

YOU GO GIRL!: TRENDS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF BLACK WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Using the Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System Completion Survey by Race (1980-2009), we seek to redirect the conversation about African-American females as single mothers, welfare recipients, and victims of the AIDS epidemic to one that highlights their exceptional school enrollment levels and postsecondary degree attainment. We examine separately the educational trends for black women by citizenship status and identify institutions that have been successful at conferring degrees to each group of black women. We find that the percentage of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen was greater than the percentage of any other non-white group, the growth in the total number of black women enrolled at for-profit institutions as first-time freshmen more than double and HBCUs were institutions most successful at conferring degrees to black women.

Attending college is a human capital investment with many costs and uncertain returns. The returns are both private and social. Social returns include attributes associated with being a better citizen. Private benefits are usually associated with labor market outcomes.

Black Female Undergraduates on Campus: Successes and Challenges

Diversity in Higher Education, Volume 12, 1-41

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ISSN: 1479-3644/doi: 10.1108/S1479-3644(2012)0000012004

Costs included tuition, paid for with parental resources, scholarships, grants, loans or some combination of these resources, and foregone wages. During the 2007–2008 academic year, 66 percent of all students received financial aid in comparison with 76 percent of blacks.¹ Thirty-nine percent of all undergraduates took out a loan, 52 percent received a grant, and 7.4 percent were awarded work-study.² For blacks, 50 percent took out loans, 63 percent received grants, and 7.2 percent were awarded work-study.³

Although blacks, on average, have lower incomes and less wealth than other racial groups, blacks attend college at a higher rate than whites of similar socioeconomic status (Mangino, 2010). This may be explained by Mason (1997) hypothesis that to catch up with the national average “supra-normal” levels of effort are required of groups living below a national standard. Given that black men and women are similarly disadvantaged, relative to their white counterparts, and face similar financial constraints for investing in college, what explains the 2-percentage point college or university enrollment gap?⁴

Since 1940, black women have completed college at a higher rate than black males. McDaniel, DiPrete, Buchmann, and Shwed (2011) offer several reasons for this trend. First, educated black women had higher labor force participation and employment rates than white women throughout the 20th century. This suggests that black women held the expectation that a college education would improve their labor market outcomes. Second, relative to black males, black females have lower high school dropout rates and are more likely to enroll in college directly after completing high school. Lower dropout rates and direct enrollment means that black women are following their career aspirations and life goals. Higher enrollment in four-year college versus two-year may be explained by the types of career training offered at two-year colleges and the corresponding earnings potential. The average earnings difference between 18- and 24-year-old black males and females with associate’s degrees increased from \$1,149 in 1990 to \$3,351 in 2006 (Sharpe & Darity, 2009). The black gender difference for those with a bachelor’s degree was \$6,083 in 1990 and \$2,351 in 2006, but the 2007 difference was not statistically significant (Sharpe & Darity, 2009). Finally, despite the disproportional number of black males incarcerated, the black-gender-enrollment-gap was similar to the white-gender-enrollment gap; therefore, the incarceration rate of black males does not explain the college enrollment or completion gap between black males and females.

Most of the research on black educational attainment has focused on the success (failure) of blacks relative to whites. However, the popular press has focused on the educational attainment of blacks with a comparison of the achievements of black males to black females. The dearth of research on the

educational attainment of black women is slowly being corrected. Bush, Chambers, and Walpole's (2010) edited volume is the first comprehensive effort to evaluate the academic success of black women at various stages of the education pipeline. Sharpe and Swinton (forthcoming) add to the literature with an analysis of higher education attainment and faculty appointments. This study seeks to highlight the academic success of black women for the purposes of (1) creating a bench mark for the progress of black women, (2) identifying the disciplines and degree levels where black women remain grossly underrepresented, and (3) naming institutions that have been successful at providing higher education for black women, including for-profit institutions. This study replicates for black women Sharpe and Darity's (2009) analysis for black males.

ENROLLMENT

We begin with a comparative discussion of enrollment trends for black women. The number of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen shows a steady increase, but Hispanic women had the sharpest increase (Fig. 1). As of 2009, roughly 170,000 black women were enrolled as first-time freshmen. Both the absolute number and the proportion of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen are greater than all other non-white groups. The percentage of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen increased from slightly over 6 percent in 1980 to nearly 8 percent in 2009. The percentage of white women enrolled as first-time freshmen decreased from 40 percent in 1980 to 34 percent in 2009 (Fig. 2).

The figures show a constant gap between the number of black males and black females with respect to enrollment numbers and enrollment shares. However, Sharpe and Darity (2009) identified an increasing gap between 18- and 24-year-old black males and females who were first-time freshmen between 1975 and 2005. The constant gap suggests that black males are entering college at an older age than black females. What the figures do not show is that the ratio of white women to black women who were first-time freshmen decreased from 6:1 in 1980 to 4:1 in 2009.

Finally, Table 1 presents the changes over time for first-time freshmen and first-time first-professional students by enrollment status between 1989–1998 and 2000–2009. Between the two time periods, we find a 44 percent increase in the number of black women enrolled as full-time first-time freshmen. There were four times as many black women enrolled full-time in first-professional degree program in 2000–2009 than there were in 1989–1998.

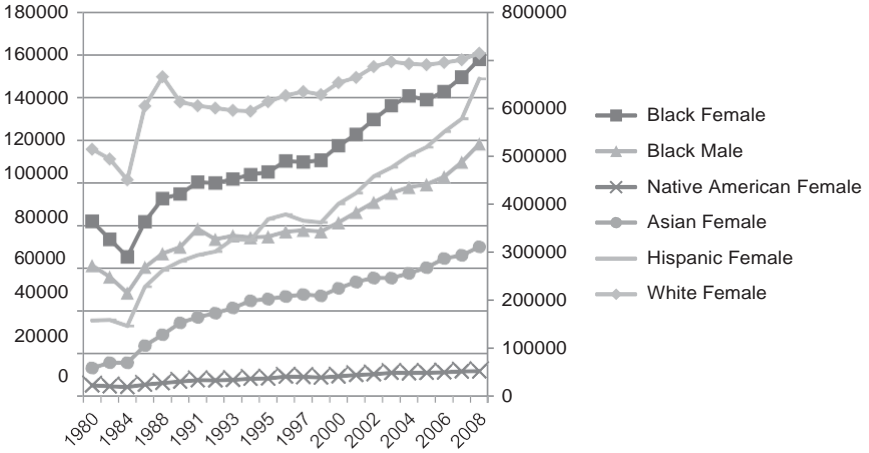


Fig. 1. Enrollment of First-Time Freshman: 1980–2009.

