

 Emerald**Books**

**Diversity in Higher Education**  
Volume 7

# Black American Males in Higher Education: Research, Programs and Academe

Henry T. Frierson  
James H. Wyche  
Willie Pearson, Jr.  
Editors



Emerald Group Publishing Limited  
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2009

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**British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-84950-643-4

ISSN: 1479-3644 (Series)



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## WHERE ARE BROTHERS IN THE ACADEMY?: SCHOOLS SUCCESSFUL AT PRODUCING BLACK MALE GRADUATES

Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe and William A. Darity Jr.

### INTRODUCTION

Since the first enslaved Africans arrived in America, there has been a dialogue about if, how and what “the Negro” should be taught. This discussion became more important with the emancipation of approximately 3 million slaves, more than 90 percent of whom are believed to have been illiterate. The general sentiment of Southerners about the education of blacks is evident in *The Southern Planter and Farmer*, where a Virginian named Bebbet Puryear, writing under the pseudonym “Civis,” wrote:

I oppose [education for blacks] because it is a policy that is cruelty in the extreme to the Negro himself. It instills in his mind that he is competent to share in the higher walks of life, prompts him to despise those menial pursuits to which his race has been doomed, and invites him to enter into competition with the white man for those tempting prizes that can be won only by a higher order of administrative talent than the negro has ever developed. (Lucas p. 159)

Fast forward nearly 150 years and the education of the “Negro” is still a public policy concern but with a greater focus on the “Negro” male. A

**Black American Males in Higher Education: Research, Programs and Academe**  
**Diversity in Higher Education, Volume 7, 79–115**  
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 ISSN: 1479-3644/doi:10.1108/S1479-3644(2009)0000007008

focused concern about the educational attainment of African American males has been a public policy issue since the late 1980s. At the time, Jewelle Gibbs (1988), somewhat awkwardly, described the social and economic status of African American males as leading to their categorization as an "endangered species." Gordon, Gordon, and Nembhard (1994, p. 519) concluded from a meta-analysis of the available research that the following set of reasons explain the precarious condition of black males:

- (a) unequal access to and facilities for formal education for Black males;
- (b) rising dropout rates and declining college graduate school attendance levels;
- (c) the effects of cultural differences between teachers and pupils;
- (d) the lack of job training or appropriate job training;
- (e) disparities in rewards for educational achievement;
- (f) poor-quality schooling;
- (g) low teacher expectations of black male academic achievement;
- (h) poor academic socialization; and
- (i) inadequate home and family support for academic learning.

They argue, "Most of the published material concerned with education and Black males has given short shrift to statistical analysis and documentation of the problem, perhaps assuming that its dimensions are well known" (p. 519). Apparently, the next generation of researchers to explore the issue of education and Black males was listening.

This is especially evident in articles published by the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education (JBHE)*, a key resource for publicly consumable statistical reports about the status of blacks in higher education. JBHE articles, "Blacks Making Solid Progress in Graduate School Enrollments: Women are in the Lead" and "Black Women Now Hold a Large Lead Over Black Men in Enrollments at Most of the Nation's Highest-Ranked Professional Schools" indicate the scope of the current crisis for African American males in higher education.

In addition, scholars like, Jerlando F. L. Jackson, James L. Moore III, Lamont A. Flowers, and Lee Jones have made contributions to our understanding of the crisis by documenting the status of African American males in postsecondary education in special editions of journals emphasizing African American males and education.<sup>1</sup> For the time period 1989–1998, Jackson (2003) finds a decrease in the proportion of African American males completing high school, coupled with an increase in college enrollments and degrees earned at the bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctorate levels. On the other hand, he finds an increase in the representation of

African American males as professors, department chairs, and college and university chief executive officers, but a decrease in their representation as dean or vice president from 1988 to 1999. Ultimately, Jackson's study demonstrates that a large disparity persist between the status of African American and white males in higher education.

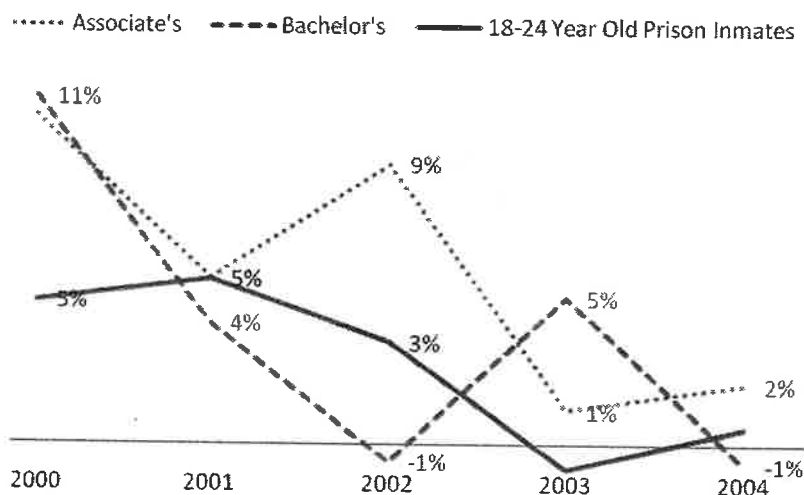
However, does the body research on African American males and education point toward solution or constitute a part of the problem itself? Jackson and Moore (2006) observe that in much of the research African American males are often described as "endangered, uneducable, dysfunctional, and dangerous," and the construction of these images may exacerbate their inability to achieve higher levels of educational achievement. Our study seeks to contribute to a redirection of the conversation about African American males and education by highlighting enrollment trends and postsecondary degree attainment and the institutions that have been successful at awarding those degrees to African American males.

## ENROLLMENT

We begin by providing a history of enrollment trends. Graph 1 illustrates the percentage change in the number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males who were incarcerated and the percentage changes in the number of African American males enrolled as first-time freshmen in associate's or bachelor's degree programs.<sup>2</sup> Notably, in the year 2000, we find an increase in the proportion of 18- to 24-year-old African American males incarcerated and a decrease in the proportion enrolled in associate's or bachelor's degree programs.

James Dunn (1988) claims that "immediate financial gratification" may explain this phenomenon as the pursuit of "quick money" resulting in incarceration, thereby reducing the number of males to enroll in college degree programs. Following the same logic, a decrease in incarceration rates in 2001 could explain increased enrollments in associate's degree program at the time. But it would not be consistent with a continued decrease in enrollment in bachelor's degree programs.

Arguably, Dunn's findings of "immediate financial gratification" may explain the choice of the associate's degree over the bachelor's degree. In 2002, the change in the number incarcerated continues to point toward decline, but the enrollment in bachelor's degrees begins to increase and enrollment in associate's degree programs begins to decrease. From 2002 to 2004, the percentage change in the number incarcerated and the percentage



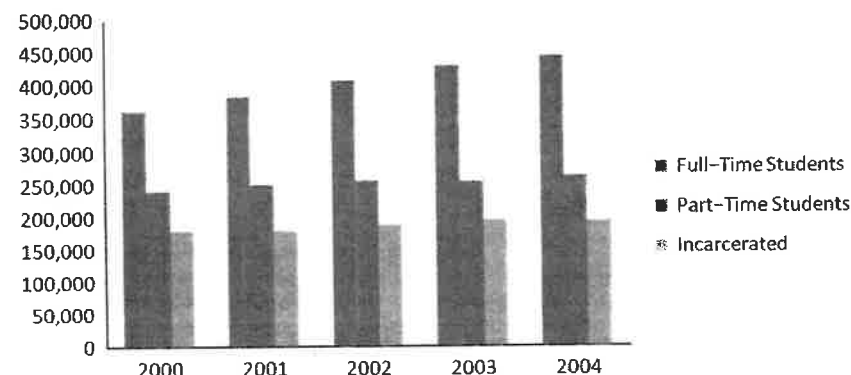
Graph 1. Incarceration and Degree Attainment Percentage Changes for Black Males: 2001–2006. *Source:* Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Enrollment Survey, 2000–2004. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov). Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin: Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 Annual Reports.

change in the number enrolled in associate (bachelor's) degree programs display a positive (negative) relationship.

