

the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 7

Trends in Graduate/First- Professional Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Graduate and Professional Education

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Enrollment in both graduate and first-professional programs increased from 1976 to 2000, with female enrollment increasing faster than male enrollment. The percentage of female graduate students increased from 46 percent in 1976 to 58 percent in 2000.

Graduate and first-professional enrollment in degree-granting institutions increased over the past 25 years. These increases were accompanied by changes in the percentage distribution by sex, enrollment status, and race/ethnicity. Enrollment in graduate programs increased 39 percent, from 1.3 million in 1976 to nearly 1.9 million in 2000, while enrollment in first-professional programs increased 26 percent, from 244,000 to 307,000. In the next 10 years, enrollment at both graduate and first-professional programs is projected to continue to increase, with graduate enrollment at more than 2 million and first-professional enrollment close to 350,000 by 2012 (see supplemental table 7-1).

The enrollment trends differ by sex in graduate and first-professional programs. In 1976, more men than women attended both programs. Since then, female enrollment in graduate programs has increased by 73 percent, while male enrollment has increased by 9 percent. In 1976, females represented 46 percent of total graduate enrollment. In 1984, female enrollment first exceeded male enrollment, and females represented 58 percent of graduate enrollment in 2000. There has been an increase in female first-

professional enrollment: female enrollment has increased by 162 percent since 1976, while male enrollment has decreased by 14 percent. In 1976, women made up 22 percent of first-professional enrollment, compared with 47 percent in 2000.

There have been similar gains in the enrollment of minorities. In the past 25 years, minority enrollment in graduate programs increased 167 percent, while White enrollment increased 13 percent. Enrollments among Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders have seen the greatest growth. Minority enrollment in first-professional programs grew by 271 percent from 1976 to 2000, compared with no growth in White enrollment. Both graduate and first-professional enrollments for nonresident aliens have increased since 1976 (221 and 175 percent, respectively) (see supplemental table 7-2).

For the last 25 years, the majority of graduate students have been enrolled part time. Since 1976, however, there has been an increase of 76 percent in full-time enrollment in graduate programs, compared with a 19 percent increase in part-time enrollment. The majority of first-professional students are enrolled full time.

¹American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: Data include unclassified graduate students. Numbers may differ from those in other NCES publications because of alternative methods of handling those whose race is unknown. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See the glossary for a definition of first-professional degrees.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003-060), tables 189, 190, and 208. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1976 Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities," and 2000 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:00).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3, 8
Supplemental Tables 7-1, 7-2



GRADUATE/FIRST-PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT: Graduate and first-professional enrollment (in thousands) in degree-granting institutions in 1976 and 2000 and percentage increase between the 2 years, by sex, race/ethnicity, and attendance status

Characteristic	Graduate enrollment			First-professional enrollment		
	1976	2000	Percentage change	1976	2000	Percentage change
Total	1,333	1,850	38.8	244	307	25.5
Sex						
Male	714	780	9.2	190	164	-13.7
Female	619	1,071	73.0	54	143	162.0
Race/ethnicity ¹						
White	1,116	1,259	12.8	220	220	0.0
Total minority	134	359	167.3	21	78	270.9
American Indian	5	10	101.5	1	2	84.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	96	291.0	4	37	804.3
Black	78	158	101.2	11	24	110.3
Hispanic	26	95	261.9	5	15	239.0
Nonresident alien	72	232	220.8	3	8	175.2
Attendance status						
Full-time	463	813	75.6	220	274	24.3
Part-time	870	1,037	19.2	24	33	36.8

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Table 7-1. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment (in thousands) in degree-granting institutions, by sex and attendance status of student, with projections: 1970–2012

