



Office of Research  
and  
Policy Analysis

# Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1996 to 2006

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## *Introduction*

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Every year since 1986, the Graduate Record Examinations Board (GRE) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) have jointly sponsored the Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees. The resulting annual Enrollment and Degrees survey report is designed to provide important information on graduate student enrollment, applications, and degrees conferred. Both organizations believe that graduate education is a vital part of U.S. higher education, and that providing an annual examination of differences in enrollment and degrees awarded by gender, race/ethnicity, and other factors is essential for understanding the graduate education enterprise.

### Survey Methodology

The CGS/GRE Enrollment and Degrees Survey is e-mailed each year to the U.S.-based institutions that as of November of each year are members of the Council of Graduate Schools or one of the four regional graduate school associations—the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS), the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), and the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS)<sup>1</sup>.

This year's survey was sent to 764 colleges and universities. Usable responses were received from 680 (89%) of the survey population. While these responding institutions represent only 38% of the approximately 1,700 institutions in the U.S. that offer graduate pro-

grams, they enroll 74% of the national total of 2.1 million graduate students, and confer 75% of the 602,000 master's degrees and 89% of the 57,000 doctorates awarded by U.S. colleges and universities<sup>2</sup>. Because the respondents represent such a large percentage of the total U.S. graduate enrollment and degrees conferred, it is likely that the trends reported here are representative of overall national figures.

### Report Contents

The tables and analyses that follow are divided into two chapters. Chapter 1 highlights the results of the fall 2006 survey, including a profile of graduate enrollment by institutional type, gender, field of study, citizenship status, and race/ethnicity (for U.S. citizens). Chapter 1 also looks at the number of applications received for admission to graduate school and the application acceptance rates by field. The number of applications and application acceptance rates are not available by any demographic characteristics. Chapter 2 presents trends in graduate enrollment and degrees awarded over the past one, five, and ten years. The tables and figures in Chapter 2 describing trends in enrollment and degrees include data from the subset of 492 colleges and universities that have consistently responded to the survey over the past decade.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey population of the CGS/GRE Survey is limited to graduate institutions in the United States. Data on graduate enrollment and degrees in Canadian institutions are published by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies at <http://www.cags.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1774>.

<sup>2</sup> Data on the total number of graduate institutions in the U.S., number of graduate students, and number of degrees conferred come from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) datasets, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>.

## *Introduction (continued)*

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### New for 2006

1) *Use of the Updated Carnegie Classification Categories:* Several tables in this report divide the responding institutions into three categories based on the 2000 Carnegie Classification system: **Doctoral/Research Extensive**—universities that award 50 or more doctoral degrees per year across at least 15 disciplines; **Doctoral/Research Intensive**—universities that award at least ten doctoral degrees per year across three or more disciplines, or at least 20 doctoral degrees per year overall; **Master’s & Specialized**—colleges and universities that are committed to graduate education through the master’s degree. While most Master’s & Specialized institutions do not award doctoral degrees, some programs at these institutions (such as medical schools) may award a limited number of doctorates. The 2000 Carnegie Classification categories replace the 1994 groupings that were included in prior Enrollment and Degrees survey reports.

2) *Certificates:* For the first time, this year’s survey report includes the number of post-baccalaureate and post-master’s certificates awarded by the responding institutions. These data are presented in Chapter 1. As this is the first time the report looks at certificate awards, complete trend data are not yet available.

3) *Long-Term Trends:* In prior years, the trend data presented in Chapter 2 reported on changes over two time-spans: a one-year period, and the time between 1986 and the year of the most recent survey (e.g., last year’s report included changes over the past 20 survey years, from 1986 to 2005). This year, the data describe trends in enrollment, applications, and master’s and doctoral degrees over three time-spans: one year, five years, and ten years. These trend data are designed to provide a more detailed picture of the direction of recent trends in graduate enrollment, applications, and degrees.

This annual report is part of CGS’s continuing effort to provide information that is useful to graduate school deans, other campus administrators, policy makers, and the media. Comments or suggestions for improving this report—or for additional types of publications based on these data—are welcome.

## *Acknowledgements*

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The 2006 Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees is conducted as a joint project between the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the Graduate Record Examinations Board (GRE). The GRE is overseen by staff of the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Completion of this final report on the CGS/GRE Enrollment and Degrees Survey would not have been possible without the valuable contributions from many individuals. In particular, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of the ETS staff, especially David Payne for his unwavering support and Dawn Piacentino for her overall direction of the project at ETS. We also want to recognize the efforts of other ETS and CGS staff: Cindy Evans of ETS, for designing the Web-based survey questionnaires, responding to questions and requests from institutional respondents, processing responses, and developing the survey response database; Janice Goggins of CGS for management of the layout and publication of the final report; and Joshua Mahler and Emily Neubig of CGS for assisting in the data collection and analysis of the report.

Finally and most importantly, very special thanks go to the graduate deans, institutional researchers, and other staff at 680 graduate schools, who took the time to complete the very complex Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees. We are extremely grateful for the time and efforts these and other persons gave to the survey project and report, but recognize that any errors found here are the sole responsibility of the author.



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## **Chapter 1**

### ***Fall 2006 Graduate Enrollment, Applications, and Degrees Awarded***

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Table 1.1

## Profile of Fall 2006 Graduate Enrollment

Institution Type	Total <sup>1</sup>	Men	Women	Full-Time	Part-Time				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589,562</b>	<b>652,939</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>928,469</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>850,054</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>734,299</b>	<b>46%</b>
<i>Public</i>	989,784	411,883	42%	577,901	58%	513,146	52%	472,320	48%
<i>Private*</i>	599,778	241,056	41%	350,568	59%	336,908	56%	261,979	44%
<b>Doctoral/Research Extensive**</b>	<b>713,233</b>	<b>342,525</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>370,708</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>474,572</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>236,343</b>	<b>33%</b>
<i>Public</i>	524,809	247,156	47%	277,653	53%	337,580	65%	184,911	35%
<i>Private*</i>	188,424	95,369	51%	93,055	49%	136,992	73%	51,432	27%
<b>Doctoral/Research Intensive**</b>	<b>249,861</b>	<b>95,117</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>151,768</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>107,284</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>142,577</b>	<b>57%</b>
<i>Public</i>	162,498	61,978	38%	100,520	62%	69,838	43%	92,660	57%
<i>Private*</i>	87,363	33,139	39%	51,248	61%	37,446	43%	49,917	57%
<b>Master's &amp; Specialized**</b>	<b>626,468</b>	<b>215,297</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>405,993</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>268,198</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>355,379</b>	<b>57%</b>
<i>Public</i>	302,477	102,749	34%	199,728	66%	105,728	35%	194,749	65%
<i>Private*</i>	323,991	112,548	35%	206,265	65%	162,470	50%	160,630	50%

<sup>1</sup>NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

\*Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

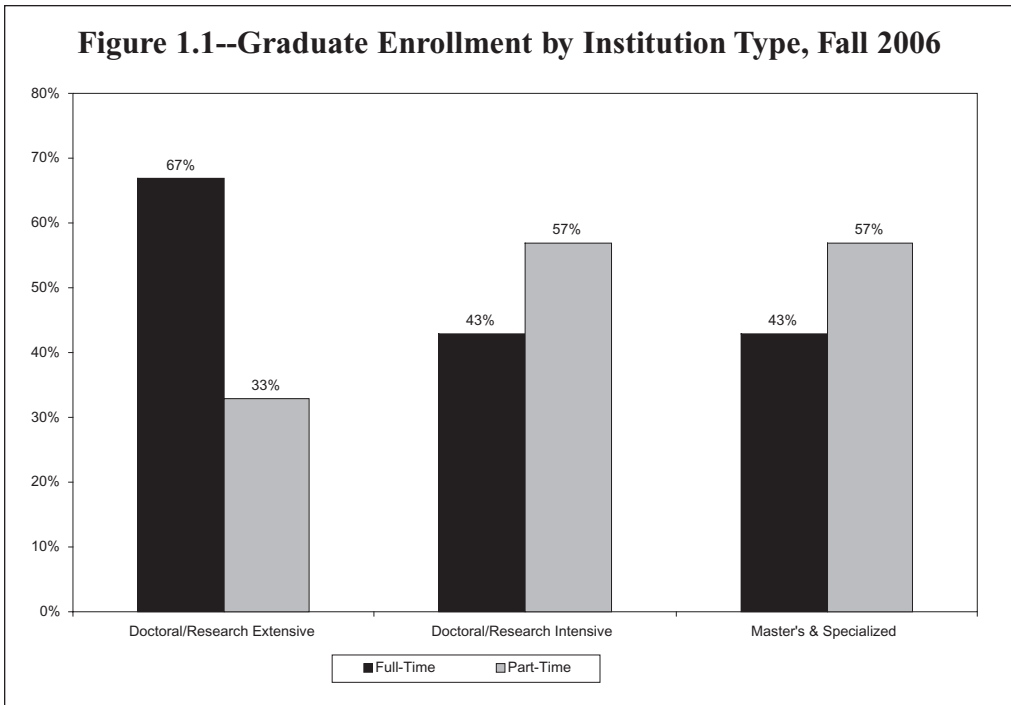
\*\*Institutions are divided into these categories based on the 2000 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

*Doctoral/Research Extensive:* These institutions typically offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs, and they are committed to graduate education through the doctorate. They award 50 or more doctoral degrees per year across at least 15 disciplines.

*Doctoral/Research Intensive:* These institutions typically offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs, and they are committed to graduate education through the doctorate. They award at least 10 doctoral degrees per year across three or more disciplines, or at least 20 doctoral degrees per year overall.

*Masters & Specialized:* These institutions typically offer a wide range of baccalaureate programs, and they are committed to graduate education through the master's degree.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- CGS member and affiliated graduate institutions enrolled nearly 1.6 million graduate students in the fall of 2006. About 59% of these students were women, and 54% of all students were enrolled full-time.
- Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions accounted for 44% of total graduate enrollment, followed by Master's & Specialized institutions (39%) and Doctoral/Research Intensive universities (16%).
- There were wide differences in the enrollment of students by gender and institutional type. About 43% of all women were enrolled at Master's & Specialized institutions, compared with only 33% of men. Conversely, 52% of all male graduate students were attending Doctoral/Research Extensive universities, versus 40% of females.
- Enrollment by attendance status (full-time versus part-time) also varied substantially by institutional type. At Master's & Specialized institutions, 57% of the graduate students attended on a part-time basis (see Figure 1.1). In contrast, at Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions, 67% were enrolled full-time.



**Table 1.2**

## Graduate Enrollment by Field, Fall 2006

Major Field	Total	Men		Women		Full-Time		Part-Time	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589,562</b>	<b>652,939</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>928,469</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>850,054</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>734,299</b>	<b>46%</b>
Biological Sciences*	68,846	31,989	46%	36,855	54%	53,935	78%	14,808	22%
Business	220,682	121,919	55%	98,136	45%	121,015	55%	99,071	45%
Education	311,517	80,134	26%	231,205	74%	115,495	37%	195,844	63%
Engineering	104,495	81,077	78%	23,257	22%	72,731	70%	31,751	30%
Health Sciences	119,999	26,510	22%	93,489	78%	75,294	63%	44,705	37%
Humanities & Arts	101,379	43,285	43%	58,052	57%	68,333	67%	33,004	33%
Physical Sciences	101,586	68,384	67%	33,066	33%	71,479	70%	30,009	30%
Public Administration and Services	55,015	13,843	25%	41,172	75%	31,238	57%	23,777	43%
Social Sciences	117,129	43,786	37%	73,339	63%	76,584	65%	40,541	35%
Other Fields**	96,400	36,760	38%	59,631	62%	46,164	48%	50,168	52%

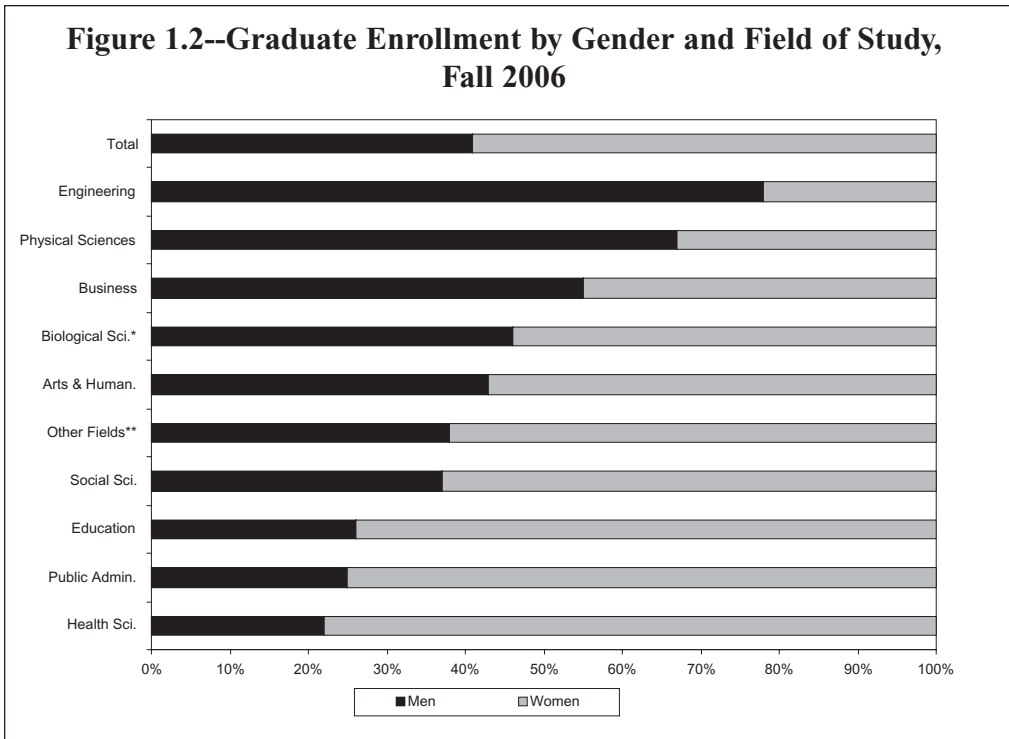
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.2--Graduate Enrollment by Gender and Field of Study, Fall 2006**



- The fields of education and business enrolled the largest shares of graduate students, accounting for 24% and 17%, respectively, of total fall 2006 graduate enrollment. These two fields, and public administration and services, also had the highest proportions of part-time students, as Table 1.2 shows.
- Graduate enrollment differed markedly by gender within the fields. In business, for example, 55% of the students were male, while 74% of those studying education were female.
- The traditionally male-dominated fields of engineering, physical sciences, and business collectively enrolled 50% of men, while the fields that traditionally enroll the highest shares of women (health sciences, public administration & services, and education) accounted for 49% of total female graduate enrollment.
- There were some minor differences in enrollment status by field of study. The biological and physical sciences and engineering fields had the highest shares of students enrolled full-time (each at 70% or higher), while the majority of students majoring in education were enrolled part-time.