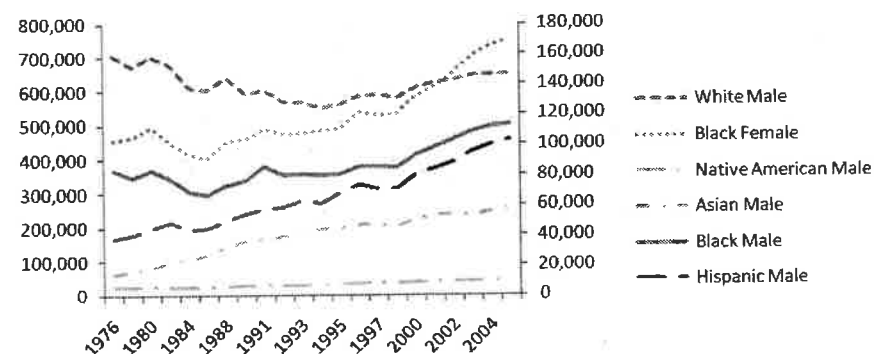
An important conclusion from Graph 1 is that at no point are the percentage changes in first-time enrollments in both the associate's and the bachelor's degree programs below the percentage changes in incarceration rates. Graph 2 further indicates that despite the high number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males incarcerated, more are enrolled as full-time or part-time college students.<sup>3</sup> Graph 2 also illustrates that more 18- to 24-year-old African American males are enrolled in college than are incarcerated.

We will briefly discuss enrollment trends of African American males relative to other males and African American females. Graph 3 shows that the number of African American males enrolled as first-time freshmen is at an all-time high. This may be attributed to the decrease in the number of African Americans enlisting in the military.<sup>4</sup>

The number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males enrolled as first-time freshmen is greater than all other ethnic/racial minority groups and nearly twice the enrollment of Asian males. Additionally, Graph 4 shows

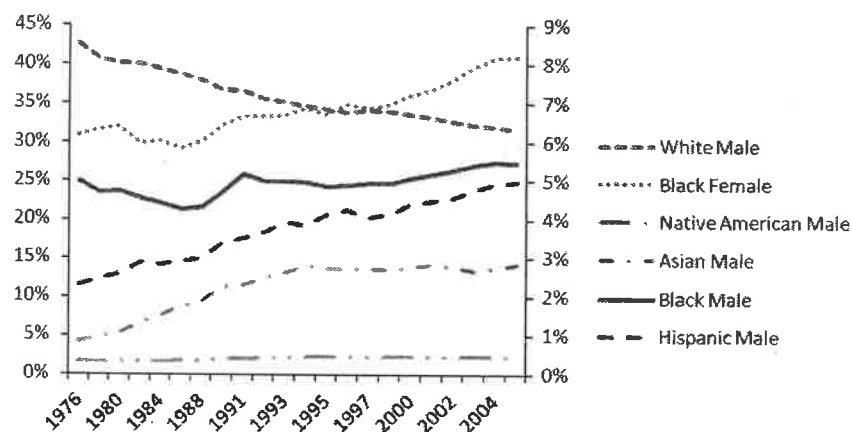


Graph 2. College Enrollment Versus Incarceration of 18- to 24-year-old African American males. *Source:* Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Enrollment Survey, 2000–2004. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov). Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin: Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 Annual Reports.



Graph 3. Enrollment of First-time Freshmen: 1976–2005. White Males are on the Primary y-axis and all other Groups are on the Secondary y-axis. *Source:* Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Enrollment Survey, 1976–2005. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

that the group has maintained its percentage share of first-time freshmen, about 5 percent. The graphs show the widening gap between the number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males and females with respect to enrollments and enrollment-share. What the graphs do not show is that the ratio of first-time freshmen who are 18- to 24-year-old white males to 18- to 24-year-old black males has decreased from roughly 9:1 to 6:1.



Graph 4. Percent of First-time Freshmen: 1976–2005. White Males are on the Primary y-axis and all other Groups are on the Secondary y-axis. Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Enrollment Survey, 1976–2005. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

Finally, Table 1 presents the changes in the status of African American males between 1986–1995 and 1996–2005. We find a 4 percent increase in the number enrolled as first-time, full-time freshmen between the two time periods. The nearly 60 percent decrease in the number enrolled beyond the freshmen year may be offset by the 15-fold increase in the number of “other/unknown” full-time undergraduate category. There is also an increase in the number of full-time, first-time graduate students. This is potentially due to students substituting away from graduate programs to professional programs indicated by the near doubling of the number of first-time, full-time professional students.

The trends are similar for the number of African American males enrolled part-time. There is a 21 percent increase in the number enrolled as first-time, part-time freshmen between 1986–1995 and 1996–2005. The decrease in the number enrolled beyond the freshmen year is offset by the tripling of the number in the “other/unknown” part-time undergraduate category. The decrease in the number of first-time, part-time graduate students is approximately the same as the decrease in first-time, full-time graduate students. The number enrolled in first-time, full-time first professional degree programs increased over 250 percent. The net changes in full-time and part-time enrollments from 1986–1995 to 1996–2005 for African American males is 41 percent, an increase in enrollments of 1.7 million.<sup>5</sup>

Table 1. Changes in Enrollment for African American Males: 1986–2005.

		1986–1995	1996–2005	Percentage Change
Full-time students	First-time freshmen	621,650	883,855	42
	Other lower division undergraduate students	1,011,142	401,230	–60
	Upper division undergraduate students	576,219	253,401	–56
	Other/unknown undergraduate students	106,903	1,731,711	1520
	First-time graduate students	33,322	16,000	–52
	Other than first-time graduate students	60,485	32,783	–46
	Non-degree seeking graduate students	6,888	3,610	–48
	Other/unknown graduate students	N/A	131,557	N/A
	First-time first-professional students	18,498	51,061	176
	Other than first-time first-professional students	37,410	16,248	–57
	Subtotal	2,472,517	3,521,456	42
Part-time students	First-time freshmen	210,241	254,329	21
	Other lower division undergraduate students	708,171	290,406	–59
	Upper division undergraduate students	177,336	79,465	–55
	Other/unknown undergraduate students	326,989	1,320,678	304
	First-time graduate students	27,847	13,035	–53
	Other than first-time graduate students	91,656	43,636	–52
	Non-degree seeking graduate students	39,229	16,373	–58
	Other/unknown graduate students	N/A	179,133	N/A
	First-time first-professional students	3,246	11,432	252
	Other than first-time first-professional students	6,141	3,231	–47
	Subtotal	1,590,856	2,211,718	39
	Total	4,063,373	5,733,174	41

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Enrollment Survey, 1986–2005. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

## DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This study examines degree attainment of males who self-report themselves as African American and as United States citizens or permanent residents. The study is limited to the 1996–2006 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 males?