Year	Total enrollment	Graduate					First-professional				
		Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time
1970	1,204	1,031	630	400	379	651	173	159	15	157	16
1971	1,205	1,012	615	394	388	621	193	174	19	176	16
1972	1,273	1,066	626	439	394	671	207	183	23	190	17
1973	1,342	1,123	648	477	410	715	219	186	33	202	17
1974	1,425	1,190	663	526	427	762	235	194	41	216	19
1975	1,505	1,263	700	563	453	810	242	192	50	220	22
1976	1,577	1,333	714	619	463	870	244	190	54	220	24
1977	1,570	1,319	700	617	473	845	251	191	60	226	25
1978	1,569	1,312	682	630	468	844	257	192	65	233	24
1979	1,572	1,309	669	640	476	833	263	193	70	239	24
1980	1,620	1,343	675	670	485	860	278	199	78	251	26
1981	1,617	1,343	674	669	484	859	275	193	82	248	26
1982	1,601	1,322	670	653	485	838	278	191	87	252	26
1983	1,619	1,340	677	663	497	843	279	188	90	250	29
1984	1,624	1,345	672	673	501	844	279	185	94	250	29
1985	1,650	1,376	677	700	509	867	274	180	94	247	28
1986	1,706	1,435	693	742	522	913	270	174	97	246	25
1987	1,720	1,452	693	759	527	925	268	170	98	242	27
1988	1,739	1,472	697	774	553	919	267	167	100	241	26
1989	1,796	1,522	710	811	572	949	274	169	106	248	27
1990	1,860	1,586	737	849	599	987	273	167	107	246	28
1991	1,920	1,639	761	878	642	997	281	170	111	252	29
1992	1,950	1,669	772	896	666	1,003	281	169	112	252	29
1993	1,981	1,688	771	917	688	1,000	292	173	120	260	33
1994	2,016	1,721	776	946	706	1,016	295	174	121	263	31
1995	2,030	1,732	768	965	717	1,015	298	174	124	266	31
1996	2,041	1,742	759	983	737	1,005	298	173	126	267	31
1997	2,052	1,753	758	996	752	1,001	298	170	129	267	31
1998	2,070	1,768	754	1,013	754	1,014	302	169	134	271	31
1999	2,110	1,807	766	1,041	781	1,026	303	165	138	271	33
2000	2,157	1,850	780	1,071	813	1,037	307	164	143	274	33
Projected¹											
2001	2,164	1,852	782	1,070	801	1,051	312	172	140	279	33
2002	2,177	1,865	782	1,082	801	1,063	312	170	142	278	34
2003	2,190	1,878	782	1,095	799	1,078	312	169	143	278	34
2004	2,211	1,897	786	1,112	805	1,093	314	169	145	280	34
2005	2,234	1,917	790	1,126	813	1,103	317	170	147	283	34
2006	2,249	1,930	793	1,136	819	1,110	319	171	148	285	34
2007	2,265	1,943	797	1,146	827	1,116	322	172	149	287	34
2008	2,281	1,956	801	1,154	835	1,120	325	173	151	290	34
2009	2,297	1,969	805	1,164	844	1,125	328	174	153	292	35
2010	2,317	1,986	811	1,176	853	1,134	331	176	155	295	36
2011	2,355	2,018	821	1,197	871	1,147	337	179	159	302	36
2012	2,410	2,063	836	1,226	898	1,164	347	183	164	311	36

¹Projections based on reported data through 2000 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. For more information on projections, see NCES 2002–030.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data include unclassified graduate students. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. For more information, see NCES 2002–130, pp. 509–510. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. See *supplemental note 8* for information on the classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–060), tables 189 and 190, and *Projections of Education Statistics to 2012* (NCES 2002–030), tables 20 and 21. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1970–1986 Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), “Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities,” and 1987–2000 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, “Fall Enrollment Survey” (IPEDS-EF:87–00).

Trends in Graduate/First-Professional Enrollments

Table 7-2. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment (in thousands) and percentage distribution of students in degree-granting institutions, by enrollment status and race/ethnicity: 1976–2000

Enrollment status and race/ethnicity	1976	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Enrollment									
Graduate									
Total	1,323	1,341	1,586	1,732	1,742	1,753	1,768	1,807	1,850
White	1,116	1,105	1,228	1,282	1,273	1,262	1,254	1,256	1,259
Total minority	134	144	190	271	286	302	318	340	359
American Indian	5	5	6	8	9	9	10	10	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	32	53	76	79	83	87	91	96
Black	78	75	84	119	125	132	139	149	158
Hispanic	26	32	47	68	73	79	83	90	95
Nonresident alien	72	92	167	179	183	189	195	211	232
First-professional									
Total	244	277	273	298	298	298	302	303	307
White	220	248	221	223	222	220	221	220	220
Total minority	21	26	47	67	69	70	74	76	78
American Indian	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	6	19	30	31	33	35	36	37
Black	11	13	16	21	21	21	22	23	24
Hispanic	5	7	11	14	14	14	14	15	15
Nonresident alien	3	3	5	7	8	7	7	8	8
Percentage distribution									
Graduate									
Total	100.0								
White	84.4	82.4	77.4	74.0	73.0	72.0	71.0	69.5	68.0
Total minority	10.2	10.7	12.0	15.6	16.4	17.2	18.0	18.8	19.4
American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	2.4	3.4	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.2
Black	5.9	5.6	5.3	6.8	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.5
Hispanic	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.2
Nonresident alien	5.5	6.9	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.7	12.6
First-professional									
Total	100.0								
White	90.1	89.5	81.0	75.0	74.3	73.9	73.0	72.5	71.8
Total minority	8.6	9.5	17.0	22.5	23.1	23.6	24.5	24.9	25.5
American Indian	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.2	6.8	9.9	10.5	11.0	11.6	12.0	12.0
Black	4.6	4.6	5.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.7
Hispanic	1.9	2.4	3.9	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0
Nonresident alien	1.3	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.7

NOTE: Data include unclassified graduate students. Numbers may differ from other NCES publications because of alternative methods of handling those whose race is unknown. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. For more information, see NCES 2001–130, pp. 509–510. American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. See *supplemental note 1* for more information. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. See *supplemental note 8* for information on the classification of postsecondary education institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics 2002* (NCES 2003–XXX), table 208. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, 1976–1986 Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities," and 1987–2000 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:87–00).