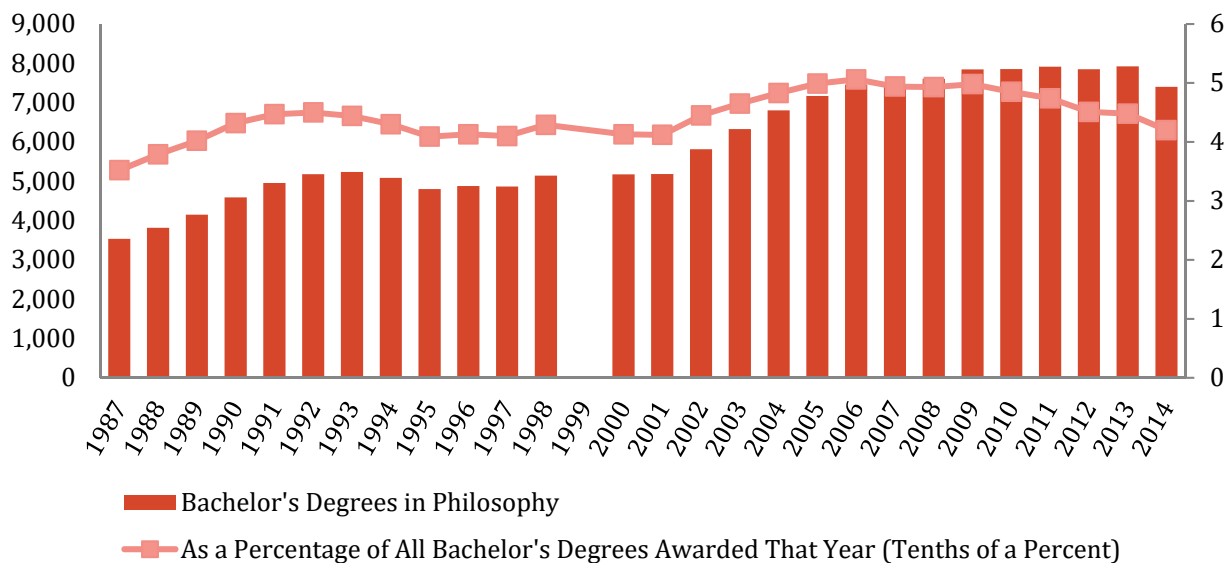
See charts and graphs on following pages.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The IPEDS data were accessed and analyzed via the National Science Foundation's online science and engineering resources data system, WebCASPAR (<https://webcaspar.nsf.gov/>). Data assembled by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for inclusion in the [Humanities Indicators 2016](#).

Note: Data were not published for 1999.

Bachelor's Degree Completions in Philosophy, 1987–2009

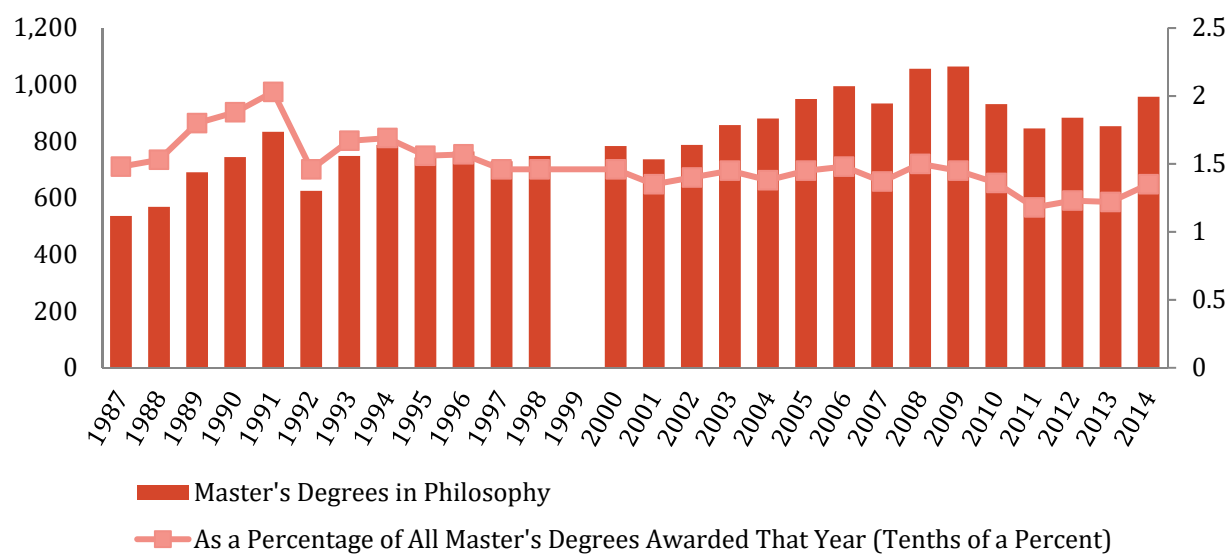
	Bachelor's Degrees in Philosophy	As a Percentage of All Bachelor's Degrees Awarded That Year (Tenths of a Percent)
1987	3,534	3.52
1988	3,814	3.79
1989	4,146	4.02
1990	4,589	4.32
1991	4,953	4.47
1992	5,178	4.50
1993	5,234	4.44
1994	5,085	4.30
1995	4,801	4.09
1996	4,878	4.13
1997	4,863	4.10
1998	5,143	4.29
2000	5,174	4.13
2001	5,182	4.12
2002	5,814	4.45
2003	6,325	4.65
2004	6,800	4.83
2005	7,168	4.99
2006	7,457	5.06
2007	7,443	4.94
2008	7,602	4.93
2009	7,842	4.98
2010	7,853	4.85
2011	7,913	4.74
2012	7,847	4.51
2013	7,920	4.48
2014	7,398	4.20



Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21a](#)

Master's Degree Completions in Philosophy, 1987–2009

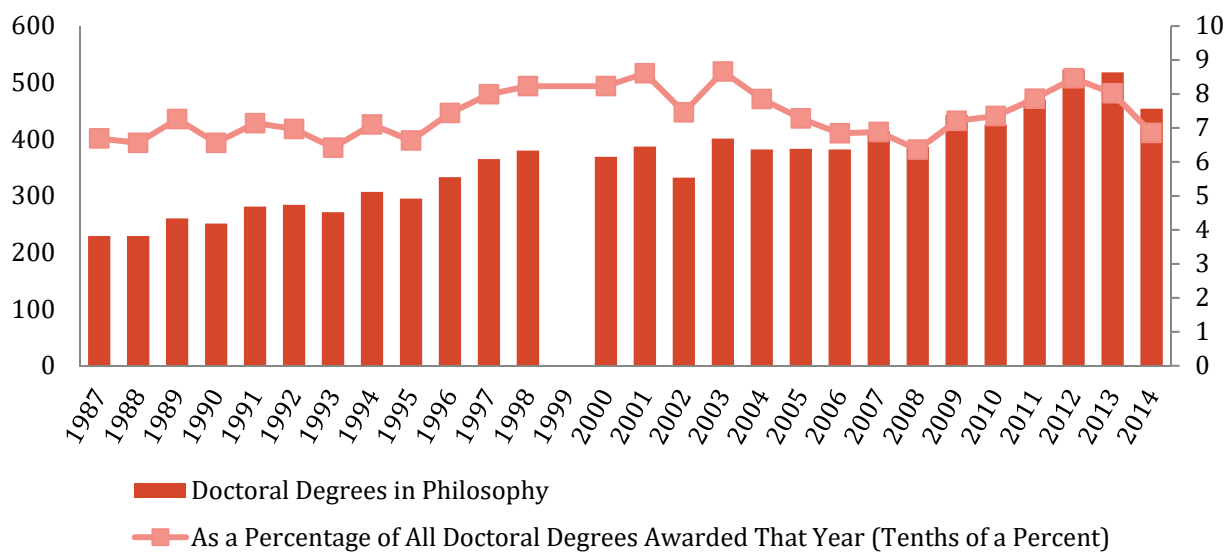
	Master's Degrees in Philosophy	As a Percentage of All Master's Degrees Awarded That Year (Tenths of a Percent)
1987	536	1.48
1988	568	1.53
1989	690	1.80
1990	744	1.88
1991	833	2.03
1992	625	1.46
1993	748	1.67
1994	787	1.69
1995	742	1.56
1996	764	1.57
1997	729	1.46
1998	748	1.46
2000	783	1.46
2001	736	1.35
2002	787	1.40
2003	857	1.45
2004	880	1.38
2005	949	1.45
2006	994	1.48
2007	933	1.37
2008	1,056	1.50
2009	1,064	1.45
2010	931	1.36
2011	845	1.18
2012	883	1.23
2013	853	1.22
2014	957	1.35



Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21b](#)

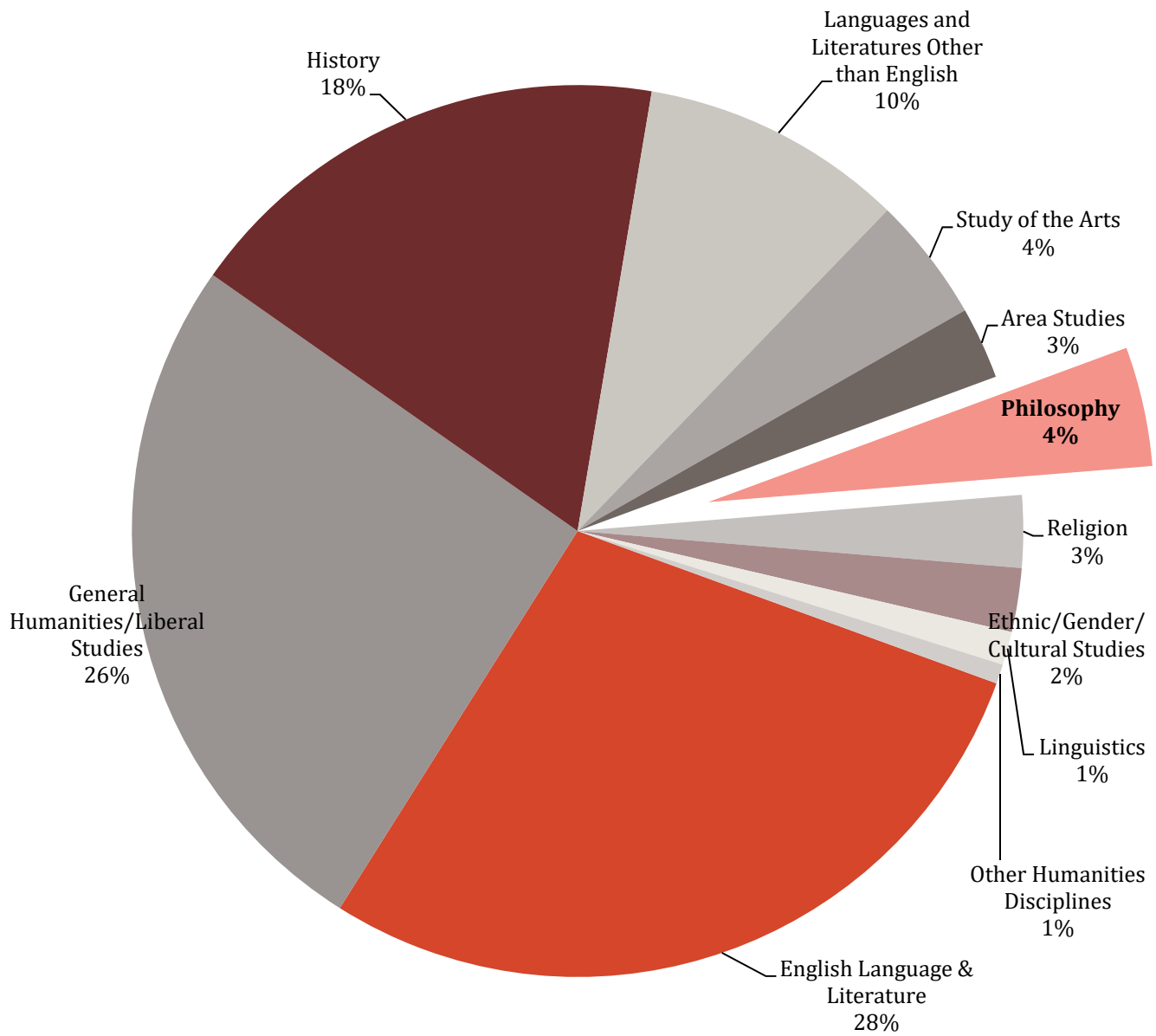
Doctoral Degree Completions in Philosophy, 1987–2009

