

TWENTY-THIRD STATUS REPORT

Minorities in Higher Education 2009 SUPPLEMENT

Mikyung Ryu



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Table of Contents

FOREWORD	i
SUMMARY OF 2009 UPDATE	1
LIST OF TABLES	
1. Educational Attainment Rates for Adult Population, by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age: 1987 to 2007	4
2. High School Completion and College Enrollment Rates for Traditional College-Aged Population (Aged 18 to 24), by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 1987 to 2007	6
3. Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Type of Institution and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	7
4. Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	8
5. Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Control of Institution and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	9
6. Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	10
7. Associate Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	11
8. Bachelor's Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	12
9. Master's Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	13
10. Doctoral Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	14
11. Professional Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)	15

Foreword

The American Council on Education (ACE) is pleased to present this short update to *Minorities in Higher Education 2008*. This is the second edition in the special supplement series since ACE made the decision to publish a full status report biennially, with a supplement in the intervening years to update the most frequently accessed information.

The decision to publish the full report biennially was made for strategic and practical reasons, and does not reflect any change in ACE's historical commitment to fostering greater access, equity, and diversity in American higher education. The data presented in the *Minorities in Higher Education* report series vary little in any single-year span, so the annual changes reported are often small. By producing the full status report every other year, staff can pursue a more diverse range of research and programmatic activities that address the important diversity and equity agenda.

In this global economy, providing greater access to postsecondary education to individuals from all racial and ethnic backgrounds remains one of the most important challenges facing our nation. Demographic changes have dramatically increased the proportions of people of color in the United States, and our academic institutions must continue to strive to reflect the complex mosaic that is the American population.

Although greater access to higher education for students of color is an absolute imperative, it is only part of the equation. Ensuring their academic success and readiness to thrive in an interconnected world remains the ultimate goal. This special supplement tells us how far we have come in our quest for educational excellence for all students, but also cautions us that equity in education for all Americans remains a goal that we must endeavor to reach.



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Summary of 2009 Update

This update aims to assist campus leaders, policy makers, and the general public by providing reliable and timely information that can build support for improvements in higher education. Particularly at a time when demand for a college-educated workforce is on the rise, the tracking of educational progress among races/ethnicities and by gender is important because substantial gaps still exist among these groups. In addition, the fast-growing racial/ethnic groups are the ones that historically have attained lower levels of education. Closing these gaps in educational attainment is essential for raising the education level of the overall U.S. population.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

As of 2007, 27.4 percent of young Americans aged 25 to 29 had obtained at least a bachelor's degree, and an additional 8.1 percent had earned an associate degree. The current bachelor's degree attainment rate has shown little improvement in 20 years—it is up by five percentage points since 1988.

These average rates conceal large disparities among subgroups. Asian Americans aged 25 to 29 are at the top, with 58 percent holding a bachelor's degree, followed by whites (33 percent), African Americans (17 percent), Hispanics (11 percent) and finally, American Indians (9 percent). These large gaps are unlikely to change without reducing disparities at each transition point in the educational pipeline.

One disturbing trend that we identified in the 2008 report continues to surface: The younger generation in the United States no longer achieves a higher level of education than its predecessors. As of 2007, 35.5 percent of U.S. adults aged 25 to 29 had obtained at least an associate degree, compared with about the same percentage for adults aged 30 and older (34.9 percent). Only two groups, Asian Americans and whites, made gains over their elders (66.3 percent versus 54.5 percent, and 41.8 percent versus 38.0 percent, respectively). No notable gains were observed for African Americans (24.3 percent versus 24.6 percent). For Hispanics and American Indians, however, attainment rates for young adults were lower than their older counterparts (16.8 percent versus 18.1 percent, and 16.3 percent versus 21.7 percent, respectively).

These trends vary by gender. Young women in their late 20s surpassed their elders in all racial/ethnic groups, except American Indians. However, young men in every racial/ethnic group, except Asian Americans, have fallen behind their predecessors in postsecondary attainment.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

During the past two decades, the high school completion rate remained stagnant for young people at about 82 percent, on average.¹ At the same time, gender gaps have widened, primarily because young women made greater strides than men, now outpacing men in every

¹ High school completion rate is measured as the percentage of the traditional college-aged population (aged 18 to 24) holding a regular high school diploma or high school equivalency credential such as the GED® (General Educational Development) credential.

racial/ethnic category in the rate of obtaining a high school credential.

Hispanics made the largest improvement during this time period, yet they still had the lowest rate of high school completion among all groups, at 69 percent.² African Americans showed no appreciable gains in the past 20 years, while the rate for whites improved little during the last 10 years.³ Asian Americans had the highest rate of high school completion (92 percent), followed by whites (88 percent), African Americans (77 percent), and American Indians (71 percent).

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT⁴

College enrollment rates. In contrast to high school completion, the past two decades witnessed a steady rise in college enrollment rates among young people in every racial/ethnic background. Enrollment rates stalled briefly in the mid-1990s but began rising again, and now 41 percent of the traditional college-aged population are enrolled in college. This represents a modest increase of 11 percentage points in 20 years.

Despite universal progress, racial/ethnic disparities slightly worsened because of disproportionate rates of improvement. Among whites, African Americans, and Hispanics, for whom historical data are available, whites had the highest rate as well as the largest gain, rising from 31 percent in 1988 to 45 percent in 2007. In contrast, both African Americans and Hispanics made smaller gains, from 22 percent

to 33 percent, and from 17 percent to 27 percent, respectively.

When Asian Americans and American Indians are included, gaps become even larger. Young Asian Americans marked the highest rate of college enrollment (63 percent) in 2007, while American Indians registered the lowest rate (25 percent).

As with high school completion, gender gaps widened in college enrollment rates. The proportion of young women enrolled in college increased from 30 percent to 45 percent between 1988 and 2007, an increase twice as large as for young men (30 percent to 37 percent). Of all racial/ethnic groups, African Americans and Hispanics showed the largest gender gap in college enrollment rates.

Overall college enrollment. Population growth and improved enrollment rates have led to a 25 percent enrollment growth during the past 10 years. The total number of college students now reaches 17.8 million. The number of minority students grew 50 percent to 5.2 million, and the number of white students increased by 10 percent to 10.7 million during the past decade. Among minorities, Hispanics experienced the largest absolute and percent growth rate gains.

Because of increases among students of color, white students made up a declining share of total enrollment, dropping from 69 percent in 1996 to 60 percent in 2006, while the minority share rose from 24 percent to 29 percent.⁵ In 2006, students of color represented 35 percent of the student body at two-year institutions, compared with 25 percent at four-year institutions.

² Despite progress made by Hispanics, the high school completion rate for all 18- to 24-year-olds remains unchanged since 1988 because of demographic shifts, with a growing share of the age group consisting of African Americans and Hispanics, whose performance on this measure lags behind whites and Asian Americans.

³ Trend data for high school completion rates are not available for Asian Americans and American Indians.

⁴ This report discusses college enrollment in two ways. *Enrollment rates* are measured as the percentage of the traditional college-aged population (aged 18 to 24) currently enrolled in postsecondary education. Enrollment may rise because of population growth, but with no change in enrollment rates. This measure is important in examining subgroup gaps, particularly when each subpopulation grows at a differing rate. In comparison, based on aggregate statistics, *overall college enrollment* provides information about the entire body of students—who could be of any age—such as the minority share of student population.

⁵ The remaining enrollment was made up of foreign students (3 percent) and persons of unknown race/ethnicity (7 percent) in 2006. Percentage details may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

DEGREES CONFERRED

Undergraduate degrees. Between 1996 and 2006, the number of associate and bachelor's degrees awarded grew by 37 percent, a substantial increase attributable to every racial/ethnic group. Hispanics led all others in growth rate for both types of undergraduate degrees; in particular, the number of associate degrees awarded to Hispanics has doubled in 10 years. People of color received 23 percent of total bachelor's degrees awarded in 2006, up from 19 percent 10 years earlier.