Note: White females are on the secondary y-axis and all other groups are on the primary y-axis. Source: Integrated postsecondary education data system: Enrollment survey, 1980–2009. Retrieved from www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov

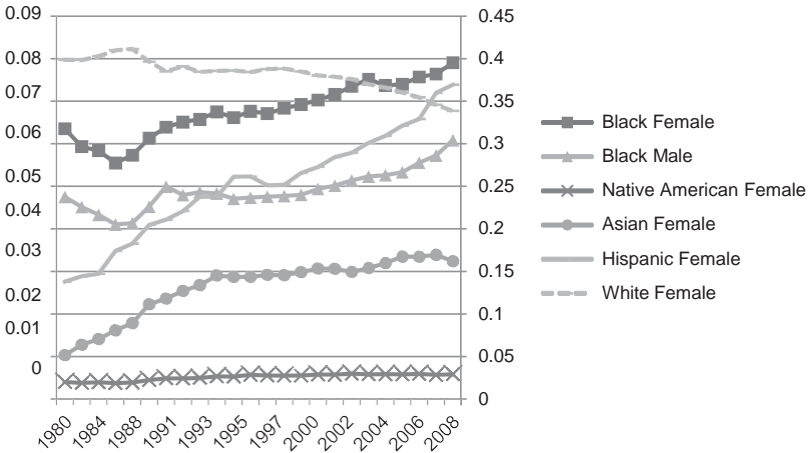


Fig. 2. Percent of First-Time Freshman: 1980–2009.

Note: White females are on the secondary y-axis and all other groups are on the primary y-axis. Source: Integrated postsecondary education data system: Enrollment survey, 1980–2009. Retrieved from www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov

Table 1. Changes in Enrollment for African-American Women: 1989–2009.

	1989–1998	2000–2009	Percentage Change
Full-time students			
First-time freshmen	1,008,528	1,454,689	44%
First-time first-professional students	27,377	109,341	299%
Subtotal	4,492,991	6,654,292	48%
Part-time students			
First-time freshmen	336,233	424,302	26%
First-time first-professional students	4,373	19,544	347%
Subtotal	3,534,370	5,001,611	42%

Source: Integrated postsecondary education data system: Enrollment survey, 1989–2009. Retrieved from www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov

The number of black women enrolled full-time increased by nearly 50 percent over the interval.

The trends are similar for black women enrolled part-time. There was a 21 percent increase in the number of black women enrolled as first-time part-time freshmen between 1989–1998 and 2000–2009. The number of black women enrolled part-time as first-time part-time professional students was 4.5 times higher in 2000–2009 than the number enrolled in 1989–1998. The total number of black women enrolled as part-time students increased over 40 percent between 1989–1998 and 2000–2009. The net degree change in full-time and part-time enrollment in 1989–1998 and 2000–2009 for black women was 45 percent, or nearly 4 million black women.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This study examines degree attainment of women who self-report themselves as African-American and as United States citizens or permanent residents. The study is limited to the 1980–2009 time span to provide the most contemporary perspective available. Our study addresses the following research questions:

1. Which colleges and universities have had a successful record of awarding postsecondary degrees to African-American females?

2. Which disciplines have supportive environments for educating African-American females?
3. What are the public policy implications of the effective portions of the education pipeline for African-American males?

To address these three questions, our study makes use of descriptive analyses of data from the Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System Completion Survey by Race accessed through WebCASPAR. We define institutions as successful if they generate comparatively large numbers of degree recipients. The top 20 schools are ranked separately for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, the social sciences and humanities, and the professional and other disciplines.

This study has several limitations. First, limiting the analysis to citizens or permanent residents does not control for immigration. Second, rankings generated by controlling for institution size may be an inefficient way to identify schools to build relationships for increasing diversity. Smaller schools may have higher productivity ratios, but they also will have fewer graduates. Finally, our ability to suggest causation for any trends identified is restricted because of the descriptive analyses.

RESULTS

Despite earning more STEM discipline degrees than any other non-white female group at the associate's and bachelor's degree levels, black women earned fewer graduate and professional degrees. Black women earned 13 percent and 11 percent of the associate's and bachelor's degrees, respectively, but only 9 percent of the master's degrees and 5 percent of the doctorate degrees (Table 2).

At the associate's degree level, black women earned about 13 percent of all degrees except for the social sciences and humanities disciplines. Surprisingly, black women's share of bachelor's degrees earned in STEM exceeded their share of bachelor's degrees in education. The bachelor's degree is required for most graduate and profession degrees. So one can ask, "What was the trend for the percentage of bachelor's degrees awarded in a discipline and the percentage at the graduate and professional degree levels?" With the exception of STEM disciplines, there was an increase in the share of degrees earned at the bachelor's level to the master's level with the greatest increase being between the bachelor's and master's degree.

Table 2. Comparison of Degrees Earned by Women: 2000–2009.

Race	Associate’s Degrees		Bachelor’s Degrees		Master’s Degrees		First Professional Degrees		Doctorate Degrees	
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics										
Black	149,177	13.21%	168,542	10.68%	45,185	9.27%	13,527	7.85%	3,407	5.23%
Native American	13,064	1.16%	11,680	0.74%	2,924	0.60%	1,186	0.69%	276	0.42%
Asian	48,045	4.26%	148,027	9.38%	47,252	9.69%	33,553	19.48%	6,640	10.18%
Hispanic	106,021	9.39%	115,327	7.31%	27,004	5.54%	9,182	5.33%	2,742	4.21%
White	812,608	71.98%	1,133,868	71.88%	365,318	74.91%	114,824	66.65%	52,132	79.96%
Subtotal	1,128,915	100%	1,577,444	100%	487,683	100%	172,272	100%	65,197	100%
Social Science and Humanities										
Black	21,650	9.63%	228,372	9.78%	45,695	12.30%	3,371	20.73%	4,432	7.55%
Native American	3,477	1.55%	18,116	0.78%	2,708	0.73%	61	0.38%	428	0.73%
Asian	15,774	7.01%	155,333	6.65%	20,772	5.59%	494	3.04%	3,849	6.56%
Hispanic	32,343	14.38%	212,127	9.08%	27,424	7.38%	349	2.15%	4,011	6.84%
White	151,651	67.43%	1,721,037	73.71%	274,766	73.99%	11,985	73.71%	45,961	78.32%
Subtotal	224,895	100%	2,334,985	100%	371,365	100%	16,260	100%	58,681	100%
Professional and other disciplines										
Black	335,768	13.91%	376,813	13.47%	128,103	16.27%	16,245	9.62%	1,645	13.60%
Native American	29,805	1.23%	22,002	0.79%	5,551	0.71%	1,437	0.85%	83	0.69%
Asian	124,061	5.14%	170,842	6.11%	54,721	6.95%	15,028	8.90%	761	6.29%
Hispanic	313,678	12.99%	287,374	10.27%	59,725	7.59%	13,314	7.88%	543	4.49%
White	1,610,823	66.72%	1,939,863	69.36%	539,089	68.48%	122,862	72.75%	9,068	74.94%
Subtotal	2,414,135	100%	2,796,894	100%	787,189	100%	168,886	100%	12,100	100%
Medical Sciences										
Black	493	12.85%	4,064	14.79%	6,907	15.44%	13,031	7.98%	350	9.07%
Native American	112	2.92%	197	0.72%	302	0.67%	1,126	0.69%	21	0.54%
Asian	92	2.40%	3,144	11.45%	6,227	13.92%	32,790	20.08%	511	13.25%
Hispanic	381	9.93%	1,856	6.76%	3,461	7.73%	8,793	5.39%	187	4.85%