	Doctoral Degrees in Philosophy	As a Percentage of All Doctoral Degrees Awarded That Year (Tenths of a Percent)
1987	229	6.69
1988	229	6.56
1989	260	7.26
1990	251	6.56
1991	281	7.14
1992	284	6.97
1993	271	6.42
1994	307	7.10
1995	295	6.63
1996	333	7.44
1997	365	7.99
1998	380	8.23
2000	369	8.23
2001	387	8.61
2002	332	7.46
2003	401	8.66
2004	382	7.85
2005	383	7.28
2006	382	6.84
2007	414	6.88
2008	387	6.36
2009	443	7.21
2010	426	7.35
2011	470	7.86
2012	523	8.46
2013	518	8.02
2014	454	6.85



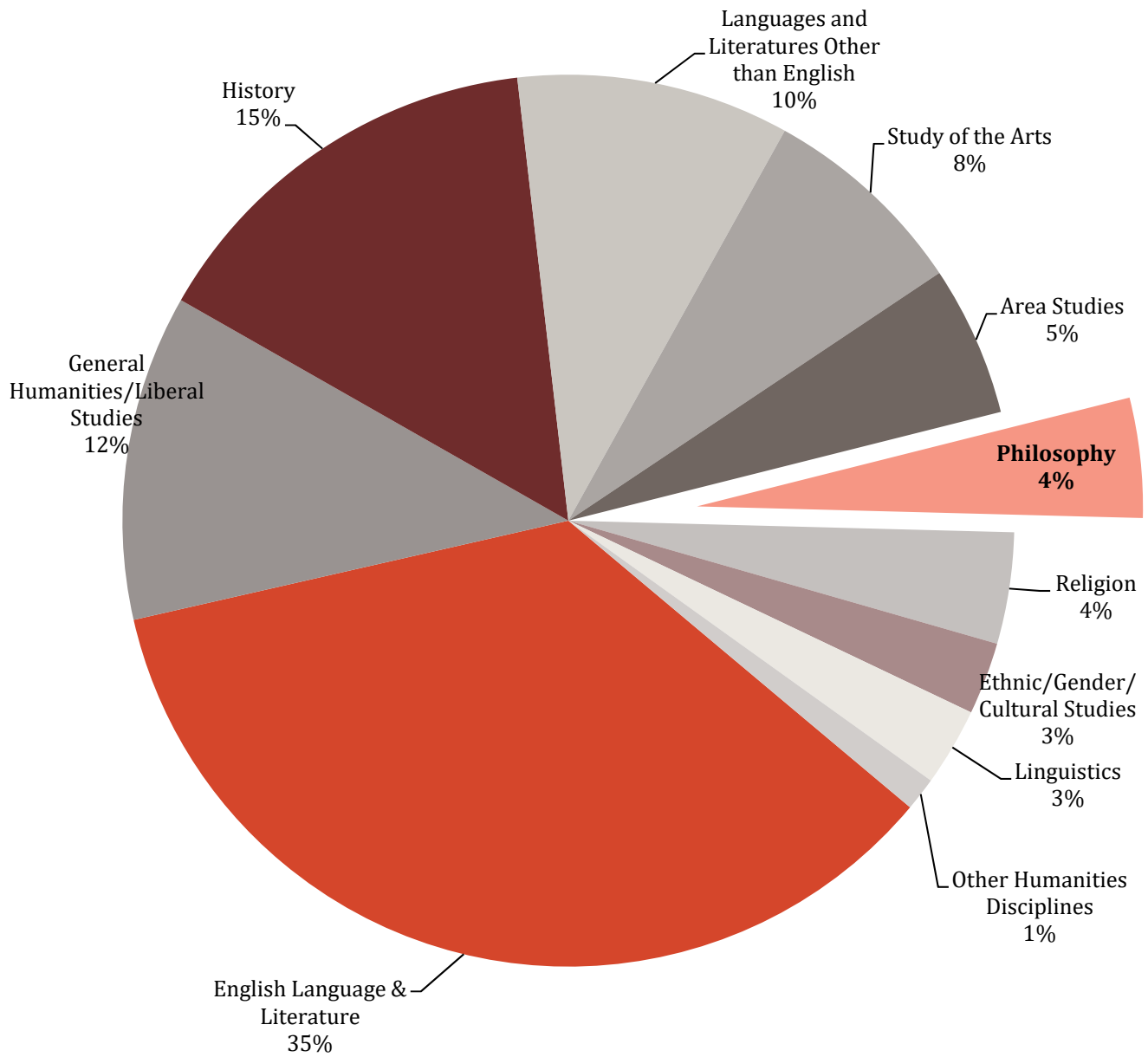
Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-21c](#)