Graduate degrees. Between 1996 and 2006, the total number of master's, doctoral, and professional degrees conferred rose by 45 percent, 33 percent, and 14 percent, respectively. At each of these levels, the growth in degrees conferred is attributable largely to minorities. Their gains are notable especially at the master's degree level, where the number of degrees conferred to students of color doubled.

In relation to gender, women primarily were responsible for the growth in number of graduate degrees conferred. The total number of master's and doctoral degrees awarded to African-American and Hispanic women has doubled during the past decade.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

The primary data sources for *Minorities in Higher Education* are the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education. This 2009 update uses the most current data available, from 2006 or 2007, depending on the data source. Historical data are provided for 10 years or longer.

Beginning in 2008, this report series includes information for Asian Americans and American Indians, making the race/ethnicity

picture more complete. This inclusion was made possible thanks to a new Census Bureau survey: the American Community Survey (ACS), which provides larger sample sizes for these two groups. (In this report, Asian Americans include Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and American Indians include Alaska Natives.)

It should be noted that attainment and enrollment rates for 2006 and 2007 were drawn from ACS; prior to 2006, the Current Population Survey (CPS) was the primary data source. In analyzing historical trends, three-year averages for CPS data were used to obtain a large enough sample size to make reliable estimates and to account for aberrations in any single year of data.⁶ Single years of CPS data are presented in the tables accompanying this summary. The single years of ACS data are considered adequate.

Unlike other publications (including the U.S. Department of Education's *Digest of Education Statistics*), this report does not impute data to account for persons whose race/ethnicity is unknown. The tables in the report include a separate category for these individuals. Because a rapidly growing number of people do not identify their race/ethnicity, it may be misleading to examine the changing demographics of American higher education without taking this population into consideration.

Lastly, the institutions of higher education represented in this report are Title IV-eligible, degree-granting institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Our universe of institutions is similar to that of NCES, with one exception: The Community College of the Air Force is not open to the public, and therefore is excluded from the calculation of national higher education data for this report.

⁶ For these three-year averages, the middle year is the one identified. For example, data for 1988 are averages of data for 1987, 1988, and 1989.

Table 1

Educational Attainment Rates for Adult Population, by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age: 1987 to 2007

Year	ALL RACES			WHITE			AFRICAN AMERICAN			HISPANIC		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Percent of Younger Adults Holding a High School Credential^a or Higher (25- to 29-Year-Olds)												
1987	86.0	85.5	86.4	86.3	85.6	87.0	83.3	84.8	82.1	59.8	58.6	61.0
1988	85.7	84.4	87.0	86.5	84.8	88.2	80.7	80.6	80.7	62.0	59.4	65.0
1989	85.5	84.4	86.5	86.0	84.8	87.1	82.2	80.6	83.6	61.0	61.0	61.0
1990	85.7	84.4	87.0	86.3	84.6	88.1	81.7	81.5	81.8	58.2	56.6	59.9
1991	85.4	84.9	85.8	85.8	85.1	86.6	81.7	83.5	80.1	56.7	56.4	57.1
1992	86.3	86.1	86.5	87.0	86.5	87.6	80.9	82.5	79.5	60.9	61.1	60.6
1993	86.7	86.0	87.4	91.2	90.6	91.8	82.8	85.0	80.9	60.9	58.3	64.0
1994	86.1	84.5	87.6	91.1	90.0	92.3	84.1	82.9	85.0	60.3	58.0	63.0
1995	86.8	86.3	87.4	92.5	92.0	93.0	86.5	88.1	85.1	57.1	55.7	58.7
1996	87.3	86.5	88.1	92.6	92.0	93.1	85.6	87.2	84.2	61.1	59.7	62.9
1997	87.4	85.8	88.9	92.9	91.7	94.0	86.2	85.2	87.1	61.8	59.2	64.9
1998	88.1	86.6	89.6	93.6	92.5	94.6	87.6	87.6	87.6	62.8	59.9	66.3
1999	87.8	86.1	89.5	93.0	91.9	94.1	88.7	88.2	89.2	61.6	57.5	65.9
2000	88.1	86.7	89.4	94.0	92.9	95.2	86.8	87.6	86.3	62.8	59.3	66.4
2001	86.8	85.3	88.3	93.4	93.1	93.7	86.7	85.9	87.4	62.4	58.3	67.3
2002	86.4	84.7	88.1	93.0	92.2	93.8	87.6	85.8	88.9	62.3	60.2	65.0
2003	86.5	84.9	88.2	93.7	92.8	94.5	88.5	87.4	89.4	61.7	59.7	64.2
2004	86.6	85.2	88.0	93.3	92.1	94.5	88.7	91.3	86.6	62.4	60.1	65.2
2005	86.0	85.0	87.0	92.8	91.7	93.8	86.4	86.4	86.5	63.3	63.2	63.4
2006 ^b	85.5	83.2	88.0	91.8	90.5	93.2	83.7	81.1	86.2	65.4	61.7	69.9
2007 ^b	86.3	84.0	88.6	92.1	90.9	93.3	85.6	82.9	88.1	66.6	63.3	70.8
Percent of All Adults Holding a High School Credential^a or Higher (25-Year-Olds and Older)												
1987	75.6	76.0	75.3	77.0	77.3	76.7	63.4	63.0	63.7	50.9	51.8	50.0
1988	76.2	76.4	76.0	77.7	77.7	77.6	63.5	63.7	63.4	51.0	52.0	50.0
1989	76.9	77.2	76.6	78.4	78.6	78.2	64.6	64.2	65.0	50.9	51.0	50.7
1990	77.6	77.7	77.5	79.1	79.1	79.0	66.2	65.8	66.5	50.8	50.3	51.3
1991	78.4	78.5	78.3	79.9	79.8	79.9	66.7	66.7	66.7	51.3	51.4	51.2
1992	79.4	79.7	79.2	80.9	81.1	80.7	67.7	67.0	68.2	52.6	53.7	51.5
1993	80.2	80.5	80.0	84.1	84.5	83.8	70.4	69.6	71.1	53.1	52.9	53.2
1994	80.9	81.0	80.7	84.9	85.1	84.7	72.9	71.7	73.8	53.3	53.4	53.2
1995	81.7	81.7	81.6	85.9	86.0	85.8	73.8	73.4	74.1	53.4	52.9	53.8
1996	81.7	81.9	81.6	86.0	86.1	85.9	74.3	74.3	74.2	53.1	53.0	53.3
1997	82.1	82.0	82.2	86.3	86.3	86.3	74.9	73.5	76.0	54.7	54.9	54.6
1998	82.8	82.8	82.9	87.1	87.1	87.1	76.0	75.2	76.7	55.5	55.7	55.3
1999	83.4	83.4	83.4	87.7	87.7	87.7	77.4	77.2	77.5	56.1	56.0	56.3
2000	84.1	84.2	84.0	88.4	88.5	88.4	78.9	79.1	78.7	57.0	56.6	57.5
2001	84.1	84.1	84.2	88.6	88.6	88.6	79.1	79.5	78.8	56.8	55.5	58.0
2002	84.1	83.8	84.4	88.7	88.5	88.9	79.2	79.0	79.4	57.0	56.1	57.9
2003	84.6	84.1	85.0	89.4	89.0	89.7	80.3	79.9	80.7	57.0	56.3	57.8
2004	85.2	84.8	85.4	90.0	89.9	90.1	81.1	80.8	81.2	58.4	57.3	59.5
2005	85.2	84.9	85.5	90.1	89.9	90.3	81.2	81.1	81.2	58.5	58.0	59.1
2006 ^b	84.1	83.5	84.6	88.9	88.6	89.1	79.5	78.2	80.6	60.3	58.9	61.8
2007 ^b	84.5	84.0	85.1	89.4	89.1	89.7	80.3	79.3	81.1	60.6	59.2	62.1

Continued on next page

^a This includes high school equivalency credentials such as the GED[®] (General Educational Development) credential.

^b The data for 2006 and 2007 were derived from a different survey and may not be fully compatible with the data for prior years. Use caution when comparing figures over a short period of time, such as from 2005 to 2006.