Table 2. (Continued)

Race	Associate's Degrees		Bachelor's Degrees		Master's Degrees		First Professional Degrees		Doctorate Degrees	
White	2,760	71.91%	18,208	66.29%	27,851	62.24%	107,540	65.86%	2,788	72.28%
Subtotal	3,838	100%	27,469	100%	44,748	100%	163,280	100%	3,857	100%
Education										
Black	15,890	16.19%	55,634	6.34%	115,153	10.43%	N/A	N/A	7,308	16.74%
Native American	3,177	3.24%	7,553	0.86%	7,015	0.64%	N/A	N/A	365	0.84%
Asian	2,140	2.18%	16,807	1.91%	28,637	2.59%	N/A	N/A	1,528	3.50%
Hispanic	12,705	12.95%	65,521	7.46%	81,742	7.40%	N/A	N/A	2,491	5.71%
White	64,213	65.44%	732,487	83.43%	871,890	78.94%	N/A	N/A	31,958	73.21%
Subtotal	98,125	100%	878,002	100%	1,104,437	100%	N/A	N/A	43,650	100%

Source: Integrated postsecondary education data system: Completion survey by race, 1998–2008. Retrieved from www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov.

Sixteen percent of the master's degrees earned in "professional and other disciplines" were awarded to black women, higher than any other discipline at the master's level. Of all the disciplines and degree levels, black women earned a higher share of the first professional degrees in the social sciences and humanities – religion and theology, was highest, nearly 21 percent. Although the share of education bachelor's degrees awarded to black women was the lowest, the share of education doctorates was the highest, 17 percent. The share of degrees earned by black women in the STEM disciplines at the doctorate level is half the share of bachelor's degrees earned in STEM. This suggests a "hole" not a "leak" in the pipeline for the development of STEM scientist.

In general, black women earned the highest share of degrees for non-white women for all disciplines and degree levels. Hispanic women earned the largest share of degrees earned in the social sciences and humanities at the associate's degree level and in education at the bachelor's degree level. Asian women earned the largest share of the graduate and professional STEM degrees and the largest share of professional and doctorate degrees in the medical sciences.

Table 3 provides a comparison between black women and black men with respect to degrees earned. Black women earned more degrees than black men, sometimes twice as many, in all disciplines and degree levels, except for first-professional degree in the social sciences and humanities – religion and theology. The distribution of the degrees earned is similar for STEM, the social sciences and humanities, and first profession and other disciplines. However, the distribution for medical sciences and education are dissimilar.

Of the degrees earned by black women in the medical sciences just over 50 percent were earned at the first-professional degree level compared to nearly 70 percent for black males. Black women had a higher percentage of degrees earned at the master's and bachelor's degree level than black men for the medical science and profession and other disciplines. For education, the distribution percentages are the same at the doctorate level, 4 percent. The distribution percentage favor black women at the master's and associate's degree level, 8 and 3 percentage points respectively, and favor black men at the bachelor's degree level, 10 percentage points higher.

Next, we discuss the top 20 institutions successful at producing black women with degrees at the associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctorate levels. The top 20 schools for the STEM disciplines are present in Table 4. The percentage of degrees awarded by the top 20 schools typically was less than 33 percent. The exceptions were the life sciences (34 percent) and science engineering and engineering technology (37 percent), degrees at the

Table 3. Comparison of Degrees Earned by African-American Males and Females.

	Gender				Gender Difference	
	Female		Male			
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics						
Doctorate degrees	3,407	0.9%	2,470	1.2%	937	37.9%
First professional degrees	13,527	3.6%	7,302	3.5%	6,225	85.3%
Master's degrees	45,185	11.9%	20,964	10.1%	24,221	115.5%
Bachelor's degrees	168,542	44.4%	99,200	48.0%	69,342	69.9%
Associate's degrees	149,177	39.3%	76,741	37.1%	72,436	94.4%
Subtotal	379,838	100.0%	206,677	100.0%	173,161	83.8%
Social Science and Humanities						
Doctorate degrees	4,432	1.5%	2,985	2.1%	1,447	48.5%
First professional degrees	3,371	1.1%	3,569	2.5%	-198	-5.5%
Master's degrees	45,695	15.1%	19,849	13.8%	25,846	130.2%
Bachelor's degrees	228,372	75.2%	104,311	72.6%	124,061	118.9%
Associate's degrees	21,650	7.1%	13,067	9.1%	8,583	65.7%
Subtotal	303,520	100.0%	143,781	100.0%	159,739	111.1%
Professional and other disciplines						
Doctorate degrees	1,645	0.2%	939	0.2%	706	75.2%
First professional degrees	16,245	1.9%	9,237	2.2%	7,008	75.9%
Master's degrees	128,103	14.9%	61,530	14.6%	66,573	108.2%
Bachelor's degrees	376,813	43.9%	194,707	46.3%	182,106	93.5%
Associate's degrees	335,768	39.1%	153,987	36.6%	181,781	118.0%
Subtotal	858,574	100.0%	420,400	100.0%	438,174	104.2%
Business						
Doctorate degrees	350	1.4%	130	1.3%	220	169.2%
First professional degrees	13,031	52.5%	6,828	68.5%	6,203	90.8%
Master's degrees	6,907	27.8%	1,894	19.0%	5,013	264.7%
Bachelor's degrees	4,064	16.4%	970	9.7%	3,094	319.0%
Associate's degrees	493	2.0%	143	1.4%	350	244.8%
Subtotal	24,845	100.0%	9,965	100.0%	14,880	149.3%
Education						
Doctorate degrees	7,308	3.8%	2,779	4.5%	4,529	163.0%
Master's degrees	115,153	59.4%	31,508	50.8%	83,645	265.5%
Bachelor's degrees	55,634	28.7%	24,447	39.4%	31,187	127.6%
Associate's degrees	15,890	8.2%	3,322	5.4%	12,568	378.3%
Subtotal	193,985	100.0%	62,056	100.0%	131,929	212.6%

Table 4. STEM Degrees Earned by Degree Level: 1980–2009.

