

## AAG 2016-2017 Departmental Data

During the 2016-2017 academic year, there were 167 degree-granting U.S. geography programs listed in the AAG’s annual Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas. This report provides a summary of departmental data collected from the Guide and includes detailed information on geography degrees offered and the number of geography majors, degrees granted, and full-time faculty.

### Bachelor’s Degrees

Departments were asked to report the number of students pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree during the 2016-2017 academic year and the number of Bachelor’s Degrees granted during the previous academic year (2015-2016). 84.2% (n=139) of Bachelor’s Degree-granting geography departments listed in the Guide to Geography Programs reported both totals.

The total number of geography students pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree was 15,698, and the total number of Bachelor’s Degrees granted was 4,972.

79.6% of all geography students (including Master’s and PhD students) were undergraduates pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree, and 78% of all geography degrees granted were Bachelor’s Degrees.

**Table 1. BA/BS Majors and Degrees Granted, as Reported in the 2016-2017 Guide**

		BA/BS-Granting Departments
<b>Majors</b>	n	139
	Total	15,698
	Mean (per department)	112.9
	Median (per department)	79
<b>Degrees Granted</b>	n	139
	Total	4,972
	Mean (per department)	35.8
	Median (per department)	24

The mean size of Bachelor’s Degree-granting departments was 112.9 undergraduate students, and the median size was 79 students. The mean number of Bachelor’s Degrees granted per program was 35.8, and the median was 24.

## Master’s Degrees

Departments were asked to report the number of students pursuing a Master’s Degree during the 2016-2017 academic year and the number of Master’s Degrees granted during the previous academic year (2015-2016). 76.1% (n=89) of Master’s Degree-granting geography programs listed in the Guide to Geography Programs reported both totals.

The total number of geography students pursuing a Master’s Degree was 2,598, and the total number of Master’s Degrees granted was 1,128.

13.2% of all geography students (including Bachelor’s and PhD students) were graduate students pursuing a Master’s Degree, and 17.7% of all geography degrees granted were Master’s Degrees.

The mean size of Master’s Degree-granting departments was 29.2 Master’s students, and the median size was 23 students. The mean number of Master’s Degrees granted per program was 12.7, and the median was 7.

**Table 2. MA/MS Majors and Degrees Granted, as Reported in the 2016-2017 Guide**

		MA/MS-Granting Departments
<b>Majors</b>	n	89
	Total	2,598
	Mean (per department)	29.2
	Median (per department)	23
<b>Degrees Granted</b>	n	89
	Total	1,128
	Mean (per department)	12.7
	Median (per department)	7

## Doctoral Degrees

Departments were asked to report the number of students pursuing a Doctoral Degree during the 2016-2017 academic year and the number of PhDs granted during the previous academic year (2015-2016). 73% (n=46) of PhD-granting geography programs listed in the Guide to Geography Programs reported both totals.

The total number of geography students pursuing a PhD was 1,427, and the total number of PhDs granted was 272.

7.2% of all geography students (including Bachelor's and Master's students) were Doctoral Students pursuing a PhD, and 4.3% of all degrees granted were PhDs.

**Table 3. PhD Majors and Degrees Granted, as Reported in the 2016-2017 Guide**

		PhD-Granting Departments
<b>Majors</b>	n	46
	Total	1,427
	Mean (per department)	31
	Median (per department)	25.5
<b>Degrees Granted</b>	n	46
	Total	272
	Mean (per department)	5.9
	Median (per department)	5

The mean size of PhD-granting departments was 31 Doctoral students, and the median size was 25.5 students. The mean number of PhDs granted per program was 5.9, and the median was 5.

## Geography Faculty

Departments were asked to report the number of full-time geography faculty employed during the 2016-2017 academic year. 98.2% (n=164) of geography programs listed in the Guide to Geography Programs reported their totals.

In 2016-2017 the total number of full-time geography faculty employed by all departments combined was 2,371. The mean number of full-time geography faculty per department was 14.5, and the median was 13.

For departments offering Bachelor's Degrees as the highest degree type, the mean number of full-time geography faculty per department was 9.1, and the median was 8.