Note: From 1993 onward, the categories *White* and *African American* do not include individuals of Hispanic origin. Hispanics can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey 1987–2005 (data released online); American Community Survey 2006 and 2007 (analysis by author).

Table 1 - Continued

Educational Attainment Rates for Adult Population, by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age: 1987 to 2007

Year	ALL RACES			WHITE			AFRICAN AMERICAN			HISPANIC		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Percent of Younger Adults Holding a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25- to 29-Year-Olds)												
1987	22.0	22.3	21.7	23.0	23.3	22.8	11.4	11.6	11.1	8.7	9.2	8.2
1988	22.5	23.2	21.9	23.5	24.0	22.9	12.2	12.6	11.9	11.4	12.1	10.6
1989	23.4	23.9	22.9	24.4	24.8	24.0	12.7	12.0	13.3	10.1	9.6	10.6
1990	23.2	23.7	22.8	24.2	24.2	24.3	13.4	15.1	11.9	8.1	7.3	9.1
1991	23.2	23.0	23.4	24.6	24.1	25.0	11.0	11.5	10.6	9.2	8.1	10.4
1992	23.6	23.2	24.0	25.0	24.2	25.7	11.3	12.0	10.6	9.5	8.8	10.3
1993	23.7	23.4	23.9	27.2	27.2	27.1	13.2	12.6	13.8	8.3	7.1	9.8
1994	23.3	22.5	24.0	27.1	26.8	27.4	13.7	11.7	15.4	8.0	6.6	9.8
1995	24.7	24.5	24.9	28.8	28.4	29.2	15.3	17.2	13.6	8.9	7.8	10.1
1996	27.1	26.1	28.2	31.6	30.9	32.3	14.6	12.4	16.4	10.0	10.2	9.8
1997	27.8	26.3	29.3	32.6	31.2	34.1	14.4	12.1	16.4	11.0	9.6	10.1
1998	27.3	25.6	29.0	32.3	30.5	34.2	15.8	14.2	17.0	10.4	9.5	11.3
1999	28.2	26.8	29.5	33.6	32.0	35.1	15.0	13.1	16.5	8.9	7.5	10.4
2000	29.1	27.9	30.1	34.0	32.3	35.8	17.9	18.4	17.4	9.6	8.3	11.0
2001	28.4	25.5	31.3	33.7	30.4	36.9	17.2	16.0	18.1	10.5	8.2	13.2
2002	29.3	26.9	31.8	35.9	32.6	39.2	18.0	17.9	18.1	8.9	8.3	9.7
2003	28.4	26.0	30.9	34.2	31.4	37.0	17.5	17.7	17.4	10.0	8.5	11.9
2004	28.7	26.1	31.4	34.5	31.4	37.5	17.1	13.6	20.0	10.9	9.6	12.4
2005	28.6	25.3	32.0	34.1	30.4	37.8	17.3	14.1	20.0	11.2	10.2	12.4
2006 ^b	26.9	23.1	30.7	31.9	27.9	35.9	16.6	13.5	19.5	10.8	8.5	13.7
2007 ^b	27.4	23.5	31.4	32.6	28.4	36.9	17.2	13.8	20.3	11.2	9.1	13.8
Percent of All Adults Holding a Bachelor's Degree or Higher (25-Year-Olds and Older)												
1987	19.9	23.6	16.5	20.5	24.5	16.9	10.7	11.0	10.4	8.6	9.7	7.5
1988	20.3	24.0	17.0	20.9	25.0	17.3	11.2	11.1	11.4	10.1	12.3	8.1
1989	21.1	24.5	18.1	21.8	25.4	18.5	11.8	11.7	11.9	9.9	11.0	8.8
1990	21.3	24.4	18.4	22.0	25.3	19.0	11.3	11.9	10.8	9.2	9.8	8.7
1991	21.4	24.3	18.8	22.2	25.4	19.3	11.5	11.4	11.6	9.7	10.0	9.4
1992	21.4	24.3	18.6	22.1	25.2	19.1	11.9	11.9	12.0	9.3	10.2	8.5
1993	21.9	24.8	19.2	23.8	27.2	20.7	12.2	11.9	12.4	9.0	9.5	8.5
1994	22.2	25.1	19.6	24.3	27.8	21.1	12.9	12.8	13.0	9.1	9.6	8.6
1995	23.0	26.0	20.2	25.4	28.9	22.1	13.2	13.6	12.9	9.3	10.1	8.4
1996	23.6	26.0	21.4	25.9	28.8	23.2	13.6	12.4	14.6	9.3	10.3	8.3
1997	23.9	26.2	21.7	26.2	29.0	23.7	13.3	12.5	13.9	10.3	10.6	10.1
1998	24.4	26.5	22.4	26.6	29.3	24.1	14.7	13.9	15.4	11.0	11.1	10.9
1999	25.2	27.5	23.1	27.7	30.6	25.0	15.5	14.3	16.5	10.9	10.7	11.0
2000	25.6	27.8	23.6	28.1	30.8	25.5	16.6	16.4	16.8	10.6	10.7	10.6
2001	26.2	28.2	24.3	28.7	31.3	26.3	15.7	15.3	16.0	11.1	10.8	11.5
2002	26.7	28.5	25.1	29.4	31.7	27.3	17.2	16.5	17.7	11.1	11.0	11.2
2003	27.2	28.9	25.7	30.0	32.3	27.9	17.4	16.8	18.0	11.4	11.2	11.6
2004	27.7	29.4	26.1	30.6	32.9	28.4	17.7	16.6	18.5	12.1	11.8	12.3
2005	27.6	28.9	26.5	30.5	32.3	28.9	17.8	16.0	18.8	12.0	11.8	12.1
2006 ^b	27.0	27.9	26.2	29.9	31.4	28.5	16.9	15.4	18.1	12.3	11.6	13.0
2007 ^b	27.5	28.3	26.7	30.5	31.9	29.2	17.3	15.8	18.5	12.6	11.8	13.4

^b The data for 2006 and 2007 were derived from a different survey and may not be fully compatible with the data for prior years. Use caution when comparing figures over a short period of time, such as from 2005 to 2006.

Table 2

High School Completion and College Enrollment Rates for Traditional College-Aged Population (Aged 18 to 24), by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 1987 to 2007

