

The Condition of Education 2011

Indicator 9

Postbaccalaureate Enrollment

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2011*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2011*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011033>) or contact ED Pubs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Postbaccalaureate Enrollment

Postbaccalaureate enrollment has increased every year since 1983, reaching 2.9 million students in 2009. In each year since 1988, women have made up more than half of postbaccalaureate enrollment. In 2009, postbaccalaureate enrollment was 59 percent female.

In fall 1976, some 1.6 million students were enrolled in postbaccalaureate programs, which include graduate and first-professional programs (see table A-9-1). Postbaccalaureate enrollment fluctuated during the period from the mid-1970s to the early 1980s, but between 1983 and 2009 it increased from 1.6 to 2.9 million students. Fall enrollment in postbaccalaureate programs is projected to increase through 2020 to 3.4 million students.

More females than males have been enrolled in postbaccalaureate programs every year since 1988. In 1976, some 673,000 females were enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program, compared with 905,000 males. In 1988, female enrollment exceeded male enrollment, and by 2009 postbaccalaureate enrollment consisted of 1.7 million females (59 percent) and 1.2 million males (41 percent). Projections indicate that females will continue to enroll in postbaccalaureate programs at a higher rate than will males, and in 2020 postbaccalaureate enrollment is expected to increase to 2.1 million females (61 percent) and 1.3 million males (39 percent).

As postbaccalaureate enrollment has grown, the distribution of students—in terms of attendance status and control of institutions they attended—has changed. In 1976, more students attended part time than full time, but in each year since 2000 full-time enrollment has been higher than part-time enrollment. Additionally, the percentage of postbaccalaureate students who attended private institutions increased between 1976 and 2009. In 1976, about 35 percent of postbaccalaureate students were enrolled in private institutions, compared with 50 percent in 2009. The growth in total private enrollment is attributable to the growth in enrollment at both private for-profit and private not-for-profit institutions. The number of students attending private for-profit institutions increased from 3,000 students in 1976 (less than 1 percent of total enrollment) to 267,000 students in 2009 (9 percent), while the number of students attending private not-for-profit institutions increased from 541,000

students in 1976 (34 percent) to 1.2 million students in 2009 (41 percent).

For each racial/ethnic group, the number of students enrolled in postbaccalaureate programs generally increased between 1976 and 2009 but at different rates, resulting in a shift in the racial/ethnic distribution. In 1976, some 1.3 million (85 percent) postbaccalaureate students were White. By 2009, the number of White students had grown to 1.8 million, but White enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment had decreased to 63 percent (see table A-9-2). The number of Black postbaccalaureate students more than tripled between 1976 and 2009, from 90,000 to 342,000 students. The percentage of postbaccalaureate students who were Black increased from 6 to 12 percent from 1976 to 2009. Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander enrollment increased six- and seven-fold, respectively, from 1976 to 2009; accordingly, the percentages of students who were Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander increased. In 1976, Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders each represented 2 percent of total enrollment, and in 2009 they represented 6 and 7 percent, respectively. While American Indian/Alaska Native enrollment increased from 6,000 to 18,000 students during this period, they accounted for less than 1 percent of enrollment in 2009. The percentage of students who were nonresident aliens increased from 5 percent in 1976 to 11 percent in 2009.

In 1976, males outnumbered females in postbaccalaureate programs for each racial/ethnic group shown except for Blacks; however, in 2009, females outnumbered males in all groups except for nonresident aliens. The largest relative gap between female and male enrollment in 2009 was between Black females and males: 71 percent of the total Black enrollment was female in fall 2009.



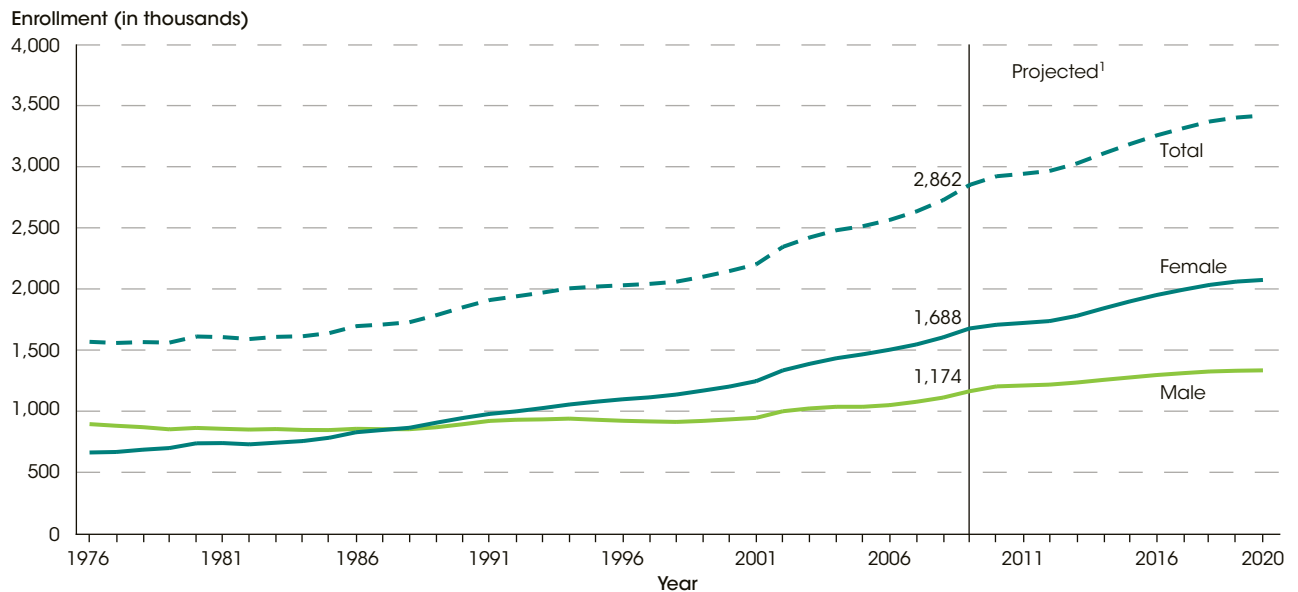
For more information: *Tables A-9-1 and A-9-2*
Glossary: *Nonresident alien, Postbaccalaureate enrollment, Private institution, Public institution*