**Table 1.3**

**Fall 2006 Graduate Enrollment  
by Institution Type and Citizenship**

Institution Type	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589,562</b>	<b>1,216,211</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>224,590</b>	<b>16%</b>
<i>Public</i>	989,784	775,103	84%	148,947	16%
<i>Private*</i>	599,778	441,108	85%	75,643	15%
<b>Doctoral/Research Extensive**</b>	713,233	510,549	77%	155,568	23%
<i>Public</i>	524,809	389,454	78%	110,718	22%
<i>Private*</i>	188,424	121,095	73%	44,850	27%
<b>Doctoral/Research Intensive**</b>	249,861	203,282	87%	29,632	13%
<i>Public</i>	162,498	128,554	87%	19,287	13%
<i>Private*</i>	87,363	74,728	88%	10,345	12%
<b>Master's &amp; Specialized**</b>	626,468	502,380	93%	39,390	7%
<i>Public</i>	302,477	257,095	93%	18,942	7%
<i>Private*</i>	323,991	245,285	92%	20,448	8%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

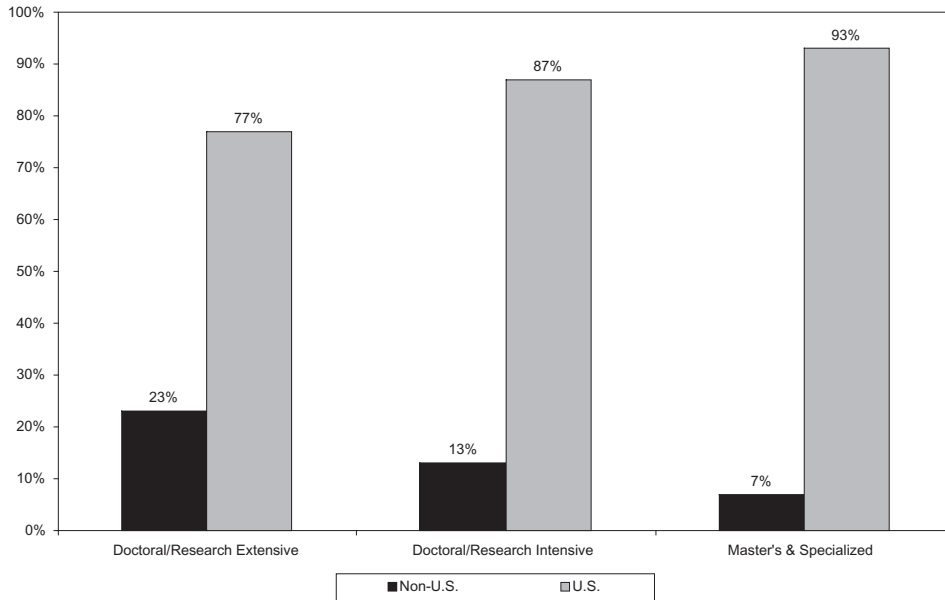
Percentages are based on total of known citizenship.

\*Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

\*\*See Table 1.1 for definitions of institution type categories.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.3--Graduate Enrollment by Institution Type and Citizenship, Fall 2006**



- In the fall of 2006, the 224,590 non-U.S. citizens enrolled in CGS member and affiliated institutions accounted for 16% of total graduate enrollment. Public and private institutions had nearly identical percentages of international students.
- More than two-thirds of all international graduate students were enrolled at Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions. International students accounted for 23% of total graduate enrollment on those campuses, versus 13% at Doctoral/Research Intensive universities and 7% at Master's & Specialized institutions.
- International students accounted for 27% of the total graduate enrollment at private Doctoral/Research Extensive universities. In contrast, just 8% of those who attended private Master's & Specialized institutions were non-U.S. citizens.

**Table 1.4**

## Fall 2006 Graduate Enrollment by Field and Citizenship

Major Field	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,584,622</b>	<b>1,216,211</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>224,590</b>	<b>16%</b>
Biological Sciences*	72,983	48,010	73%	17,493	27%
Business	237,230	161,833	84%	29,834	16%
Education	352,887	278,009	96%	11,020	4%
Engineering	104,495	50,948	52%	47,700	48%
Health Sciences	124,136	99,649	91%	9,683	9%
Humanities & Arts	130,338	78,892	86%	13,034	14%
Physical Sciences	126,408	57,138	60%	38,351	40%
Public Administration and Services	59,152	47,701	95%	2,360	5%
Social Sciences	141,951	91,040	85%	16,420	15%
Other Fields**	117,085	79,147	89%	9,533	11%

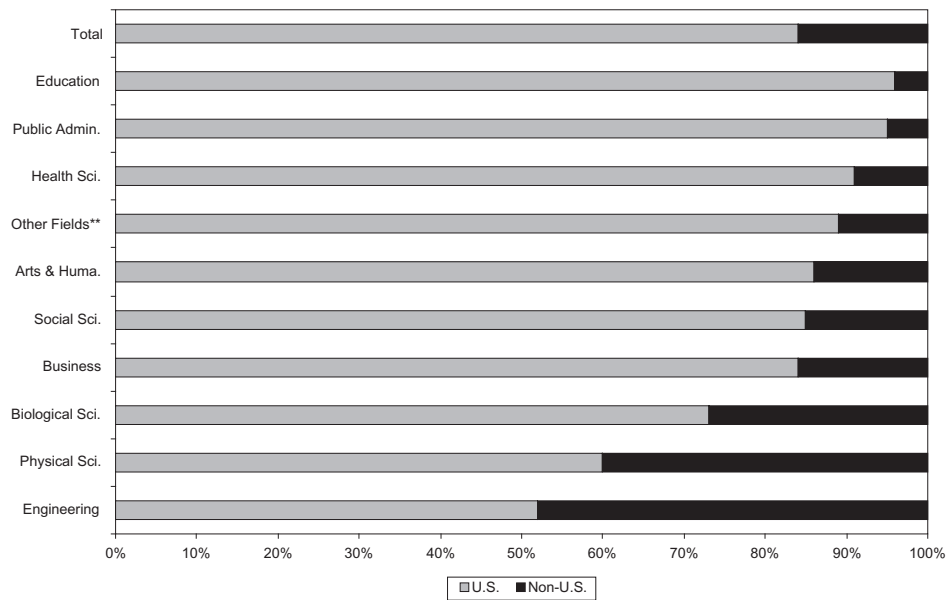
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known citizenship.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.4--Fall 2006 Graduate Enrollment by Field and Citizenship**



- Enrollment rates of international and domestic graduate students varied greatly by field of study. For example, international students accounted for 48% of the total enrollment in engineering, compared with just 4% in education.
- Biological sciences, engineering, and physical sciences collectively represented 53% of total non-U.S. citizen graduate enrollment. Only 16% of U.S. citizens were enrolled in these disciplines.
- The largest fields for U.S. citizens—education, business, and health sciences—accounted for 54% of their total graduate enrollment. Just 26% of international students were enrolled in these subject areas.

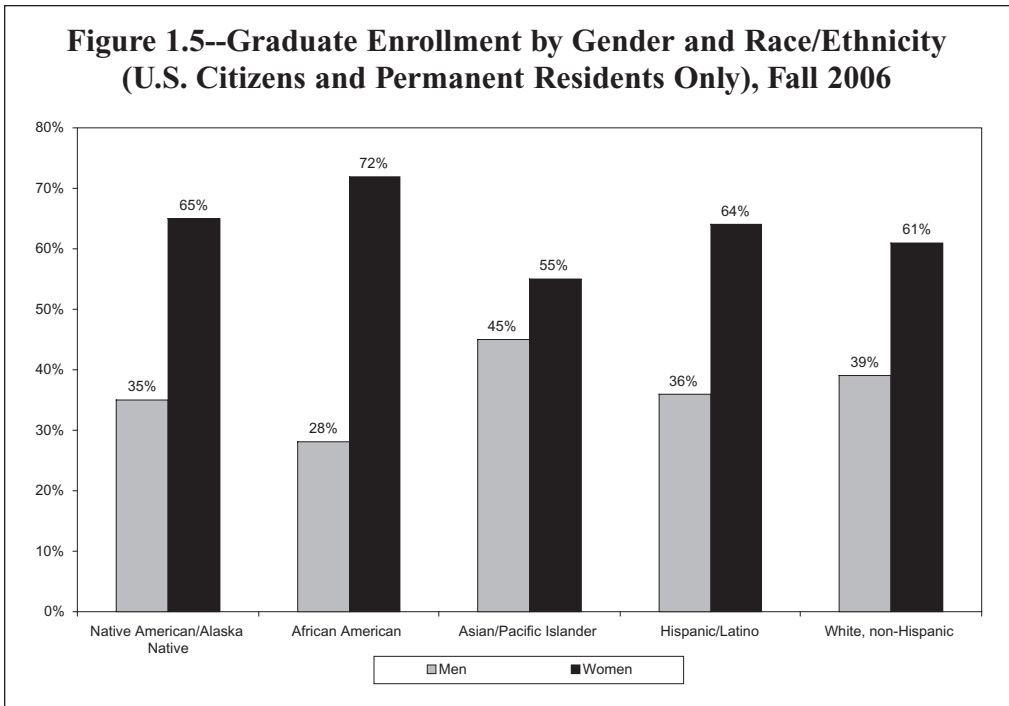
Table 1.5

## U.S. Graduate Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group, Fall 2006

Ethnic Group	Total		Men		Women	
<b>Total U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>1,227,352</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>460,495</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>755,716</b>	<b>100%</b>
Native American/Alaska Native	9,197	1%	3,184	1%	5,886	1%
African American	155,230	13%	42,931	13%	111,829	15%
Asian/Pacific Islander	75,820	6%	34,397	6%	41,011	5%
Hispanic/Latino	96,570	8%	34,827	8%	61,127	8%
White, non-Hispanic	890,535	72%	345,156	73%	535,863	71%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by gender are based on total of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.  
Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.5--Graduate Enrollment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only), Fall 2006**



- About 28% of all U.S. citizen and permanent resident graduate students were members of racial/ethnic minority groups. African Americans, the largest minority group, accounted for 13% of total enrollment, followed by Latinos (8%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (6%).
- Women accounted for the majority of enrollees among all racial/ethnic groups, particularly minorities. Nearly three-quarters of all African American graduate students were women; women also represented 65% of Native American/Alaska Native and 64% of Latino enrollment.
- Collectively, women represented 65% of total racial/ethnic minority graduate students (compared with 61% of non-Hispanic Whites).



**Table 1.6**

**Graduate Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group and Field of Study, Fall 2006  
(U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)**

Major Field	Native American/ Alaska Native		African American		Asian/Pacific Islander		Hispanic/ Latino		White, Non-Hispanic	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,197</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>155,230</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75,820</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>96,570</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>890,535</b>	<b>100%</b>
Biological Sciences*	360	5%	2,596	2%	4,179	7%	2,916	4%	38,335	5%
Business	1,037	14%	25,003	22%	15,153	24%	12,891	17%	108,068	15%
Education	2,254	30%	34,978	31%	8,536	14%	22,734	30%	211,215	29%
Engineering	245	3%	3,072	3%	7,786	12%	3,382	4%	36,575	5%
Health Sciences	693	9%	10,530	9%	7,208	11%	5,454	7%	76,538	10%
Humanities and Arts	560	7%	4,209	4%	3,379	5%	6,379	8%	64,829	9%
Physical Sciences	324	4%	3,336	3%	6,198	10%	3,471	5%	44,071	6%
Public Administration and Services	538	7%	8,986	8%	1,828	3%	4,604	6%	31,849	4%
Social Sciences	893	12%	10,381	9%	5,034	8%	8,536	11%	66,501	9%
Other Fields**	610	8%	9,104	8%	3,532	6%	5,539	7%	60,663	8%

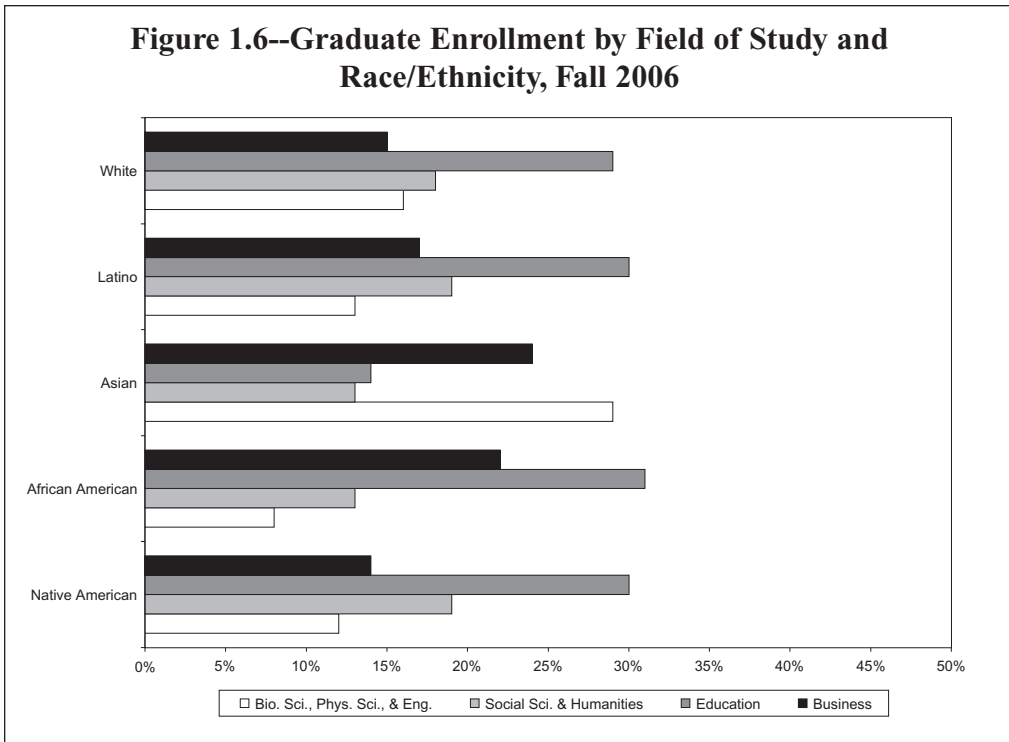
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by ethnicity are based on total of known field.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Table 1.6**



- The two largest disciplines of study for minority students were education and business. About 53% of African American graduate students, 47% of Latinos, and 44% of Native Americans were enrolled in these two fields (44% of White students were enrolled in these fields as well). Education accounted for the largest share of the enrollment for all racial/ethnic groups except Asians.
- Business was among the most popular fields for members of all U.S. ethnic groups. Roughly 24% of Asian Americans, 22% of African Americans, 17% of Hispanics/Latinos, and 15% of non-Hispanic Whites were seeking degrees in business-related programs.
- Engineering, physical sciences, and biological sciences accounted for very low shares of under-represented minorities. Only 8% of African Americans, 12% of Native Americans, and 13% of Latinos were enrolled in these fields (compared with 16% of non-Hispanic Whites). Conversely, 29% of Asian Americans were enrolled in these three disciplines.

