

PA Faculty Job Market: Candidate Pulse — July 2026

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Monthly pulse check for PhD candidates — July 8, 2026

I haven't seen any new PA or PP tenure-track postings since the previous snapshot (2026-07-07), which lines up with the off-season position I describe below. We're in the front of the summer peak. July and August carry the highest first-seen posting volume of the year; search-committee activity is picking up.

What's changed since 2026-07-07

No material changes since the previous snapshot.

New PA / PP tenure-track postings

I haven't picked up any new PA or PP tenure-track postings since the previous snapshot (2026-07-07). That's the expected pattern during the May–July off-season; volume ramps in August.

How we're doing relative to expectations

I don't have a clean year-over-year comparison for June 2026 yet — the live scrapers came online in April 2026, so prior years are Wayback-sampled and thin. The seasonality shape in the figure below is still the right calibration tool; year-over-year context sharpens as more cycles accumulate. The chart below shows the underlying shape: PA and PP postings stacked by calendar month, pooled across the complete sampled years (2016–2025). I recommend candidates use it as a calibration tool. Volume arrives in *two waves* — the larger in July–August and a second in January (each about 13% of the year) — while **May and December are the two dead months** (roughly 1% each). Read the comparison above against this typical pattern to see where the current cycle sits.

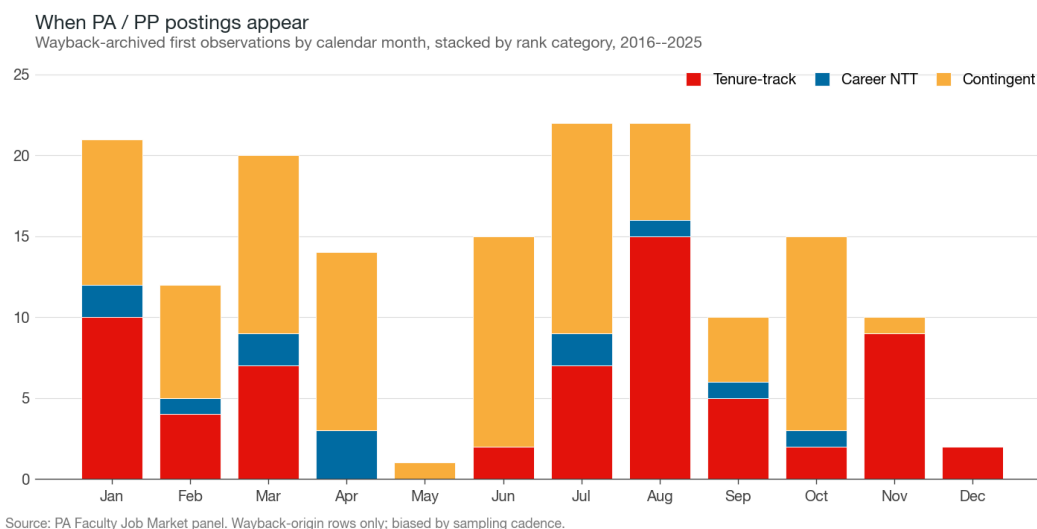


Figure 1. Stacked PA + PP postings by calendar month, complete sampled years (2016–2025). Two waves — July–August (largest) and January — with May and December the dead months (~1% each).

Suggestions

This pulse is a work in progress, and I’d genuinely like to hear what’s not landing for you. If something’s missing, miscounted, mis-framed, or just unclear, let me know — the panel and the prose both get better when I know what readers actually want. A short feedback form is in the works; in the meantime, [click here](#) to open a reply with the right subject line pre-filled, or just reply to this email directly.

For the full picture

I keep this monthly pulse intentionally short. The companion annual *Candidate Edition* carries the rest of the analysis: the three-cluster placement typology, productivity trajectories by placement type, top destinations, geography, subfields in demand, and the methodological transparency you need to interpret the headline numbers. I update it once per year, typically in summer ahead of the new application cycle — reply if you’d like the latest copy.

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Candidate Edition (monthly). The annual Candidate Edition and the annual Institutional Edition are posted separately. This monthly pulse regenerates on the first of each month from the `faculty_market_analysis` panel. Build system: Claude Code (Anthropic).