For departments offering Master's Degrees as the highest degree type, the mean number of full-time geography faculty per department was 12, and the median was 12.

For departments offering Doctoral Degrees as the highest degree type, the mean number of full-time geography faculty per department was 20.8, and the median was 18.

**Table 4. Full-time Geography Faculty, as Reported in the 2016-2017 Guide**

		All Departments	Bachelor's Highest	Master's Highest	PhD Highest
<b>Full-time Geography Faculty</b>	n	164	48	55	61
	Total	2,371	439	662	1,270
	Mean	14.5	9.1	12	20.8
	Median	13	8	12	18

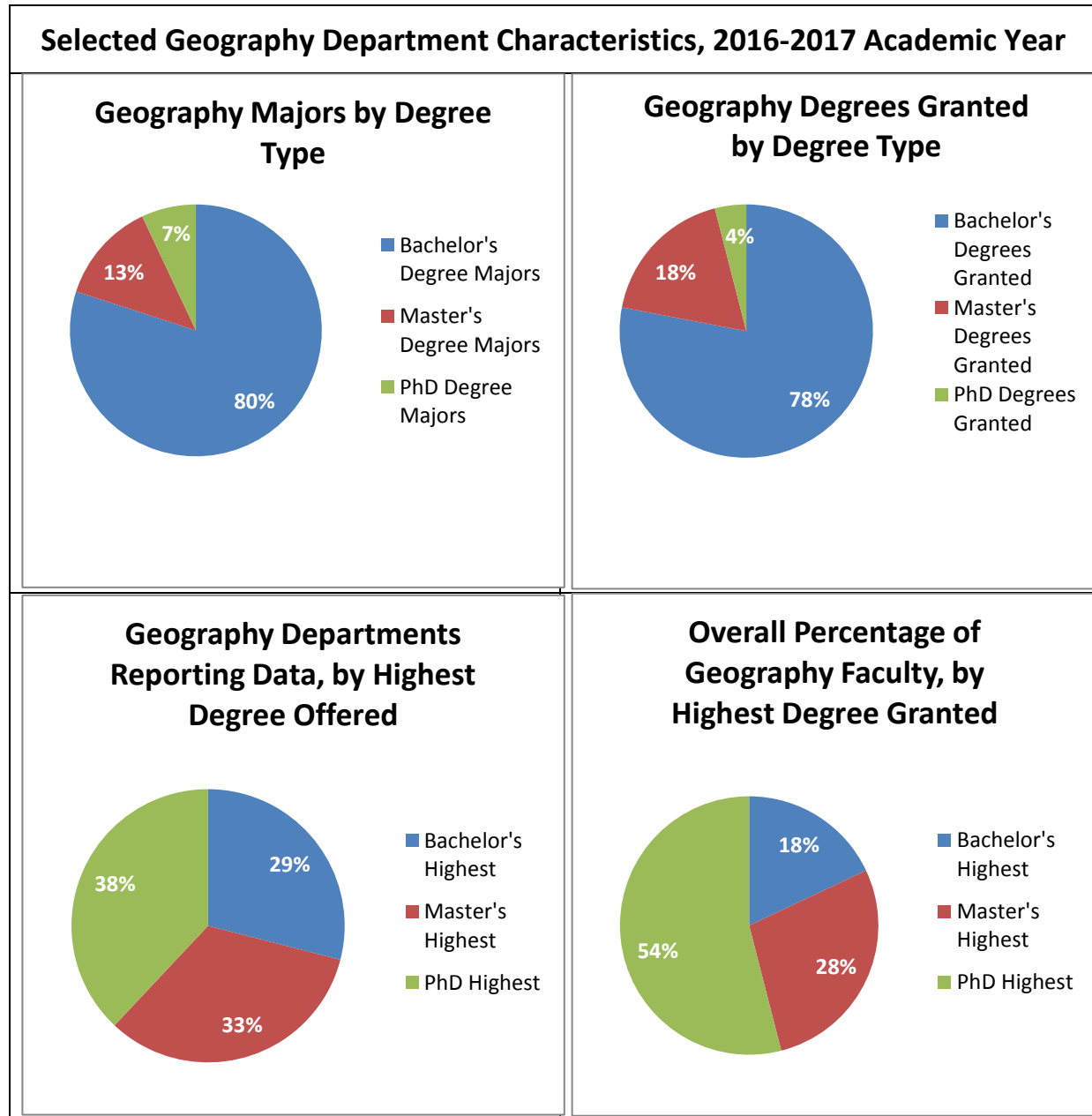
## About the Data

Because all U.S. geography departments are not listed in the Guide, the findings presented here represent a subset, rather than a comprehensive analysis of all U.S. geography programs. Furthermore, many departments offer non-geography degrees, and geography programs combined with related disciplines (e.g., “Department of Geography and