



2019 SBL Membership Data

Collection Date: January 2019

Summary

The member profile report will closely associate the data reported here with the questions asked in the member profile. This will provide a straightforward basis by which reports can be compared year-to-year. This information, along with more intricate cross tabulation, is used by the SBL Council as well as the International Cooperation Initiative, Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, and Status of Women in the Profession committees to help identify and understand trends in the profession.

Reporting

We will report the answers to the question posed by the member profile below. In some cases we will not report information when there is not a significant number of answers for a particular question, where the data cannot be collated in a form for easy reproduction here, or where reporting of even compiled data could risk exposing identifying information. In most of the tables below we will divide the information between the response of “All Responders” and “Current [Member] Responders,” the latter category representing only those responders whose membership was current at the time the data was harvested. The information will generally be presented in tables accompanied by corresponding question from the member profile. When space allows, both the 2018 and 2017 data will be presented, but 2017 data is also available in the previous year’s report.

Since this data was pulled in January of 2019, it will be reported here as membership profile data from 2018. Data from the previous year, repeated here for comparison purposes, will be reported as 2017 data.

Findings

The data in this report is, in large part, similar to that of last year’s report. While one should expect to see clearer trend lines over time, it will likely take several years for that data to be recorded. Crucial to that process is members continuing to update their profiles as life and professional circumstances change. Some noteworthy features of this year’s data include:

- The response rate of current members rose slightly, from 65% to 67%.
- Members identifying as women continue to represent about 25% of the membership.
- Faculty and students remain the highest-reported occupations, followed by religious leader and administrator.
- Additional charts have been added breaking out occupation and faculty status by gender.

I. Membership Information Based on Membership Types

At the time of data collection, SBL has a total of 8,324 members.

Total SBL Membership by Type		
Type	# of Members	% of Members
Full Membership	5751	69.09%
Public Membership	577	6.93%
Student Membership	1996	23.98%
Grand Total	8324	100.00%

II. Membership Profile Information

As of January 2019, 9,055 members have filled out at least one question on the SBL Member Profile, an increase of 697 members over last year's number. Of that total, 5,608 are current members. Active membership is 8,324, so 67% of current members have filled out the member profile. This is an increase of 2% over last year.

In what occupation are you or were you most recently employed?

The majority of members who have filled out the member profile list their occupation as “Faculty (College or University)” followed by “Student,” “Other,” “Religious Leader,” “Administrator of an Educational Institution,” and “Independent Scholar.” Of note, the percentage of respondents who report “Student” in the member profile (14% of current member respondents) differs from the percentage of SBL members who hold a student membership (24%, as reported in the 2018 Society Report).

Occupation of All Member Profile Responders				
Occupation	# of Members 2017	% of Members 2017	# of Members 2018	% of Members 2018
Museum Curator/Employee	17	0.20%	18	0.20%
Librarian/Archivist	65	0.78%	72	0.80%
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	75	0.90%	88	0.97%
Publishing Employee	79	0.95%	86	0.95%
Independent Scholar	389	4.65%	446	4.93%
Administrator of an Educational Institution	444	5.31%	478	5.28%
Religious Leader	667	7.98%	740	8.17%
Other	881	10.54%	958	10.58%
Student	1293	15.47%	1395	15.41%
Faculty (College or University)	4448	53%	4774	52.72%
Total	8358	100.00%	9055	100.00%

Occupation of Current Member Profile Responders				
Occupation	# of Members 2017	% of Members 2017	# of Members 2018	% of Members 2018
Museum Curator/Employee	8	0.14%	7	0.12%
Librarian/Archivist	36	0.65%	39	0.70%
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	38	0.69%	37	0.66%
Publishing Employee	47	0.85%	50	0.89%
Independent Scholar	243	4.40%	262	4.67%
Administrator of an Educational Institution	251	4.50%	256	4.56%
Religious Leader	333	6.03%	336	5.99%
Other	505	9.15%	511	9.11%
Student	782	14.16%	779	13.89%
Faculty (College or University)	3276	59.36%	3331	59.40%
Total	5519	99.93%	5608	100.00%

What is your current employment status?