Table 1.7

### Profile of Fall 2006 First-Time Graduate Enrollment

Institution Type	Total	Men	Women	Full-Time	Part-Time				
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,227</b>	<b>152,089</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>212,703</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>225,806</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>138,585</b>	<b>38%</b>
<i>Public</i>	235,494	98,749	42%	135,492	58%	150,119	64%	83,612	36%
<i>Private*</i>	130,733	53,340	41%	77,211	59%	75,687	58%	54,973	42%
<b>Doctoral/Research Extensive**</b>	<b>180,286</b>	<b>85,349</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>94,937</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>139,036</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>40,785</b>	<b>23%</b>
<i>Public</i>	131,120	61,411	47%	69,709	53%	100,034	77%	30,621	23%
<i>Private*</i>	49,166	23,938	49%	25,228	51%	39,002	79%	10,164	21%
<b>Doctoral/Research Intensive**</b>	<b>58,741</b>	<b>22,977</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>34,597</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>31,898</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>25,676</b>	<b>45%</b>
<i>Public</i>	40,527	15,356	39%	24,004	61%	21,481	55%	17,879	45%
<i>Private*</i>	18,214	7,621	42%	10,593	58%	10,417	57%	7,797	43%
<b>Master's &amp; Specialized**</b>	<b>127,200</b>	<b>43,763</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>83,169</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>63,716</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>63,280</b>	<b>50%</b>
<i>Public</i>	63,847	21,982	34%	41,779	66%	28,604	52%	26,268	48%
<i>Private*</i>	63,353	21,781	34%	41,390	66%	35,112	49%	37,012	51%

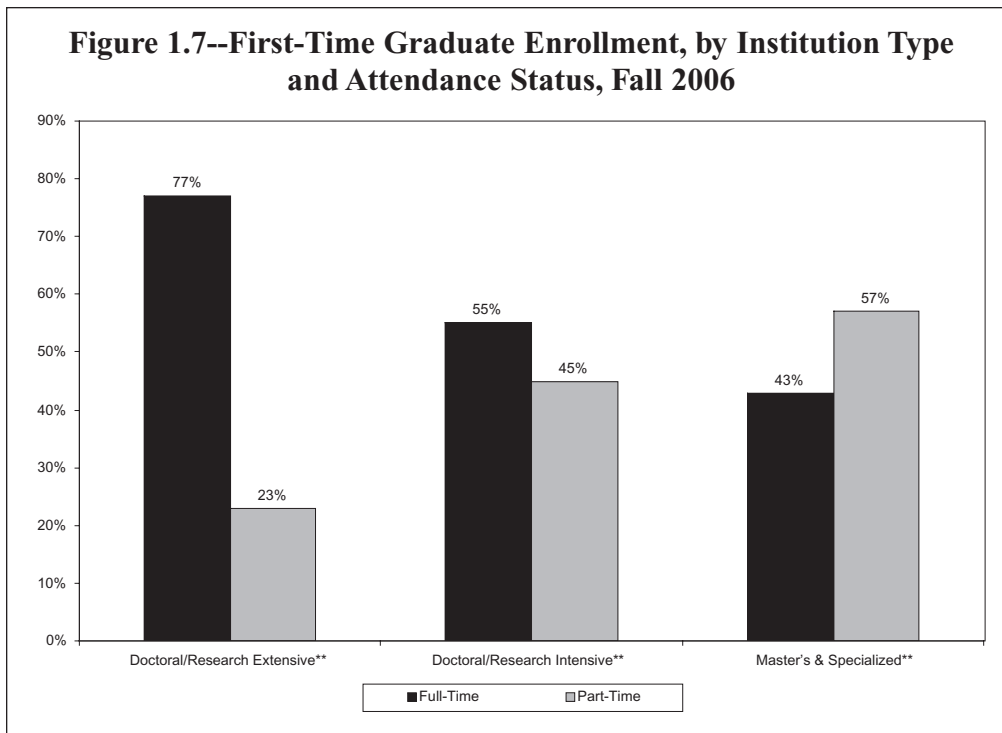
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

\*Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

\*\*See Table 1.1 for definitions of institution type categories.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.7--First-Time Graduate Enrollment, by Institution Type and Attendance Status, Fall 2006**



- In the fall of 2006, first-time attendees represented 23% of total graduate enrollment. Public colleges and universities enrolled 64% of the first-time attendees, slightly higher than the 62% of total enrollment.
- Doctoral/Research Extensive universities enrolled the highest percentage of first-time students (49%), followed by Master's & Specialized institutions (35%) and Doctoral/Research Intensive universities (16%).
- There were major differences between first-time men and women in terms of the types of institutions they attended. Roughly 66% of the first-time students enrolled at Master's & Specialized institutions were women, while 47% of the first-time enrollees at Research/Doctoral Extensive universities were men.
- Collectively, almost 40% of the first-time female graduate students attended Master's & Specialized institutions, compared with 29% of males. On the other hand, 56% of the first-time male students were attending Doctoral/Research Extensive universities.
- Roughly 77% of first-time students at Doctoral/Research Extensive universities were enrolled full-time, compared with 55% at Doctoral/Research Intensive institutions and 50% at Master's & Specialized schools.

Table 1.8

**Profile of Fall 2006 First-Time Graduate Enrollment  
by Major Field of Study, Gender, and Attendance Status**

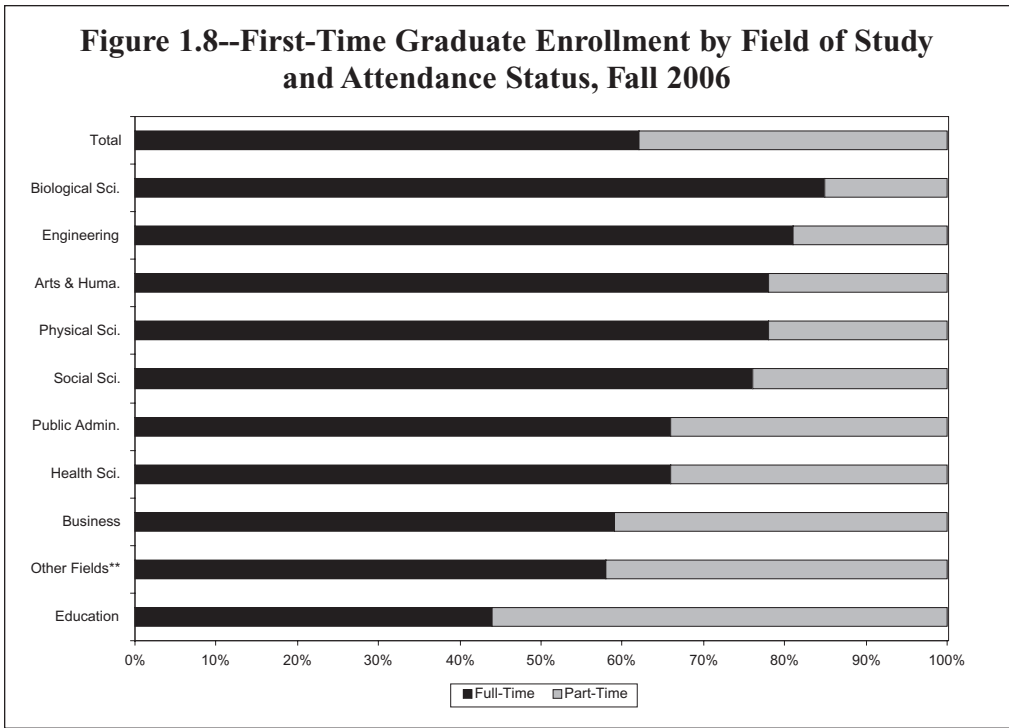
Major Field	Total	Men	Women	Full-Time	Part-Time				
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,227</b>	<b>152,089</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>212,703</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>225,806</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>138,585</b>	<b>38%</b>
Biological Sciences*	15,223	6,764	44%	8,452	56%	12,891	85%	2,305	15%
Business	52,069	30,348	58%	21,563	42%	30,384	59%	21,527	41%
Education	68,084	17,603	26%	49,998	74%	29,446	44%	38,174	56%
Engineering	27,969	21,480	77%	6,435	23%	22,478	81%	5,437	19%
Health Sciences	32,005	7,110	22%	24,755	78%	20,921	66%	10,944	34%
Humanities & Arts	26,608	11,165	42%	15,115	58%	20,602	78%	5,912	22%
Physical Sciences	24,599	16,199	66%	8,331	34%	19,156	78%	5,374	22%
Public Administration and Services	18,299	4,346	24%	13,868	76%	12,053	66%	6,161	34%
Social Sciences	30,195	11,347	38%	18,787	62%	23,016	76%	7,118	24%
Other Fields**	29,955	11,600	28%	29,955	72%	17,387	58%	12,519	42%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

\*“Biological Sciences” includes agriculture.

\*\*The category “Other Fields” includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Enrollment rates by field of study for first-time students were similar to those for all students (see Table 1.2). Education (21%), business (16%), and health sciences (10%) were the fields with the largest shares of first-time student enrollment. Biological sciences, engineering, and physical sciences collectively accounted for less than 21% of total first-time enrollment.
- Women constituted the overwhelming majority (70% or more) of the enrollment in education, health sciences, public administration & services, education, and “other fields.” These disciplines represented 60% of the total first-time female graduate enrollment.
- Men were the majority of first-time students in engineering, business, and physical sciences. These fields accounted for 49% of total male first-time enrollees.
- The biological sciences had the highest share of first-time students who were enrolled full-time (85%), followed by engineering (81%), physical sciences (78%), and humanities & arts (78%). In contrast, just 44% of the first-time students in education were enrolled full-time.

**Table 1.9**

**Fall 2006 First-Time Graduate Enrollment  
by Institution Type and Citizenship**

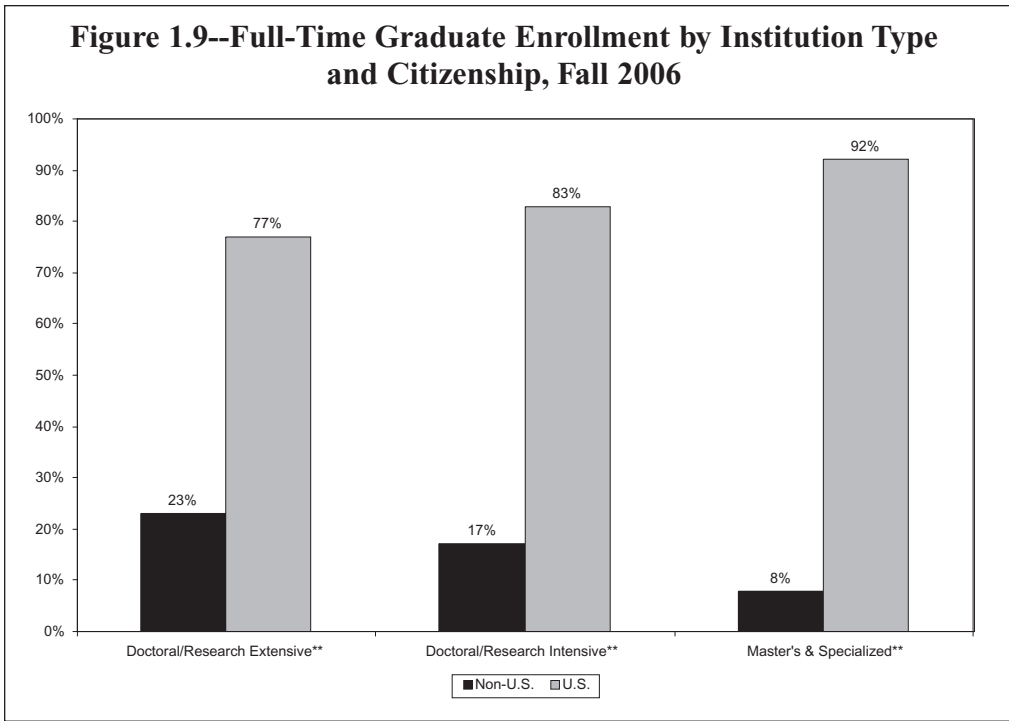
Institution Type	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,227</b>	<b>276,740</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>57,101</b>	<b>17%</b>
<i>Public</i>	235,494	182,733	83%	38,304	17%
<i>Private*</i>	130,733	94,007	83%	18,797	17%
<b>Doctoral/Research Extensive*</b>	180,286	127,121	77%	38,976	23%
<i>Public</i>	131,120	96,555	78%	27,173	22%
<i>Private*</i>	49,166	30,566	72%	11,803	28%
<b>Doctoral/Research Intensive**</b>	58,741	44,459	83%	8,992	17%
<i>Public</i>	40,527	31,137	84%	5,943	16%
<i>Private*</i>	18,214	13,322	81%	3,049	19%
<b>Master's &amp; Specialized**</b>	127,200	105,160	92%	9,133	8%
<i>Public</i>	63,847	55,041	91%	5,188	9%
<i>Private*</i>	63,353	50,119	93%	3,945	7%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known citizenship.

\*Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

\*\*See Table 1.1 for definitions of institution type categories.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Roughly 17% of the first-time attendees at the responding institutions were international students, approximately equal to the share of all graduate students who were non-U.S. citizens (see Table 1.3).
- There were substantial differences in the types of institutions attended by domestic and international first-time graduate students. While about two-thirds of first-time non-citizens were enrolled at Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions, just 46% of first-time U.S. citizens attended these universities. About 23% of all first-time graduate students at these universities were non-citizens.
- Roughly 38% of first-time U.S. citizen students attended Master's & Specialized colleges and universities. In contrast, just 16% of international students attended these institutions. More than 90% of the first-time students at Master's & Specialized graduate schools were U.S. citizens.



