



**CRA**

Computing Research  
Association

## **CRA Taulbee Survey Fact Sheet 2018**

### **What is Taulbee?**

- The Taulbee survey, conducted every fall by the Computing Research Association, asks North American PhD-granting departments of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Information about their students and faculty. Information departments and I-programs within CS departments were first included in 2008.
- Results are used by CRA members and referenced by many of the media.
- Reports are published in the May issue of *Computing Research News* and can be viewed at [www.cra.org](http://www.cra.org) under “Resources” or “Data.”

### **Who participates?**

- Surveys are sent to all departments granting PhDs in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Information in North America, whether or not they are CRA members. (Most are.)
- The survey is most often completed at the department level. At some institutions, more than one department is eligible and participates with their data submitted and stored independently. Some institutions submit joint data for multiple departments, especially if they are all located in a school or college of computing or information.

### **Why participate?**

- More complete participation = more accurate picture of trends in the field. The information we give you is only as good as the information you give us.
- Participating departments get preliminary salary results at the end of December and complete results in advance of publication.
- Participating CRA Members can define their own peer group for salary benchmarking and limited other benchmarking.

### **What kinds of questions are asked?**

- PhD section: degrees awarded (with details about each recipient: gender, ethnicity, research area, and employment), enrollment, pipeline (new students, passed quals, anticipated degrees)
- Master's section and Bachelor's section: degrees awarded and enrollment by gender, ethnicity, and CS/CE/I, pipeline data. Course-level enrollment at the bachelor's level after 2015 Enrollment Survey.
- Faculty section: Total faculty FTEs, head count by ethnicity and gender at each academic rank, previous year's hiring, new faculty by ethnicity and gender, faculty losses
- Salary section: Faculty salaries by rank, listed individually, without names or other identifying information. If individual listing is not possible, aggregate information is accepted (about 20% of responding departments provide aggregate only). Departments that provide individual-level salary data will be able to get a more detailed peer group comparison report than those who provide aggregate data.
- Research expenditure and graduate student support section: Expenditures from funding external to the university, number of students supported and average stipend by type of graduate student appointment
- Department Profiles section (every three years, last in 2015): Department space, teaching loads, staff support, graduate student recruitment, breakdown of external funding sources.

### **This sounds like a lot of work. Who completes the survey?**

- It is a lot of work, and we appreciate the efforts that go into it. We try to be respectful of department time while still gathering the detailed information we need for analysis. We attempt to ask only for data we have reason to believe is relatively easy for a department to obtain. Some departments can use the information gathered for Taulbee to respond to other requests during the year.
- The primary communication is with the academic unit's current department chair in CRA records or other identified Taulbee contact. That person manages the completion. It may be completed by the chair him/herself, an assigned faculty member, a department admin or business manager, institutional research – or different people may complete different sections.

### **Some of this information is pretty confidential**

- CRA takes departmental privacy seriously and protects your information in the following ways.
  - The online site is hosted on a secure server at Peerfocus, our host since 2014)
  - Each user has their own password-protected user ID
  - Individual department data is only seen by the CRA staff that compile the information. Even CRA Board members on the Survey Committee don't see department-level data
  - We do not release department-level data to other researchers; we use it for other purposes ourselves only with department permission and only for projects related to computing education. Care is taken to ensure that the information reported does not reveal individual faculty members or institutions

### **What's the procedure and schedule?**

- Heads-up e-mail is sent to department chairs or other Taulbee contacts in early September. It will ask for a list of the people who should be given user IDs for Taulbee, and will include a link to a Taulbee user manual with more procedural details.
- We do *not* send department passwords via postal mail as we did before 2014. All contact with users will be via email; users will set their own passwords through the system.
- A pdf of the survey form can be downloaded in mid-September; many departments use this form to begin data gathering.
- Online form available mid-September.
- As of 2015, the survey is split into two online pieces: Salary, with deadline in November, and Main, with deadline in mid-January.
- Salary results to participants in late December.
- Full results to CRA members and participants in late March / early April.
- Results published in *CRN* in May.

### **Who is and is not counted?**

- Students at all degree levels who are enrolled in CS, CE, or I-programs (including IS or IT) are included. Counts are separate for CS, CE, and I.
- Faculty who teach in programs that fall under CS, CE, or I should be counted.
- Faculty and students who are in your department, but not in programs considered CS, CE, or I, are not counted if the numbers can be separated. For example, in EECS or Math/CS departments, students in EE or Math programs are not counted, and faculty who teach ONLY non-included courses are not counted.
- Additional guidance on whom to count (e.g., for faculty split across programs) is given in the full survey instructions.
- The final judgment on which students and faculty to include rests with the department, but feel free to consult the CRA staff for advice.