2. Which disciplines have supportive environments for educating African American males?
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 via 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 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, the analyses are descriptive, which restricts our ability to suggest causation for any trends identified.

## RESULTS

Table 2 provides the distribution of degrees earned by males. Of the degrees awarded in the STEM disciplines, African American males earned 10 percent of the associate's degrees, 6 percent of the bachelor's degrees, 5 percent of the master's degrees, 4 percent of the professional degrees, and 3 percent of the doctorates. In general, these percentages are less than those for Asians and white males, greater than those for Native American males, and equal to those of Hispanic males.

The percentage of degrees earned by African American males in the social sciences and humanities, professional and other disciplines, and medical sciences are higher than for the STEM fields. African American males earned 8 percent of the associate's degrees, 7 percent of the bachelor's degrees, 7 percent of the master's degrees, 10 percent of the professional degrees, and 5 percent of the doctorates in the social sciences and humanities. Of the degrees awarded in the professional and other disciplines, African American males earned 10 percent of the associate's degrees, 8 percent of the bachelor's degrees, 7 percent of the master's degrees, 5 percent of the professional degrees, and 9 percent of the doctorates.

**Table 2.** Comparison of Degrees Earned by Males: 1996–2006.

Race	Associate's Degrees	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Doctorate Degrees	Professional Degrees	Total
<b>Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics</b>						
Native American	6,292 1%	9,491 1%	1,767 0.5%	280 0.3%	1,171 1%	19,001 1%
Asian	37,845 6%	159,899 10%	45,197 12%	9,298 11%	28,102 16%	280,341 10%
Black	67,174 10%	90,540 6%	17,551 5%	2,163 3%	7,373 4%	184,801 6%
Hispanic	70,955 10%	97,505 6%	17,761 5%	2,686 3%	9,019 5%	197,926 7%
White	477,456 70%	1,132,735 73%	265,082 71%	62,686 76%	129,693 72%	2,067,652 72%
<b>Social sciences and humanities</b>						
Native American	1,678 1%	9,628 1%	1,485 1%	260 0.5%	85 0.2%	13,136 1%
Asian	7,729 5%	83,714 6%	9,943 4%	2,659 5%	2,225 6%	106,270 5%
Black	11,652 8%	95,338 7%	17,318 7%	3,087 5%	3,481 10%	130,876 7%
Hispanic	17,015 12%	100,885 7%	13,540 6%	2,556 4%	1,104 3%	135,100 7%
White	94,003 66%	1,104,259 75%	183,657 75%	45,059 79%	28,361 79%	1,455,339 75%
<b>Professional and other disciplines</b>						
Native American	5,868 1%	14,697 1%	5,411 1%	226 1%	1,499 1%	27,701 1%
Asian	25,314 4%	118,560 5%	54,701 5%	1,471 4%	11,332 5%	211,378 5%
Black	58,671 10%	179,014 8%	75,663 7%	3,287 9%	10,392 5%	327,027 8%
Hispanic	60,321 10%	165,406 7%	56,684 5%	1,640 4%	13,048 6%	297,099 7%
White	422,125 70%	1,780,222 75%	771,063 72%	29,039 77%	163,077 77%	3,165,526 74%
<b>Medical sciences</b>						
Native American	38 2%	122 1%	112 1%	9 0.38%	1,048 1%	1,329 1%
Asian	71 3%	2,418 13%	2,511 15%	310 13%	26,331 17%	31,641 16%
Black	147 7%	976 5%	1,429 8%	124 5%	6,889 4%	9,565 5%
Hispanic	128 6%	798 4%	1,229 7%	80 3%	8,232 5%	10,467 5%
White	1,809 82%	14,124 77%	11,930 69%	1,857 78%	112,325 72%	142,045 73%

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996–2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).



The proportion of degrees earned in the medical sciences is similar to those for the STEM fields. However, black males earned a smaller percentage of the degrees awarded at the associate's degree level, 7 percent compared to 10 percent for STEM fields. African American males earned a larger percentage of the degrees awarded at the master's level in the medical sciences than in the STEM fields, 8 percent compared to 5 percent. In general, the percentage of degrees earned in the medical sciences, social sciences and humanities, and professional and other disciplines are less than the percentages for white males, but greater than the percentages for Asian and Native American males and equal to the percentages for Hispanic males.

Table 3 provides a comparison of the educational attainment of African American males relative to African American females. African American males earned fewer degrees at all levels and fields than African American females except at the first professional degree level in the social sciences.<sup>6</sup> The difference is due the number of degrees earned in religion and theology by African American males. Despite the difference in degrees earned between African American males and females, the within-gender distributions across degree level for STEM disciplines and the social sciences and humanities are quite similar, falling within 2 percentage points of one another. However, a parallel analysis for professional and other disciplines and the medical sciences does not yield similar results.

Of the degrees earned by African American females in professional field and other disciplines, 22 percent were at the associate's degree level and 27 percent were at the master's degree level. The percentage of bachelor's degrees earned by African American males in the professional fields and other disciplines was 7 percentage points higher than the percentage for African American females, 55 percent compared to 48 percent. The distribution of degrees was similar at the first professional degree and doctorate degrees for professional fields and other disciplines and at the associate's degree and doctorate degree levels for the medical sciences. The distribution of degrees earned by African American males at the first professional degree level is higher than the distribution of degrees earned by African American females for the medical sciences. The distributional percentage of first professional degrees earned by African American males is 72 percent compared to 59 percent for African American females.

An analysis by disciplines provides insight into how successful institutions are at encouraging African American males to complete the associate's degree (see Table 4). Seventy-one percent of the associate's degrees awarded in architecture and environmental design were awarded by the top 20 schools. Similarly, 78 percent of the degrees awarded in the geosciences were

**Table 3.** Comparison of Degrees Earned African – American Males and Females.

	Gender		Gender		Gender Difference	
	Female		Male			
<b>Science, technology, engineering and mathematics</b>						
Associate's degrees	119,387	37%	67,174	36%	52,213	78%
Bachelor's degrees	148,779	47%	90,540	49%	58,239	64%
Master's degrees	34,907	11%	17,551	10%	17,356	99%
First professional degrees	12,972	4%	7,373	4%	5,599	76%
Doctorate degrees	2,493	1%	2,163	1%	330	15%
Subtotal	318,538	100%	184,801	100%	133,737	72%
<b>Social sciences and humanities</b>						
Associate's degrees	18,203	7%	11,652	9%	6,551	56%
Bachelor's degrees	201,314	76%	95,338	73%	105,976	111%
Master's degrees	36,581	14%	17,318	13%	19,263	111%
First professional degrees	2,980	1%	3,481	3%	-501	-14%
Doctorate degrees	4,128	2%	3,087	2%	1,041	34%
Subtotal	263,206	100%	130,876	100%	132,330	101%
<b>Professional and other disciplines</b>						
Associate's degrees	159,377	22%	58,671	18%	100,706	172%
Bachelor's degrees	343,424	48%	179,014	55%	164,410	92%
Master's degrees	190,425	27%	75,663	23%	114,762	152%
First professional degrees	17,130	2%	10,392	3%	6,738	65%
Doctorate degrees	7,412	1%	3,287	1%	4,125	125%
Subtotal	717,768	100%	327,027	100%	390,741	119%
<b>Medical sciences</b>						
Associate's degrees	299	1%	147	2%	152	103%
Bachelor's degrees	3,260	15%	976	10%	2,284	234%
Master's degrees	4,811	23%	1,429	15%	3,382	237%
First professional degrees	12,515	59%	6,889	72%	5,426	82%
Doctorate degrees	258	1%	124	1%	134	108%
Subtotal	21,143	100%	9,565	100%	11,578	121%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,320,655</b>		<b>652,269</b>		<b>668,386</b>	<b>102%</b>

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996–2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

awarded by the Community College of the Air Force, which clearly has developed a niche in this discipline. The top 20 schools awarded 44 percent of the associate's degrees in science engineering and technology, 46 percent of the associate's degrees in math and computer science, and 50 percent of

Table 4. Associate Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996-2006.