This question is asked in the profile unless one selects an occupation of “student” or “independent scholar.” Since this is a follow-up question to preceding the question about occupation, the following chart breaks down the employment status by occupation type. Though the raw number have increased since last year, reflecting more occupation answers of “student” or “independent scholar,” the proportions of the data have not changed.

Employment Status	Current Member 2017	All Responders 2017	Current Member 2018	All Responders 2018
Contingent (Adjunct)	193	300	202	324
Faculty (College or University)	193	299	202	323
Librarian/Archivist	0	1	0	1
Full-time	284	557	288	617
Museum Curator/Employee	8	15	7	16
Publishing Employee	41	63	43	69
Religious Leader	235	479	238	532
Full-time nontenure-track	839	1222	858	1308
Administrator of an Educational Institution	102	185	103	193
Faculty (College or University)	715	993	730	1064
Librarian/Archivist	5	10	5	8
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	17	34	20	43
Full-time tenure not available	11	26	17	33
Librarian/Archivist	11	26	17	33
Full-time tenured or tenure track	4	6	4	7
Librarian/Archivist	4	6	4	7
Full-time tenure-track or tenured	1739	2313	1737	2442
Administrator of an Educational Institution	97	142	90	147
Faculty (College or University)	1633	2153	1639	2275
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	9	18	8	20
Part-time	273	441	295	498
Administrator of an Educational Institution	8	25	14	33
Faculty (College or University)	218	311	232	354
Librarian/Archivist	4	7	2	5
Publishing Employee	4	9	5	10
Religious Leader	36	82	38	87
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	3	7	4	9
Postdoc	93	111	98	127
Faculty (College or University)	93	111	98	127
Retired	350	490	356	542

Administrator of an Educational Institution	21	36	24	43
Faculty (College or University)	282	379	288	414
Publishing Employee	2	5	1	4
Religious Leader	43	66	40	76
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	2	4	3	5
Unemployed	22	42	28	49
Administrator of an Educational Institution	1	5	1	5
Faculty (College or University)	11	20	16	22
Librarian/Archivist	4	5	4	6
Publishing Employee	0	0	1	1
Religious Leader	5	11	6	14
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	1	1	0	1
Grand Total	3808	5508	5608	9055

Further break out of this data is possible by gender. Due to the small reporting size, members who identified as “transgender” (see below, p. 8) are not broken out here.

Gender by Occupation for All and Current Responders				
Occupation	All Female	All Male	Current Female	Current Male
Administrator of an Educational Institution	85	343	46	188
Faculty (College or University)	1056	3207	760	2245
Independent Scholar	109	305	66	181
Librarian/Archivist	18	46	7	27
Museum Curator/Employee	5	10	1	5
Other	236	638	126	344
Publishing Employee	17	53	11	30
Religious Leader	89	587	38	268
Student	361	928	209	515
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	6	75	1	34

Faculty Status By Gender for All and Current Member Responders				
Faculty Status	All Female	All Male	Current Female	Current Male
Contingent (Adjunct)	83	218	54	132
Full-time nontenure-track	214	743	147	521
Full-time tenure-track or tenured	506	1509	388	1079
Part-time	105	222	72	143
Postdoc	43	64	28	56
Retired	65	330	44	233
Unemployed	5	16	4	11

What is your highest degree attained?

The vast majority of members answering this question, 80%, report a doctorate as the highest degree obtained. This corresponds closely with the 82% who report faculty positions in the occupation question. These percentages are identical to the 2017 data.