Associate's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
Unknown Institutions	130	7		4,948	3,616	23,011	31,575
Keiser College of Technology				347	309	1,821	2,477
ECPI College of Technology				1,132	730	249	2,111
Miami-Dade Community College				35	1,303	418	1,756
Broward Community College				23	1,435	186	1,644
Helene Fuld School of Nursing					1,596		1,596
City Colleges of Chicago, all campuses	2			130	744	559	1,433
Robert Morris College (Chicago, IL)				405		917	1,322
Monroe College				86	8	980	1,074
CUNY Kingsborough Community College		1		81	441	527	1,049

Table 4. (Continued)

Associate's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
CUNY New York City Technical College				213	400	403	1,016
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College	5			166	616	227	1,009
Ivy Tech State College Central Office				206	180	532	918
Wayne County Community College	1			105	468	343	916
Delgado Community College				154	462	265	881
Community College of Philadelphia	8	27		94	360	422	876
Prince Georges Community College	7			22	642	204	868
University of Phoenix				151	714		865

Hinds Community College	2			37	533	268	838
Baltimore City Community College	2			70	219	446	735
Total: top 20 schools	25	27	0	1,218	4,594	3,110	8,922
Total: all schools	366	492	6	20,642	58,539	69,132	148,313
Percentage: top 20 schools	7%	5%	0%	6%	8%	4%	6%

Bachelor's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
Unknown institutions	40			1,175	1,962	282	3,459
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	270	134		295	1,766	147	2,612
Howard University	149	132		208	1,553	397	2,439
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	191	97		239	1,090	547	2,164
University of Phoenix				455	1,510	5	1,970

Table 4. (Continued)

Bachelor's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
Xavier University of Louisiana	2	387		63	1,332		1,784
Tennessee State University	217	125		178	999	168	1,687
North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	478	50		187	763	171	1,649
Prairie View A&M University	220	12		71	1,162	184	1,649
Hampton University	51	85		172	1,339		1,647
Winston-Salem State University		39		109	1,066	263	1,477
University of Florida	128	20	2	27	758	264	1,199
CUNY Herbert H Lehman College		9	2	162	1,014	3	1,190
Florida Atlantic University	23	42	2	59	1,022	8	1,156

Florida International University	45	19	2	57	1,012	11	1,146
Strayer College				1,138			1,138
Old Dominion University	49	5	6	30	429	573	1,092
Jackson State University	19	68	14	155	734	92	1,082
Grambling State University		60		384	600	22	1,066
Tuskegee University	252	50		80	661	16	1,059
Total: top 20 schools	2,134	1,334	28	5,244	20,772	3,153	32,665
Total: all schools	10,163	6,081	332	24,839	113,502	13,625	168,542
Percentage: top 20 schools	21%	22%	8%	21%	18%	23%	19%

Master's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
University of Phoenix					1,792	40	1,832
Unknown institutions	1			388	1,066	43	1,498
Central Michigan University	5	3		7	991	3	1,009
Johns Hopkins University	66	20		170	331	97	684
Emory University	2	6		1	602	32	643

Table 4. (Continued)

Master's Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
George Washington University	125	7	1	81	394	21	629
Strayer College Southern University	8	13		245 64	229 138	67 279	541 502
A&M Col at Baton Rouge							
Long Island University Brooklyn Campus		3		13	324	130	470
Governors State University		6		17	283	163	469
Florida International University	13	3	1		434	15	466
Tulane University	7	1		3	446		457
Jackson State University	2	17		27	267	129	442
University of Alabama at Birmingham	26	1		7	391	14	439

University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	89	10	1	18	316	1	435
Howard University	23	4	6	25	357		415
Webster University				24	387		411
Columbia University in the City of New York	10	1	1	15	367	3	397
University of Maryland at Baltimore					388	9	397
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	4			3	247	130	384
Total: top 20 schools	381	95	10	1,108	9,750	1,176	12,520
Total: all schools	2,742	640	101	4,202	32,520	4,980	45,185
Percentage: top 20 schools	14%	15%	10%	26%	30%	24%	28%

Doctorate Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
Howard University	2	12	4	7	76		101
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	1	6			79		86
University of Florida	13	5			60	2	80

Table 4. (Continued)

Doctorate Degree	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
University of Alabama at Birmingham	7	1		1	67		76
Temple University		1		1	65	4	71
Meharry Medical College					67		67
Nova Southeastern University				7	57		64
Johns Hopkins University	2	2		1	39	17	61
University of South Carolina at Columbia	1	8			41		50
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	5				44		49
Hampton University		6			40		46
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	9	3		7	26		45
Virginia Commonwealth University		3			38		41
Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine					39		39

Emory University		6		1	31		38
University of Texas HlthSciCtr Houston					31	7	38
Georgia Institute of Technology, Main Campus	26	8		2			36
Purdue University, Main Campus	7	14		1	14		36
University of Southern California	2	2			31		35
Harvard University		2		1	32		35
Total: top 20 schools	75	79	4	29	877	30	1,094
Total: all schools	318	284	18	129	2,576	82	3,407
Percentage: top 20 schools	24%	28%	22%	22%	34%	37%	32%

You Go Girl!: Trends in Educational Attainment of Black Women

doctorate degree level. The majority of the schools on the list are community colleges. The University of Phoenix and Strayer College are the only two for-profit institutions that appear on both the bachelor's and the master's degree lists. Kieser College of Technology and ECPI College of Technology are for-profit institutions on the associate's degree list. There are several HBCUs on the lists. twelve are on the bachelor's degree list: Florida A&M University, Howard University, Southern University A&M College at Baton Rouge, Xavier University of Louisiana, Tennessee State University, North Carolina A & T State University, Prairie View A&M University, Hampton University, Winston Salem State University, Jackson State University, Grambling State University, and Tuskegee University. There are three HBCUs on the master's list and four HBCUs on the doctorate list. Only Howard University appears on all three of the lists for bachelor's, master's, and doctorate lists.

