

the condition of education 2008



INDICATOR 11

Trends in Graduate and First-Professional Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. 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 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Provasnik, S., Kena, G., Dinkes, R., KewalRamani, A., and Kemp, J. (2008). *The Condition of Education 2008* (NCES 2008-031). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

Graduate and Professional Education

Trends in Graduate and First-Professional Enrollments

Enrollment in graduate and first-professional programs each increased from 2000 to 2006. For both program types, total minority enrollment increased by a larger percentage than did White enrollment.

Enrollment in graduate programs increased from 1.3 to 2.2 million (67 percent) between 1976 and 2006 and is expected to reach 2.3 million in 2008 (see supplemental table 11-1). First-professional program enrollment increased from 244,000 to 343,000 (41 percent) between 1976 and 2006 and is expected to reach 354,000 in 2008. According to projections, increases in both graduate and first-professional enrollment will continue, with graduate enrollment exceeding 2.6 million and first-professional enrollment reaching 418,000 by 2017.

Enrollment trends in both graduate and first-professional programs differ by sex. More men than women attended both types of programs in 1976. By 2006, female enrollment in graduate programs had increased from 619,000 to 1.3 million (117 percent), while male enrollment fluctuated but increased overall from 714,000 to 887,000 (24 percent). Women represented 46 percent of total graduate enrollment in 1976, some 50 percent in 1984, and 60 percent in 2006. In 2008, graduate enrollment is projected to reach 1.4 million for women and 919,000 for men. In first-professional programs, between

1976 and 2006, female enrollment rose from 54,000 to 170,000 (211 percent), while male enrollment fluctuated but decreased overall from 190,000 to 174,000 (8 percent). By 2008, first-professional enrollment is expected to reach 171,000 for women and 183,000 for men.

Minorities experienced enrollment gains between 2000 and 2006. In 2006, minorities represented 23 percent of total graduate enrollment, compared with 19 percent in 2000 (see supplemental table 11-2). Minority enrollment in graduate programs increased from 359,000 to 519,000 (44 percent) during this period, while White enrollment increased from 1.3 to 1.4 million (15 percent). Among minorities, the greatest relative growth in graduate enrollment was seen for Blacks (57 percent), Hispanics (42 percent), and American Indians/Alaska Natives (40 percent). In first-professional programs, minority enrollment grew from 78,000 to 93,000 (20 percent) during this period, while White enrollment rose from 220,000 to 242,000 (10 percent). Among minorities, relative growth in first-professional enrollment was greatest for Asians/Pacific Islanders (24 percent) and Hispanics (19 percent).

¹ Because of underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data, some figures are slightly lower than corresponding data in other published tables. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: See supplemental note 3 for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See the glossary for definitions of minority and first-professional degree. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Percent changes for figures are based on unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2008* (forthcoming), table 216, data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey," Spring 2001 and Spring 2007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3, 9
Supplemental Tables 11-1,
11-2



GRADUATE AND FIRST-PROFESSIONAL ENROLLMENT: Graduate and first-professional enrollment in degree-granting institutions and percent change in enrollment, by sex and race/ethnicity: 2000 and 2006

Characteristic	[Enrollment in thousands]					
	Graduate enrollment			First-professional enrollment		
	2000	2006	Percent change	2000	2006	Percent change
Total	1,850	2,231	21	307	343	12
Sex						
Male	780	887	14	164	174	6
Female	1,071	1,344	26	143	170	19
Race/ethnicity ¹						
White	1,259	1,445	15	220	242	10
Total minority	359	519	44	78	93	20
Black	158	247	57	24	27	14
Hispanic	95	136	42	15	18	19
Asian/Pacific Islander	96	122	27	37	46	24
American Indian/ Alaska Native	10	14	40	2	3	9
Nonresident alien	232	266	15	8	8	0

Trends in Graduate and First-Professional Enrollments

Table 11-1. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment in degree-granting institutions, with projections, by sex and attendance status: 1976–2017