**Table 1.10**

**Fall 2006 First-Time Graduate Enrollment  
by Field and Citizenship**

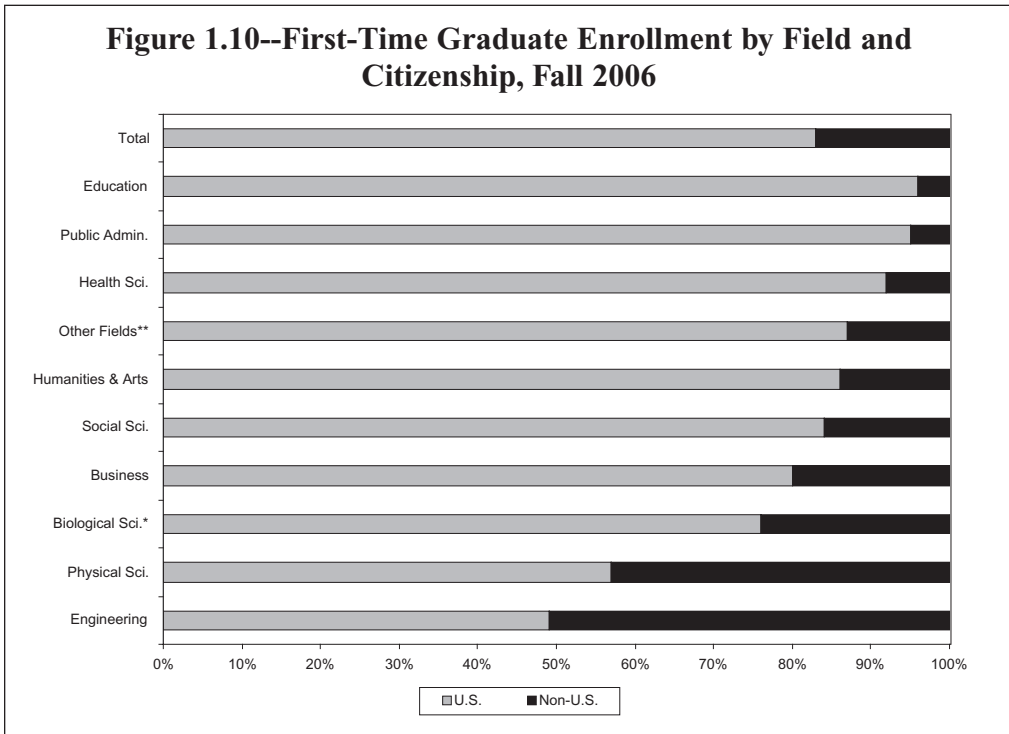
Major Field	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
<b>Total</b>	<b>366,227</b>	<b>276,740</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>57,101</b>	<b>17%</b>
Biological Sciences*	14,345	10,893	76%	3,452	24%
Business	46,796	37,204	80%	9,592	20%
Education	62,794	60,229	96%	2,565	4%
Engineering	26,306	12,871	49%	13,435	51%
Health Sciences	29,503	27,214	92%	2,289	8%
Humanities & Arts	23,661	20,371	86%	3,290	14%
Physical Sciences	23,020	13,204	57%	9,816	43%
Public Administration and Services	16,579	15,674	95%	905	5%
Social Sciences	27,300	23,032	84%	4,268	16%
Other Fields**	27,259	23,748	87%	3,511	13%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known citizenship.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Similar to total enrollment, the most popular fields of study for international first-time graduate students were biological sciences, engineering, and physical sciences. These fields accounted for about one-half of the total first-time non-U.S. citizen enrollment in fall 2006, compared with just 15% of first-time U.S. citizens.
- More than half the total first-time enrollment in engineering, and 43% in physical sciences, were international students. On the other hand, non-U.S. citizens accounted for fewer than 10% of the enrollment in education, health sciences, and public administration & services.

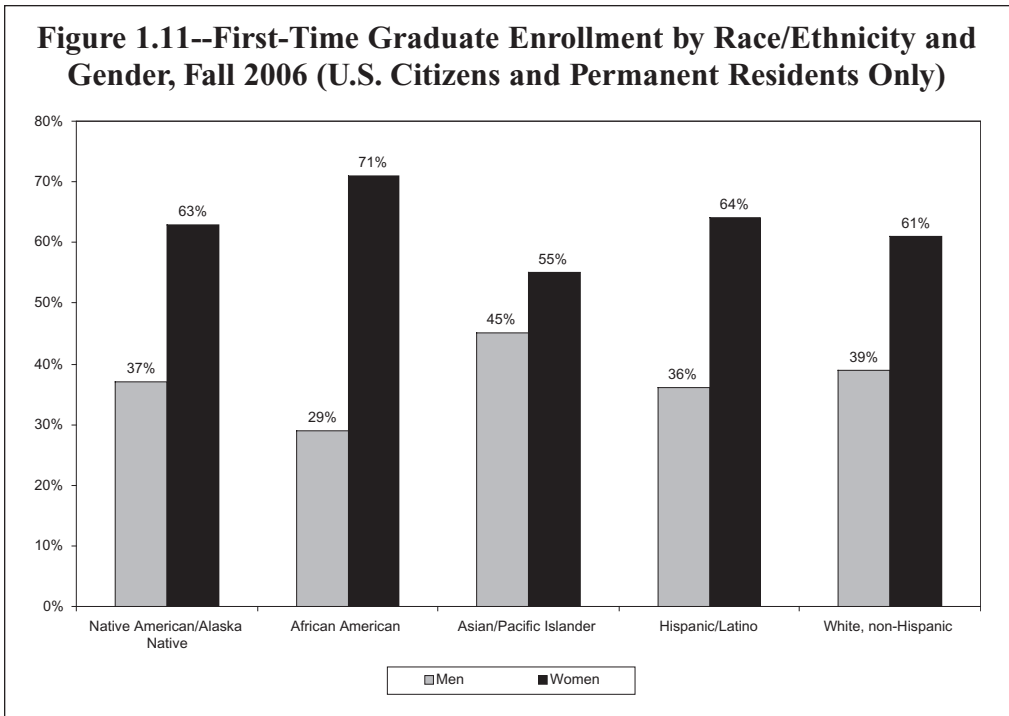
Table 1.11

### U.S. First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group, Fall 2006

Ethnic Group	Total	Men		Women	
<b>Total U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>276,740</b>	<b>105,157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>171,583</b>	<b>100%</b>
Native American/Alaska Native	1,987	742	1%	1,245	1%
African American	29,598	8,600	11%	20,998	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander	18,591	8,446	7%	10,145	6%
Hispanic/Latino	23,507	8,372	8%	15,135	9%
White, non-Hispanic	203,057	78,997	73%	124,060	72%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.  
Percentages by gender are based on total of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.  
Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.11--First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Fall 2006 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)**



- First-time enrollment of racial/ethnic minorities follows similar patterns as those seen for total enrollment (see Table 1.5). About 27% of the first-time graduate students were members of racial/ethnic minority groups.
- Women accounted for 62% of total first-time attendance. Among racial/ethnic minority groups, women represented 64% of first-time enrollment, compared with 61% of non-Hispanic Whites.
- About 71% of African American first-time students were women, compared with 64% of Latinos and 55% of Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Table 1.12

**Fall 2006 First-Time Graduate Enrollment by Field  
and Race/Ethnicity (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)**

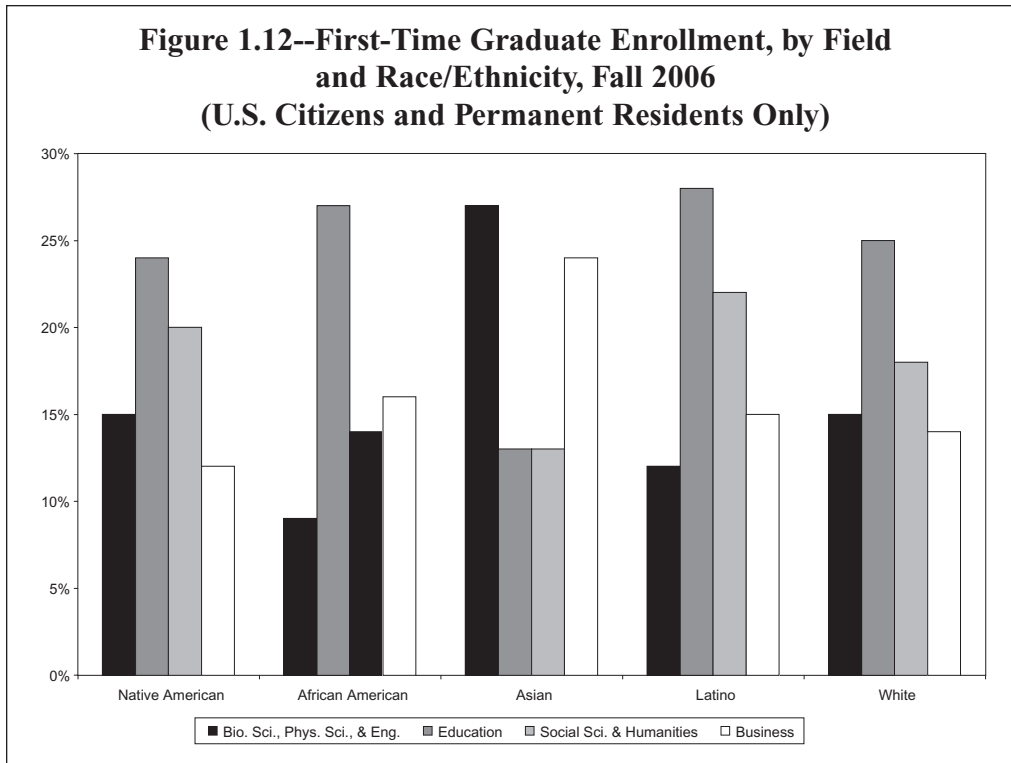
Major Field	Native American/ Alaska Native		African American		Asian/Pacific Islander		Hispanic/ Latino		White, Non-Hispanic	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29,763</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,730</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,607</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>205,179</b>	<b>100%</b>
Biological Sciences*	94	6%	630	3%	1,061	6%	650	3%	8,542	5%
Business	198	12%	3,810	16%	3,973	24%	3,179	15%	26,064	14%
Education	411	24%	6,419	27%	2,179	13%	5,775	28%	45,588	25%
Engineering	74	4%	807	3%	2,095	12%	855	4%	9,053	5%
Health Sciences	161	9%	2,503	10%	2,092	12%	1,376	7%	21,116	12%
Humanities and Arts	154	9%	1,064	4%	884	5%	1,853	9%	16,443	9%
Physical Sciences	92	5%	766	3%	1,453	9%	1,040	5%	9,875	5%
Public Administration and Services	171	10%	2,723	11%	664	4%	1,448	7%	10,704	6%
Social Sciences	187	11%	2,341	10%	1,342	8%	2,668	13%	16,503	9%
Other Fields**	164	10%	2,810	12%	1,154	7%	1,764	9%	17,867	10%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by ethnicity are based on total of known field.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Enrollment by field patterns for the first-time racial/ethnic minority graduate students mirror those shown for total enrollment (see Table 1.6). About 9% of African American, 12% of Latino, and 15% of Native American first-time students were enrolled in biological sciences, engineering, and physical sciences. In contrast, 27% of Asian/Pacific Islander Americans were majoring in these fields.
- Education was the largest field of study for all U.S. racial/ethnic first-time attendees except Asian/Pacific Islanders. Only 13% of Asian/Pacific Islanders were majoring in education-related programs, compared with about one quarter of Native Americans, African Americans, non-Hispanic Whites, and Hispanics/Latinos.
- The largest field of study for Asian Americans was business (24%). In contrast, just 16% of African Americans, 14% of Whites, and 15% of Latinos were in this field.

**Table 1.13**

## Graduate Applications by Field, Fall 2006

Major Field	Total			Total			Total	Accepted	
	Master's Applications	Accepted Applications	Accepted	Doctoral Applications	Accepted Applications	Accepted			
<b>Total</b>	<b>830,282</b>	<b>479,540</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>438,690</b>	<b>110,660</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>1,268,972</b>	<b>590,200</b>	<b>46%</b>
Biological Sciences*	27,647	13,303	48%	55,224	12,625	23%	82,871	25,928	31%
Business	140,874	77,152	55%	15,705	2,849	18%	156,579	80,001	51%
Education	116,481	88,504	76%	20,395	9,632	47%	136,876	98,136	72%
Engineering	94,969	47,155	50%	67,312	19,753	29%	162,281	66,908	41%
Health Sciences	67,843	37,169	55%	25,168	8,212	33%	93,011	45,381	49%
Humanities & Arts	78,377	32,879	42%	54,194	12,476	23%	132,571	45,355	34%
Physical Sciences	58,605	29,682	51%	81,523	22,077	27%	140,128	51,759	37%
Public Administration and Services	38,515	26,448	69%	3,051	1,007	33%	41,566	27,455	66%
Social Sciences	68,558	39,064	57%	93,867	16,868	18%	162,425	55,932	34%
Other Fields**	70,183	43,442	62%	14,106	4,167	29%	84,289	47,609	56%

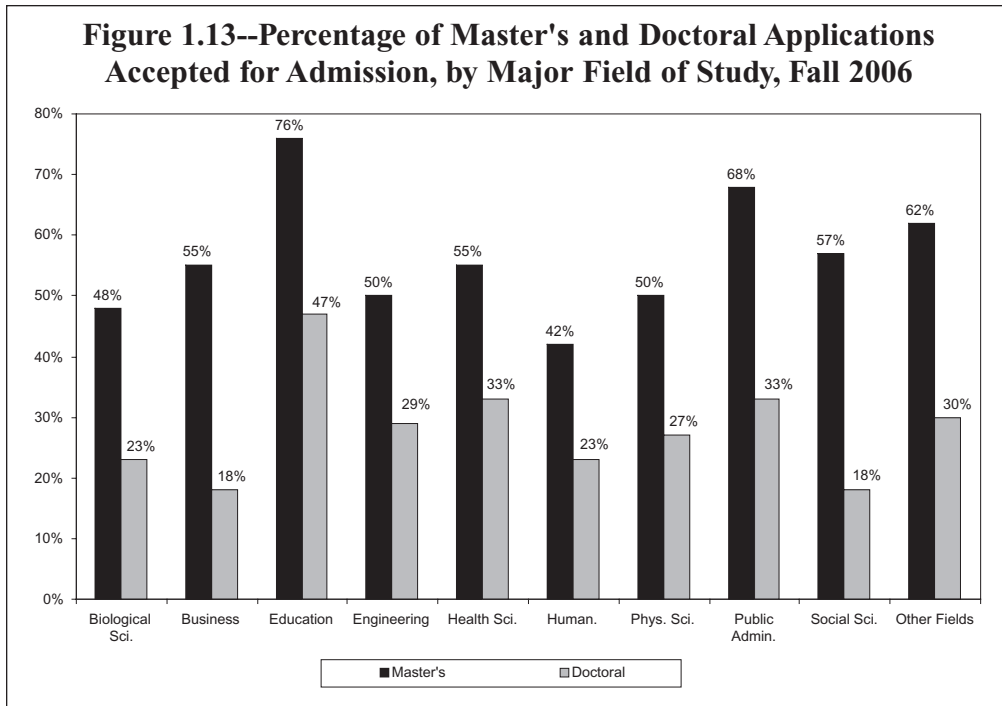
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known acceptance status.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Table 1.13**



- Of the 1.26 million applications for admission to graduate study received by responding institutions in fall 2006, roughly 830,000 (65%) were for admission to master's degree programs. Business, education, and engineering were the most popular fields among master's programs—collectively, these three programs accounted for 46% of the total master's program applications.
- The three largest fields of study for applications to doctoral programs were social sciences (22%), physical sciences (19%), and engineering (16%).
- Only 46% of the total applications were offered admission. However, acceptance rates varied by degree program and field of study. Approximately 58% of master's applications were accepted, compared with only 25% of those for doctoral study. Within the fields of study, there was a wide range of acceptance rates. Rates of acceptance ranged from a low of 18% for doctoral programs in business and social sciences to a high of 76% for master's programs in education.
- Collectively, biological sciences, physical sciences, and engineering master's programs had a 50% acceptance rate, while doctoral programs reported a 27% rate of acceptance.
- Several factors may influence the differences in acceptance rates by program. Education and public administration & service, for example, are often seen as part of the service mission of universities and therefore tend to have higher acceptance rates.



