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Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1976 to 2001

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Introduction

This report presents a statistical overview of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) from 1976 to 2001. HBCUs are institutions established prior to 1964, whose principal mission is the education of Black Americans.

Although most HBCUs are 4-year institutions in the southern United States, they represent a diverse set of institutions in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. They are both public and private; single-sex and coeducational; predominantly Black and predominantly White; 2-year and 4-year colleges; research universities, professional schools, community colleges, and small liberal arts colleges.

Three colleges for Blacks were established before 1862. Cheyney University of Pennsylvania was established in the 1830s. Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and Wilberforce College in Ohio were established in the 1850s. In 1862, the first land grant college provisions, known as the First Morrill Act, were enacted by Congress. By the late 1860s, Morrill Act funds were distributed to the states, with the intention that they would foster educational opportunity for all students, especially newly freed Blacks. Congress passed the Second Morrill Act in 1890 that required states with dual systems of higher education (all-White and non-White) to provide land-grant institutions for both systems. Nineteen land-grant institutions for Blacks were organized and were initially non-degree-granting agricultural, mechanical, and industrial schools. In 1965, Congress introduced its institutional aid program for HBCUs (20 USC 1060). This E.D. TAB report presents tabular data on institution enrollment, degrees conferred, staff and salaries, revenues, expenditures, and student financial aid.

Data

The data used in this report are from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and, prior to 1986, its predecessor survey, the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS). The trend tables draw on HEGIS and IPEDS surveys that collected information concerning enrollment, institutional finances, student financial aid, salaries, tenure and fringe benefits, staff, and degree completions. According to section 490 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-325), IPEDS is mandatory for any institutions that participate in or are applicants for participation in any federal financial assistance program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended [20 USC 1094 (a)(17)]. For the spring 2002 data collection, the overall response rate was 98.6 percent for degree-granting institutions (including those eligible for Title IV federal financial aid programs and that grant an associate's or higher degree) and 98.6 percent for non-degree-granting institutions. In addition, other postsecondary institutions that do not participate in Title IV programs are invited to participate. Of the approximately 10,000 postsecondary institutions surveyed in 2002, some 6,696 institutions were Title IV programs and are the basis for comparison in the analysis.

IPEDS is a universe survey with missing data subject to imputation for nonresponse in the enrollment, degree, staff, and finance data. Because IPEDS is a census of the population of Title IV schools, the data presented here are not subject to sampling error. However, they are subject to nonsampling error, the sources of which vary with the survey instrument. A technical appendix is included that explains the data sources in more detail.

Selected Findings

Enrollment

- Total fall enrollment in HBCUs was about 290,000 in 2001 (table 1). For the past four decades, women have made up a larger proportion of enrollment in these institutions than men (figure 1); in 2001, women made up 61 percent of enrollment.

Table 1. Fall enrollment in historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), by sex and attendance status of student, and type and control of institution: 2001