The top 20 schools for the social sciences and humanities are presented in Table 5. At the associate's and bachelor's degree levels, the schools on the top-20 lists produced about 15 percent of the degrees. At the graduate level, 30 percent of the master's degrees were earned at schools on top-20 lists and 73 percent of the doctorates were earned at schools on top-20 lists. The increase in the percentage of graduate degrees awarded by schools on the top-20 lists suggests that these schools have created a welcoming and supportive environment for black women, and black women know of their success. There are four for-profit institutions on the associate's degree top-20 lists, Katherine Gibbs School, Bauder College, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, and Fashion Institute of Technology all of which made the list because of their arts specialization.

The HBCUs on the bachelor's list are Spelman College, Howard University, Florida A & M University, Hampton University, Fayetteville State University, and North Carolina A & T State University. On the master's and doctorate lists there are three – Prairie View A & M University, Bowie State University, and Howard University, and one HBCU– Howard University, respectively.

The professional and other disciplines lists are similar to that of the social sciences and humanities and STEM disciplines (Table 6). The top 20 schools on the associates, bachelor's and master's degrees lists awarded fewer than 30 percent of the degrees. The University of Phoenix is the only for-profit school on the associate's degree list and awarded 29 percent of the business management and 30 percent of the vocational studies and home economics or other discipline associate degrees. There are six HBCUs on the bachelor's top-20 list for professional and other disciplines and two for-profit

Table 5. Top 20 Schools for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Associates Degree	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Unknown institutions	12	55	1	5	160	1,696	1,929
Tidewater Community College		408	119			30	557
Merritt College		394	143	2			539
City Colleges of Chicago, all campuses		12	439			1	452
Riverside Community College		17	423				440
Thomas Nelson Community College		348	67			12	427
CUNY New York City Technical College		347				64	411
Laney College		248	95	27		9	379
Community College of Philadelphia		241		53		80	374
Essex County College		342				22	364
Sacramento City College	5	305	37	5		9	361
South Suburban College of Cook County		26	319			1	346

Table 5. (Continued)

Associates Degree	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Wayne County Community College		150			2	187	339
J Sargeant Reynolds Community College		263	58			5	326
Katharine Gibbs School (New York, NY)						311	311
CUNY Bronx Community College		243				23	266
St Louis Community Colleges, all campuses		226				36	262
Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising						256	256
Fashion Institute of Technology						248	248
Bauder College						231	231
Total: top 20 schools	5	1,213	414	5	2	1,307	2,946
Total: all schools	1467	7739	3550	703	548	7,643	21650
Percentage: top 20 schools	0%	16%	12%	1%	0%	17%	14%

Bachelor's Degree	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Spelman College	800	1,245	43	794	22	214	3,118
Georgia State University	848	1,241	8	531	15	237	2,880
Howard University	594	742		408		450	2,194
CUNY Hunter College	454	827	18	572	9	119	1,999
University of South Florida	410	1,042	64	422	4	54	1,996
University of Maryland at College Park	251	1,032	9	456	1	146	1,895
CUNY John Jay College Criminal Justice	740	1,046					1,786
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	712	579		226		194	1,711
Hampton University	827	377		318	9	101	1,632
Unknown institutions	140	322	3	20	439	690	1,614
Florida State University	359	658		365	11	163	1,556
Ohio State University, main campus	300	852	25	217	2	102	1,498
CUNY York College	814	409		221		15	1,459
Fayetteville State University	433	536		345		120	1,434
North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	559	292		331		249	1,431
Temple University	484	409	11	213	9	301	1,427
California State University-Dominguez Hills	302	892		161		55	1,410
Rutgers the State University of NJ New Brunswick	337	652	16	307	8	82	1,402
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	454	470	41	314	1	111	1,391
Virginia Commonwealth University	583	218	57	185	16	297	1,356
Total: top 20 schools	10,401	13,841	295	6,406	546	3,700	35,189
Total: all schools	71,323	88,903	1,616	42,171	3,058	21,301	228,372
Percentage: top 20 schools	15%	16%	18%	15%	18%	17%	15%

Table 5. (Continued)

Master's Degree	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Webster University	2,697	158				4	2,859
Troy State University, main campus	767	967					1,734
Prairie View A&M University	1,599	46		1			1,646
Unknown institutions	421	299	1	1	265	31	1,018
Illinois School of Professional Psychology	585						585
New York University	21	214		85		252	572
California State University- Dominguez Hills	119	313	18	21			471
Bowie State University	318	122		3			443
University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus	1	417		2		4	424
Howard University	115	104		81	43	78	421
CUNY John Jay College Criminal Justice	116	277					393
American University	15	275	14	15		68	387
Lincoln University (Lincoln University, PA)		380					380

Teachers College, Columbia University	269	53		16	1	19	358
Liberty University	126	162			63		351
Long Island University Brooklyn Campus	61	252		32			345
Governors State University	136	189		10		4	339
CUNY Queens College	11	295		18		6	330
University of Baltimore	45	196				89	330
Nova Southeastern University	180	117	27	1			325
Total: top 20 schools	7,602	4,836	60	286	372	555	13,711
Total: all schools	16,321	20,562	506	2,961	2,493	2,852	45,695
Percentage: top 20 schools	47%	24%	12%	10%	15%	19%	30%

Doctorate Degrees	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Howard University	92	60		37	47		236
United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH)					123		123
Unknown institutions	66	20			29		115

Table 5. (Continued)

Doctorate Degrees	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	38	41		10		9	98
American Schools of Professional Psychology	82						82
Temple University	15	41		8	5	5	74
University of Maryland at College Park	18	28	1	13		3	63
University of Sarasota	58				5		63
CUNY Graduate School and University Center	21	20		13		4	58
California School Prof Psych at San Diego	54	3					57
New York University	15	7		22		13	57
Rutgers the State University of NJ New Brunswick	28	7	1	15		3	54

California School Prof Psych at Los Angeles	53							53
University of Georgia	29	9		13				51
University of Florida	15	22		12				49
Walden University	33	14						47
Duke University	7	10		20	4		4	45
Ohio State University, main campus	11	15		18			1	45
University of California-Los Angeles	6	12		22			5	45
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	15	13		17				45
Total: top 20 schools	212	109	1	139	4		26	491
Total: all schools	1,875	1,112	22	753	540		130	670
Percentage: top 20 schools	11%	10%	5%	18%	1%		20%	73%

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Table 6. Top 20 Schools for the Professional and Other Disciplines.