Fall of year	[In thousands]										
	Total enrollment	Graduate					First-professional				
		Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time
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
2001	2,212	1,904	796	1,108	843	1,061	309	161	148	277	32
2002	2,355	2,036	847	1,189	926	1,109	319	163	156	286	33
2003	2,431	2,102	867	1,235	985	1,117	329	166	163	296	33
2004	2,491	2,157	879	1,278	1,024	1,133	335	168	166	302	33
2005	2,524	2,186	877	1,309	1,047	1,139	337	170	167	303	34
2006	2,575	2,231	887	1,344	1,077	1,154	343	174	170	309	34
Projected¹											
2007	2,610	2,259	909	1,350	1,098	1,161	351	181	170	316	34
2008	2,629	2,275	919	1,356	1,108	1,167	354	183	171	319	35
2009	2,647	2,290	927	1,362	1,116	1,173	357	186	171	322	35
2010	2,673	2,312	939	1,373	1,129	1,182	361	188	173	326	35
2011	2,715	2,348	955	1,392	1,150	1,197	368	192	176	332	36
2012	2,775	2,398	977	1,421	1,181	1,216	377	196	181	341	36
2013	2,842	2,455	1,000	1,455	1,215	1,239	387	201	186	350	37
2014	2,905	2,508	1,021	1,487	1,246	1,262	397	205	191	359	38
2015	2,960	2,556	1,039	1,516	1,272	1,283	405	209	196	366	38
2016	3,011	2,599	1,056	1,543	1,296	1,304	412	212	200	373	39
2017	3,058	2,640	1,073	1,567	1,315	1,325	418	215	203	378	40

¹ Projections based on reported data through 2006 and middle alternative assumptions concerning the economy. See NCES 2008-078 for more information on projections.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See the glossary for a definition of first-professional degree. Some estimates have been revised from previous publications.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), tables 197 and 198, and Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008-078), tables 20 and 21, data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976–1985, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF-87–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2007.

Trends in Graduate and First-Professional Enrollments

Table 11-2. Total graduate and first-professional enrollment and percentage distribution of students in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1976–2006

Level of student and race/ethnicity	1976	1980	1990	1995	2000	2006
Enrollment (in thousands)						
Graduate						
Total	1,323	1,341	1,586	1,732	1,850	2,231
White	1,116	1,105	1,228	1,282	1,259	1,445
Total minority	134	144	190	271	359	519
Black	78	75	84	119	158	247
Hispanic	26	32	47	68	95	136
Asian/Pacific Islander	25	32	53	76	96	122
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	5	6	8	10	14
Nonresident alien	72	92	167	179	232	266
First-professional						
Total	244	277	273	298	307	343
White	220	248	221	223	220	242
Total minority	21	26	47	67	78	93
Black	11	13	16	21	24	27
Hispanic	5	7	11	14	15	18
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	6	19	30	37	46
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	1	1	2	2	3
Nonresident alien	3	3	5	7	8	8
Percentage distribution						
Graduate						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	84.4	82.4	77.4	74.0	68.0	64.8
Total minority	10.2	10.7	12.0	15.6	19.4	23.3
Black	5.9	5.6	5.3	6.8	8.5	11.1
Hispanic	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.9	5.2	6.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.2	5.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Nonresident alien	5.5	6.9	10.5	10.4	12.6	11.9
First-professional						
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	90.1	89.5	81.0	75.0	71.8	70.4
Total minority	8.6	9.5	17.0	22.5	25.5	27.2
Black	4.6	4.6	5.8	7.2	7.7	7.8
Hispanic	1.9	2.4	3.9	4.6	5.0	5.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.2	6.8	9.9	12.0	13.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7
Nonresident alien	1.3	1.0	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.5

NOTE: Because of underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data, some figures are slightly lower than corresponding data in other published tables. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). See the glossary for definitions of minority and first-professional degree. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2008* (forthcoming), table 216 and NCES. (2003). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2002* (NCES 2003-060), table 207, data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976 and 1980, and Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:90 and IPEDS-EF:95), and Spring 2001 and Spring 2007.