**Table 1.14**

**Graduate Degrees Awarded by Field, 2005-2006**

Major Field	Master's		Doctoral		Certificate	
<b>Total</b>	<b>451,375</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>50,669</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,199</b>	<b>100%</b>
Biological Sciences*	10,485	3%	5,833	13%	273	2%
Business	83,941	22%	1,429	3%	1,205	11%
Education	110,141	29%	6,063	13%	4,906	44%
Engineering	27,270	7%	6,803	15%	455	4%
Health Sciences	29,113	8%	4,914	11%	1,350	12%
Humanities & Arts	22,006	6%	4,713	10%	427	4%
Physical Sciences	21,865	6%	6,852	15%	471	4%
Public Administration and Services	20,037	5%	433	1%	419	4%
Social Sciences	25,441	7%	6,594	14%	1,011	9%
Other Fields**	25,653	7%	1,930	4%	757	7%

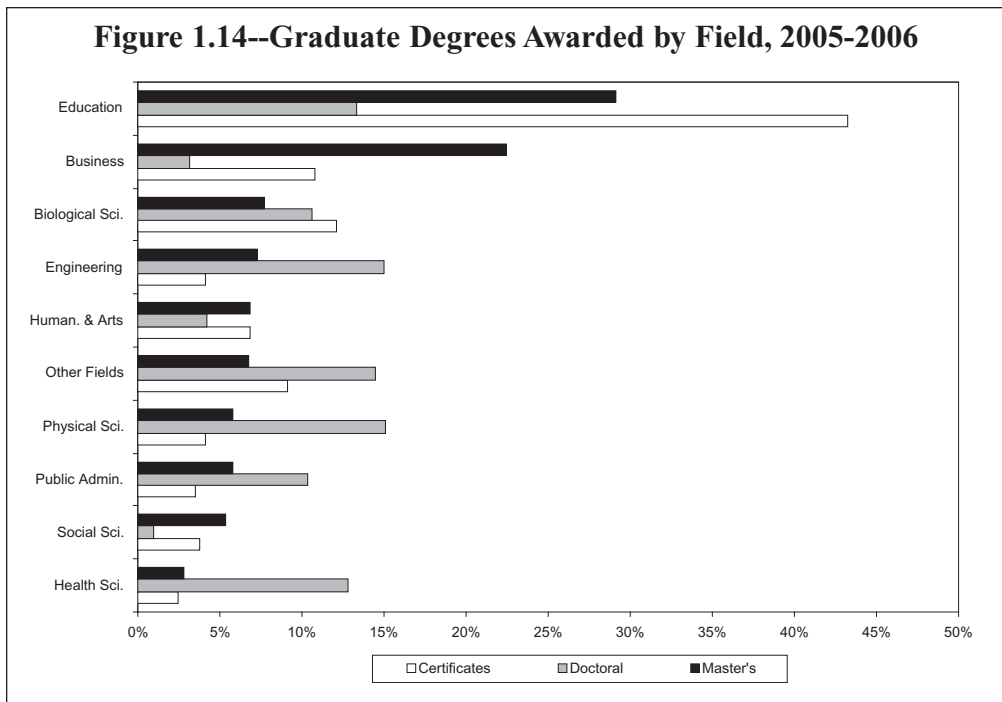
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Table 1.14**



- In 2005-2006, responding institutions conferred almost 520,000 degrees and certificates. More than 87% of these awards were master's, 10% were doctorates, and 3% were post-baccalaureate and post-master's certificates.
- The two largest fields of enrollment—education and business—also represented the largest fields in terms of numbers of master's degrees. They represented 29% and 22% of the total awards granted, respectively. Science and engineering programs accounted for 16% of master's awards.
- However, business and education represented just 3% and 13% of total doctorates. Science and engineering programs accounted for 43% of doctoral awards.
- There were vast differences in the proportion of master's and doctoral awards granted by field. In education, for instance, roughly 91% of the total awards granted were master's degrees, and only 5% were doctorates. In engineering, on the other hand, master's accounted for 78% of total awards and doctorates represented 20%.
- About 44% of certificates were awarded in education-related disciplines. Health sciences (12%) and business (11%) also accounted for large shares of certificate awards. Science and engineering fields collectively represented just 10% of certificates.

**Table 1.15**

## Graduate Degrees Awarded by Field and Gender, 2005-2006

Major Field	Master's					Doctoral				
	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>Total</b>	<b>451,375</b>	<b>161,663</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>226,950</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>50,669</b>	<b>22,642</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>20,563</b>	<b>48%</b>
Biological Sciences*	10,402	4,590	44%	5,812	56%	5,806	3,029	52%	2,777	48%
Business	83,656	48,781	58%	34,875	42%	1,429	872	61%	557	39%
Education	108,814	26,480	24%	82,334	76%	6,050	2,070	34%	3,980	66%
Engineering	27,211	20,924	77%	6,287	23%	6,798	5,432	80%	1,366	20%
Health Sciences	28,891	5,721	20%	23,170	80%	4,816	1,622	34%	3,194	66%
Humanities & Arts	21,675	8,712	40%	12,963	60%	4,713	2,262	48%	2,451	52%
Physical Sciences	21,746	14,299	66%	7,447	34%	6,843	4,819	70%	2,024	30%
Public Administration and Services	19,982	4,680	23%	15,302	77%	433	183	42%	250	58%
Social Sciences	25,286	9,222	36%	16,064	64%	6,582	2,727	41%	3,855	59%
Other Fields**	25,464	9,545	37%	15,919	63%	1,930	974	50%	956	50%

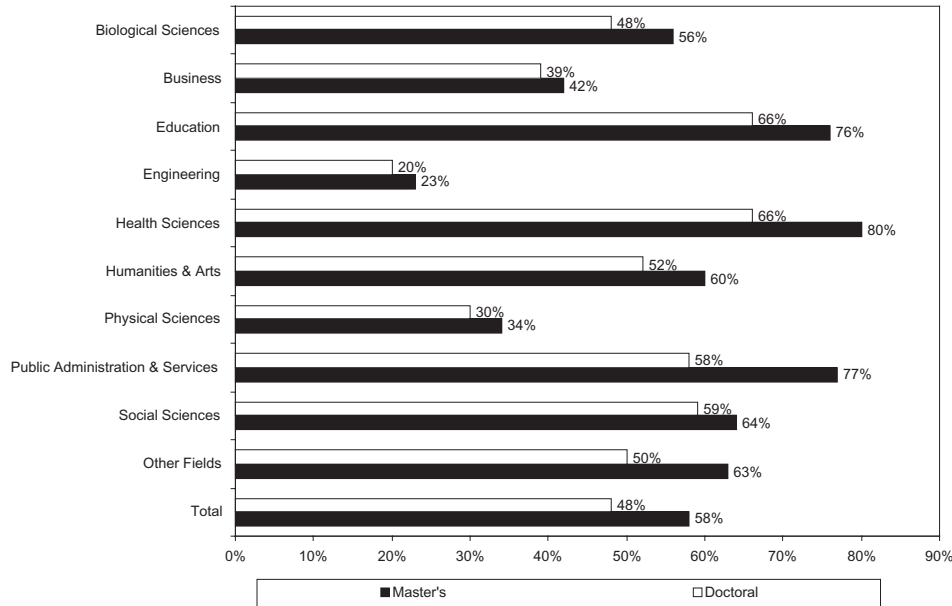
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known gender.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 1.15--Percentage of Graduate Degrees Awarded to Women, 2005-2006**



- In 2005-2006, women accounted for 58% of all master’s degrees granted by responding institutions. Women’s share of master’s degrees was particularly pronounced in the fields of health sciences (80%), public administration & services (77%), and education (76%). Collectively, these fields represented 55% of all master’s degrees received by women. Men earned the majority of master’s degrees in business, engineering, and physical sciences. These three disciplines accounted for 55% of the degrees earned by men.
- Men earned 52% of the total doctorates conferred in 2005-2006. There were very large shares of degrees awarded to men in engineering (80%), physical sciences (70%), and business (61%). These fields represented 46% of the total awards conferred to men.
- The differences in master’s and doctoral degrees awarded to men and women mirror the gender differences in total enrollment (see Table 1.2).



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## Chapter 2

### *Trends in Graduate Enrollment, Applications, and Degrees 1996-2006*

This chapter presents information on percentage changes in one-, five-, and ten-year periods for graduate enrollment, applications for admission, and master's and doctoral degrees conferred from 1996 to 2006. The one-year period includes changes in enrollment, applications, and degrees from 2005 to 2006. The five-year period includes average annual percentage changes in these categories from 2001 to 2006, and the ten-year period includes average annual percentage changes from 1996 to 2006. Data for all three time periods were calculated based on information from institutions that responded to the Enrollment and Degrees Survey in each of the three time periods under examination. The average annual percentage change statistics provide a useful summary measure of change over time and, like a moving average, are not influenced by unusual single-year fluctuations in the data.

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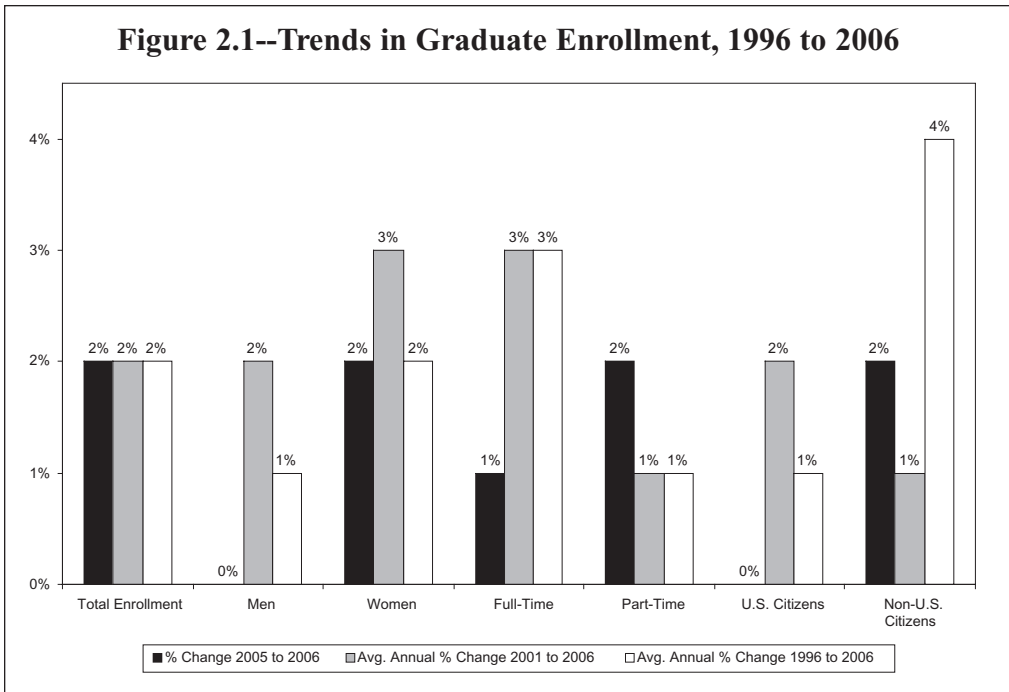
**Table 2.1**

**Trends in Graduate Enrollment, 1996 to 2006**

	% Change 2005-2006	Average Annual % Change 2001-2006	Average Annual % Change 1996-2006
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Enrollment by Gender</b>			
<i>Men</i>	0%	2%	1%
<i>Women</i>	2%	3%	2%
<b>Enrollment by Attendance Status</b>			
<i>Full-time</i>	1%	3%	3%
<i>Part-time</i>	2%	1%	1%
<b>Enrollment by Citizenship Status</b>			
<i>U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents</i>	0%	2%	1%
<i>Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents</i>	2%	1%	4%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Graduate enrollment has grown at a consistent 2% average annual rate over the one-, 5-, and 10-year periods.
- One of the chief reasons for the overall increase in graduate enrollment has been the sustained growth in the number of women. During the 1996-to-2006 period, total enrollment of women rose by 2% annually, while the enrollment of men grew just 1% annually.
- Enrollment of international students has also gained substantially. In the 1996-to-2006 period, international enrollment rose by an average yearly rate of 4%, versus just a 1% gain in U.S. citizens.
- During the ten-year period, enrollment of full-time students also grew faster than part-time. However, from 2005 to 2006, the number of part-time students increased at a higher rate.