Academic Institution	Engineering Sciences	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total
Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics							
Unknown institutions	435	2	0	5,951	153	9,111	15,652
Technical Career Institutes	0	0	0	221	0	1,665	1,886
ECPI College of Technology	0	0	0	469	2	844	1,315
CUNY New York City Technical College	0	0	0	302	29	928	1,259
Keiser College of Technology	6	0	0	391	39	442	878
Community College of the Air Force	0	0	14	8	131	690	843
Miami-Dade Community College	0	0	0	50	173	460	683
DeVry Institute of Technology (unknown city, NJ)	0	0	0	430	0	151	581
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College	38	0	0	237	74	213	562
DeVry Institute of Technology (Decatur, GA)	0	0	0	13	0	518	531
CUNY Kingsborough Community College	18	3	0	141	136	207	505
ITT Technical Institute (Houston, TX)	0	0	0	68	0	394	462
Katharine Gibbs School (New York, NY)	0	0	0	452	0	0	452
ECPI Computer Institute-Capital Center	0	0	0	205	0	219	424
Essex County College	42	10	0	86	128	158	424
Virginia College (Salem, VA)	0	0	0	168	0	222	390
ITT Technical Institute (Memphis, TN)	0	0	0	78	0	307	385
Broward Community College	0	0	0	31	115	226	372

Academic Institution	Psychology	Social Sciences	Inter-disciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
CUNY Queensborough Community College	9	0	0	125	55	178	367
City Colleges of Chicago, All Campuses	2	0	0	29	90	233	354
Total: top 20 schools	550	15	14	9455	1125	17166	28325
Total: all schools	1,449	354	18	20,637	5,576	39,140	67,174
Percentage: top 20 schools	38	4	78	46	20	44	42
Academic Institution							
Unknown institutions	5	7	0	1	108	2,112	2,233
Katharine Gibbs School (New York, NY)	0	0	0	0	0	329	329
Art Institute of Atlanta	0	0	0	0	0	234	234
Art Institute of Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	231	231
City Colleges of Chicago, All Campuses	0	4	205	0	0	2	211
Sacramento City College	0	137	13	11	0	11	172
Art Institute of Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	160	160
Merritt College	0	143	15	0	0	0	158
Laney College	0	108	30	8	0	3	149
AI Collins Graphic Design School, Ltd	0	0	0	0	0	140	140
CUNY New York City Technical College	0	52	0	0	0	78	130
Riverside Community College	0	0	124	0	0	1	125
Beulah Heights Bible College	0	0	0	0	121	0	121
Robert Morris College (Chicago, IL)	0	0	0	0	0	118	118
Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale	0	0	0	0	0	112	112
South Suburban College of Cook County	0	4	107	0	0	1	112
Thomas Nelson Community College	0	71	34	0	0	5	110
Southern Ohio College	0	0	0	0	0	108	108
Tampa Technical Institute, Division of Education America, Inc	0	0	0	0	0	106	106

Table 4. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Psychology	Social Sciences	Interdisciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total
Essex County College			0	92	0	0	0	13	105
Total: top 20 schools			5	618	528	20	229	3,764	5,164
Total: all schools			383	2,313	1,499	433	462	6,562	11,652
Percentage: top 20 schools			1	27	35	5	50	57	44
Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total
Professional and other disciplines									
Unknown Institutions	73	47	3,545	62	20	0	1,916	4,677	10,340
Central Texas College	0	2	185	4	0	0	219	3,316	3,726
Miami Dade Community College	1	0	101	0	0	0	63	2,470	2,635
Community College of the Air Force	0	242	735	5	8	30	202	597	1,819
City Colleges of Chicago, All Campuses	0	5	141	42	0	2	120	1,301	1,611
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College	0	26	753	0	0	87	0	622	1,488

## Schools Successful at Producing Black Male Graduates

Johnson and Wales University	0	0	488	25	0	0	904	17	1,434
St Leo College	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	1,121	1,132
Broward Community College	0	0	66	0	0	0	35	982	1,083
Community College of Philadelphia	0	49	394	1	0	0	105	507	1,056
Tallahassee Community College	0	0	19	0	0	0	11	1,016	1,046
Monroe College	0	0	953	0	0	0	66	6	1,025
Nassau Community College	0	0	225	11	0	0	67	628	931
Northern Virginia Community College	0	2	402	0	0	0	69	450	923
Florida Community College of Jacksonville	0	0	116	0	0	0	63	740	919
Prince Georges Community College	0	27	466	0	0	0	81	325	899
Georgia Military College	0	33	112	6	0	0	150	574	875
Valencia Community College	0	0	43	0	0	0	14	788	845
CUNY Kingsborough Community College	0	26	362	0	0	0	0	438	826
Fayetteville Technical Community College	0	6	164	0	0	0	113	516	799
Total: top 20 schools	74	465	9,281	156	28	119	4,198	21,091	35,412
Total: all schools	104	3,382	33,572	997	89	883	13,082	86,940	139,049
Percentage: top 20 schools	71	14	28	16	31	13	32	24	25

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996-2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

the degrees in the arts and music disciplines. Unknown institutions (24 percent) and Beulah Height Bible College (26 percent) awarded 50 percent of the associate's degrees awarded in religion and theology.

African American males earned fewer bachelor's degrees than associate's degrees, 64,812 bachelor's degrees compared to 68,901 associate's degrees (see Table 5). The difference in degrees earned can be explained by the difference in associate's degrees earned in the STEM and professional and other disciplines compared to the bachelor's degrees earned in these disciplines. African American males earned nearly three times as many bachelor's degrees as associate's degrees in the social sciences and humanities. However, this difference is not sufficient to offset the gap created by the difference between the associate's degrees earned and the bachelor's degrees earned in the STEM and professional and other disciplines.

Unlike the analysis for the associate's degree, schools in the top 20 list for the bachelor's degree are overwhelmingly not-for-profit institutions. There are five schools common to all disciplines groupings, four of which are Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) – Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, Southern Agriculture and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge, Morehouse College and Howard University, and University of Maryland at College Park. The top 20 schools on the list account for a smaller percentage of the bachelor's degrees earned by African American males. The top 20 schools awarded 24 percent of the bachelor's degrees in the STEM disciplines and 15 percent of the bachelor's degrees in the social sciences and humanities and professional and other disciplines.