Associate's Degrees	Architecture and Environmental Design	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Non-Sciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
Unknown institutions	24	18,067	42	51	5	6,784	10,045	35,018
Miami-Dade Community College	3	162				196	5,263	5,624
City Colleges of Chicago, all campuses		260	29		19	935	3,608	4,851
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College		1,515			504		1,688	3,707
Broward Community College		180				119	3,283	3,582
Community College of Philadelphia		841				659	2,044	3,544
Wayne County Community College		331				320	2,780	3,431
Monroe College		2,354				572	60	2,986
Central Texas College		278	3		25	240	2,331	2,877
Houston Community College		330				177	2,342	2,849
Florida Community College of Jacksonville	7	236				139	2,445	2,827

University of Phoenix		1,916	19			304	282	2,521
Prince Georges Community College		1,044				317	1,130	2,491
Tallahassee Community College		88				121	2,236	2,445
Hinds Community College		685	15	4		500	1,086	2,290
Dekalb College		9	2				2,272	2,283
Valencia Community College		173				42	1,996	2,211
Johnson and Wales University		974	46			1,140	16	2,176
Robert Morris College (Chicago, IL)		1,735				61	309	2,105
Palm Beach Community College	5	80				90	1,890	2,065
Total: top 20 schools	39	31,258	156	55	553	12,716	47,106	91,883
Total: all schools	121	108,975	1,350	285	5,825	41,741	177,471	335,768
Percentage: top 20 schools	32%	29%	12%	19%	9%	30%	27%	27%

Bachelor's Degree	Architecture and Environmental Design	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Non-Sciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
Unknown institutions		9,335	23	3	17	1,030	443	10,851
University of Phoenix		6,827	7			481		7,315

Table 6. (Continued)

Bachelor's Degree	Architecture and Environmental Design	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Non-Sciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
College of New Rochelle		42	51		20		3,559	3,672
University of Maryland University College		1,104	134	188		121	2,018	3,565
Howard University	45	1,330	1,534			234	16	3,114
Strayer College Florida		3,094						3,094
Agricultural and Mechanical University	94	1,669	534		205	591		2,999
Georgia State University		1,687	491		219	267	49	2,713
Temple University	17	1,091	714	110	294	363	55	2,627
University of Memphis	1	877	280		186	217	1,063	2,623
Chicago State University		525	72			296	1,627	2,520
Florida State University		829	189		284	1,089	39	2,430
Tennessee State University		935			126	435	806	2,302

St Leo College		1,997			57	236	3	2,293
Robert Morris College (Chicago, IL)		2,200					5	2,205
University of Houston-Downtown		919				302	935	2,156
Hampton University	56	1,189	600		133	2	227	2,151
North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	3	933	397		276	352	145	2,103
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	29	792	280		318	706		2,096
Norfolk State University		653	325		351	37	694	2,060
Total: top 20 schools	245	38,028	5,631	301	2,486	6,759	11,684	64,889
Total: all schools	1,626	194,171	41,358	1,615	30,727	50,436	56,880	375,187
Percentage: top 20 schools	15%	20%	14%	19%	8%	13%	21%	17%

Master's Degrees	Architecture and Environmental Design	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Non-Sciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
University of Phoenix		8,317				250		8317
Unknown institutions		8,086	30		79	238	167	8195

Table 6. (Continued)

Master's Degrees	Architecture and Environmental Design	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Non-Sciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
Webster University		5,343	105	26		122	26	5474
Troy State University, main campus		2,656				88	4	2656
University of Maryland University College		2,609						2609
Strayer College		2,464						2464
Central Michigan University		2,124	4			2	29	2128
DeVry Institute of Tech (Oakbrook Terr, IL)		1,976						1976
DeVry Institute of Tech (Decatur, GA)		1,568						1568
Nova Southeastern University		1,448		25		155		1473
Howard University		185	132	15	891	6	6	1223

Wayne State University	14	277	205	11	577	16	8	1084
Springfield College					1,070		1	1070
Fordham University		80	23	2	960	1	5	1065
Indiana Wesleyan University		1,059				2		1059
Audrey Cohen College		512			511			1023
Clark Atlanta University		348	109		369	25	3	826
University of South Carolina at Columbia		68	101		651	19	3	820
New York University	11	194	91	13	487	72	73	796
University of Maryland at Baltimore					789			789
Total: top 20 schools	25	39,314	800	92	6,384	996	325	46,615
Total: all schools	1,626	194,171	41,358	1,615	30,727	50,436	56,880	375,187
Percentage: top 20 schools	2%	20%	2%	6%	21%	2%	1%	12%

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institutions. Howard University, Florida A & M University, Tennessee State University, Hampton University, North Carolina A & T State University, Southern University A & M Technology State University at Baton Rouge, and Norfolk State University were the HBCUs on the list and the University of Phoenix was the only for-profit institution. The master's list has four for-profit institutions – University of Phoenix, Strayer College, and DeVry Institute of Technology (Oakbrook Terrace, IL and Decatur, GA) and two HBCUs – Howard University and Clark Atlanta University. There are three HBCUs – Howard University, Texas Southern University, and North Carolina Central University on the professional degree list all for awarding degrees in law and all are listed in the top five on the list.

The doctorate list has four HBCUs on the list – Howard, Clark Atlanta University, Jackson State University, and Norfolk State University. Jackson State University is the only HBCU on the list offering doctorate degrees in architecture and environmental design or business management. The other schools made the list for offering doctorate degrees in communication and librarianship or social service professions. Howard University was ranked number 1 on the professional and doctorate top 20 schools list for professional and other disciplines. There were no for-profit institutions on the professional degree list, and only the University of Phoenix was on the doctorate degree list for awarding degrees in business management.

The top 20 schools on the medical sciences disciplines lists awarded a higher percentage of the degrees across all degree levels (Table 7). Over 80 percent of the associate degrees, 66 percent of the bachelor's degrees, about 50 percent of the master's and professional degrees, and nearly 75 percent of the doctorates in the medical sciences were awarded by the top 20 schools. The associate's degree list includes one HBCU, the University of the District of Columbia. At the bachelor's degree level, there are four HBCUs on the list – Dillard University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina A & T State University, and Delaware State University. Jackson State is on the master's degree list along with Florida A & M University, the only HBCU on the doctorate top-20 list. But there are eight HBCUs on the professional degree list – Howard University, Florida A & M University, Meharry Medical College, Xavier University, Texas Southern University, Tuskegee University, Hampton University, and Morehouse School of Medicine. Additionally, there were two for-profit institutions on the master's degree list – Walden University and Strayer College.