Table 2.2

### Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Institution Type, 1996 to 2006

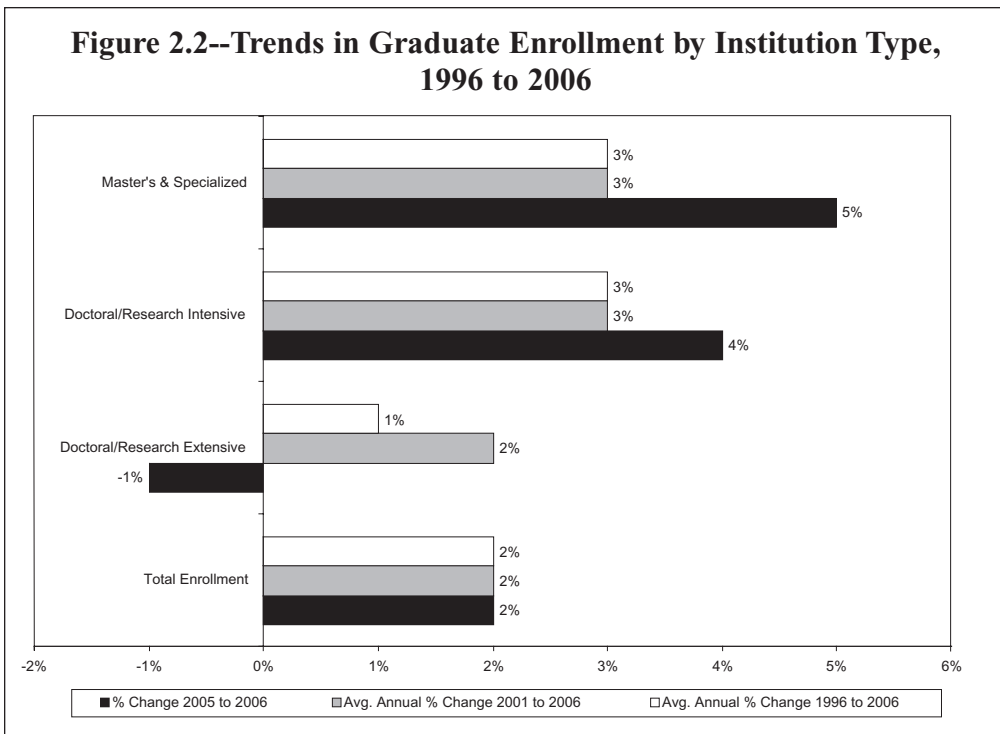
Institution Type	% Change 2005-2006	Average Annual % Change 2001-2006	Average Annual % Change 1996-2006
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<i>Public</i>	2%	2%	2%
<i>Private*</i>	0%	3%	2%
<b>Doctoral/Research Extensive**</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<i>Public</i>	1%	2%	1%
<i>Private*</i>	-4%	2%	1%
<b>Doctoral/Research Intensive**</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<i>Public</i>	5%	2%	3%
<i>Private*</i>	3%	4%	3%
<b>Master's &amp; Specialized**</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<i>Public</i>	4%	2%	3%
<i>Private*</i>	6%	4%	3%

\*Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

\*\*See Table 1.1 for definitions of institution type categories.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.2--Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Institution Type, 1996 to 2006**



- There were considerable differences in the changes in graduate enrollments by institutional type. Master's & Specialized institutions saw their enrollment climb 5% from 2005 to 2006, and over the past decade their enrollment rose by an average of 3% annually. In contrast, Doctoral/Research Extensive universities saw their total enrollment fall by 1% from 2005 to 2006, and their number of graduate students increased only 1% annually between 1996 and 2006.
- Over all three time periods, there were higher enrollment growth rates at Master's & Specialized institutions and Doctoral/Research Intensive universities than at Doctoral/Research Extensive schools.
- Private Master's & Specialized institutions led the recent growth in enrollment, as the number of students at these schools grew 6% in the one-year period and averaged an annual gain of 4% during the 2001-to-2006 time span.
- In contrast, the number of students attending private Doctoral/Research Extensive universities declined by 4% from 2005 to 2006.
- Doctoral/Research Intensive universities saw their total enrollment increase by 4% over the 2005-to-2006 period, with public universities experiencing a 5% gain. During the ten-year period, both public and private Doctoral/Research Intensive institutions had average annual gains of 3%.

**Table 2.3**

### **Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Major Field of Study, 1996-2006**

Major Field	% Change	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual
	2005-2006	% Change 2001-2006	% Change 1996-2006
Biological Sciences*	2%	3%	1%
Business	3%	1%	1%
Education	1%	2%	1%
Engineering	0%	2%	1%
Health Sciences	7%	5%	3%
Humanities & Arts	2%	2%	0%
Physical Sciences	0%	1%	2%
Public Administration and Services	1%	2%	1%
Social Sciences	1%	2%	1%
Other Fields**	1%	1%	2%

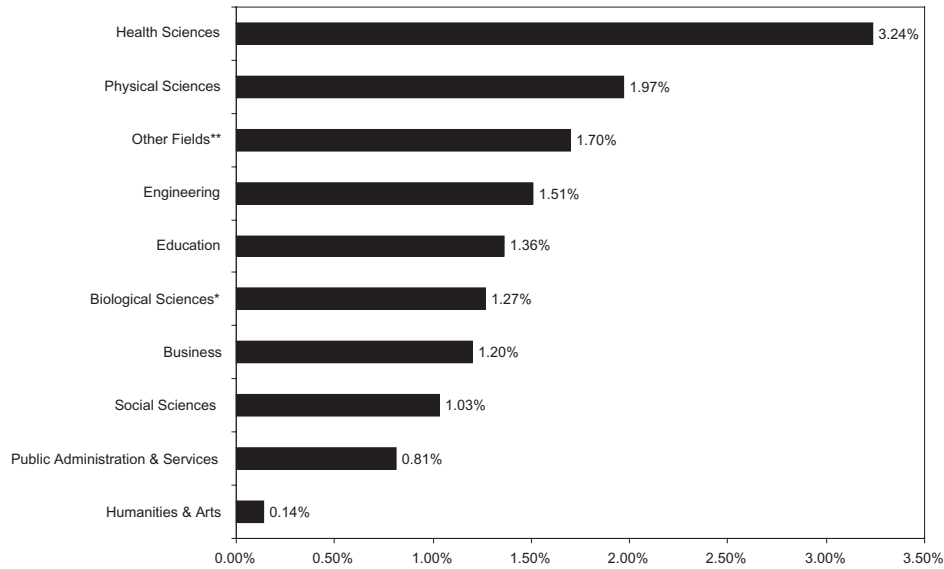
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.3--Average Annual Percentage Change in Graduate Enrollment by Major Field of Study, 1996 to 2006**



- From 2005 to 2006, enrollment in health sciences grew 7%, the fastest growth rate of any field of study. During the ten-year period, enrollment in health sciences grew at an average annual rate of more than 3%. Additionally, enrollment in health sciences appears to be accelerating, as the rates of growth in this field are higher in more recent time spans.
- Enrollment in science and engineering generally appears to have slowed during recent years. In engineering, for instance, total enrollment grew by an average rate of 2% from 2001 to 2006, but from 2005 to 2006, there was virtually no increase in engineering students. The same general pattern occurred in physical sciences.
- Education, public administration & services, and social sciences also experienced relatively slower growth in the one-year period when compared to the five-year time frame.

Table 2.4

## Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Citizenship Status and Major Field of Study, 1996-2006

Major Field	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents			Non-U.S. Citizens		
	% Change	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual	% Change	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual
		2005-2006	% Change		% Change	2005-2006
Biological Sciences*	1%	2%	1%	4%	4%	3%
Business	2%	1%	1%	4%	-1%	4%
Education	-2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	5%
Engineering	-1%	3%	0%	2%	0%	5%
Health Sciences	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%	5%
Humanities & Arts	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Physical Sciences	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	4%
Public Administration and Services	0%	2%	0%	-1%	3%	6%
Social Sciences	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Other Fields**	1%	1%	2%	1%	-2%	1%

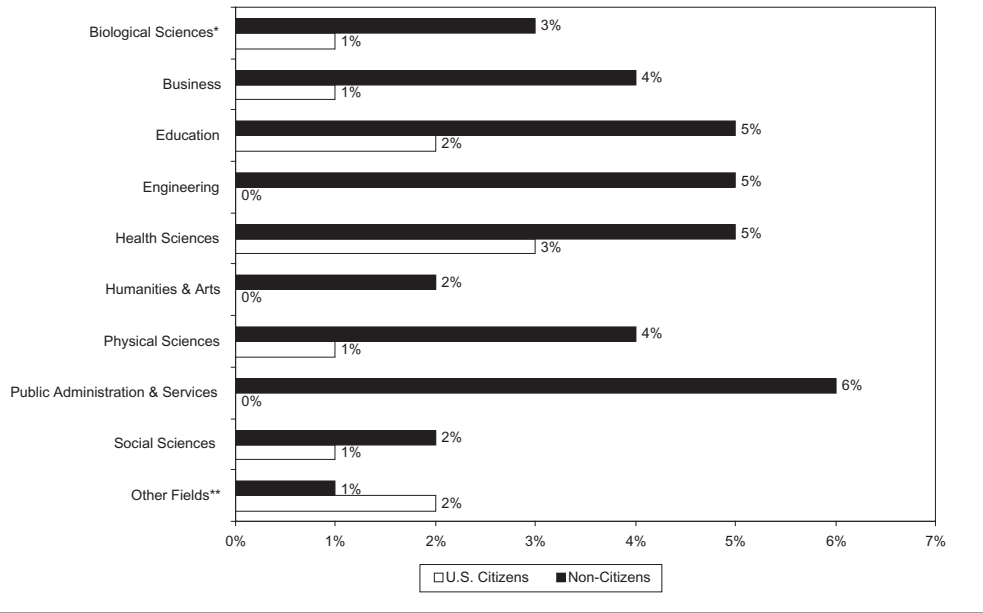
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known citizenship.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.4--Average Annual Percentage Change in Graduate Enrollment, by Citizenship and Field of Study, 1996 to 2006**



- Between 1996 and 2006, there was little to no growth in the enrollment of U.S. citizens in science and engineering fields, but substantial growth among non-citizens. In engineering, for example, U.S. citizen enrollment was flat while the number of international students jumped an average of 5% annually.
- Enrollment gains among U.S. citizens over the ten-year period were concentrated in health sciences (3% average annual increase) and education (2%). In all other fields, enrollment among U.S. citizens grew at 1% or less during the ten-year time span.
- However, even in health sciences and education, enrollment increased at higher rates among non-citizens. From 1996 to 2006, the number of international graduate students in health sciences and education increased by an average rate of 5% annually.
- During the one-year period, international enrollment grew at higher rates than U.S. enrollment in all fields except health sciences, humanities & arts, and public administration & services.

Table 2.5

### Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group and Gender, 1996 to 2006

Race/Ethnicity & Gender	% Change 2005-2006	Average Annual % Change 2001-2006	Average Annual % Change 1996-2006
<b>Total U.S. Citizens</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Men	-1%	2%	0%
Women	0%	3%	2%
<b>Native American/Alaska Native</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Men	10%	3%	2%
Women	8%	5%	6%
<b>African American</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Men	2%	3%	3%
Women	3%	4%	5%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Men	3%	4%	3%
Women	4%	5%	5%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Men	4%	4%	3%
Women	3%	5%	6%
<b>White, non-Hispanic</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Men	0%	1%	0%
Women	0%	2%	1%

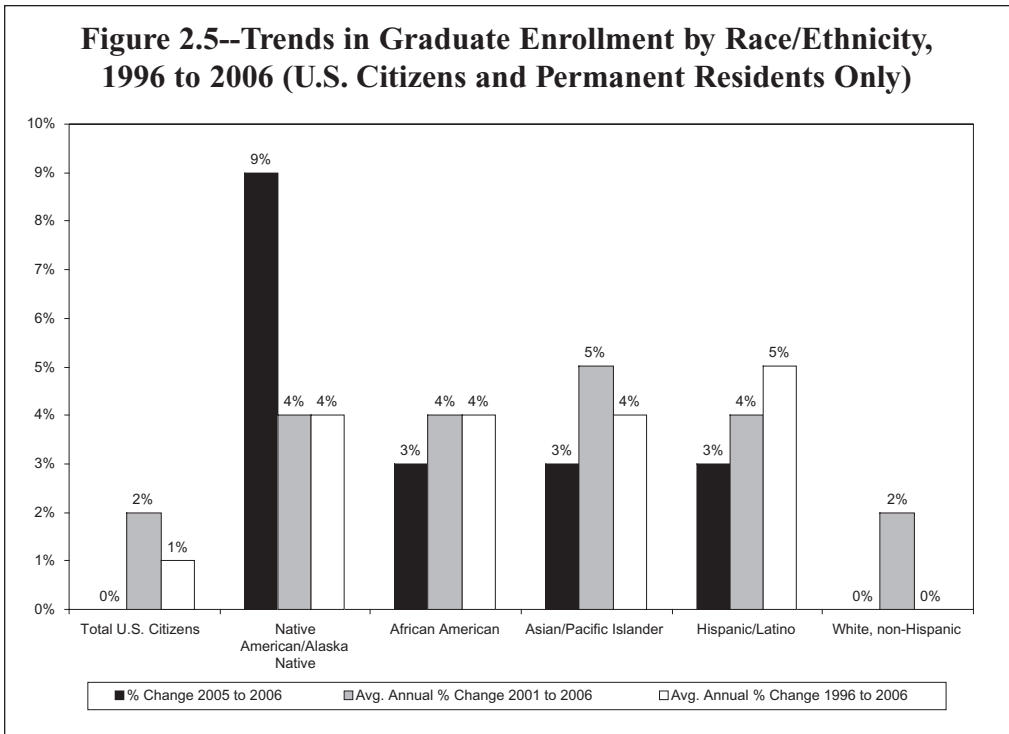
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known citizenship.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

*Table 2.5*



- Among U.S. citizens, increases in graduate enrollment during the past ten years have been driven by steady growth in the number of women. From 1996 to 2006, the number of American female graduate students grew by an average of 2% annually, while the enrollment of males was virtually flat.
- Total enrollment of American male students actually declined by 1% between 2005 and 2006.
- Significant growth in enrollment also occurred among racial/ethnic minority groups. Enrollment of Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders grew by an average of 4% or more annually from 1996 to 2006; in the same period, enrollment of non-Hispanic Whites was essentially unchanged.
- In the one-year period, White non-Hispanic enrollment was flat while enrollment of all other groups increased by 3% or more. The number of Native American graduate students jumped 9% (see Figure 2.5).
- Growth in enrollment for all minority groups was driven by the increasing number of women. There was a 5% average annual growth rate for African American women from 1996 to 2006, while the number of African American males grew only 3%; Latino female enrollment grew at twice the annual rate of males. White, non-Hispanic female enrollment grew 1% while the number of males was flat.