Highest Degree Attained 2017								
Occupation	Doctorate		Master's Degree		Undergraduate		Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	344	217	75	27	10	4	429	248
Faculty (College or University)	4031	3025	327	191	7	3	4365	3219
Independent Scholar	215	147	137	73	22	12	374	232
Librarian/Archivist	23	15	38	19	2		63	34
Museum Curator/Employee	8	4	6	3	1		15	7
Other	496	324	273	133	66	26	835	483
Publishing Employee	34	23	25	14	13	8	72	45
Religious Leader	292	163	331	151	32	12	655	326
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	27	18	39	16	7	4	73	38
Grand Total	5470	3936	1251	627	160	69	6881	4632
Percentage	80%	85%	18%	14%	2%	1%	100%	100%

Highest Degree Attained 2018								
Occupation	Doctorate		Master's Degree		Undergraduate		Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	362	211	85	35	13	3	460	249
Faculty (College or University)	4337	3079	341	191	6	2	4684	3272
Independent Scholar	254	160	153	79	23	13	430	252
Librarian/Archivist	25	17	43	20	2	0	70	37
Museum Curator/Employee	10	6	5	1	1	0	16	7
Other	554	338	287	129	71	26	912	493
Publishing Employee	35	23	31	19	13	7	79	49
Religious Leader	328	165	363	153	33	8	724	326
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	37	22	42	13	7	2	86	37
Grand Total	5942	4021	1350	640	169	61	7461	4722
Percentage	80%	85%	18%	14%	2%	1%	100%	100%

What is your expertise/specialty?

The data for this question is too large and complex to reproduce here completely, so we will summarize the most common answers. In January of 2019, 5,251 current members had selected at least one area of expertise. The most frequently selected texts were Genesis (993), Acts (986), the Gospel of Mark (982), the Gospel of John (977), the Gospel of Luke (955), the Gospel of Matthew (885), Romans (809), 1 Corinthians (773), Psalms (697) and Exodus (682). The most frequently selected methods/approaches, philology of Greek (2,627) and philology of Hebrew (2,456) were most often marked. The most frequently selected broad categories were New Testament (2,442), Christian (ideological approaches) (1,989), Hebrew Bible (1,902), and Old Testament (1,871). The most frequently selected interpretative approaches were historical criticism (1,944), theological interpretation (1,809), history of interpretation (1,301), literary criticism (1,286), and intertextuality (1,265).

What is your age?

Age Range of Responding Members 2017-2018								
Age Group	All 2017	% of All 2017	All 2018	% of All 2018	Current 2017	% of Current 2017	Current 2018	% of Current 2018
Under 18	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
18-30	329	5%	435	7%	199	5%	268	6%
31-50	2578	43%	2860	43%	1672	42%	1788	43%
51-65	1840	31%	1959	30%	1268	32%	1264	31%
66 and Older	1265	21%	1339	20%	858	21%	833	20%

What is your gender?

Gender Identification 2017-2018								
Gender	All Responders 2017	% of All Responders 2017	All Responders 2018	% of All Responders 2018	Current Responders 2017	% of Current Responders 2017	Current Responders 2018	% of Current Responders 2018
Female	1801	23.93%	1982	24.22%	1217	24.35%	1265	24.77%
Male	5722	76.00%	6192	75.68%	3780	75.61%	3837	75.11%
Transgender	5	0.07%	8	0.10%	2	0.04%	6	0.12%
Grand Total	7528	100.00%	8182	100.00%	4999	100.00%	5108	100.00%

What is your country of birth and country of citizenship?

In total 8,519 members have answered the question pertaining to country of birth and 7,329 have answered the question relating to country of citizenship. 134 countries, representing more than two-thirds of the countries in the world, have at least one answer to either of those questions.