Year	ALL RACES			WHITE			AFRICAN AMERICAN			HISPANIC		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Percent of 18- to 24-Year Olds Holding a High School Credential^a or Higher												
1987	81.4	79.4	83.2	82.3	80.6	84.0	76.0	71.3	80.1	61.6	59.5	63.9
1988	81.2	78.7	83.6	82.3	79.7	84.8	75.1	71.9	77.9	55.2	52.7	57.9
1989	81.0	78.7	83.2	82.1	79.9	84.2	76.1	72.2	79.4	55.9	52.5	59.5
1990	81.7	80.6	82.8	82.5	81.1	83.8	77.0	75.9	77.9	54.5	53.7	55.3
1991	80.9	78.9	82.9	81.7	79.3	84.1	75.1	71.8	77.9	52.1	47.8	56.8
1992	82.1	80.0	84.0	83.3	81.2	85.3	74.6	72.3	76.6	57.3	52.0	62.6
1993	81.7	79.8	83.5	86.8	84.9	88.6	75.1	72.9	77.0	55.9	58.8	53.5
1994	81.5	79.4	83.6	87.2	85.9	88.4	77.3	73.9	80.3	56.6	53.9	59.9
1995	80.8	79.3	82.4	86.1	84.4	87.8	77.1	75.4	78.5	58.6	58.0	59.3
1996	81.6	79.9	83.3	87.4	86.3	88.6	75.9	72.1	79.1	57.5	54.8	60.5
1997	81.4	79.4	83.5	87.0	85.4	88.5	75.2	72.1	77.9	62.1	58.9	65.9
1998	80.6	77.7	83.6	86.6	84.7	88.5	73.7	68.1	78.5	59.9	54.3	66.0
1999	81.1	79.0	83.2	86.7	85.1	88.4	77.1	75.4	78.5	58.8	54.9	63.1
2000	81.9	79.6	84.1	87.6	86.4	88.9	77.5	74.4	80.2	59.5	54.0	65.6
2001	81.0	77.9	84.1	86.6	85.3	87.9	77.7	71.4	83.1	62.0	56.1	68.6
2002	81.5	78.7	84.4	87.0	85.7	88.3	78.3	74.5	81.7	62.6	57.7	68.5
2003	82.5	79.8	85.1	87.8	85.8	89.8	77.5	74.5	80.1	65.1	60.9	70.0
2004	82.6	80.3	84.9	87.9	87.1	88.7	77.6	72.5	82.2	65.7	60.3	71.8
2005	82.9	79.4	86.5	87.8	85.6	90.1	79.2	73.5	84.4	65.9	60.0	72.7
2006 ^b	82.0	79.2	85.1	86.9	85.0	88.8	76.5	72.0	81.1	68.0	63.4	73.4
2007 ^b	82.9	80.4	85.7	87.7	86.2	89.4	77.2	72.8	81.7	69.3	64.5	74.7
Percent of 18- to 24-Year Olds Currently Enrolled in College												
1987	29.6	30.6	28.7	30.2	31.2	29.2	22.8	22.6	23.0	17.6	18.5	16.6
1988	30.3	30.2	30.4	31.3	31.4	31.2	21.1	18.0	23.8	17.0	16.6	17.5
1989	30.9	30.2	31.6	31.8	31.5	32.2	23.5	19.6	26.8	16.1	14.7	17.5
1990	32.0	32.3	31.8	32.5	32.7	32.3	25.4	26.1	24.8	15.8	15.3	16.4
1991	33.3	32.9	33.6	34.1	33.0	35.1	23.6	23.1	24.1	18.0	14.0	22.2
1992	34.4	32.7	36.0	35.2	33.8	36.5	25.2	21.2	28.7	21.3	17.8	24.7
1993	33.8	33.3	34.3	36.8	36.5	37.1	24.5	22.8	25.9	19.9	19.8	20.0
1994	34.6	33.1	36.0	38.1	37.0	39.2	27.7	25.5	29.6	18.8	16.5	21.5
1995	34.3	33.1	35.5	37.9	37.0	38.8	27.5	26.0	28.7	20.7	18.7	22.9
1996	35.5	34.1	37.0	39.5	38.3	40.6	27.4	25.7	28.8	20.1	16.5	24.0
1997	36.9	35.0	38.8	40.6	39.3	41.8	29.8	25.3	33.7	22.4	19.2	26.2
1998	36.6	34.5	38.6	40.6	39.4	41.9	29.8	26.1	32.9	20.4	16.4	24.9
1999	35.6	34.1	37.0	39.4	38.3	40.6	30.4	28.9	31.6	18.7	15.8	21.9
2000	35.5	32.6	38.4	38.7	36.2	41.3	30.5	25.2	35.2	21.7	18.5	25.4
2001	35.7	33.0	38.4	39.3	37.1	41.4	31.2	26.4	35.4	21.2	17.3	25.5
2002	36.7	33.7	39.7	40.9	38.9	42.8	31.9	26.3	36.9	19.9	16.2	24.4
2003	37.8	34.3	41.3	41.5	38.5	44.5	32.3	28.2	35.9	23.5	18.3	29.4
2004	38.0	34.7	41.2	41.7	38.4	45.0	31.8	26.5	36.6	24.7	21.7	28.2
2005	38.9	35.3	42.5	42.8	39.4	46.1	32.7	28.0	37.1	24.8	20.7	29.5
2006 ^b	39.7	35.6	44.2	44.2	40.3	48.2	32.4	27.7	37.2	25.4	20.7	30.9
2007 ^b	40.8	36.7	45.1	45.2	41.6	49.0	33.1	27.8	38.6	26.9	21.8	32.7

^a This includes high school equivalency credentials such as the GED[®] (General Educational Development) credential.

^b The data for 2006 and 2007 were derived from a different survey and may not be fully compatible with the data for prior years. Use caution when comparing figures over a short period of time, such as from 2005 to 2006.

Note: From 1993 onward, the categories *White* and *African American* do not include individuals of Hispanic origin. Hispanics can be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey 1987–2005 (data released online); American Community Survey 2006–2007 (analysis by author).

Table 3

Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Type of Institution and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2005	2006	Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
ALL INSTITUTIONS	14,237,112	14,503,124	15,927,987	17,282,044	17,487,475	17,758,870	24.7	11.5	1.6
White	9,759,019	9,739,338	10,120,366	10,641,522	10,687,578	10,692,917	9.6	5.7	0.0
Total Minority	3,459,553	3,704,052	4,304,489	4,889,705	5,022,187	5,157,418	49.1	19.8	2.7
African American	1,443,047	1,527,174	1,756,684	2,030,542	2,073,583	2,112,215	46.4	20.2	1.9
Hispanic	1,105,671	1,196,235	1,460,088	1,679,924	1,744,756	1,812,202	63.9	24.1	3.9
Asian American ^a	781,173	842,956	937,953	1,013,011	1,037,266	1,063,325	36.1	13.4	2.5
American Indian ^b	129,662	137,687	149,764	166,228	166,582	169,676	30.9	13.3	1.9
Foreign Student	464,938	442,881	564,609	599,607	584,471	595,283	28.0	5.4	1.8
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	553,602	616,853	938,523	1,151,210	1,193,239	1,313,252	137.2	39.9	10.1
FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS	8,802,826	8,990,956	9,677,408	10,736,181	10,999,420	11,240,330	27.7	16.2	2.2
White	6,231,683	6,228,052	6,377,454	6,803,181	6,918,495	6,967,256	11.8	9.2	0.7
Total Minority	1,868,922	1,983,275	2,222,089	2,635,588	2,767,569	2,856,978	52.9	28.6	3.2
African American	843,836	890,922	993,252	1,166,943	1,215,449	1,242,571	47.3	25.1	2.2
Hispanic	485,246	521,268	604,648	766,779	826,341	866,118	78.5	43.2	4.8
Asian American ^a	474,739	502,015	548,727	613,765	635,965	655,380	38.1	19.4	3.1
American Indian ^b	65,101	69,070	75,462	88,101	89,814	92,909	42.7	23.1	3.4
Foreign Student	373,460	387,813	465,506	508,756	492,781	502,185	34.5	7.9	1.9
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	328,761	391,816	612,359	788,656	820,575	913,911	178.0	49.2	11.4
TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS	5,434,286	5,512,168	6,250,579	6,545,863	6,488,055	6,518,540	20.0	4.3	0.5
White	3,527,336	3,511,286	3,742,912	3,838,341	3,769,083	3,725,661	5.6	-0.5	-1.2
Total Minority	1,590,631	1,720,777	2,082,400	2,254,117	2,254,618	2,300,440	44.6	10.5	2.0
African American	599,211	636,252	763,432	863,599	858,134	869,644	45.1	13.9	1.3
Hispanic	620,425	674,967	855,440	913,145	918,415	946,084	52.5	10.6	3.0
Asian American ^a	306,434	340,941	389,226	399,246	401,301	407,945	33.1	4.8	1.7
American Indian ^b	64,561	68,617	74,302	78,127	76,768	76,767	18.9	3.3	0.0
Foreign Student	91,478	55,068	99,103	90,851	91,690	93,098	1.8	-6.1	1.5
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	224,841	225,037	326,164	362,554	372,664	399,341	77.6	22.4	7.2

^a Asian American includes Pacific Islanders.

^b American Indian includes Alaska Natives.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment Survey, 1996 to 2006 (analysis by author).