Geology”, “Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences”, etc.) in some cases did not specify the number of majors, degrees granted, or faculty by discipline. Where possible, only geography majors, degrees granted, and faculty were included in the findings. However, in some cases the totals may include numbers for related non-geography disciplines.

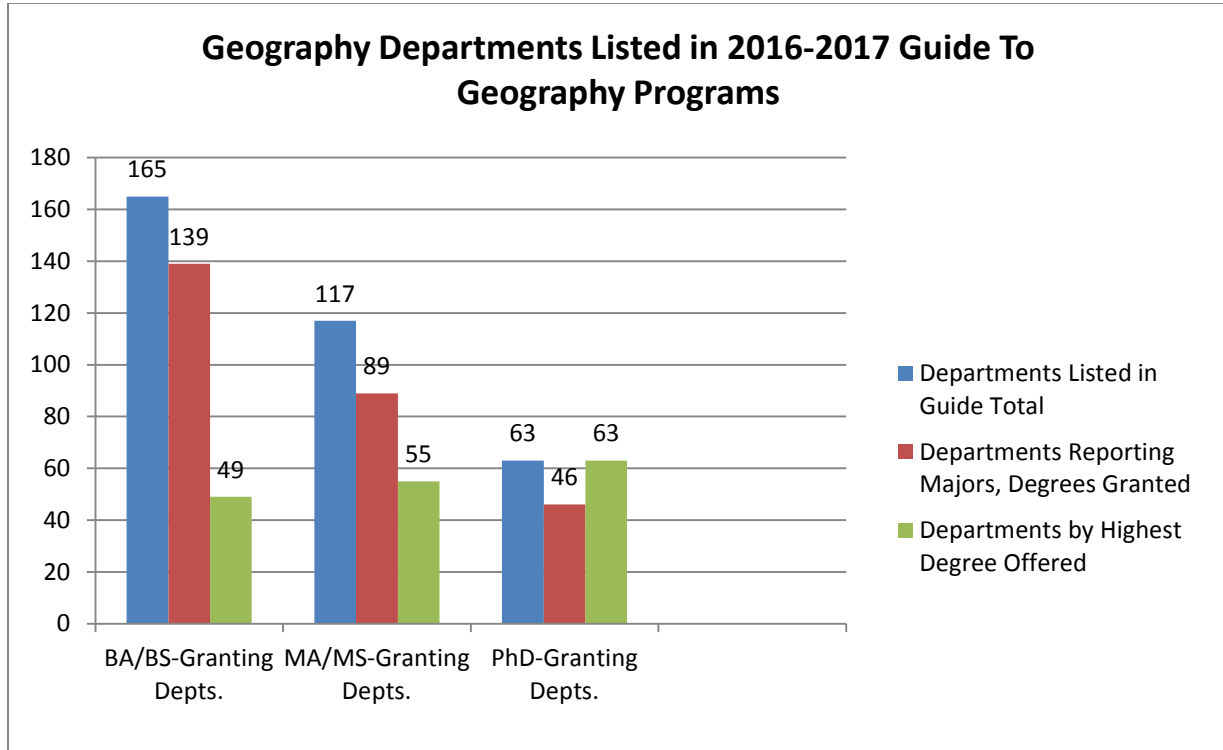
A total of 226 geography or related programs at 4-year colleges and universities in the U.S. were contacted. 167 departments chose to list their information in the Guide, for a response rate of 74% for all programs. 98.8% (n=165) of these departments offered Bachelor’s Degrees (BA or BS), 70.1% (n=117) offered Master’s Degrees (MA or MS), and 37.7% (n=63) offered Doctoral Degrees (PhD). Departments offering Bachelor’s Degrees as the highest degree type accounted for 29.3% (n=49) of all respondents; departments offering Master’s Degrees as the highest degree type comprised 32.9% (n=55); and PhD-granting departments made up 37.7% (n=63).