For the STEM disciplines, 12 schools on the top 20 list are HBCUs and 7 are in the top 10 of the list. The 12 HBCUs account for 63 percent of the degrees awarded by the top 20 schools. DeVry Institute of Technology (Decatur) and Strayer College are the only for-profit institutions on the STEM discipline list and both are ranked in the top 10 of the list. Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) is on the top 20 list primarily because of the number of bachelor's degrees awarded in engineering.<sup>7</sup> This is likely due to the dual degree arrangement with several HBCUs like Morehouse College, Xavier University, Dillard University, Savannah State University, North Carolina Central University, Toogaloo College, Benedict College, and Clark Atlanta University.

The top 20 list for the social sciences and humanities has only five HBCUs – Morehouse College, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Howard University, North Carolina Central University, and Southern Agricultural and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge. However, there are 13 large public institutions on the list. Morehouse College, ranked

Table 5. Bachelor's Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996–2006.

Academic Institution	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total STEM
Science, technology, engineering and mathematics							
North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	921	29	0	238	221	569	1,978
Unknown institutions	64	0	0	1,265	80	367	1,776
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	522	52	0	380	420	233	1,607
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	465	72	0	239	289	310	1,375
Prairie View A&M University	484	11	0	84	323	294	1,196
Morehouse College	130	164	0	462	357	0	1,113
DeVry Institute of Technology (Decatur, GA)	0	0	0	820	1	284	1,105
Howard University	283	62	0	225	386	140	1,096
Strayer College	0	0	0	1,056	0	0	1,056
Tennessee State University	300	46	0	225	271	95	937
Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University	141	29	0	188	189	346	893
Morgan State University	431	29	0	301	115	15	891
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	69	5	1	42	343	407	867
Georgia Institute of Technology, Main Campus	766	6	0	68	11	5	856
South Carolina State University	0	18	0	248	156	412	834
Jackson State University	13	57	5	230	227	289	821
Tuskegee University	425	42	0	72	240	9	788
CUNY City College	358	53	13	102	137	62	725

Table 5. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	Total STEM
University of Maryland at College Park	326	25	1	119	246	0	717
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	440	46	10	100	115	1	712
Total: top 20 schools	6,138	746	30	6,464	4,127	3,838	21,343
Total: all schools	20,195	4,172	306	28,177	23,766	13,924	90,540
Percentage: top 20 schools	30	18	10	23	17	28	24
Academic Institution	Psychology	Social Sciences	Inter-disciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total Social Sciences and Humanities
Social sciences and humanities							
Morehouse College	465	742	42	520	56	139	1,964
University of Maryland at College Park	51	725	0	199	0	71	1,046
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	223	420	0	94	0	168	905
Howard University	111	293	0	168	0	242	814
Ohio State University, Main Campus	69	452	2	126	0	54	703
Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick	99	386	0	119	6	53	663
University of California Los Angeles	76	329	3	192	4	58	662
North Carolina Central University	72	266	1	194	0	120	653
St Leo College	60	539	0	2	52	0	653
Georgia State University	88	302	1	129	8	124	652
Southern University A&M College at Baton Rouge	137	317	0	105	0	55	614

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total Professional and Other Disciplines
University of Virginia, Main Campus									
Florida State University									
University of Illinois at Urbana									
Champaign									
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor									
CUNY City College									
University of South Florida									
University of California Berkeley									
CUNY John Jay College Criminal Justice									
Unknown institutions									
Total: top 20 schools									
Total: all schools									
Percentage: top 20 schools									
Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total Professional and Other Disciplines
Professional and other disciplines									
Unknown institutions									
Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University	0	29	1,582	5	0	1	125	793	2,535
University of Phoenix	117	398	1,044	146	0	41	418	0	2,164
University of Maryland	0	0	1,702	0	0	0	53	0	1,755
Morehouse College	0	0	170	8	15	0	26	1,445	1,664
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	0	138	1,499	4	0	0	0	19	1,660
Howard University	5	805	205	87	0	30	155	250	1,537
Southern University A&M College at Baton Rouge	85	57	743	509	0	0	95	12	1,501
	58	367	604	169	0	52	142	0	1,392

Table 5. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economics	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total Professional and Other Disciplines
Grambling State University	0	120	535	154	1	50	333	198	1,391
Park College	0	7	1,187	11	1	1	146	11	1,364
Hampton University	79	69	759	149	0	70	10	206	1,342
Temple University	15	196	528	249	54	51	153	53	1,299
Wayland Baptist University	0	557	728	2	0	0	1	0	1,288
Jackson State University	0	338	525	102	0	70	219	0	1,254
St Leo College	0	13	1,163	0	0	5	0	0	1,181
Norfolk State University	0	33	406	241	0	64	41	384	1,169
North Carolina Agricultural and Technological University	11	223	639	180	0	31	19	47	1,150
Tennessee State University	0	122	618	0	0	13	143	244	1,140
Virginia State University	0	356	481	41	0	6	42	188	1,114
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College	0	3	1,064	26	0	0	0	13	1,106
Total: top 20 schools	370	3,831	16,182	2,083	71	485	2,121	3,863	29,006
Total: all schools	2,069	23,252	96,396	18,215	500	5,150	19,969	24,758	190,309
Percentage: top 20 schools	18	16	17	11	14	9	11	16	15

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996-2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAPAR.nsf.gov).

number 1 on the list, awarded nearly 1000 more degrees in the social sciences and humanities than the number 2 school on the list, the University of Maryland at College Park.

The top 20 list for profession and other disciplines is similar to that for the STEM disciplines. Both lists have seven of the same HBCUs – Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Morehouse College, Howard University, Southern Agricultural and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge, Jackson State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technological University, and Texas Southern University. HBCUs on the list awarded nearly 60 percent of the bachelor's degrees in the professional and other disciplines. Unknown institutions is ranked number 1 on this list, number 2 on the STEM list, and 20th on the social sciences and humanities list. The University of Phoenix, number 3 on the list, is the only for-profit institution on the professional and other discipline list.

The analysis of the smaller discipline groups finds that the top 20 schools account for between 10 and 20 percent of the degrees awarded. The exceptions for which the top 20 schools awarded less than 10 percent of the degrees are the physical sciences, 6 percent; math and computer science, 6 percent; life sciences, 9 percent; and social service professions, 9 percent. In fact, African American males attend a more diverse set of schools for the bachelor's degree compared to any other degree level.

At the graduate degree level, there are important findings. First, Howard University is the only institution on the top 20 lists for all graduate degree levels and the medical sciences. Second, the increase in the percentage of degrees awarded by top 20 institutions suggests that African American males are earning degrees from schools that have established a reputation of graduating African American males.

Table 6 provides the analysis of master's degrees earned by African American males. Howard University is the only institution on all top 20 master's list and is ranked in the top 10 on these lists. The top 20 school awarded 20 percent of the master's degrees in the STEM disciplines, 25 percent of the master's degrees awarded in the social sciences and humanities, and 17 percent of the master's degrees in the professional and other disciplines.

There are four HBCUs on the master's degree list for the STEM disciplines – North Carolina Agricultural and Technological University, Howard University, Southern Agricultural and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge, and Bowie State University. Strayer College is the only for-profit institution on the list and there are no Ivy League schools listed. African American males earned nearly half as many master's degrees as bachelor's degrees in the STEM disciplines. Seven of the top 20 schools are

Table 6. Masters Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996-2006.

