

# Students by Subject Area and Chosen Major (1928 and 1936/37)

## Abstract

These statistics show the distribution of students in Germany by subject area and chosen major for the summer semester of 1928 and the winter semester of 1936/37. Overall, the number of students decreased during the period shown. While the number of students in the Weimar Republic initially increased after the First World War, the significant decline up to 1936/37 is primarily due to the Nazi regime's education policy: Jewish students, for example, were largely pushed out by antisemitic regulations and legislation, and women's access to higher education was also restricted. In addition, university education as a whole lost some of its prestige. However, there were differences between the individual subject areas during this period: While some subjects such as theology or medicine, which had good career prospects and a high reputation in society, had constant or even rising student numbers while enrollment numbers in other areas fell. The number of female students also increased slightly between 1928 and 1936/37, despite the countermeasures taken by the National Socialists, although this varied depending on the subject. This trend continued after the outbreak of the war: The number of female students rose sharply from this point onwards and almost reached parity by the end of the war.

## Source

### Students at Academic Institutions of Higher Education by Discipline and Chosen Major

Chosen Major and Larger Discipline	Summer Semester 1928			Winter Semester 1936/37		
	Students Number	%	Percentage of Female Students	Students Number	%	Percentage of Female Students
I. Theology	6,110	5.5	2.5	7,656	10.6	1.1
Protestant	3,467	3.1	4.0	2,775	3.9	2.7
Catholic	2,643	2.4	0.5	4,881	6.8	0.2
II. Humanities	19,906	18.0	28.0	13,778	19.2	26.6
German				1,763	2.4	43.5
Ancient Languages				330	0.4	11.2
Modern Languages				924	1.2	45.4
III. Law	22,982	20.7	3.4	5,764	8.0	1.7
IV. Economic Sciences	10,890	9.8	9.8	5,015	7.0	15.6
Political Economy				2,344	3.3	16.5
Business Studies				1,805	2.5	4.9
V. Medicine	16,570	15.0	14.9	23,887	33.2	18.1
Human Medicine	11,935	10.8	16.2	17,954	25.0	18.5

Dentistry	3,274	3.0	13.5	2,938	4.1	19.3
VI. Natural Sciences	14,836	13.4	18.3	5,266	7.3	14.6
Chemistry				2,482	3.4	10.2
Math, Physics				1,804	2.5	12.1
VII. Agriculture and Forestry	3,372	3.0	2.1	1,935	2.7	1.6
VIII. Engineering	16,142	14.6	0.5	8,549	11.9	1.0
Architecture	1,781	1.6	3.1	1,283	1.8	3.7
Civil Engineering	2,309	2.1	0.2	1,702	2.4	0
Elect. Engineering	3,802	3.1	0.2	1,602	2.2	0.1
Mining and Metallurgy	1,395	1.3	0	459	0.6	0.2
Total	110,808	100	11.6	71,850	100	13.7

II. Humanities: German, Ancient and Modern Languages, History, Music, Journalism, Physical Education, International Studies [*Auslandswissenschaft*], Education, other.

IV. Economic Sciences: Political Economy, Business Studies, Industrial Engineering, Business Education Studies [*Handelslehramtsstudium*], Professional and Vocational School Studies [*Berufs-und Gewerbeschulstudium*].

V. Medicine: Human Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacology.

VI. Natural Sciences: Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Geology, Mineralogy, Biology, other.

VII. Agriculture and Forestry: Agricultural Science, Forestry Science, Brewing, Horticulture, other.

VIII. Engineering: Architecture, Construction and Mechanical Engineering, Paper Manufacture, Textile Manufacture, Electro-Engineering, Ship Building, Aircraft Building, Naval Engineering, Mine Surveying, Mining, Steel and Metallurgy [*Eisen-, Metallhüttenkunde*], Geodesics, other applied sciences.

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