Table 4

Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2005	2006	Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
MEN	6,290,981	6,357,589	6,960,815	7,389,262	7,455,925	7,574,815	20.4	8.8	1.6
White	4,310,057	4,291,976	4,459,463	4,631,988	4,644,231	4,657,963	8.1	4.5	0.3
Total Minority	1,449,829	1,533,312	1,753,921	1,928,353	1,978,346	2,037,166	40.5	16.1	3.0
African American	535,242	561,475	635,198	708,781	722,441	736,853	37.7	16.0	2.0
Hispanic	479,259	510,927	617,703	689,259	715,957	745,753	55.6	20.7	4.2
Asian American ^a	381,646	404,713	441,035	465,673	475,576	488,033	27.9	10.7	2.6
American Indian ^b	53,682	56,197	59,985	64,640	64,372	66,527	23.9	10.9	3.3
Foreign Student	266,733	254,189	317,087	315,321	309,396	315,680	18.4	-0.4	2.0
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	264,362	278,112	430,344	513,600	523,952	564,006	113.3	31.1	7.6
WOMEN	7,946,131	8,145,535	8,967,172	9,884,782	10,031,550	10,184,055	28.2	13.6	1.5
White	5,448,962	5,447,362	5,660,903	6,009,534	6,043,347	6,034,954	10.8	6.6	-0.1
Total Minority	2,009,724	2,170,740	2,550,568	2,961,352	3,043,841	3,120,252	55.3	22.3	2.5
African American	907,805	965,699	1,121,486	1,321,761	1,351,142	1,375,362	51.5	22.6	1.8
Hispanic	626,412	685,308	842,385	990,665	1,028,799	1,066,449	70.2	26.6	3.7
Asian American ^a	399,527	438,243	496,918	547,338	561,690	575,292	44.0	15.8	2.4
American Indian ^b	75,980	81,490	89,779	101,588	102,210	103,149	35.8	14.9	0.9
Foreign Student	198,205	188,692	247,522	274,286	275,075	279,603	41.1	13.0	1.6
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	289,240	338,741	508,179	639,610	669,287	749,246	159.0	47.4	11.9

^a *Asian American* includes Pacific Islanders.

^b *American Indian* includes Alaska Natives.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment Survey, 1996 to 2006 (analysis by author).

Table 5

Total Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Control of Institution and Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2005	2006	Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
PUBLIC	11,027,013	11,146,632	12,233,156	12,980,112	13,021,834	13,180,133	19.5	7.7	1.2
White	7,555,442	7,469,863	7,813,882	8,100,725	8,062,519	8,061,559	6.7	3.2	0.0
Total Minority	2,831,855	2,987,284	3,461,006	3,847,115	3,909,579	4,018,405	41.9	16.1	2.8
African American	1,142,135	1,186,463	1,347,549	1,512,521	1,517,479	1,541,930	35.0	14.4	1.6
Hispanic	951,870	1,012,001	1,236,678	1,394,173	1,438,161	1,499,852	57.6	21.3	4.3
Asian American ^a	625,007	670,452	749,492	802,726	817,564	837,698	34.0	11.8	2.5
American Indian ^b	112,843	118,368	127,287	137,695	136,375	138,925	23.1	9.1	1.9
Foreign Student	303,667	274,817	373,551	371,389	372,761	382,951	26.1	2.5	2.7
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	336,049	414,668	584,717	660,883	676,975	717,218	113.4	22.7	5.9
PRIVATE NOT-FOR-PROFIT	2,940,562	2,992,219	3,167,330	3,411,685	3,454,692	3,512,866	19.5	10.9	1.7
White	2,067,399	2,058,458	2,052,012	2,170,134	2,188,672	2,202,708	6.5	7.3	0.6
Total Minority	557,350	592,398	662,669	748,869	764,247	778,360	39.7	17.5	1.8
African American	264,518	281,226	317,832	357,601	360,952	362,066	36.9	13.9	0.3
Hispanic	130,665	141,180	164,511	190,473	197,427	202,975	55.3	23.4	2.8
Asian American ^a	146,968	153,971	162,523	179,292	184,392	191,401	30.2	17.8	3.8
American Indian ^b	15,199	16,021	17,803	21,503	21,476	21,918	44.2	23.1	2.1
Foreign Student	156,878	158,506	180,834	174,981	172,203	180,556	15.1	-0.2	4.9
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	158,935	182,857	271,815	317,701	329,570	351,242	121.0	29.2	6.6
PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT	269,537	364,273	527,501	880,247	1,010,949	1,065,871	295.4	102.1	5.4
White	136,178	211,017	254,472	370,663	436,387	428,650	214.8	68.4	-1.8
Total Minority	70,348	124,370	180,814	293,721	348,361	360,653	412.7	99.5	3.5
African American	36,394	59,485	91,303	160,420	195,152	208,219	472.1	128.1	6.7
Hispanic	23,136	43,054	58,899	95,278	109,168	109,375	372.7	85.7	0.2
Asian American ^a	9,198	18,533	25,938	30,993	35,310	34,226	272.1	32.0	-3.1
American Indian ^b	1,620	3,298	4,674	7,030	8,731	8,833	445.2	89.0	1.2
Foreign Student	4,393	9,558	10,224	43,237	39,507	31,776	623.3	210.8	-19.6
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	58,618	19,328	81,991	172,626	186,694	244,792	317.6	198.6	31.1

^a Asian American includes Pacific Islanders.

^b American Indian includes Alaska Natives.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment Survey, 1996 to 2006 (analysis by author).

Table 6

Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, by Race/Ethnicity: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2005	2006	Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
UNDERGRADUATE TOTAL	12,196,265	12,442,492	13,715,610	14,780,630	14,963,964	15,184,302	24.5	9.1	1.5
White	8,352,312	8,367,445	8,764,748	9,162,653	9,203,387	9,201,485	10.2	5.0	0.0
Total Minority	3,124,427	3,338,014	3,888,792	4,386,289	4,501,445	4,619,334	47.8	15.8	2.6
African American	1,302,945	1,375,113	1,579,292	1,808,724	1,841,458	1,870,405	43.6	16.6	1.6
Hispanic	1,024,401	1,105,911	1,355,264	1,553,201	1,613,871	1,677,712	63.8	19.1	4.0
Asian American ^a	677,925	730,478	816,860	872,535	893,993	916,700	35.2	9.4	2.5
American Indian ^b	119,156	126,512	137,376	151,829	152,123	154,517	29.7	10.7	1.6
Foreign Student	274,122	241,111	306,161	313,392	314,417	320,614	17.0	2.7	2.0
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	445,404	495,922	755,909	918,296	944,715	1,042,869	134.1	25.0	10.4
GRADUATE TOTAL	1,743,100	1,762,686	1,903,730	2,156,885	2,186,487	2,231,122	28.0	14.9	2.0
White	1,191,465	1,162,411	1,147,325	1,255,857	1,262,714	1,269,644	6.6	10.1	0.5
Total Minority	268,540	295,563	341,628	421,469	437,675	453,015	68.7	28.1	3.5
African American	119,255	130,610	154,930	197,482	207,962	217,312	82.2	34.2	4.5
Hispanic	67,864	76,679	90,418	111,062	114,929	117,867	73.7	27.1	2.6
Asian American ^a	73,001	79,216	85,948	100,815	102,673	105,018	43.9	19.5	2.3
American Indian ^b	8,420	9,058	10,332	12,110	12,111	12,818	52.2	17.2	5.8
Foreign Student	183,152	194,523	250,069	268,034	262,027	266,383	45.4	4.8	1.7
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	99,943	110,189	164,708	211,525	224,071	242,080	142.2	36.0	8.0
PROFESSIONAL TOTAL	297,747	297,946	308,647	334,529	337,024	343,446	15.3	9.2	1.9
White	215,242	209,482	208,293	223,012	221,477	221,788	3.0	6.3	0.1
Total Minority	66,586	70,475	74,069	81,947	83,067	85,069	27.8	12.1	2.4
African American	20,847	21,451	22,462	24,336	24,163	24,498	17.5	7.6	1.4
Hispanic	13,406	13,645	14,406	15,661	15,956	16,623	24.0	10.8	4.2
Asian American ^a	30,247	33,262	35,145	39,661	40,600	41,607	37.6	15.5	2.5
American Indian ^b	2,086	2,117	2,056	2,289	2,348	2,341	12.2	14.2	-0.3
Foreign Student	7,664	7,247	8,379	8,181	8,027	8,286	8.1	-4.2	3.2
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	8,255	10,742	17,906	21,389	24,453	28,303	242.9	36.6	15.7

^a Asian American includes Pacific Islanders.