Technical Notes

The most recent year of actual data is 2009, and 2020 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2011-026. Because of underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data, some estimates are slightly lower than corresponding data in other published tables. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are shown separately because information about their race/ethnicity is not available.

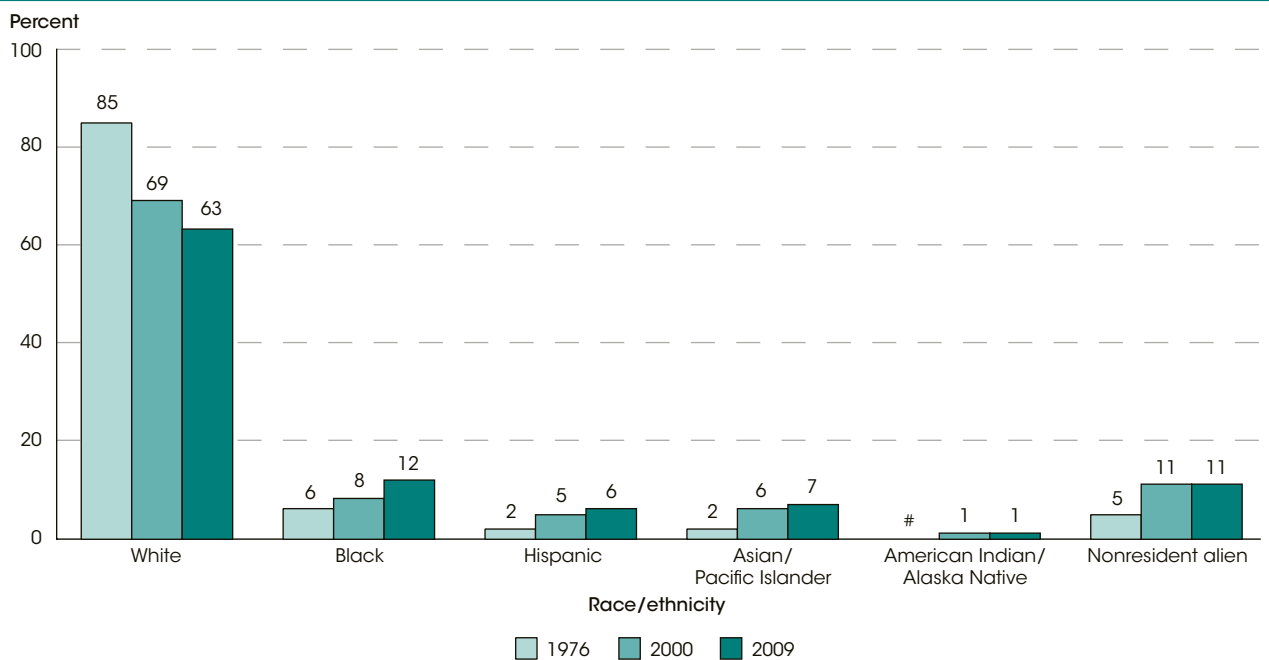
For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. For information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. All actual data presented in this indicator are IPEDS fall enrollment data and thus measure the enrollment in the fall of the academic year. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*.

Figure 9-1. Actual and projected postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by sex: Fall 1976–2020



¹ Projections are based on reported data through 2009. The most recent year of actual data is 2009, and 2020 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2011-026. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. For more information, see NCES 2001-083, appendix E.
 NOTE: Postbaccalaureate enrollment is the number of students with a bachelor's degree who are enrolled in graduate-level or first-professional programs. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1967 through 1985; 1986 through 2009 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86–99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2010; and Enrollment in Degree-Granting Institutions Model, 1980–2009.