Distribution of Humanities Bachelor's Degree Completions among Disciplines, 2014



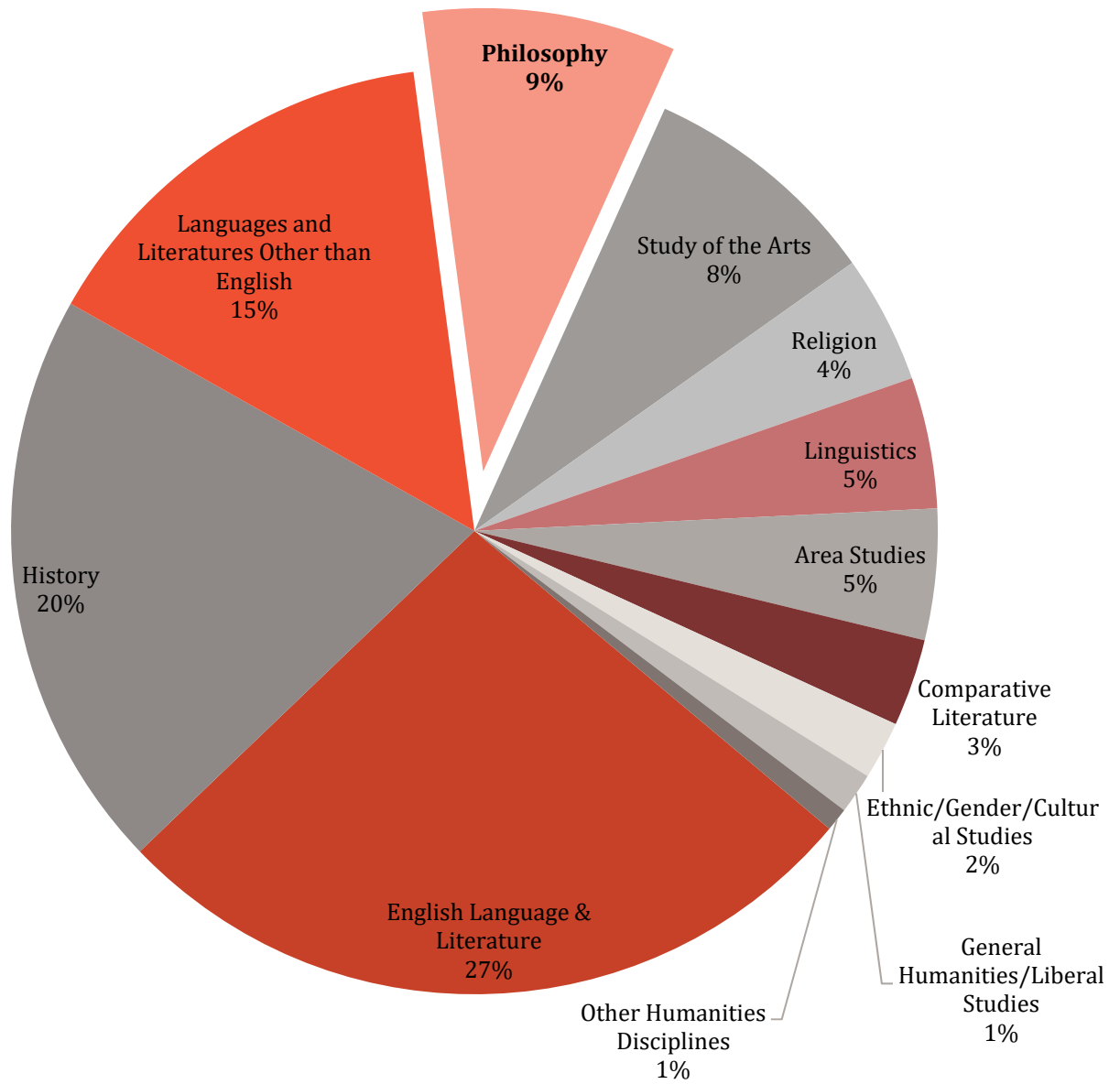
Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-2a](#)

Distribution of Humanities Master's Degree Completions among Disciplines, 2014



Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-11a](#)

Distribution of Humanities Doctoral Degree Completions among Disciplines, 2014



Data source: [Humanities Indicators, Figure II-11b](#)