**Additional Figures**

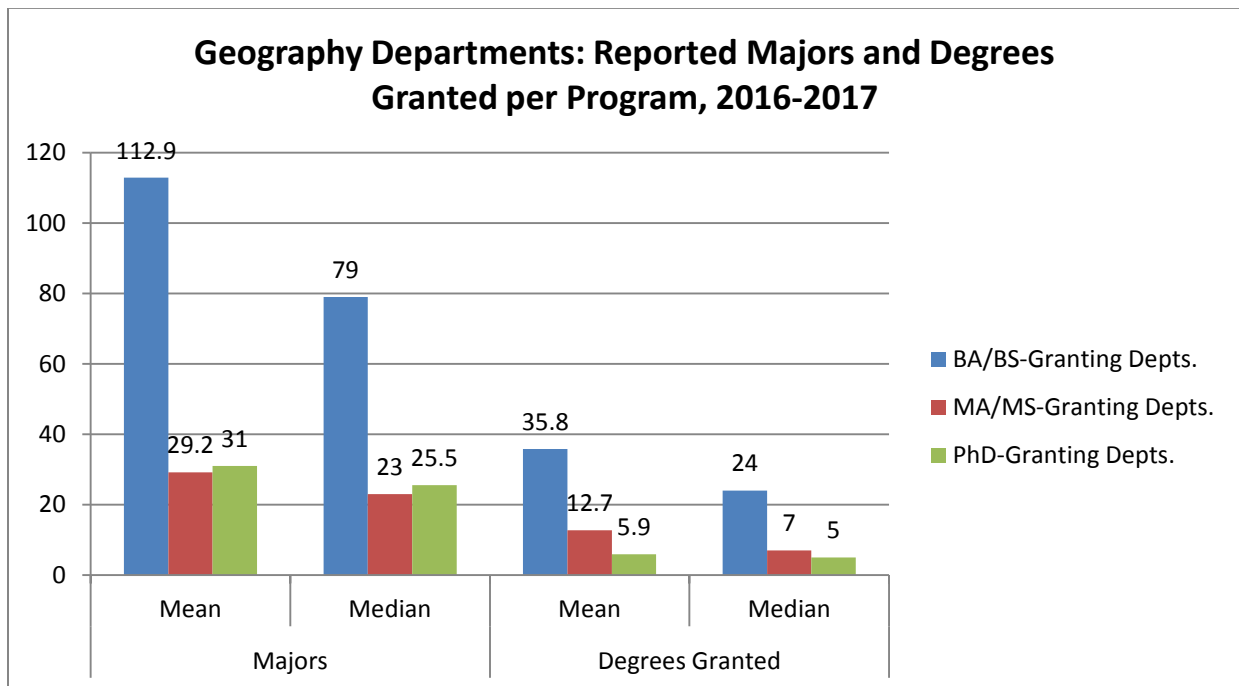
**Figure 1.**



