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## **U.S grad schools see growing enrollment**

**BLOOMBERG NEWS**

Enrollment at U.S. graduate schools grew 2 percent last year, driven by gains among women and blacks and the first increase in foreign students in four years, the Council of Graduate Schools reported.

"Our numbers are beginning to come back" among foreign students, who represent many of the science and engineering graduates critical to U.S. economic competitiveness, said the council's president, Debra Stewart.

U.S. graduate schools reported total enrollment of more than 1.5 million last year, including nearly 222,000 international students. Enrollment of blacks increased 6 percent while the number of women increased 3 percent.

The colleges face a decline of doctoral graduates in the immediate future because the number of foreign graduate students dropped after Sept. 11 and terrorism-related security restrictions, Stewart said.

U.S. graduate schools also face tougher competition from countries that are building and expanding their own universities in a bid to keep their scientific expertise at home, Stewart said.

"What is very, very clear is that the American miracle has been discovered and is being replicated in really large, important universities worldwide," she said.

U.S. graduate schools are likely to maintain their overall foreign enrollment figures, though they risk finding lower-quality applicants if they do not continue to maintain top-quality graduate programs that can't be found elsewhere in the world, Stewart said.

### **Local angle**

The number of graduate students at the University of Arizona increased slightly last year, to 8,574 from 8,564.

The female graduate student population grew to 4,558 from 4,523, while the number of male graduate students declined to 4,016 from 4,041.

The international student population continued a post-Sept. 11 decline. Last fall, the UA had 1,612 international graduate students, down from 1,776 the year before.

— *Eric Swedlund*