Academic Institution	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	STEM Total
Science, technology, engineering and mathematics							
Unknown institutions	6	0	0	336	152	6	500
North Carolina Agricultural and Technological University	155	10	0	80	28	111	384
Johns Hopkins University	89	12	0	160	60	43	364
George Washington University	134	4	0	56	80	1	275
Georgia Institute of Technology, Main Campus	217	17	2	22	8	0	266
Strayer College	0	0	0	183	5	59	247
University of Maryland University College	0	0	0	190	27	0	217
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	116	11	0	13	68	2	210
Central Michigan University	4	0	0	5	190	0	199
Howard University	47	12	5	28	88	1	181
New Jersey Institute Technology	116	2	0	43	8	1	170
CUNY City College	115	6	1	27	6	0	155
University of Maryland at College Park	117	4	0	22	8	0	151
University of Florida	85	2	1	3	40	19	150
Florida International University	45	2	1	5	72	24	149
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	8	6	0	45	43	47	149
Bowie State University	0	0	0	146	2	0	148
University of Nebraska Medical Center	0	0	0	0	2	143	145
Pace University New York Campus	0	0	0	126	6	5	137
George Mason University	63	3	0	54	16	0	136
Total: top 20 schools	1,317	91	10	1,544	909	462	4,333
Total: all schools	6,370	712	97	6,176	6,330	2,199	21,884
Percentage: top 20 schools	21	13	10	25	14	21	20

Academic Institution	Psychology	Social Sciences	Inter-disciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total Social Science and Humanities
Social sciences and humanities							
Webster University	757	138	0	0	0	2	897
Troy State University, Main Campus	102	420	0	0	0	1	523
University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus	0	356	0	6	0	3	365
New York University	4	83	0	26	0	125	238
Unknown institutions	33	7	0	0	166	13	219
Prairie View A&M University	158	46	0	2	0	1	207
Howard University	29	59	0	34	25	53	200
CUNY Brooklyn College	21	118	9	19	0	22	189
Harvard University	2	127	0	3	32	1	165
Texas Southern University	12	118	0	22	0	3	155
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	9	146	0	0	0	0	155
American University	1	114	4	8	0	20	147
California State University at Dominguez Hills	47	94	0	2	0	0	143
Central Michigan University	1	133	0	3	0	2	139
National University	78	55	0	0	0	0	133
CUNY John Jay College Criminal Justice	22	108	0	0	0	0	130
Columbia University in the City of New York	0	77	0	12	2	34	125
University of Chicago	0	96	0	9	9	4	118
Johns Hopkins University	60	52	0	3	0	3	118
Long Island University Brooklyn Campus	12	98	0	7	0	0	117
Total: top 20 schools	1,348	2,445	13	156	234	287	4,483
Total: all schools	3,109	8,903	134	1,374	1,819	1,979	17,318
Percentage: top 20 schools	43	27	10	11	13	15	26

Table 6. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economic	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Discipline	Total Professional or Other Disciplines
Professional and other disciplines	0	489	835	0	0	0	24	7	1355
Troy State University, Main Campus	0	606	433	0	3	0	7	0	1049
Nova Southeastern University	0	6	912	0	0	0	0	0	918
University of Maryland, University College	0	586	127	0	0	0	0	0	713
Cambridge College	62	489	49	0	0	0	34	0	634
Prairie View A&M University	0	349	243	0	0	13	0	0	605
National Louise University	7	279	169	37	12	91	6	4	605
Wayne State University	0	269	0	1	0	2	18	255	545
Unknown Institutions	0	336	176	0	0	1	14	0	527
National University	1	114	157	25	20	204	1	1	523
Howard University	20	205	263	7	0	19	0	0	514
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	0	15	459	0	0	0	0	0	474
Strayer College	0	122	225	43	0	62	18	3	473
Clark Atlanta University	7	118	175	28	9	89	9	26	461
New York University	24	130	290	0	0	0	0	15	459
Harvard University	0	155	285	3	0	3	5	0	451
Georgia State University	0	312	122	0	0	0	5	0	439
Mercy College	0								

DeVry Institute of Technology (Decatur, GA)	0	0	436	0	0	0	0	0	436
Chicago State University	0	297	0	4	0	17	91	9	418
George Washington University	0	140	226	6	33	0	7	1	413
Total: top 20 schools	121	5,017	5,582	154	77	501	239	321	12,012
Total: all schools	842	27,177	30,248	1,608	565	4,080	1,890	1,862	68,272
Percentage: top 20 schools	14	18	18	10	14	12	13	17	18

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996-2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).



located in the northern Virginia–DC–Maryland metropolitan area and accounted for one-third of the degrees awarded by top 20 schools.

The social sciences and humanities top 20 list for master's degrees does not reveal the same geographic concentration. Instead, we find that for psychology, the social sciences, and arts and music, a small number of schools awarded the majority of the master's degrees. For psychology, Webster University awarded nearly 25 percent of the master's degrees earned by African American males. Webster University, Troy State University, and Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University awarded one-third of the master's degrees earned by African American males in psychology. Nearly 10 percent of the master's degrees earned in the social science by African American males were awarded by Troy State University and the University of Oklahoma Norman Campus. New York University awarded 6 percent of the master's degrees awarded in religion and theology. Additionally, there are four HBCUs on the list – Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University, Howard University, Texas Southern University, and Southern Agricultural and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge; two Ivy League schools – Harvard University and Columbia University; and one for-profit institution – National University.

The list for professional and other disciplines at the master's degree level has four for-profit institutions – National Louise University, National University, Strayer College, and DeVry Institute of Technology; four HBCUs – Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University, Howard University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Clark Atlanta University; and one Ivy League school – Harvard University.

There are no for-profit institutions in the top 20 list for the doctorate degrees (see Table 7). Howard University and Michigan State University are the only two institutions common to all three lists. We also find that the schools in the top 20 lists account for an increasing share of the degrees awarded. The top 20 schools account for 34 percent of doctorate degrees awarded to African American males in STEM disciplines, 39 percent in the social sciences and humanities disciplines, and 38 percent in the professional and other disciplines.

The number of doctorates earned by African American males in the STEM disciplines is less than the number of doctorates earned in the social sciences and humanities or professional and other disciplines. Of the STEM disciplines groupings, life sciences is the disciplines grouping with the most number of doctorates earned by African American males, 930. There are four HBCUs on this list – Howard University, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Meharry University, and Florida Agricultural and

Table 7. Doctorate Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996–2006.