^b American Indian includes Alaska Natives.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment Survey, 1996 to 2006 (analysis by author).

Table 7

Associate Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996		1999		2001		2004		2005		2006		Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent			
TOTAL	530,603	100.0	561,651	100.0	576,219	100.0	697,649	100.0	713,512	100.0	727,974	100.0	37.2	26.3	2.0
Men	202,324	38.1	222,977	39.7	230,859	40.1	268,021	38.4	270,406	37.9	275,292	37.8	36.1	19.2	1.8
Women	328,279	61.9	338,674	60.3	345,360	59.9	429,628	61.6	443,106	62.1	452,682	62.2	37.9	31.1	2.2
WHITE	391,337	73.8	394,180	70.2	394,761	68.5	450,562	64.6	457,329	64.1	462,049	63.5	18.1	17.0	1.0
Men	149,169	28.1	157,798	28.1	159,385	27.7	177,467	25.4	178,369	25.0	179,167	24.6	20.1	12.4	0.4
Women	242,168	45.6	236,382	42.1	235,376	40.8	273,095	39.1	278,960	39.1	282,882	38.9	16.8	20.2	1.4
TOTAL MINORITY	117,381	22.1	140,539	25.0	149,720	26.0	196,048	28.1	201,731	28.3	208,898	28.7	78.0	39.5	3.6
Men	43,789	8.3	53,810	9.6	57,537	10.0	68,990	9.9	69,943	9.8	73,063	10.0	66.9	27.0	4.5
Women	73,592	13.9	86,729	15.4	92,183	16.0	127,058	18.2	131,788	18.5	135,835	18.7	84.6	47.4	3.1
African American	49,659	9.4	57,929	10.3	61,197	10.6	81,828	11.7	84,373	11.8	85,732	11.8	72.6	40.1	1.6
Men	16,191	3.1	20,097	3.6	21,175	3.7	25,504	3.7	25,840	3.6	26,344	3.6	62.7	24.4	2.0
Women	33,468	6.3	37,832	6.7	40,022	6.9	56,324	8.1	58,533	8.2	59,388	8.2	77.4	48.4	1.5
Hispanic	39,287	7.4	49,574	8.8	55,033	9.6	74,339	10.7	76,123	10.7	80,129	11.0	104.0	45.6	5.3
Men	15,997	3.0	20,017	3.6	22,392	3.9	27,872	4.0	28,147	3.9	29,547	4.1	84.7	32.0	5.0
Women	23,290	4.4	29,557	5.3	32,641	5.7	46,467	6.7	47,976	6.7	50,582	6.9	117.2	55.0	5.4
Asian American^a	22,915	4.3	26,811	4.8	27,099	4.7	31,852	4.6	33,148	4.6	34,970	4.8	52.6	29.0	5.5
Men	9,731	1.8	11,565	2.1	11,764	2.0	12,990	1.9	13,347	1.9	14,493	2.0	48.9	23.2	8.6
Women	13,184	2.5	15,246	2.7	15,335	2.7	18,862	2.7	19,801	2.8	20,477	2.8	55.3	33.5	3.4
American Indian^b	5,520	1.0	6,225	1.1	6,391	1.1	8,029	1.2	8,087	1.1	8,067	1.1	46.1	26.2	-0.2
Men	1,870	0.4	2,131	0.4	2,206	0.4	2,624	0.4	2,609	0.4	2,679	0.4	43.3	21.4	2.7
Women	3,650	0.7	4,094	0.7	4,185	0.7	5,405	0.8	5,478	0.8	5,388	0.7	47.6	28.7	-1.6
FOREIGN STUDENT	10,554	2.0	10,071	1.8	11,517	2.0	14,092	2.0	13,383	1.9	13,750	1.9	30.3	19.4	2.7
Men	4,578	0.9	4,251	0.8	5,174	0.9	5,586	0.8	5,301	0.7	5,323	0.7	16.3	2.9	0.4
Women	5,976	1.1	5,820	1.0	6,343	1.1	8,506	1.2	8,082	1.1	8,427	1.2	41.0	32.9	4.3
RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	11,331	2.1	16,861	3.0	20,221	3.5	36,947	5.3	41,069	5.8	43,277	5.9	281.9	114.0	5.4
Men	4,788	0.9	7,118	1.3	8,763	1.5	15,978	2.3	16,793	2.4	17,739	2.4	270.5	102.4	5.6
Women	6,543	1.2	9,743	1.7	11,458	2.0	20,969	3.0	24,276	3.4	25,538	3.5	290.3	122.9	5.2

^a *Asian American* includes Pacific Islanders.

^b *American Indian* includes Alaska Natives.

Note: Each data year represents the beginning of the academic year. For example, degrees awarded in 1996 indicate those awarded during the academic year 1996–97.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions Survey, 1997 to 2007 (analysis by author).

Table 8

Bachelor's Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996		1999		2001		2004		2005		2006		Percent	Percent	Percent
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Change 1996 to 2006	Change 2001 to 2006	Change 2005 to 2006
TOTAL	1,171,901	100.0	1,232,560	100.0	1,242,621	100.0	1,516,229	100.0	1,562,355	100.0	1,603,160	100.0	36.8	29.0	2.6
Men	520,161	44.4	526,727	42.7	530,270	42.7	645,071	42.5	662,146	42.4	681,799	42.5	31.1	28.6	3.0
Women	651,740	55.6	705,833	57.3	712,351	57.3	871,158	57.5	900,209	57.6	921,361	57.5	41.4	29.3	2.3
WHITE	877,735	74.9	892,198	72.4	889,034	71.5	1,043,078	68.8	1,066,946	68.3	1,089,728	68.0	24.2	22.6	2.1
Men	392,533	33.5	385,143	31.2	383,539	30.9	451,554	29.8	461,000	29.5	473,318	29.5	20.6	23.4	2.7
Women	485,202	41.4	507,055	41.1	505,495	40.7	591,524	39.0	605,946	38.8	616,410	38.4	27.0	21.9	1.7
TOTAL MINORITY	227,002	19.4	259,105	21.0	265,176	21.3	338,495	22.3	355,608	22.8	369,730	23.1	62.9	39.4	4.0
Men	92,828	7.9	102,050	8.3	103,987	8.4	130,110	8.6	136,292	8.7	142,629	8.9	53.6	37.2	4.6
Women	134,174	11.4	157,055	12.7	161,189	13.0	208,385	13.7	219,316	14.0	227,101	14.2	69.3	40.9	3.5
African American	91,915	7.8	103,844	8.4	106,635	8.6	131,587	8.7	137,016	8.8	140,771	8.8	53.2	32.0	2.7
Men	32,697	2.8	35,422	2.9	36,349	2.9	44,062	2.9	46,084	2.9	47,477	3.0	45.2	30.6	3.0
Women	59,218	5.1	68,422	5.6	70,286	5.7	87,525	5.8	90,932	5.8	93,294	5.8	57.5	32.7	2.6
Hispanic	60,846	5.2	72,045	5.8	74,349	6.0	99,924	6.6	105,971	6.8	113,026	7.1	85.8	52.0	6.7
Men	25,602	2.2	28,963	2.3	29,868	2.4	38,797	2.6	40,909	2.6	43,749	2.7	70.9	46.5	6.9
Women	35,244	3.0	43,082	3.5	44,481	3.6	61,127	4.0	65,062	4.2	69,277	4.3	96.6	55.7	6.5
Asian American^a	67,004	5.7	74,839	6.1	75,538	6.1	96,870	6.4	101,896	6.5	104,824	6.5	56.4	38.8	2.9
Men	31,615	2.7	34,359	2.8	34,256	2.8	43,217	2.9	45,202	2.9	47,043	2.9	48.8	37.3	4.1
Women	35,389	3.0	40,480	3.3	41,282	3.3	53,653	3.5	56,694	3.6	57,781	3.6	63.3	40.0	1.9
American Indian^b	7,237	0.6	8,377	0.7	8,654	0.7	10,114	0.7	10,725	0.7	11,109	0.7	53.5	28.4	3.6
Men	2,914	0.2	3,306	0.3	3,514	0.3	4,034	0.3	4,097	0.3	4,360	0.3	49.6	24.1	6.4
Women	4,323	0.4	5,071	0.4	5,140	0.4	6,080	0.4	6,628	0.4	6,749	0.4	56.1	31.3	1.8
FOREIGN STUDENT	38,716	3.3	38,981	3.2	39,773	3.2	48,602	3.2	49,516	3.2	48,898	3.1	26.3	22.9	-1.2
Men	21,608	1.8	20,711	1.7	20,983	1.7	24,945	1.6	24,777	1.6	24,022	1.5	11.2	14.5	-3.0
Women	17,108	1.5	18,270	1.5	18,790	1.5	23,657	1.6	24,739	1.6	24,876	1.6	45.4	32.4	0.6
RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	28,448	2.4	42,276	3.4	48,638	3.9	86,054	5.7	90,285	5.8	94,804	5.9	233.3	94.9	5.0
Men	13,192	1.1	18,823	1.5	21,761	1.8	38,462	2.5	40,077	2.6	41,830	2.6	217.1	92.2	4.4
Women	15,256	1.3	23,453	1.9	26,877	2.2	47,592	3.1	50,208	3.2	52,974	3.3	247.2	97.1	5.5