Country	Birth 2018	Citizenship 2018	Country	Birth 2018	Citizenship 2018	Country	Birth 2018	Citizenship 2018
AFGHANISTAN	1	1	FINLAND	48	39	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	0
ALGERIA	1	1	FRANCE	32	29	PARAGUAY	5	1
ANGOLA	1	0	GEORGIA	5	5	PERU	22	17
ARGENTINA	37	29	GERMANY	240	180	PHILIPPINES	40	25
ARMENIA	2	2	GHANA	18	10	POLAND	34	30
AUSTRALIA	200	207	GREECE	13	9	PORTUGAL	6	4
AUSTRIA	25	23	GRENADA	2	1	REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	2	0
AZERBAIJAN	1	0	GUATEMALA	3	1	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	209	134
BAHAMAS	1	0	GUYANA	3	0	ROMANIA	44	23
BAHRAIN	1	0	HAITI	6	1	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	28	14
BANGLADESH	1	0	HONG KONG	31	18	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	1	0
BARBADOS	5	3	HUNGARY	19	18	SAINT LUCIA	1	1
BELARUS	0	1	ICELAND	1	0	SAMOA	3	2
BELGIUM	24	19	INDIA	63	49	SAUDI ARABIA	1	1
BELIZE	2	0	INDONESIA	22	20	SENEGAL	2	0
BERMUDA	1	1	IRAN	5	1	SERBIA	7	4
BOLIVIA	7	2	IRAQ	2	1	SEYCHELLES	1	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	0	IRELAND	28	26	SIERRA LEONE	1	0
BOTSWANA	2	1	ISRAEL	85	104	SINGAPORE	18	15
BRAZIL	67	56	ITALY	90	71	SLOVAKIA	9	6
BULGARIA	5	1	JAMAICA	20	9	SLOVENIA	2	2
BURKINA FASO	3	4	JAPAN	58	42	SOUTH AFRICA	133	101
BURUNDI	1	1	JORDAN	2	0	SPAIN	31	27
CAMEROON	3	2	KAZAKHSTAN	2	0	SRI LANKA	5	3
CANADA	369	363	KENYA	14	8	SWEDEN	43	40
CHILE	10	8	KUWAIT	2	0	SWITZERLAND	43	39
CHINA	29	16	LATVIA	5	2	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	4	1
COLOMBIA	20	13	LEBANON	4	2	TAIWAN	24	15
COSTA RICA	4	4	LITHUANIA	0	1	TANZANIA	3	3
COTE D'IVOIRE	4	1	LUXEMBOURG	0	1	THAILAND	1	1
CROATIA	9	4	MADAGASCAR	4	4	TOGO	2	1
CUBA	10	0	MALAYSIA	17	11	TONGA	5	4
CURAÇAO	1	1	MALTA	2	1	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	3	0
CYPRUS	2	2	MEXICO	22	13	TURKEY	3	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	16	8	MONTENEGRO	1	0	UGANDA	5	3
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	9	5	MOROCCO	2	0	UKRAINE	12	6
DENMARK	32	30	MYANMAR (BURMA)	16	13	UNITED KINGDOM	317	259
DJIBOUTI	0	1	NETHERLANDS	109	79	UNITED STATES	5261	4763
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	7	2	NEW ZEALAND	47	34	URUGUAY	4	3
ECUADOR	4	1	NICARAGUA	2	1	UZBEKISTAN	1	0
EGYPT	13	2	NIGERIA	93	78	VENEZUELA	8	5
EL SALVADOR	1	1	NORWAY	48	43	VIETNAM	7	2
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	1	1	OMAN	1	0	ZAMBIA	4	4
ESTONIA	6	5	PAKISTAN	1	0	ZIMBABWE	21	11
ETHIOPIA	12	8	PALESTINIAN TERRITORY	1	0	No Answer	536	1726
						Grand Total	9055	9055

What is your ethnicity/race?

This question is asked only of members who indicate that the United States is their country of birth.