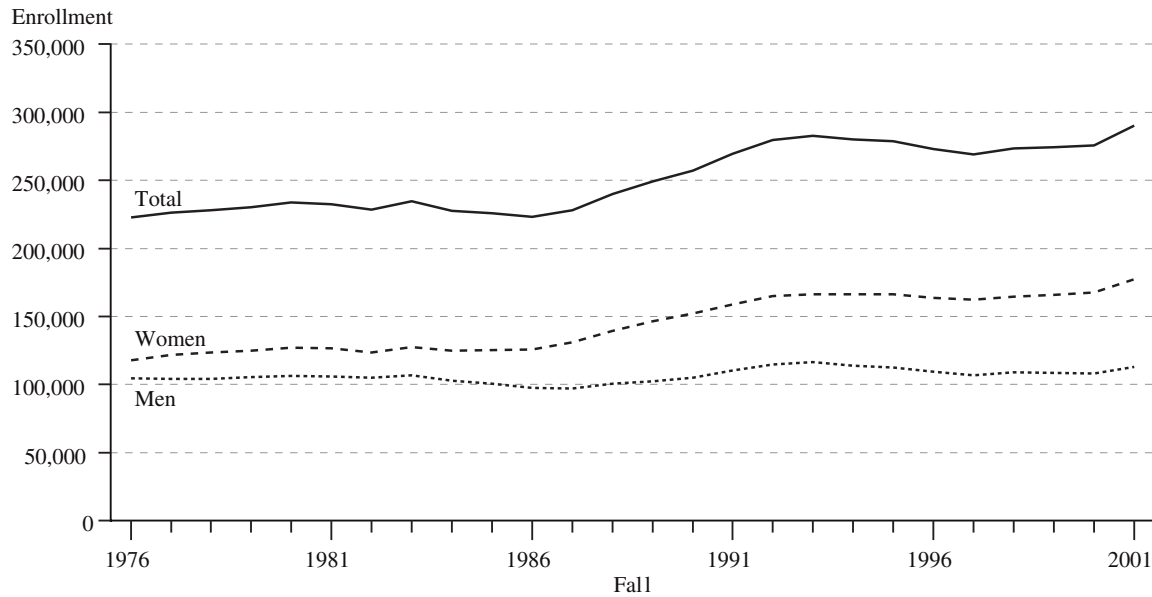
Sex of student, and type and control of institution	HBCU enrollment	Enrollment in HBCUs as a percentage of all institutions	Black HBCU enrollment as a percentage of all Black enrollment
Total	289,985	1.8	12.9
Men	112,874	1.6	13.5
Women	177,111	2.0	12.6
Full-time	222,453	2.4	18.4
Part-time	67,532	1.0	5.6
2-year	29,438	0.5	1.8
4-year	260,547	2.7	21.3
Public	210,083	1.7	11.8
2-year	28,737	0.5	1.8
4-year	181,346	2.9	23.2
Private	79,902	2.2	16.4
2-year	701	0.3	1.4
4-year	79,201	2.3	18.2

NOTE: Black includes African American and excludes Hispanic origin.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2002 survey. (This table was prepared in April 2004.)

- In 2001, 90 percent of HBCU students attended 4-year institutions and 10 percent attended 2-year institutions. HBCU students were more likely to attend public institutions than private, not-for-profit institutions (72 vs. 28 percent) (derived from table A-2).
- Two percent of all college students were enrolled in HBCUs in 2001. Black enrollment at HBCUs accounted for 13 percent of all Black enrollment (table 1).
- In 2001, Blacks constituted 82 percent of all those enrolled in HBCUs and in 1976, they made up 85 percent (table A-7).

Figure 1. Fall enrollment in historically Black colleges and universities, total and by sex: 1976 to 2001



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1976 through 1985 Higher Education Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities"; 1986 through 2001 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86-99), Spring 2001, and Spring 2002. (This figure was prepared in April 2004.)

Degrees conferred by HBCUs

- More bachelor's degrees than other degrees were awarded by HBCUs in 2001–02 (table 2).
- Compared with other racial/ethnic groups, Blacks earned the highest proportion of degrees awarded by HBCUs in 2001 at each level—associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctor's, and first-professional degrees (tables A-15 through A-19). Blacks earned 87 percent of bachelor's degrees (table A-16).
- In 2001, more than one-fifth of all bachelor's degrees awarded to Blacks were from HBCUs (figure 2). Compared with 1976–77, there were proportionately fewer Blacks earning bachelor's degrees at HBCUs in 2001–02 (35 percent vs. 22 percent). (Although the number of bachelor's degrees earned by Blacks at HBCUs increased from 20,800 to 25,100 during this period, the number of Blacks earning degrees at other types of institutions has risen more rapidly) (tables A-16 and A-20).
- Since 1990–91, 60 percent or more of associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees at HBCUs have been earned by women. At HBCUs since 1994–95, women have earned more than half of the first-professional degrees, and since 1999–2000, women have earned more than half of the doctor's degrees (derived from table A-26).

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