^a *Asian American* includes Pacific Islanders.

^b *American Indian* includes Alaska Natives.

Note: Each data year represents the beginning of the academic year. For example, degrees awarded in 1996 indicate those awarded during the academic year 1996–97.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions Survey, 1997 to 2007 (analysis by author).

Table 9

Master's Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996		1999		2001		2004		2005		2006		Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent			
TOTAL	419,056	100.0	455,053	100.0	482,256	100.0	578,812	100.0	597,660	100.0	607,550	100.0	45.0	26.0	1.7
Men	180,801	43.1	190,682	41.9	199,199	41.3	236,300	40.8	240,271	40.2	239,997	39.5	32.7	20.5	-0.1
Women	238,255	56.9	264,371	58.1	283,057	58.7	342,512	59.2	357,389	59.8	367,553	60.5	54.3	29.9	2.8
WHITE	288,327	68.8	298,287	65.5	299,496	62.1	344,149	59.5	354,226	59.3	356,448	58.7	23.6	19.0	0.6
Men	117,932	28.1	118,060	25.9	116,193	24.1	132,646	22.9	134,639	22.5	133,786	22.0	13.4	15.1	-0.6
Women	170,395	40.7	180,227	39.6	183,303	38.0	211,503	36.5	219,587	36.7	222,662	36.6	30.7	21.5	1.4
TOTAL MINORITY	61,198	14.6	74,983	16.5	82,785	17.2	110,744	19.1	115,922	19.4	122,320	20.1	99.9	47.8	5.5
Men	23,548	5.6	28,327	6.2	29,677	6.2	38,949	6.7	40,616	6.8	42,339	7.0	79.8	42.7	4.2
Women	37,650	9.0	46,656	10.3	53,108	11.0	71,795	12.4	75,306	12.6	79,981	13.2	112.4	50.6	6.2
African American	26,907	6.4	33,419	7.3	36,911	7.7	49,415	8.5	52,993	8.9	55,746	9.2	107.2	51.0	5.2
Men	8,435	2.0	10,326	2.3	10,647	2.2	14,111	2.4	15,040	2.5	15,736	2.6	86.6	47.8	4.6
Women	18,472	4.4	23,093	5.1	26,264	5.4	35,304	6.1	37,953	6.4	40,010	6.6	116.6	52.3	5.4
Hispanic	14,572	3.5	17,940	3.9	20,450	4.2	28,574	4.9	29,115	4.9	31,065	5.1	113.2	51.9	6.7
Men	5,847	1.4	7,054	1.6	7,604	1.6	10,242	1.8	10,335	1.7	10,917	1.8	86.7	43.6	5.6
Women	8,725	2.1	10,886	2.4	12,846	2.7	18,332	3.2	18,780	3.1	20,148	3.3	130.9	56.8	7.3
Asian American^a	17,875	4.3	21,525	4.7	23,018	4.8	29,777	5.1	30,660	5.1	32,322	5.3	80.8	40.4	5.4
Men	8,569	2.0	10,173	2.2	10,525	2.2	13,561	2.3	14,129	2.4	14,576	2.4	70.1	38.5	3.2
Women	9,306	2.2	11,352	2.5	12,493	2.6	16,216	2.8	16,531	2.8	17,746	2.9	90.7	42.0	7.3
American Indian^b	1,844	0.4	2,099	0.5	2,406	0.5	2,978	0.5	3,154	0.5	3,187	0.5	72.8	32.5	1.0
Men	697	0.2	774	0.2	901	0.2	1,035	0.2	1,112	0.2	1,110	0.2	59.3	23.2	-0.2
Women	1,147	0.3	1,325	0.3	1,505	0.3	1,943	0.3	2,042	0.3	2,077	0.3	81.1	38.0	1.7
FOREIGN STUDENT	49,474	11.8	55,873	12.3	63,689	13.2	74,060	12.8	72,664	12.2	69,065	11.4	39.6	8.4	-5.0
Men	30,200	7.2	32,958	7.2	37,384	7.8	43,369	7.5	41,982	7.0	39,478	6.5	30.7	5.6	-6.0
Women	19,274	4.6	22,915	5.0	26,305	5.5	30,691	5.3	30,682	5.1	29,587	4.9	53.5	12.5	-3.6
RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	20,057	4.8	25,910	5.7	36,286	7.5	49,859	8.6	54,848	9.2	59,717	9.8	197.7	64.6	8.9
Men	9,121	2.2	11,337	2.5	15,945	3.3	21,336	3.7	23,034	3.9	24,394	4.0	167.4	53.0	5.9
Women	10,936	2.6	14,573	3.2	20,341	4.2	28,523	4.9	31,814	5.3	35,323	5.8	223.0	73.7	11.0

^a Asian American includes Pacific Islanders.

^b American Indian includes Alaska Natives.

Note: Each data year represents the beginning of the academic year. For example, degrees awarded in 1996 indicate those awarded during the academic year 1996–97.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions Survey, 1997 to 2007 (analysis by author).