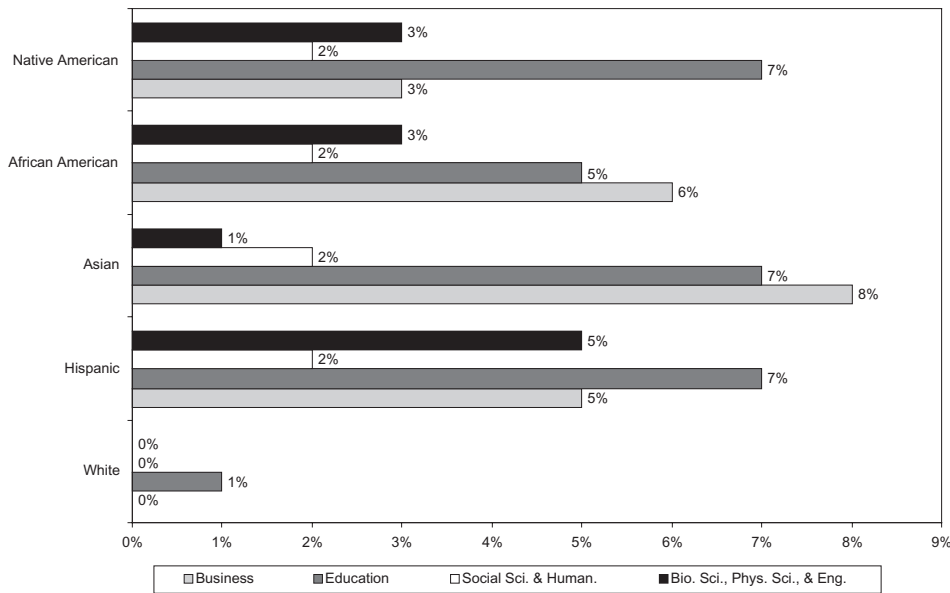


**Table 2.6**

**Trends in Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Major Field of Study, 1996 to 2006  
(U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)**

	Avg. Annual % Change 2005-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 1996-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2005-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 1996-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2005-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 1996-2006
	<i>African American</i>			<i>Native American/Alaska Native</i>			<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Biological Sciences*	2%	5%	3%	18%	5%	6%	5%	5%	2%
Business	12%	5%	6%	1%	8%	3%	2%	7%	8%
Education	-2%	4%	5%	11%	5%	7%	4%	7%	7%
Engineering	-3%	4%	1%	12%	5%	2%	0%	4%	1%
Health Sciences	4%	8%	9%	0%	6%	5%	12%	6%	6%
Humanities & Arts	2%	3%	1%	9%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Physical Sciences	1%	5%	4%	17%	4%	2%	-2%	0%	1%
Public Admin.& Serv.	-5%	2%	2%	2%	0%	4%	8%	9%	5%
Social Sciences	5%	2%	2%	6%	2%	2%	1%	5%	3%
Other Fields**	11%	0%	5%	19%	6%	7%	7%	3%	2%
	<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>			<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>			NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known field. *"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture. **The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion. Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>			
Biological Sciences*	5%	7%	6%	0%	2%	0%			
Business	3%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%			
Education	-1%	5%	7%	-2%	2%	1%			
Engineering	9%	7%	4%	-2%	2%	-1%			
Health Sciences	12%	8%	11%	8%	5%	2%			
Humanities & Arts	7%	4%	2%	1%	1%	-1%			
Physical Sciences	3%	5%	5%	-1%	2%	0%			
Public Admin.& Serv.	2%	6%	4%	0%	1%	0%			
Social Sciences	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	0%			
Other Fields**	6%	1%	4%	-1%	1%	1%			

**Figure 2.6--Average Annual Percentage Change in Graduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Field, 1996 to 2006 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents Only)**



- In science and engineering disciplines, enrollment of racial/ethnic minorities generally increased at higher rates than non-Hispanic Whites, but the rate of growth varied considerably by field and racial/ethnic group. Among Latinos, for example, enrollment in engineering jumped 9% from 2005 to 2006, and has averaged an annual increase of 4% from 1996 to 2006. In contrast, African American enrollment in engineering fell 3% in the one-year period, and increased just 1% on average from 1996 to 2006.
- There was double-digit growth in enrollment of Native Americans in five fields from 2005 to 2006, led by an 18% gain in biological sciences and a 17% increase in physical sciences.
- Despite their recent overall growth, Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans still account for just a small share of total enrollment in science and engineering fields (see Table 1.6).
- During the ten-year period, health sciences had the highest average annual growth rate for Latinos (11%), African Americans (9%), and White non-Hispanics (2%). In business, Asian/Pacific Islander attendees increased at the fastest rate (8%).

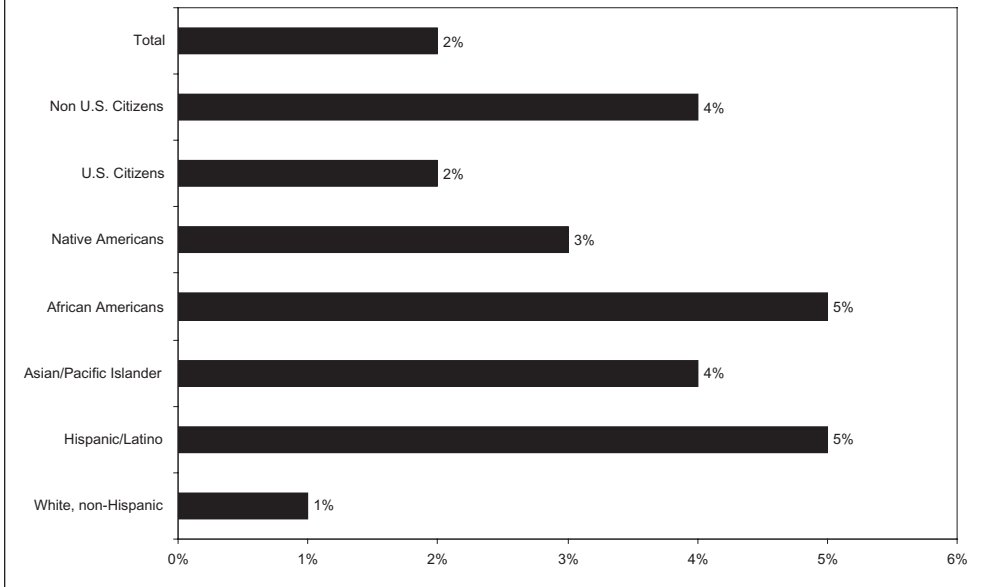
**Table 2.7**

**Trends in First-time Graduate Enrollment by Citizenship and Race/Ethnicity, 1996 to 2006**

	% Change 2005 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 2001 to 2005	Average Annual % Change 1996 to 2006
<b>Total First-Time Enrollment</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Non-U.S. Citizens	10%	-1%	4%
U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents	-1%	2%	2%
Native American/Alaska Native	0%	2%	3%
African American	-1%	4%	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	4%	4%
Hispanic/Latino	-1%	5%	5%
White, non-Hispanic	-1%	2%	1%

*Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.*

**Figure 2.7--Average Annual Percentage Change in First-Time Graduate Enrollment, by Citizenship and Racial/Ethnic Group, 1996 to 2006**



- Much of the overall growth in first-time enrollment over the one-year and ten-year time spans occurred among international students. From 2005 to 2006, first-time enrollment of non-U.S. citizens gained 10%, the sharpest annual increase in at least four years. However, first-time enrollment among U.S. citizens fell 1% in the same time period. Over the ten-year span, first-time international enrollment increased by an average of 4% annually, compared with a 2% average yearly gain among U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
- In the ten-year period, White non-Hispanic first-time enrollment increased by an average of just 1% annually, while enrollment among racial/ethnic minority group members had average annual gains of 3% to 5%.
- From 2005 to 2006, however, the number of Latino and African American first-time graduate enrollees each declined by 1%. The number of Native Americans was unchanged and Asian/Pacific Islander enrollment rose 2%.

**Table 2.8**

**Trends in Graduate Applications by Field, 1996 to 2006**

Major Field	% Change 2005 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 2001 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 1996 to 2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Biological Sciences*	2%	2%	1%
Business	6%	3%	4%
Education	0%	2%	2%
Engineering	9%	-2%	3%
Health Sciences	6%	5%	4%
Humanities and Arts	0%	5%	1%
Physical Sciences	4%	0%	3%
Public Administration and Services	-2%	2%	-1%
Social Sciences	0%	4%	1%
Other Fields**	-3%	0%	0%

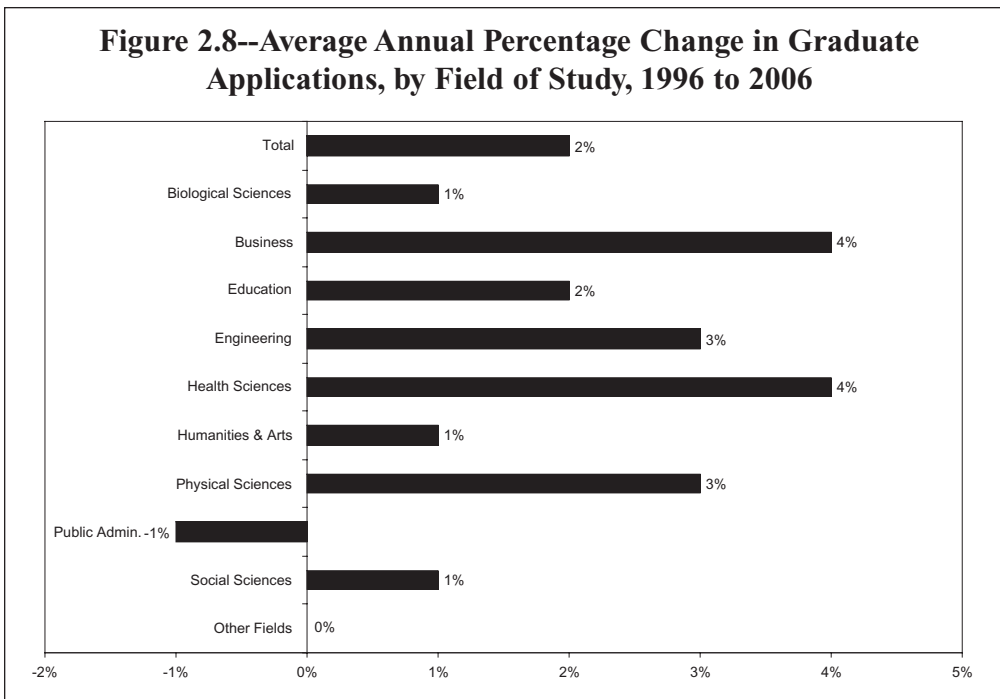
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.8--Average Annual Percentage Change in Graduate Applications, by Field of Study, 1996 to 2006**



- In general, interest in graduate education, as measured by applications received from prospective students, rose at a steady pace over the 1996-to-2006 period. The total number of applications for admission to master’s and doctoral programs jumped 4% from 2005 to 2006, and grew at an average annual rate of 2% over the five- and ten-year time spans.
- The largest one-year growth in applications occurred in engineering, which increased 9%. Business and health sciences saw 6% gains, and physical sciences grew 4%.
- On the other hand, applications for education and humanities & arts and social sciences were unchanged, while public administration & services program applications fell 2%.
- Over the ten-year period, applications to business and health science programs experienced the largest gains, followed by engineering and physical sciences. Public administration & services programs recorded the only decline in applications among the ten fields under study.
- Health sciences is the only field that experienced continually growing rates of change in applications. That is, the applications grew at accelerating rates in the ten-year, five-year, and one-year periods. The increases in health sciences applications mirror its recent growth in total enrollment (see Table 2.3).

**Table 2.9**

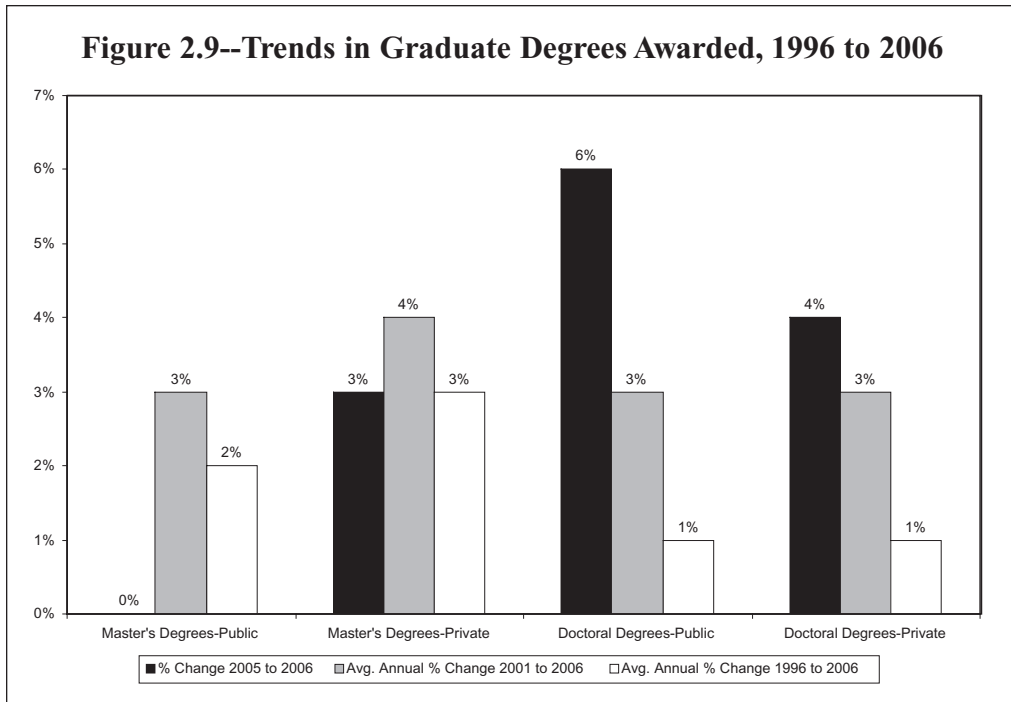
**Trends in Graduate Degrees Awarded, 1996 to 2006**

	% Change 2005 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 2001 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 1996 to 2006
<b>Master's Degrees</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Public	0%	3%	2%
Private*	3%	4%	3%
Doctoral/Research Extensive**	-1%	2%	2%
Doctoral/Research Intensive**	5%	4%	4%
Master's & Specialized**	2%	5%	4%
<b>Doctoral Degrees</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Public	6%	3%	1%
Private*	4%	3%	1%
Doctoral/Research Extensive**	6%	3%	1%
Doctoral/Research Intensive**	2%	5%	4%

\* Private includes for-profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions.