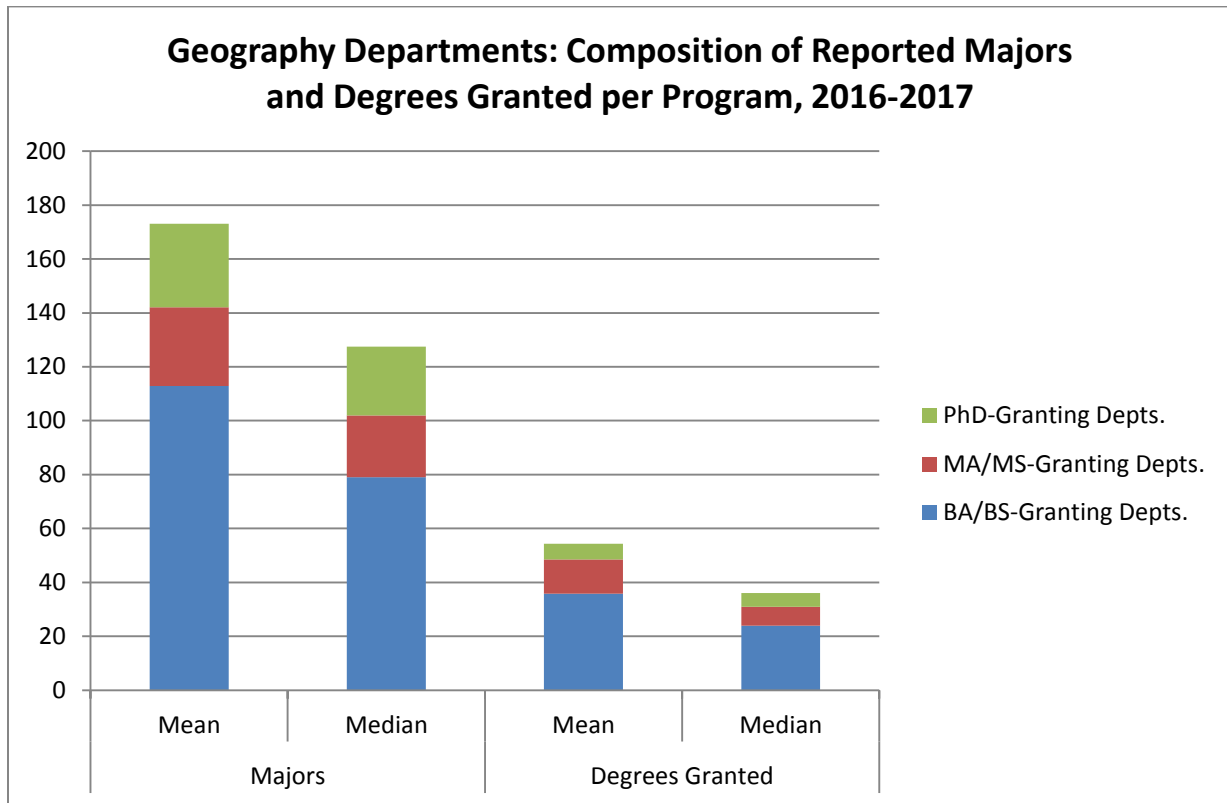
**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**