Table 10

Doctoral Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996		1999		2001		2004		2005		2006		Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent			
TOTAL	45,589	100.0	44,529	100.0	44,179	100.0	52,705	100.0	56,134	100.0	60,682	100.0	33.1	37.4	8.1
Men	26,929	59.1	24,811	55.7	23,727	53.7	27,010	51.2	28,673	51.1	30,281	49.9	12.4	27.6	5.6
Women	18,660	40.9	19,718	44.3	20,452	46.3	25,695	48.8	27,461	48.9	30,401	50.1	62.9	48.6	10.7
WHITE	27,199	59.7	26,265	59.0	25,334	57.3	28,174	53.5	29,144	51.9	31,388	51.7	15.4	23.9	7.7
Men	14,685	32.2	13,537	30.4	12,526	28.4	13,040	24.7	13,511	24.1	14,001	23.1	-4.7	11.8	3.6
Women	12,514	27.4	12,728	28.6	12,808	29.0	15,134	28.7	15,633	27.8	17,387	28.7	38.9	35.8	11.2
TOTAL MINORITY	5,368	11.8	5,806	13.0	5,980	13.5	7,489	14.2	7,839	14.0	8,817	14.5	64.3	47.4	12.5
Men	2,821	6.2	2,729	6.1	2,716	6.1	3,075	5.8	3,286	5.9	3,645	6.0	29.2	34.2	10.9
Women	2,547	5.6	3,077	6.9	3,264	7.4	4,414	8.4	4,553	8.1	5,172	8.5	103.1	58.5	13.6
African American	1,794	3.9	2,127	4.8	2,270	5.1	2,873	5.5	2,889	5.1	3,460	5.7	92.9	52.4	19.8
Men	765	1.7	825	1.9	872	2.0	986	1.9	1,001	1.8	1,180	1.9	54.2	35.3	17.9
Women	1,029	2.3	1,302	2.9	1,398	3.2	1,887	3.6	1,888	3.4	2,280	3.8	121.6	63.1	20.8
Hispanic	1,064	2.3	1,241	2.8	1,351	3.1	1,693	3.2	1,740	3.1	1,873	3.1	76.0	38.6	7.6
Men	557	1.2	578	1.3	610	1.4	708	1.3	762	1.4	816	1.3	46.5	33.8	7.1
Women	507	1.1	663	1.5	741	1.7	985	1.9	978	1.7	1,057	1.7	108.5	42.6	8.1
Asian American^a	2,341	5.1	2,283	5.1	2,184	4.9	2,699	5.1	2,996	5.3	3,252	5.4	38.9	48.9	8.5
Men	1,415	3.1	1,271	2.9	1,168	2.6	1,298	2.5	1,426	2.5	1,561	2.6	10.3	33.6	9.5
Women	926	2.0	1,012	2.3	1,016	2.3	1,401	2.7	1,570	2.8	1,691	2.8	82.6	66.4	7.7
American Indian^b	169	0.4	155	0.3	175	0.4	224	0.4	214	0.4	232	0.4	37.3	32.6	8.4
Men	84	0.2	55	0.1	66	0.1	83	0.2	97	0.2	88	0.1	4.8	33.3	-9.3
Women	85	0.2	100	0.2	109	0.2	141	0.3	117	0.2	144	0.2	69.4	32.1	23.1
FOREIGN STUDENT	11,349	24.9	10,800	24.3	10,932	24.7	14,363	27.3	15,999	28.5	17,013	28.0	49.9	55.6	6.3
Men	8,463	18.6	7,628	17.1	7,500	17.0	9,661	18.3	10,427	18.6	11,024	18.2	30.3	47.0	5.7
Women	2,886	6.3	3,172	7.1	3,432	7.8	4,702	8.9	5,572	9.9	5,989	9.9	107.5	74.5	7.5
RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	1,673	3.7	1,658	3.7	1,933	4.4	2,679	5.1	3,152	5.6	3,464	5.7	107.1	79.2	9.9
Men	960	2.1	917	2.1	985	2.2	1,234	2.3	1,449	2.6	1,611	2.7	67.8	63.6	11.2
Women	713	1.6	741	1.7	948	2.1	1,445	2.7	1,703	3.0	1,853	3.1	159.9	95.5	8.8

^a Asian American includes Pacific Islanders.

^b American Indian includes Alaska Natives.

Note: Each data year represents the beginning of the academic year. For example, degrees awarded in 1996 indicate those awarded during the academic year 1996–97.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions Survey, 1997 to 2007 (analysis by author).

Table 11

Professional Degrees, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 1996 to 2006 (Selected Years)

	1996		1999		2001		2004		2005		2006		Percent Change 1996 to 2006	Percent Change 2001 to 2006	Percent Change 2005 to 2006
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent			
TOTAL	78,498	100.0	78,249	100.0	80,729	100.0	87,289	100.0	87,614	100.0	89,874	100.0	14.5	11.3	2.6
Men	45,420	57.9	42,987	54.9	42,589	52.8	43,849	50.2	44,020	50.2	44,969	50.0	-1.0	5.6	2.2
Women	33,078	42.1	35,262	45.1	38,140	47.2	43,440	49.8	43,594	49.8	44,905	50.0	35.8	17.7	3.0
WHITE	58,767	74.9	56,273	71.9	55,868	69.2	59,978	68.7	59,550	68.0	59,860	66.6	1.9	7.1	0.5
Men	35,076	44.7	31,842	40.7	30,574	37.9	31,411	36.0	31,285	35.7	31,209	34.7	-11.0	2.1	-0.2
Women	23,691	30.2	24,431	31.2	25,294	31.3	28,567	32.7	28,265	32.3	28,651	31.9	20.9	13.3	1.4
TOTAL MINORITY	16,411	20.9	17,554	22.4	18,909	23.4	20,737	23.8	20,741	23.7	21,933	24.4	33.6	16.0	5.7
Men	8,240	10.5	8,551	10.9	8,712	10.8	8,999	10.3	8,816	10.1	9,374	10.4	13.8	7.6	6.3
Women	8,171	10.4	9,003	11.5	10,197	12.6	11,738	13.4	11,925	13.6	12,559	14.0	53.7	23.2	5.3
African American	5,153	6.6	5,247	6.7	5,435	6.7	5,987	6.9	5,852	6.7	6,031	6.7	17.0	11.0	3.1
Men	2,139	2.7	2,172	2.8	2,081	2.6	2,141	2.5	2,149	2.5	2,195	2.4	2.6	5.5	2.1
Women	3,014	3.8	3,075	3.9	3,354	4.2	3,846	4.4	3,703	4.2	3,836	4.3	27.3	14.4	3.6
Hispanic	3,525	4.5	3,615	4.6	3,743	4.6	4,196	4.8	4,154	4.7	4,341	4.8	23.1	16.0	4.5
Men	1,933	2.5	1,962	2.5	1,930	2.4	2,089	2.4	1,978	2.3	2,074	2.3	7.3	7.5	4.9
Women	1,592	2.0	1,653	2.1	1,813	2.2	2,107	2.4	2,176	2.5	2,267	2.5	42.4	25.0	4.2
Asian American^a	7,232	9.2	8,154	10.4	9,178	11.4	10,020	11.5	10,069	11.5	10,929	12.2	51.1	19.1	8.5
Men	3,886	5.0	4,146	5.3	4,423	5.5	4,496	5.2	4,380	5.0	4,796	5.3	23.4	8.4	9.5
Women	3,346	4.3	4,008	5.1	4,755	5.9	5,524	6.3	5,689	6.5	6,133	6.8	83.3	29.0	7.8
American Indian^b	501	0.6	538	0.7	553	0.7	534	0.6	666	0.8	632	0.7	26.1	14.3	-5.1
Men	282	0.4	271	0.3	278	0.3	273	0.3	309	0.4	309	0.3	9.6	11.2	0.0
Women	219	0.3	267	0.3	275	0.3	261	0.3	357	0.4	323	0.4	47.5	17.5	-9.5
FOREIGN STUDENT	1,654	2.1	1,796	2.3	1,892	2.3	2,037	2.3	2,047	2.3	1,976	2.2	19.5	4.4	-3.5
Men	1,128	1.4	1,124	1.4	1,118	1.4	1,113	1.3	1,114	1.3	1,069	1.2	-5.2	-4.4	-4.0
Women	526	0.7	672	0.9	774	1.0	924	1.1	933	1.1	907	1.0	72.4	17.2	-2.8
RACE/ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	1,666	2.1	2,626	3.4	4,060	5.0	4,537	5.2	5,276	6.0	6,105	6.8	266.4	50.4	15.7
Men	976	1.2	1,470	1.9	2,185	2.7	2,326	2.7	2,805	3.2	3,317	3.7	239.9	51.8	18.3
Women	690	0.9	1,156	1.5	1,875	2.3	2,211	2.5	2,471	2.8	2,788	3.1	304.1	48.7	12.8

^a *Asian American* includes Pacific Islanders.

^b *American Indian* includes Alaska Natives.

Note: Each data year represents the beginning of the academic year. For example, degrees awarded in 1996 indicate those awarded during the academic year 1996–97.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Completions Survey, 1997 to 2007 (analysis by author).



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