Ethnicity of Member Responders by Occupation 2018														
Occupation	African Descent		Asian Descent		European or Caucasian Descent		Latin American Descent		Native American, Alaska Native, or First Nation Descent		Native Hawaiian or Oceanian Descent		Grand Total	
	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current	All	Current
Administrator of an Educational Institution	23	11	7	4	285	155	11	7	9	9	0	0	335	186
Faculty (College or University)	134	77	135	84	2732	1945	96	72	54	50	8	5	3159	2233
Independent Scholar	12	6	5	2	273	154	8	3	6	6	0	0	304	171
Librarian/Archivist	1	1	2	0	54	29	1	1	0	0	0	0	58	31
Museum Curator/Employee	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4
Other	29	14	21	10	576	298	22	15	14	14	2	2	664	353
Publishing Employee	1	1	1	1	62	37	0	0	1	1	1	1	66	41
Religious Leader	39	10	21	5	486	223	14	8	12	11	2	1	574	258
Student	65	35	54	24	724	405	53	35	18	16	3	0	917	515
Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)	6	3	0	0	60	26	2	2	3	3	0	0	71	34
Grand Total	310	158	246	130	5261	3276	207	143	117	110	16	9	6157	3826
Percentage of Total	5.03%	4.12%	3.99%	3.39%	85.44%	85.62%	3.36%	3.73%	1.90%	2.87%	0.25%	0.23%	100.00%	100.00%

What is your personal annual income in US dollars?

This question was asked of all members who filled out the membership profile and the percentages in the table below are rounded up to the nearest percentage point. There have been no significant changes between 2017 and 2018.

Range of Income								
Range of Income	All 2017	% of All 2017	Current 2017	% of Current 2017	All 2018	% of All 2018	Current 2018	% of Current 2018
\$0 - \$24,999	1444	26%	894	24%	1639	27%	945	24%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	1198	21%	777	21%	1326	22%	819	21%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1559	28%	1081	29%	1659	27%	1089	28%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	797	14%	577	15%	847	14%	572	15%
\$100,000 - \$124,999	341	6%	238	6%	359	6%	247	6%
\$125,000 - \$149,999	119	2%	88	2%	126	2%	79	2%
\$150,000 and over	171	3%	117	3%	186	3%	116	3%
Grand Total	5629	100%	3772	100%	6142	100%	3867	100%

What level(s) of students do you or did you most recently teach (only asked of faculty and administrators)?

Level of Students Most Recently Taught by Faculty (College or University)						
	Doctorate 2017	Doctorate 2018	Master's 2017	Master's 2018	Under- graduate 2017	Under- graduate 2018
All Responders	1482	1596	2608	2808	2977	3193
Current Responders	1094	1112	1970	2013	2194	2244

How many courses do you teach during an academic year (only asked of faculty and administrators)?

Number of Courses Taught in a Year 2017-2018				
# of Courses Taught	# of All Responders 2017	# of Current responders 2017	# of All Responders 2018	# of Current responders 2018
0	351	229	399	244
1	336	232	361	238
2	611	420	652	424
3	460	322	500	330
4	806	609	853	605
5	507	384	529	371
6	660	510	698	510
7	236	174	254	186
8	396	282	430	298
9	112	75	109	69
10	226	161	236	163
Total # of Responders	4701	3398	5021	3438

Of the following, which best describes the department(s) at which you are or were most recently employed? Check all that apply (only asked of faculty and administrators).