There has been much discussion about the number of minorities enrolled at for-profit institutions. The University of Phoenix reported that 30 percent of their students in 2009 were African-American up from 23 percent in

Table 7. Top 20 Schools for the Medical Sciences.

Level of Degree or Other Award	Associate's Degrees	Level of Degree or Other Award	Bachelor's Degrees
Keiser College of Technology	163	Monroe College	317
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	38	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	302
Unknown institutions	31	Dillard University	274
Holmes Community College	21	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	189
University of the District of Columbia	18	Rutgers the State University of NJ New Brunswick	168
East Central Community College	13	Georgia Southern University	160
Hinds Community College	13	East Carolina University	139
St Philips College	12	University of North Carolina at Greensboro	130
Copiah-Lincoln Junior College	10	Temple University	129
Grand Rapids Community College	10	North Carolina Central University	119
Wake Technical Community College	10	CUNY Hunter College	118
Itawamba Community College	9	University of Southern Mississippi	111
Milwaukee Area Technical College	9	Delaware State University	88
Northwest Mississippi Community College	9	University of Florida	75
Springfield College in Illinois	8	CUNY York College	69
University of Cincinnati, all campuses	8	University of Baltimore	65
East Mississippi Community College	7	Southern Connecticut State University	63
Southern Ohio College	7	North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	56
Tyler Junior College	7	University of Southern California	53
Coahoma Community College	6	Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis	49
Total: top 20 schools	409	Total: top 20 schools	2,674
Total: all schools	493	Total: all schools	4,064
Percentage: top 20 schools	83%	Percentage: top 20 schools	66%

Level of Degree or Other Award	Master's Degrees	Level of Degree or Other Award	First Professional Degrees
Emory University	465	Howard University	896
Tulane University	278	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	616
George Washington University	268	Meharry Medical College	528
Strayer College	229	Xavier University of Louisiana	406
Columbia University in the City of New York	225	University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	355
University of Alabama at Birmingham	169	Temple University	310

Table 7. (Continued)

Level of Degree or Other Award	Associate's Degrees	Level of Degree or Other Award	Bachelor's Degrees
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	158	Texas Southern University	301
Johns Hopkins University	158	University of Maryland at Baltimore	289
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	156	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	238
University of Illinois at Chicago	147	University of Florida	222
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	147	University of Illinois at Chicago	217
Florida International University	139	Tuskegee University	216
Jackson State University	134	Hampton University	196
University of South Florida	127	Morehouse College of Medicine	180
Harvard University	123	University of Tennessee at Knoxville	174
CUNY Hunter College	117	Wayne State University	167
Walden University	117	Virginia Commonwealth University	164
Drexel University	115	Medical University of South Carolina	163
University of South Carolina at Columbia	106	Nova Southeastern University	159
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	99	SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn	150
Total: top 20 schools	3,477	Total: top 20 schools	5,947
Total: all schools	6,907	Total: all schools	13,031
Percentage: top 20 schools	50%	Percentage: top 20 schools	46%
Level of Degree or Other Award			Doctorate Degrees
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill			28
Johns Hopkins University			27
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University			22
Harvard University			20
University of South Carolina at Columbia			20
University of Texas HlthSciCtr Houston			18
South College (Savannah, GA)			14
University of Georgia			14
University of Pittsburgh Main Campus			13
University of California-Los Angeles			12
Loma Linda University			11
University of Alabama at Birmingham			10
Columbia University in the City of New York			9
University of Illinois at Chicago			9
North Carolina State University at Raleigh			6
Ohio State University, main campus			6

Table 7. (Continued)

Level of Degree or Other Award	Doctorate Degrees
University of South Florida	6
University of Cincinnati, all campuses	5
University of Maryland at Baltimore	5
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	5
Total: top 20 schools	260
Total: all schools	350
Percentage: top 20 schools	74%

2003.⁵ These percentages fail to enumerate the percentage of African-Americans that are first-time freshmen, undergraduate or graduate students, or that are women. Table 8 presents the top 20 for-profit institutions with respect to the enrollment of first-time freshmen, undergraduate students and graduate students for black women. The University of Phoenix is the top for-profit institution for the enrollment of black women as first-time freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students. Strayer College is second.

The percentage of black women who were first-time freshmen and enrolled at a for-profit institution was 5 percent for the 1990 decade and 14 percent for the 2000 decade.⁶ Although the percentage increased, the majority of black women who were first-time freshmen were enrolled at not-for-profit institutions. The total number of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen at for-profit institutions was nearly five times higher for the 2000 decade than for the 1990 decade. The University of Phoenix's total enrollment of black women as first-time freshmen was over 25 times higher for the 2000 decade than it was for the 1990 decade. Strayer College's total enrollment of black women as first-time freshmen was over four times higher for the 2000 decade than it was for the 1990 decade.

The growth at the undergraduate and graduate levels is similar. The growth in the total number of black women enrolled as undergraduate students at for-profit institutions was five times higher for the 2000 decade than for the 1990 decade. The growth in the total undergraduate enrollment of black women at the University of Phoenix increased 14-fold from the 1990 decade to the 2000 decade. With the exception of ICS-Center for Degree Studies, nearly all the institutions on the top 20 had a double-digit increase in total enrollment from the 1990 decade to the 2000 decade. For the 1990s, the top 20 institutions enrolled 55 percent of the total black women enrolled as undergraduates at

Table 8. Black Women Enrollment by Class Status at For-Profits Institutions: 1986–2009.