\*\*See Table 1.1 for definitions of institution type categories.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.



- Over the 1996-to-2006 period, the number of master’s degrees awarded increased by an average of 3% per year and the number of doctorates grew by an average of 1% annually. But the rate of growth in doctoral degrees has increased between the one-year and five-year periods and between the five- and ten-year time spans. The rate of growth in master’s awards fell from an average of 3% from 2001 to 2005 to just 1% from 2005 to 2006.
- All institutional categories experienced increases in master’s and doctoral degree awards during the five- and ten-year time spans, but in the one-year period, the number of master’s degrees conferred by Doctoral/Research Extensive universities fell by 1%, compared with a gain of 5% at Doctoral/Research Intensive institutions.
- The number of doctoral degrees grew 6% at public universities and 4% at private institutions from 2005 to 2006. Degrees conferred at Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions rose at a higher rate than Doctoral/Research Intensive schools.



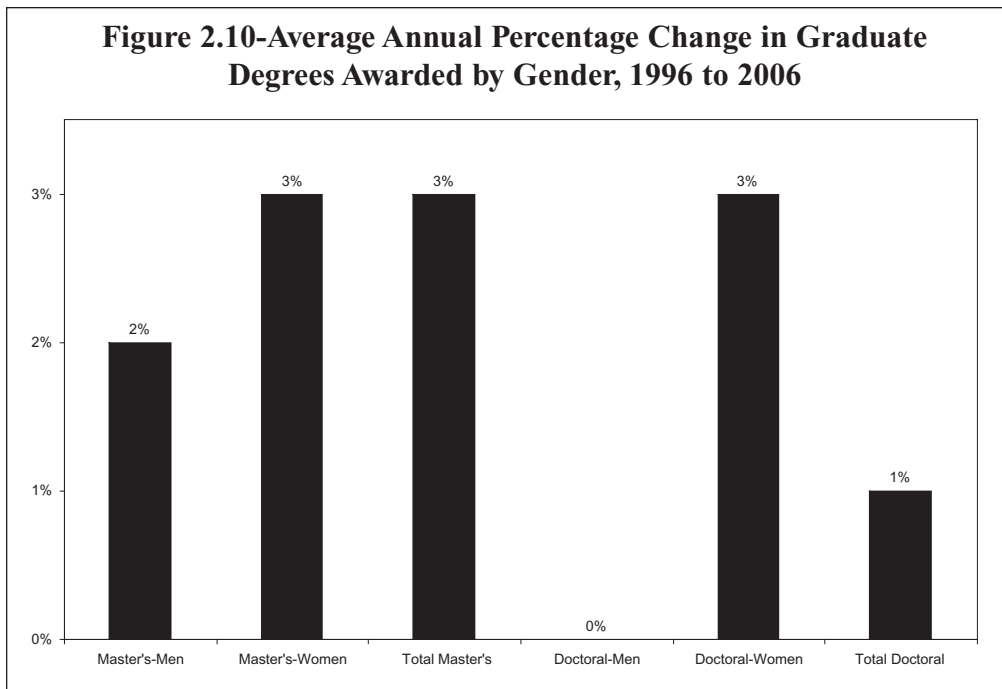
**Table 2.10**

**Trends in Graduate Degrees Awarded by Gender, 1996 to 2006**

	% Change 2005 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 2001 to 2006	Average Annual % Change 1996 to 2006
<b>Master's Degrees</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Men	-1%	3%	2%
Women	2%	4%	3%
<b>Public</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Men	-1%	3%	2%
Women	1%	3%	3%
<b>Private</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Men	-2%	3%	2%
Women	5%	4%	4%
<b>Doctoral Degrees</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Men	6%	2%	0%
Women	5%	4%	3%
<b>Public</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Men	6%	3%	0%
Women	7%	4%	3%
<b>Private</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Men	5%	2%	0%
Women	-1%	4%	3%

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.10-Average Annual Percentage Change in Graduate Degrees Awarded by Gender, 1996 to 2006**



- Degrees awarded to women accounted for much of the overall growth in total awards conferred during the 1996-to-2006 period. In all three time periods, the number of women who received master's degrees grew at higher rates than awards earned by men. And in the five- and ten-year time spans, the number of women who received doctorates grew at higher rates than awards to men.
- Changes in degrees by gender varied by type of institution and level of degree. From 2005 to 2006, the number of master's degrees conferred to men fell at both public and private institutions, while the number of degrees earned by women increased 1% and 5%, respectively. On the other hand, in the same period the number of doctorates earned by men at private universities grew 5% compared with a 1% decline in the number awarded to women.
- Over the ten-year time span, the number of master's degrees granted to women grew at higher rates than men at both public and private universities.
- Public universities did have a slightly faster one-year growth rate in the number of women who earned doctorates (7%, versus 6% for men). Over the ten-year time span, however, the rate of awards to women clearly outpaced that of men (3% versus 0%).

**Table 2.11**

**Trends in Graduate Degrees by  
Field of Study, 1996 to 2006**

Major Field	Master's			Doctoral		
	% Change 2005-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 1996-2006	% Change 2005-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual % Change 1996-2006
Biological Sciences*	6%	3%	1%	1%	3%	0%
Business	0%	1%	3%	16%	4%	0%
Education	4%	5%	3%	-1%	0%	0%
Engineering	-8%	3%	1%	11%	5%	1%
Health Sciences	7%	0%	2%	24%	12%	11%
Humanities & Arts	2%	3%	1%	5%	0%	1%
Physical Sciences	-2%	2%	2%	6%	4%	1%
Public Administration and Services	2%	1%	0%	-1%	6%	1%
Social Sciences	3%	3%	1%	-7%	1%	1%
Other Fields**	4%	5%	2%	2%	4%	1%

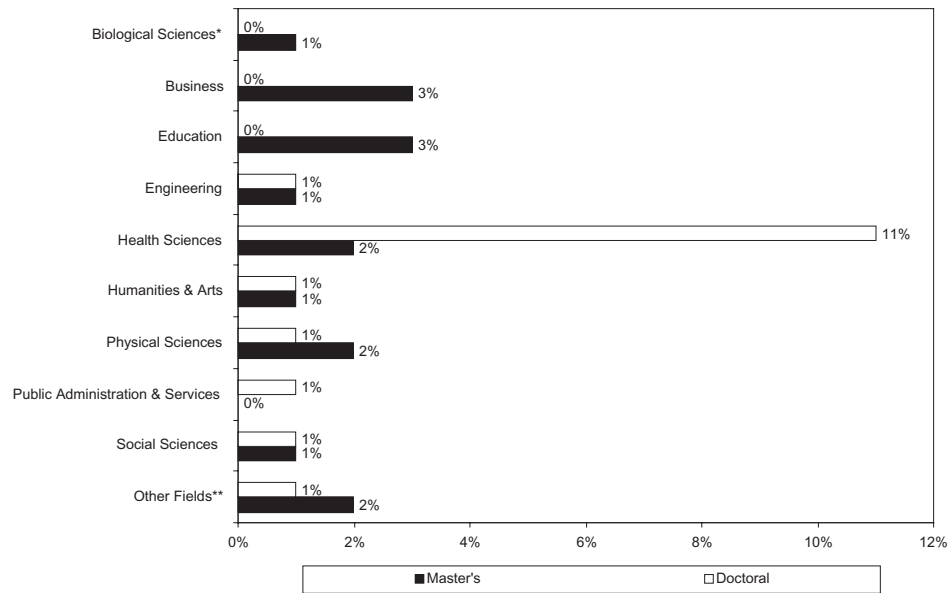
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages by field are based on total of known citizenship.

\*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

\*\*The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library science, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment.

**Figure 2.11--Average Annual Change in Graduate Degrees Awarded by Field of Study, 1996 to 2006**



- Business and education experienced the fastest average annual rates of growth in master’s degrees during the 1996-to-2006 period (3% each), but in the most recent one-year time frame, the largest increases were in health sciences and biological sciences.
- Over the 1996-to-2006 period, the number of doctoral degrees in business and education was essentially unchanged, while the number in health sciences jumped by an average annual rate of 11%. All other fields were flat or increased by just 1%.
- Biological sciences was the only field to experience accelerating increases in growth in master’s degrees over the ten-, five-, and one-year periods (growth increased at higher rates in each period). Business was the only field to experience continually *declining* rates of growth.
- The number of master’s degrees awarded in physical sciences and engineering declined from 2005 to 2006, but these two fields did see substantial one-year increases in the numbers who earned doctorates.
- Health sciences had the largest one-year increase in doctoral awards (24%), followed by business (16%). (Both of these fields still account for a relatively small share of total doctorates conferred—see Table 1.14). In contrast, the number of degrees conferred in education and public administration & services each fell by 1%, while the number in social sciences declined 7%.



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## **Appendices**

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Appendix A

2006 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment Questionnaire

CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment

2006 Data Sheet  
 Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ GRE Institution Code: \_\_\_\_\_

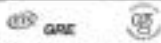
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I. Graduate Enrollment for 2006 Fall Term						
	First Time			Total (Includes First Time)		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Master's and Other <sup>1</sup>						
Doctorate						
<b>Total</b>						
Full Time						
Part Time						
<b>Total</b>						

II. Number of Degrees Conferred between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2006			
	Men	Women	Total
Master's and Other <sup>1</sup>			
Doctorate			
Graduate Certificate			

III. Number of Completed Applications Submitted for 2006 Fall Term			
	Master's and Other <sup>1</sup>	Doctorate	Total
Accepted			
Not Accepted			
<b>Total</b>			

IV. Graduate Enrollment by Ethnicity for 2006 Fall Term						
	First Time			Total (Includes First Time)		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Non-Resident Aliens						
U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens	American Indian / Alaskan Native					
	Asian / Pacific Islander					
	Black, African American					
	Hispanic, Latino					
White						
Other or Unknown						
<b>Total</b>						



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<sup>1</sup>Other includes other non-doctoral programs (for example, graduate certificate programs and educational specialist programs), except in section II where graduate certificates are reported separately.

Instructions for Completing Enrollment Survey Data Sheets

Data for graduate programs offered by all divisions, schools, colleges, or departments of your institution should be reported in this survey. Please note the following:

- Data should be reported for all matriculated students in graduate programs that lead to master's or higher degrees other than first professional degrees.
- Do not include the J.D., M. Div., D.D.S., M.D., D.V.M., and D.P.T.
- Master's programs in such areas as business (e.g. M.B.A.), fine arts (e.g. M.F.A.), health sciences (e.g., M.P.H.), public administration (e.g. M.P.A.), and social work (e.g. M.S.W.) are part of this data collection effort.

Enrollment Status Definitions

**First Time** .....Students admitted and enrolled for the first time in graduate degree programs at your institution for the fall term.

**Full Time** .....Students enrolled for credit in graduate degree programs who are engaged full time in training activities in their field; these activities may embrace any appropriate combination of study, teaching, and research, depending on your institution's own policy.

**Part Time** .....Students who are enrolled in graduate degree programs who are NOT pursuing graduate work full time as defined above.

Ethnicity Definitions

**Non-Resident Alien** .....A person who is not a citizen or a national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

**American Indian or Alaskan Native** .....A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Asian or Pacific Islander** .....A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.

**Black, Non Hispanic** . . . A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).

**Hispanic - Total** .....A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba, Central American, South America, or other Spanish culture, regardless of race. On the data sheet this total is further broken down into three Hispanic subgroups-Puerto Rican, Mexican Americans, and Other Hispanic (Cuban, Central American, South American or other Spanish culture.)

**White, Non-Hispanic**.....A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).

**CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees Taxonomy of Fields of Study**

<b>Biological Sciences</b>	<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Humanities and Arts</b>	<b>Public Administration and Services</b>
Agriculture	Chemical	Arts–History, Theory, and Criticism	Public Administration
Biological Sciences	Civil	Arts–Performance and Studio	Social Work
	Electrical and Electronics	English Language and Literature	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>Business</b>	Industrial	Foreign Language and Literature	Anthropology
Accounting	Materials	History	Economics
Banking and Finance	Mechanicals	Philosophy	Political Science
Business Administration and Management	Engineering, Other	Humanities and Arts, Other	Psychology
Business, Other	<b>Health Sciences</b>		Sociology
	Health and Medical Sciences		Social Sciences, Other
<b>Education</b>		<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>Other Fields</b>
Administration		Chemistry	Architecture and
Curriculum and Instruction		Computer Sciences	Environmental Design
Elementary Education		Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine Science	Communications
Evaluation and Research		Mathematical Sciences	Home Economics
Higher Education		Physics and Astronomy	Library and Information Sciences
Secondary Education		Physical Sciences, Other	Religion and Theology
Special Education			All Other Fields
Student Counseling and Personnel Services			
Education, Other			



## Appendix C

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### *The CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment*

Since 1986, the Council of Graduate Schools and the Graduate Record Examinations Board have conducted an annual survey of graduate enrollment and degrees at the approximately 740 institutions that are members of the Council or its regional affiliates. These institutions account for 74% of graduate students enrolled in the U.S. and 75% and 89%, respectively, of master's and doctoral degrees awarded by U.S. colleges and universities.

### **Methodology**

The survey is conducted each fall. Institutions provide data on graduate enrollment and admissions applications for the fall term, and degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates conferred during the previous (12-month) school year. Total data, as well as data from up to 51 individual fields of study, are collected from each institution. Consistently, more than 80% of the institutions complete and return the survey.

### **Data**

Enrollment: Includes enrollment by gender, race/ethnicity, citizenship, enrollment status (full-time and part-time), and first-time enrollment for the fall term. Racial/ethnic data reported in this study are collected from institutional records that are based on

graduate students' self-reports. Accordingly, the number of students in any given racial/ethnic category is subject to individual interpretation on the part of students as they complete registration forms. Applications: Includes the number of complete applications for admissions submitted for the fall term, applications accepted, and applications not accepted. Degrees: Includes the number of master's and doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate awarded by gender (degrees by race/ethnicity or citizenship are not collected).

### **Reporting**

The data are reported by institutional control (public versus private) and institution type, based on the 2000 Carnegie Classification system. Fields of study are grouped into nine broad fields plus "other." Trends in graduate enrollment, applications, and degrees are reported for one, five, and ten-year periods, in addition to the current-year data.

### **Data Availability**

Survey results are published in the annual *Enrollment and Degrees* reports, available from CGS, [www.cgsnet.org](http://www.cgsnet.org). Early release data and special reports are also published in the Council's newsletter, the *Communicator*.

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