Department of Employment								
Department	Administrator of an Educational Institution				Faculty (College or University)			
	All 2017	Current 2017	All 2018	Current 2018	All 2017	Current 2017	All 2018	Current 2018
African Studies	6	1	7	2	39	21	41	17
Anthropology	4	1	4	1	41	24	47	27
Arab/ic Studies and/or Islamic Studies	2	2	1	0	34	20	38	23
Archaeology	18	15	17	10	121	79	135	80
Asian Studies	3	1	4	1	16	10	19	12
Biblical Studies	245	152	262	154	2563	1934	2751	1979
Classics and/or Classical Civilizations	14	10	12	7	215	163	231	150
Divinity	47	25	51	27	333	257	356	258
Early Christian Studies	35	19	34	19	362	261	402	289
Greek	43	25	44	26	504	361	554	379
Hebrew	45	24	47	22	598	454	662	483
History	22	13	27	12	231	160	253	160
Humanities	23	22	21	14	222	134	252	159
Interdisciplinary Studies	15	10	16	9	129	78	155	94
Jewish (Judaic) Studies	26	16	24	12	320	244	358	267
Latin American Studies	1	1	2	2	12	6	16	11
Linguistics	8	6	9	7	95	67	102	69
Literature/Comparative Literature	13	10	11	5	91	54	107	60
Near Eastern Studies (Ancient or Modern)	18	14	19	10	223	159	248	178
Other	50	25	57	23	241	149	277	167
Pastoral Counseling	18	8	19	9	44	25	47	20
Philosophy	12	8	16	8	146	89	161	97
Religion or Religious Studies	91	49	94	45	1228	912	1318	937
Sacred Music	5	3	4	0	9	6	12	7
Theology or Theological Studies	120	71	129	71	1255	902	1357	950
Women's Studies	6	4	5	3	83	54	93	65
Grand Total	890	535	936	499	9155	6623	9992	6938

If you are a teacher in a primary or secondary school, in what course(s) do you or did you most recently teach biblical literature? (Check all that apply.)

All Responding Teachers; Course in which Biblical Literature Taught				
Bible as Literature Course	All Responders 2017	Current Responders 2017	All Responders 2018	Current Responders 2018
Classics	6	3	8	3
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	36	19	43	19
Introduction to Bible	23	11	29	14
Literature	7	3	8	2
New Testament	38	19	47	19
Other	16	9	19	8
World History	10	5	13	6
World Religions	12	8	19	10
Grand Total	148	77	186	81

If you are a teacher in a primary or secondary school, what subject(s) do you or did you most recently teach? (Check all that apply.)

Subjects Taught by Teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools				
Subjects Taught	All Responders 2017	Current Responders 2017	All Responders 2018	Current Responders 2018
History	27	12	35	16
Language Arts	11	5	13	5
Literature	18	8	25	13
Mathematics	12	5	15	8
Science/Technology	2	1	6	5
Social Studies	11	7	17	11
Grand Total	81	38	111	58

If you are a student what is/are the name(s) of the department(s) in which you study? (Check all that apply.)

Departments of Study for Current Student Responders		
Department	2017	2018
African Studies	1	2
Anthropology	3	4
Arab/ic Studies and/or Islamic Studies	7	6
Archaeology	23	27
Asian Studies	2	3
Biblical Studies	453	458
Classics and/or Classical Civilizations	45	45
Divinity	93	93
Early Christian Studies	95	97
Greek	122	126
Hebrew	165	163
History	45	43
Humanities	24	23
Interdisciplinary Studies	21	25
Jewish (Judaic) Studies	70	74
Latin American Studies	3	3
Linguistics	33	36
Literature/Comparative Literature	19	17
Near Eastern Studies (Ancient or Modern)	119	102
Other	54	46
Pastoral Counseling	12	16
Philosophy	27	32
Religion or Religious Studies	218	216
Sacred Music	3	5
Theology or Theological Studies	236	242
Women's Studies	11	12
Total	1904	1916

If you are a museum curator or employee, what type of work do you do?

Only 13 members responded to this question in 2017. In 2018, 15 members responded.

Museum Curator/ Employee Work Type		
	2017	2018
Collection Work	9	10
Gallery Work	4	5

If you are a religious leader, in what way is the organization at which you are or were most recently employed best described?

Employment Type Religious Leader				
	All 2017	Current 2017	All 2018	Current 2018
Christian	636	312	703	318
Jewish	10	9	12	10
Other	11	7	13	4
Total	657	328	728	332