Academic Institution	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	STEM Total
Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics	15	17	0	8	36	0	76
Howard University	51	13	1	8	3	0	76
Georgia Institute of Technology, Main Campus	18	14	1	2	27	0	62
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	10	8	0	0	20	1	39
University of Florida	19	6	0	2	11	0	38
Stanford University	22	2	0	5	8	0	37
University of Maryland at College Park	7	6	0	4	18	0	35
Michigan State University	15	9	0	1	9	0	34
Pennsylvania State U, Main Campus	23	7	0	0	4	0	34
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	21	6	0	3	3	0	33
University of California Berkeley	10	4	0	5	14	0	33
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	0	15	0	0	16	0	31
Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University	11	5	1	3	9	0	29
CUNY Graduate School and University Center	0	0	0	0	29	0	29
Meharry Medical College	1	9	0	1	16	0	27
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	3	3	0	2	19	0	27
University of Alabama at Birmingham	5	1	0	0	20	0	26
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	1	2	1	0	21	0	25
Harvard University	11	5	0	0	9	0	25
Purdue University, Main Campus	6	1	0	0	11	7	25
Johns Hopkins University							

Table 7. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Engineering	Physical Sciences	Geosciences	Math and Computer Sciences	Life Sciences	Science and Engineering Technologies	STEM Total
Total: top 20 schools	249	133	4	44	303	8	741
Total: all schools	633	361	26	186	930	27	2,163
Percentage: top 20 schools	39	37	15	24	33	30	34
Academic Institution	Psychology	Social Sciences	Inter-disciplinary or Other Sciences	Humanities	Religion and Theology	Arts and Music	Total Social Science and Humanities
Social science and humanities							
United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH)	0	0	0	0	265	0	265
Howard University	31	68	0	16	78	0	193
Virginia Union University	0	0	0	0	87	0	87
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	12	28	0	13	0	11	64
Unknown Institutions	8	4	0	0	48	0	60
Drew University	0	0	0	1	53	0	54
Temple University	6	35	0	7	3	1	52
CUNY Graduate School and University Center	10	17	0	9	0	4	40
Harvard University	1	22	0	11	3	1	38
Northwestern University	2	13	0	8	7	7	37
Interdenominational Theological Center	0	0	0	0	35	0	35
McCormick Theological Seminary	0	0	0	0	34	0	34
Michigan State University	6	9	0	13	0	5	33
University of California Berkeley	2	16	0	11	0	4	33
Clark Atlanta University	1	28	1	3	0	0	33
University of California Los Angeles	3	10	0	8	0	9	30

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economic	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Discipline	Total Professional or Other Disciplines
Ohio State University, Main Campus		8	5		0	11	0	5	29
University of Maryland at College Park		6	16		0	1	0	4	27
New York University		6	4		0	12	0	5	27
University of Chicago		0	14		0	9	0	1	24
Total: top 20 schools		102	289		1	133	613	57	1,195
Total: all schools		520	866		8	438	1097	158	3,087
Percentage: top 20 schools		20	33		13	30	56	36	39
Professional and other disciplines									
Nova Southeastern University	0	199	51	0	0	0	36	0	286
University of Sarasota	0	117	19	0	0	0	0	0	136
Union Institute	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	74	87
Unknown Institutions	0	17	35	0	0	0	2	7	61
Florida State University	1	35	12	1	0	0	6	2	57
Walden University	0	16	40	0	0	0	0	0	56
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	0	48	4	0	0	0	2	0	54
Jackson State University	1	38	6	0	0	4	0	0	49
University of Southern California	2	35	0	0	0	1	0	10	48
Teachers College, Columbia University	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Howard University	0	9	0	27	0	4	0	0	40
Ohio State University, Main Campus	2	25	6	2	0	5	0	0	40

Table 7. (Continued)

Academic Institution	Architecture and Environmental Design	Education	Business and Management	Communication and Librarianship	Law	Social Service Professions	Vocational Studies and Home Economic	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Discipline	Total Professional or Other Disciplines
Clark Atlanta University	0	30	1	2	0	5	0	2	40
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	0	31	4	2	0	1	0	1	39
George Washington University	0	27	12	0	0	0	0	0	39
South Carolina State University	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Morgan State University	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	37
University of Georgia	0	31	2	2	0	1	0	0	36
Tennessee State University	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Michigan State University	0	20	10	1	0	0	3	1	35
Total: top 20 schools	6	837	210	37	0	21	49	97	1,257
Total: all schools	24	2471	382	83	6	86	77	160	3,289
Percentage: top 20 schools	25	34	55	45	0	24	64	61	38

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996-2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAPAR.nsf.gov).

Mechanical University, and one Ivy League school – Harvard University. Georgia Tech awarded as many doctorates as Howard University (i.e., 76), but about 70 percent of these degrees were in engineering, whereas the doctorates awarded by Howard University were more evenly distributed across the STEM disciplines. Georgia Tech and Howard University also awarded the same number of doctorates in math and computer science, eight. The top 20 schools on the doctorates list for the STEM disciplines account for a higher percentage of degrees awarded than did the top 20 schools in the STEM disciplines at the bachelor's or master's degree levels.

There are three schools – Howard University, Georgia Tech, and the University of Maryland at College Park – that are on the top 20 list for STEM disciplines at the bachelor's, master's, and doctorate levels. Each school seems to have developed a niche in the STEM disciplines. Georgia Tech has a strong niche in engineering across degree levels. The University of Maryland at College Park has developed a strong niche in engineering, mathematics and computer science, and the life sciences at the bachelor's and master's degree levels and in engineering at the doctorate level. Howard has developed a niche in the life sciences, as well as in all other STEM disciplines except the geosciences. The presence of the same schools across degrees levels for the STEM disciplines suggests that African American males at the master's and doctorate degree levels may serve as role models for African American males at the bachelor's degree level. It also suggests that these institutions have developed encouraging and supportive communities for African American males at the various degree levels.

For the social sciences and humanities and professional and other disciplines, the only school present across the bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree levels is Howard University. This suggests two things. First, African American males in these disciplines may not require "role models" in order to pursue the doctorate. Second, institutions on these lists have yet to develop strategies to extend their success across degrees levels. Also, being located in metropolitan area with large populations of African American is surely a plus.

Over half of the doctorate degrees earned in the social sciences and humanities were earned in religion and theology, 613 degrees. Nearly half of the religion and theology degrees were awarded by United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH). For professional and other disciplines, the concentration of degrees is more pronounced. Seventy-five percent of all the doctorates earned in the professional and other disciplines were in education. Nova Southeastern University awarded nearly 25 percent of the education doctorates and nearly 50 percent of the doctorates in vocational

studies and home economics. Union Institute and University is ranked third on the list due to the number of degrees awarded in other nonsciences or unknown disciplines, 46 percent. Additionally, the top 20 schools for vocational studies and home economics and other nonsciences or unknown disciplines have the highest share of the degrees awarded, 64 percent and 61 percent, respectively.

The top 20 schools for professional degrees are presented in Table 8. There are five HBCUs on the list – Howard University, Virginia Union University, Texas Southern University, North Carolina Central University,

**Table 8.** Professional Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996–2006.

Academic Institution	Religion and Theology	Law	Other Nonsciences or Unknown Disciplines	Total Professional Degrees
Howard University	231	442	0	673
Unknown Institutions	165	363	17	545
Interdenominational Theological Center	407	0	0	407
Virginia Union University	378	0	0	378
Texas Southern University	0	345	0	345
Harvard University	35	200	0	235
Georgetown University	0	221	0	221
Andrews University	182	0	0	182
George Washington University	0	173	0	173
Thomas M. Cooley Law School	0	167	0	167
Emory University	92	61	0	153
Columbia University in the City of New York	0	152	0	152
North Carolina Central University	0	151	0	151
University of Florida	0	151	0	151
University of Baltimore	0	150	0	150
Fordham University	0	143	0	143
University of Miami	0	142	0	142
Duke University	69	69	0	138
Southern University A&M Col at Baton Rouge	0	131	0	131
University of Maryland at Baltimore	0	119	0	119
Total: top 20 schools	1,559	3,180	17	4,756
Total: all schools	3,481	10,392	51	13,924
Percentage: top 20 schools	45	31	33	34

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996–2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAr.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAr.nsf.gov).

