

Minority Enrollments Stall After a Decade of Growth

According to the upcoming *21st Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education*, minority enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities decreased by 17,000 students from fall 2000 to fall 2001.

This 0.4 percent decline comes after a decade of significant growth in minority enrollment. From 1990 to 2000, minority enrollment increased by 60 percent, or 1.6 million students. The next year, the only minority group to experience a growth in enrollment was African-American students, whose numbers grew by 1.5 percent.

The overall decline in minority enrollments is solely attributable to losses at four-year institutions. An increase of 27,000 minority students at two-year institutions was outweighed by a loss of 44,000 minority students at four-year institutions.

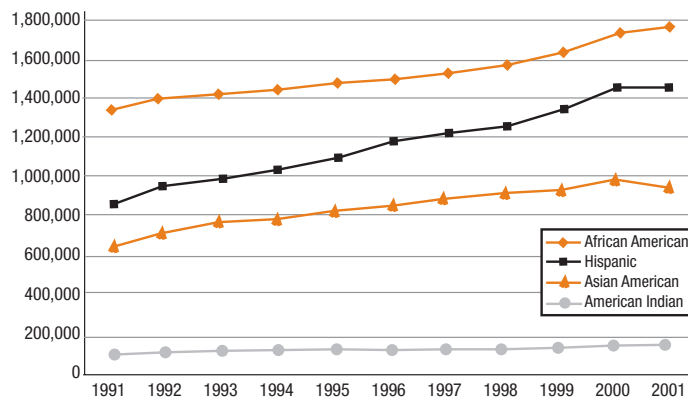
Other findings from the *21st Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education*, published by the American Council on Education:

- The number of male students in all racial groups declined. For female students, only the number of white and Asian-American women declined (by 2.9 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively). African-American women had the most significant numerical increases, rising by about 26,500 students.
- The total number of African Americans in higher education between 2000 to 2001 increased by more than 26,000 students, or 1.5 percent. African Americans were the only minority group to show an increase in enrollment between 2000 and 2001, due entirely to an increase of 2 percent at the undergraduate level. African-American enrollments at four-year institutions showed little change, but jumped 3.9 percent at two-year institutions.
- Asian Americans showed the largest numerical decline in overall enrollments, dropping by 40,000. This sharp decline followed an increase of about 65,000 students from 1999 to 2000. Asian Americans also showed the sharpest decline in graduate enrollments, decreasing by almost 10,000 students, or 10.3 percent.
- Hispanic enrollment showed little change from 2000 to 2001, because an increase in enrollment at two-year institutions (1.4 percent) was countered by a decrease in enrollment at four-year institutions (2.1 percent). Also, the number of Hispanic women increased by about 7,700 (less than 1.0 percent), but the number of Hispanic men decreased by 1.5 percent, or about 9,400 students.
- American Indians experienced a small decline (0.9 percent) in overall enrollments. However, American Indians were the only minority group to maintain their number of graduate enrollments between 2000 and 2001.

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Total Minority Enrollment in Higher Education, by Racial/Ethnic Group: 1991 to 2001



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics *Digest of Educational Statistics, 2002*. Washington, DC: 2003. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). 'Fall Enrollment Survey,' 1991 to 2001.