**Figure 5.**

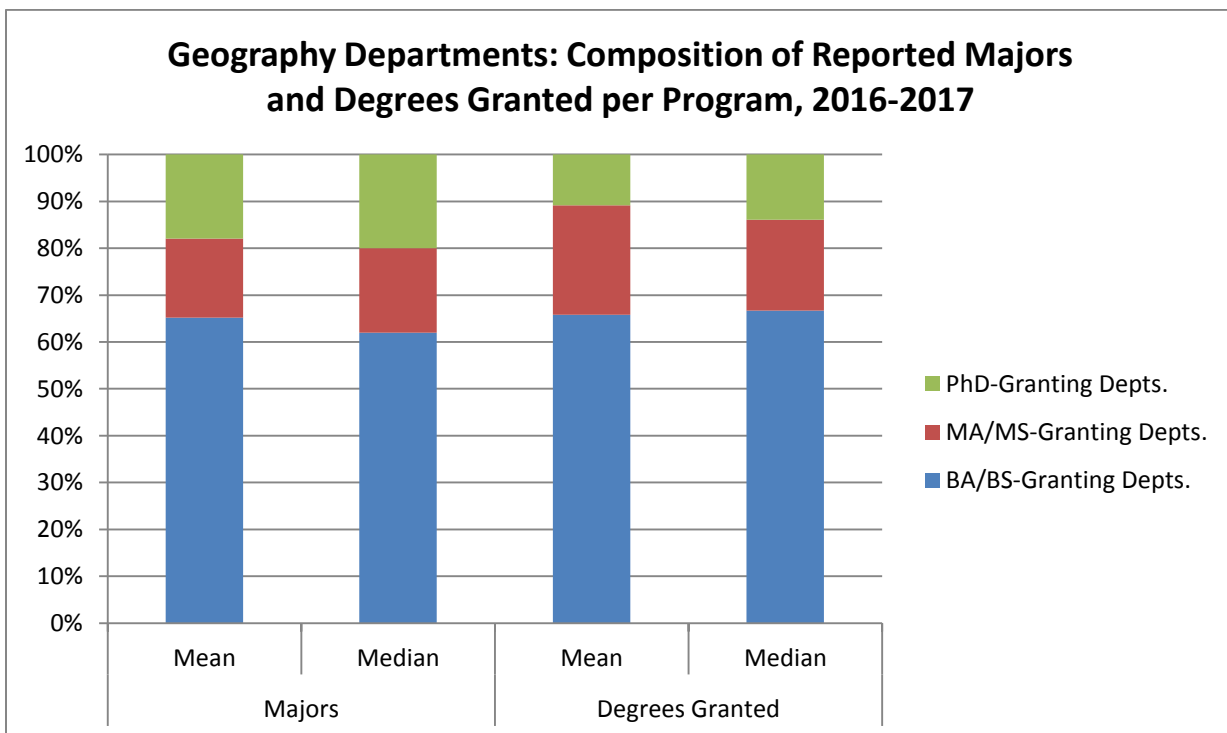
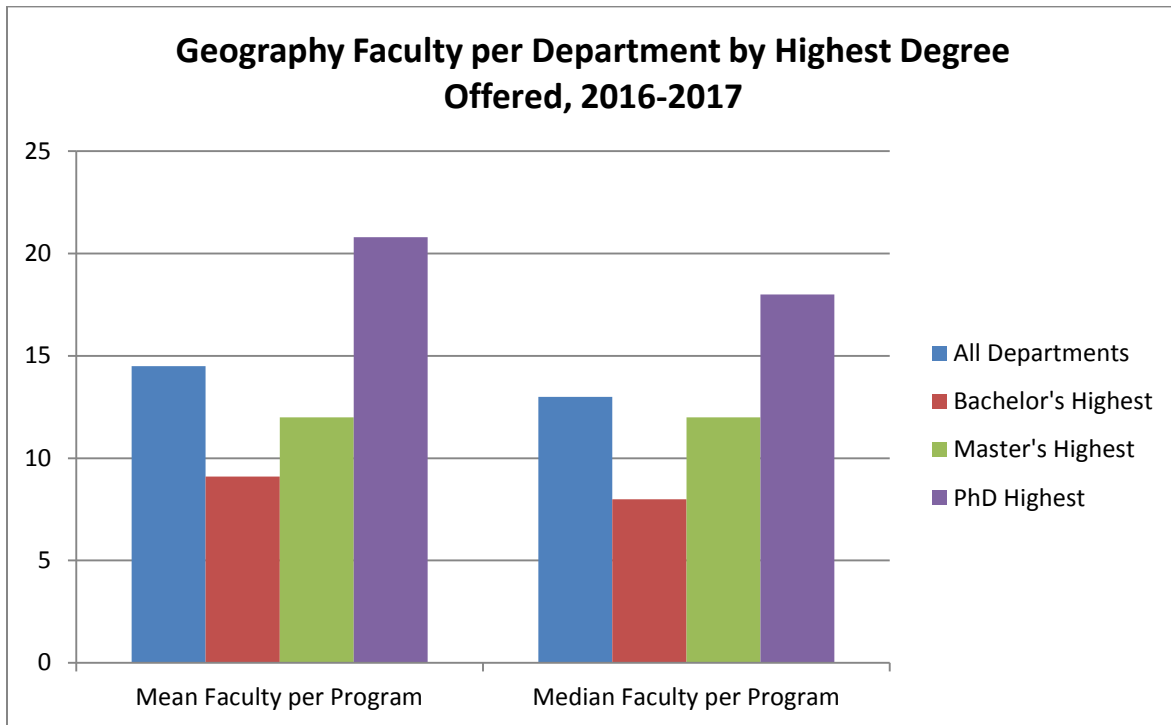


Figure 6.



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***The full datasets used to compile this report are available  
to download from the Disciplinary Data Dashboard:  
<http://www.aag.org/cs/disciplinarydata/aagdepartmentsdata>***