**Table 9.** Medical Sciences Degrees Earned by African American Males: 1996–2006.

Associate's Degree		Bachelor's Degree	
Community College of the Air Force	33	Long Island University Brooklyn Campus	65
Wake Technical Community College	13	Dillard University	43
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	8	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	38
University of the District of Columbia	8	Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick	37
Texas State Tech College, All Campuses	7	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	37
East Central Community College	6	North Carolina Agricultural & Tech State University	36
Santa Rosa Junior College	6	Texas Southern University	32
Hinds Community College	5	St John's University (Jamaica, NY)	29
St Philips College	5	Georgia Southern University	27
Unknown Institutions	4	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences	23
Grand Rapids Community College	4	University of Southern Mississippi	20
Butler County Community College (El Dorado, KS)	3	Howard University	19
Holmes Community College	3	Temple University	19
Keiser College of Technology	3	CUNY Hunter College	18
Milwaukee Area Technical College	3	East Carolina University	17
Clarendon College	2	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	17
Copiah-Lincoln Junior College	2	Ohio State University, Main Campus	17
Meridian Community College	2	University of Mississippi, Main Campus	16
Northwest Mississippi Community College	2	Benedict College	15
Pasadena City College	2	St Louis College of Pharmacy	14
Rose State College	2	Total: top 20 schools	539
Total: top 20 schools	123	Total: all schools	976
Total: all schools	147	Percentage: top 20 schools	55
Percentage: top 20 schools	84		
Master's Degree		Professional Degree	
Tulane University	78	Howard University	509
Emory University	64	Meharry Medical College	373

Table 9. (Continued)

Master's Degree		Professional Degree	
Columbia University in the City of New York	63	Texas Southern University	216
Meharry Medical College	59	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	163
George Washington University	53	Temple University	163
Harvard University	46	University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	159
University of Alabama at Birmingham	45	Xavier University of Louisiana	159
University of Illinois at Chicago	42	University of Illinois at Chicago	137
University of South Florida	35	University of Maryland at Baltimore	127
University of California-Los Angeles	30	Tuskegee University	118
Florida International University	29	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	109
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	27	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	100
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	26	Morehouse College of Medicine	89
University of South Carolina at Columbia	26	Harvard University	85
CUNY Hunter College	25	University of Florida	76
University of California-Berkeley	23	Medical University of South Carolina	72
Yale University	23	Wayne State University	72
Johns Hopkins University	22	Ohio State University, Main Campus	71
CUNY Brooklyn College	21	Nova Southeastern University	70
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	21	University of Alabama at Birmingham	70
Morehouse College of Medicine	21	Total: top 20 schools	2,938
Loma Linda University	20	Total: all schools	6,889
University of Pittsburgh Main Campus	20	Percentage: top 20 schools	43
Total: top 20 schools	677		
Total: all schools	1,429		
Percentage: top 20 schools	47		
Doctorate Degree			
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University			13
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor			8

Table 9. (Continued)

Doctorate Degree	
University of South Carolina at Columbia	7
Harvard University	6
University of Georgia	6
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	6
Johns Hopkins University	4
Loma Linda University	4
University of Alabama at Birmingham	4
University of Maryland at Baltimore	4
University of Pittsburgh Main Campus	4
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	4
Columbia University in the City of New York	3
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	3
Purdue University, Main Campus	3
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3
Ohio State University, Main Campus	2
South College (Savannah, GA)	2
Temple University	2
Tulane University	2
Total: top 20 schools	90
Total: all schools	124
Percentage: top 20 schools	73

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System: Completion Survey by Race, 1996-2006. Accessed via [www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov](http://www.WebCASPAR.nsf.gov).

and Southern Agricultural and Mechanical University at Baton Rouge. Howard University is the only HBCU on the list that awards professional degrees in both religion and theology and law. The HBCUs on the list account for nearly one-third of all the degrees awarded in religion and law.

We analyzed degrees awarded in the medical sciences separately. There are several findings of interests. First, across degree levels the top 20 schools account for more than 40 percent of the degrees awarded. Second, there is at least one HBCU on each list, but only Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University is on all bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctorate lists. Finally, the majority of the medical science degrees awarded was at the professional degree level.

Since the medical sciences are a very broad grouping, we examine more closely the fields in which African American males were earning degrees. At the associate's degree level, 27 percent of the associate's degrees were awarded in premedical studies. Thirty-nine percent of the bachelor's degrees

and 25 percent of the doctorate degrees were awarded in pharmacy. Public health is overwhelmingly the top field at the master's degree level, 57 percent. At the professional degree level, 57 percent of the degrees awarded were in medicine (M.D.), 10 percent were in dental surgery (D.D.S.), and 5 percent were in osteopathic medicine (D.O.) (see Table 9).

## CONCLUSION

There are several notable findings from our study. First, from 2000 to 2004, the number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males enrolled part-time or full-time in college exceeds the number of 18- to 24-year-old African American males incarcerated. Second, for nearly 30 years African American males have maintained a 5 percent share of first-time freshmen. Although the gap has widened in the enrollment-share between African American males and females over the past 30 years, the ratio of 18- to 24-year-old first-time freshmen who are African American males to those that are white decreased from 9:1 to 6:1 over the same time period. Finally, we find a 42 percent increase in the number of African American males enrolled as first-time freshmen and a 15.20 percent increase, from 106,903 to 1,731,711, in the number of African American males enrolled full-time as other/unknown undergraduate students between 1986–1995 and 1996–2005.

Policy recommendations based on the findings in this paper are limited. Ideally, we would like to recommend a set of best practices that lead to an increase in degree attainment for African American males. Instead, we will recommend a set of institutions for future scholars to examine to generate best practices for increasing degree attainment for African American males. At the associate's degree level, scholars should focus on the City Colleges of Chicago, all campuses, and the City University of New York Community College system appears on the STEM, social sciences and humanities, and professional and other disciplines lists. At the bachelor's and graduate degree levels, we recommend that scholars should examine historically black colleges and universities – the City University of New York system and the University of Maryland at College Park.

## NOTES

1. See for examples Moore and Herndon (2003) and Jackson and Moore (2006), both are special issues focused on African American male and education.

2. Of the African American males that were full-time students in 2000, 85 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24 years. (Contact authors for table.)

3. Note that about 20 percent of the full-time students and 55 percent of the part-time students are older than 24. After adjusting for these percentages, the number of African American males enrolled full-time is still greater than the number incarcerated, but the number enrolled part-time is not.

4. See Williams and Baron (2007).

5. This number includes students shifting between categories. An analysis of only "first-time" enrollments shows an increase of 314,908 students between the time periods.

6. First professional degree is defined as law (LL.B., J.D.), divinity/ministry (BD, MDiv.), Rabbinical studies, chiropractic (DC), dentistry (DDS, DMD), medicine (MD), optometry (OD) osteopathic medicine/osteopathy (DO), pharmacy (PharmD [USA] PharmD, BS/BPharm [Canada]), podiatric medicine/podiatry (DPM), veterinary medicine (DVM), or naturopathic medicine/naturopathy (ND).

7. GA Tech is ranked number 2 for engineering, second to North Carolina A&T University.

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