First-Time Freshmen	1986	1988	Total 1990s	Total 2000s	Total
Unknown institutions			14,835	181,641	196,476
University of Phoenix			635	17,062	17,697
Strayer College	91	101	3,048	8,611	11,851
Monroe College	353	293	3,010	4,057	7,713
Keiser College of Technology		6	1,409	4,401	5,816
National Business College	143	143	766	4,003	5,055
ICS-Center for Degree Studies	91	2,293	2,374	0	4,758
Western International University		7	21	4,564	4,592
Interboro Institute	208	208	1,350	2,486	4,252
DeVry Institute of Tech (Decatur, GA)	198	346	1,863	1,727	4,134
DeVry Institute of Tech (Oakbrook Terr, IL)		91	1,215	2,509	3,877
Tampa College, all campuses	256	256	670	2,377	3,559
Orlando College (Orlando, FL)	41	104	459	2,526	3,130
Kentucky College of Business	14	14	360	2,660	3,048
Bauder College	75	75	844	1,896	2,890
Commonwealth College	17	48	901	1,919	2,885
ECPI College of Technology			674	2,114	2,788
Stratton College	83	76	581	2,032	2,772
Virginia College (Salem, VA)			185	2,522	2,707
Sanford Brown College			718	1,887	2,605
Total top 20 schools	1,632	4,061	35,918	250,994	292,605
All for-profit schools	4,701	7,186	68,135	308,138	388,160
Percentage: top 20 schools	35%	57%	53%	81%	75%
Percentage of all schools	N/A	N/A	5%	14%	11%
Undergraduate Students	1986	1988	Total 1990s	Total 2000s	Total
Unknown institutions			29,319	502,243	531,562
University of Phoenix	62	62	9,926	143,574	153,624
Strayer College	293	356	13,418	71,556	85,623
Monroe College	856	771	8,226	18,998	28,851
DeVry Institute of Tech (Oakbrook Terr, IL)	297	311	3,723	16,686	21,017
ICS-Center for Degree Studies	396	2,866	17,462	0	20,724
DeVry Institute of Tech (Decatur, GA)	374	594	6,458	11,928	19,354
ECPI College of Technology			1,808	15,013	16,821
Keiser College of Technology		17	1,757	14,923	16,697
Mount St Clare College		6	117	16,486	16,609
Tampa College, All Campuses	354	354	2,771	12,667	16,146
Orlando College (Orlando, FL)	217	129	2,116	11,904	14,366
National Business College	342	342	2,643	8,905	12,232

Table 8. (Continued)

Undergraduate Students	1986	1988	Total 1990s	Total 2000s	Total
Virginia College (Salem, VA)			684	11,385	12,069
South College (Savannah, GA)	334	275	1,467	7,198	9,274
Interboro Institute	404	404	2,707	5,397	8,912
Commonwealth College	27	223	3,074	5,353	8,677
Western International University		35	302	8,158	8,495
David N. Myers College	529	482	4,160	3,107	8,278
Southern Ohio College	170	178	686	6,969	8,003
Total top 20 schools	4,655	7,405	112,824	892,450	1,017,334
All schools	11,684	15,123	206,057	1,094,557	1,327,421
Percentage: top 20 schools	40%	49%	55%	82%	77%
Graduate Students	1986	1988	Total 1990s	Total 2000s	Total
University of Phoenix	55	55	3,252	61,586	64,948
Unknown Institutions			302	60,175	60,477
Strayer College		5	1,162	27,277	28,444
Walden University			693	26,533	27,226
DeVry Institute of Tech (Oakbrook Terr, IL)	7	7	1	8,656	8,671
Illinois School of Professional Psychology			162	7,654	7,816
University of Sarasota	33		233	4,842	5,108
DeVry Institute of Tech (Decatur, GA)			0	5,090	5,090
American Schools of Professional Psychology	7	11	280	4,134	4,432
Keller Graduate School of Management	26	27	1,484	2,117	3,654
Mount St Clare College			0	1,602	1,602
Grand Canyon University			26	1,284	1,310
DeVry Institute of Tech (Irving, TX)			0	1,109	1,109
DeVry Institute of Tech (Columbus, OH)			0	968	968
Tampa College, All Campuses			161	708	869
South College (Savannah, GA)			0	727	727
The American College in Atlanta	5		0	698	703
DeVry Institute of Tech (City of Industry, CA)			0	658	658
Columbia Junior College			0	642	642
DeVry Institute of Tech (Kansas City, MO)			0	475	475
Total top 20 schools	133	105	7,756	216,935	224,929
All schools	135	127	8,318	220,479	229,059
Percentage: top 20 schools	99%	83%	93%	98%	98%

for-profit institutions. By the 2000s, the top 20 institutions enrolled 82 percent of the total black women enrolled as undergraduates at for-profit institutions.

At the graduate level, growth in the total number of black women enrolled as graduate students at for-profit institutions was nearly 20 times higher for the 2000 decade than for the 1990 decade. With the exceptions of Keller Graduate School of Management and Tampa College, all the institutions on the top 20 had a double-digit increase in total enrollment from the 1990 decade to the 2000 decade. For the 1990s, the top 20 institutions enrolled 93 percent of the total black women enrolled as graduates at for-profit institutions. By the 2000s, the top 20 institutions enrolled 98 percent of the total black women enrolled as undergraduates at for-profit institutions. Despite the increase in the total number of black women enrolled at for-profit institutions, the majority of black women pursuing post-secondary education were enrolled at not-for-profit institutions.

CONCLUSION

There are several notable findings. First, for the 30 years analyzed, the percentage of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen was greater than any other non-white group. Second, black women increased their share of the first-time freshmen from 6 percent in 1980 to 8 percent in 2009, which resulted in a decrease in the ratio of white women to black women who were first-time freshmen from 6:1 to 4:1 over the same period. Third, the share of bachelor's degrees earned in STEM by black women was greater than the share of bachelor's degrees earned in education. Fourth, we find a 44 percent increase in the number of black women enrolled as first-time freshmen between 1989–1998 and 2000–2008. Finally, the growth in the total number of black women enrolled at for-profit institutions as first-time freshmen more than doubled.

Our ability to offer policy recommendations is limited; therefore, we offer a set of research questions for scholars to examine. First, how has the progress or lack thereof in standard test scores of black women influenced their enrollment choices at the post-secondary level? Second, what are the socio-demographic characteristics and labor market outcomes of black women who attend for-profit and complete degrees at for-profit institutions? Finally, are there a set of best practices, particular at institutions on the top 20 lists, that will ensure that the gains in educational achievement by black women will not revert.

NOTES

1. Table 338: Percentage of undergraduates receiving aid, by type and source of aid and selected student characteristics: 2007–2008, 2009.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. The enrollment gap ranged from a high of 2.3% in 2004 to a low of 1.4 in 1982, 1986, and 1991.
5. Table 338: Percentage of undergraduates receiving aid, by type and source of aid and selected student characteristics: 2007–2008 (2009). Retrieved from Digest of Educational Statistics: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d09/tables/dt09_338.asp. Accessed on July 1, 2011.
6. The University of Phoenix Has Become a Major Bulwark of Black Higher Education, 2009/2010.

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