Figure 9-2. Percentage distribution of postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity: Fall 1976, 2000, and 2009



Rounds to zero.
 NOTE: Postbaccalaureate enrollment is the number of students with a bachelor's degree who are enrolled in graduate-level or first-professional programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are shown separately because information about their race/ethnicity is not available. See the glossary for the definition of nonresident alien. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976, and 2000 and 2009 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2001 and 2010.

Supplemental Tables to Indicator 9

Postbaccalaureate Enrollment

Table A-9-1. Number and percentage distribution of actual and projected postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by sex, attendance status, and control of institution: Fall 1976-2020

[Numbers in thousands]

Fall of year	Total	Sex				Attendance status			
		Male		Female		Full-time		Part-time	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1976	1,578	905	57.3	673	42.7	684	43.3	894	56.7
1977	1,569	892	56.8	677	43.2	699	44.5	870	55.5
1978	1,576	880	55.8	696	44.2	705	44.7	871	55.3
1979	1,572	863	54.9	709	45.1	715	45.5	857	54.5
1980	1,622	874	53.9	748	46.1	736	45.4	886	54.6
1981	1,617	867	53.6	750	46.4	732	45.3	885	54.7
1982	1,601	861	53.8	740	46.2	737	46.0	864	54.0
1983	1,619	865	53.5	753	46.5	747	46.2	872	53.8
1984	1,624	857	52.8	767	47.2	751	46.2	873	53.8
1985	1,650	856	51.9	794	48.1	756	45.8	895	54.2
1986	1,706	867	50.8	839	49.2	767	45.0	938	55.0
1987	1,720	864	50.2	857	49.8	769	44.7	952	55.3
1988	1,739	864	49.7	875	50.3	794	45.7	944	54.3
1989	1,796	879	48.9	917	51.1	820	45.7	976	54.3
1990	1,860	904	48.6	955	51.4	845	45.4	1,015	54.6
1991	1,920	931	48.5	989	51.5	894	46.6	1,026	53.4
1992	1,950	941	48.3	1,009	51.7	918	47.1	1,032	52.9
1993	1,981	944	47.6	1,037	52.4	948	47.9	1,033	52.1
1994	2,016	950	47.1	1,066	52.9	969	48.1	1,047	51.9
1995	2,030	941	46.4	1,089	53.6	984	48.4	1,047	51.6
1996	2,041	932	45.7	1,108	54.3	1,004	49.2	1,036	50.8
1997	2,052	927	45.2	1,124	54.8	1,019	49.7	1,032	50.3
1998	2,070	923	44.6	1,147	55.4	1,025	49.5	1,045	50.5
1999	2,110	931	44.1	1,179	55.9	1,051	49.8	1,059	50.2
2000	2,157	944	43.7	1,213	56.3	1,087	50.4	1,070	49.6
2001	2,212	956	43.2	1,256	56.8	1,120	50.6	1,093	49.4
2002	2,355	1,010	42.9	1,345	57.1	1,212	51.5	1,143	48.5
2003	2,431	1,033	42.5	1,398	57.5	1,281	52.7	1,150	47.3
2004	2,491	1,047	42.0	1,444	58.0	1,326	53.2	1,166	46.8
2005	2,524	1,047	41.5	1,476	58.5	1,351	53.5	1,173	46.5
2006	2,575	1,061	41.2	1,514	58.8	1,386	53.8	1,188	46.2
2007	2,644	1,088	41.2	1,556	58.8	1,429	54.0	1,215	46.0
2008	2,737	1,122	41.0	1,615	59.0	1,493	54.5	1,244	45.5
2009	2,862	1,174	41.0	1,688	59.0	1,579	55.2	1,283	44.8
Projected¹									
2010	2,932	1,214	41.4	1,718	58.6	1,603	54.7	1,329	45.3
2011	2,952	1,221	41.3	1,732	58.7	1,618	54.8	1,335	45.2
2012	2,976	1,228	41.3	1,748	58.7	1,633	54.9	1,343	45.1
2013	3,035	1,245	41.0	1,790	59.0	1,667	54.9	1,368	45.1
2014	3,118	1,267	40.6	1,851	59.4	1,713	54.9	1,405	45.1
2015	3,195	1,287	40.3	1,908	59.7	1,755	54.9	1,440	45.1
2016	3,266	1,306	40.0	1,960	60.0	1,792	54.9	1,474	45.1
2017	3,325	1,322	39.7	2,004	60.3	1,821	54.8	1,504	45.2
2018	3,380	1,335	39.5	2,044	60.5	1,846	54.6	1,533	45.4
2019	3,413	1,342	39.3	2,071	60.7	1,858	54.4	1,555	45.6
2020	3,429	1,345	39.2	2,084	60.8	1,860	54.2	1,569	45.7

See notes at end of table.

Table A-9-1. Number and percentage distribution of actual and projected postbaccalaureate enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by sex, attendance status, and control of institution: Fall 1976–2020—Continued

Fall of year	Total	Control of institution							
		Public		Private					
		Number	Percent	Total		Not-for-profit		For-profit	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1976	1,578	1,033	65.5	544	34.5	541	34.3	3	0.2
1977	1,569	1,004	64.0	565	36.0	561	35.8	4	0.2
1978	1,576	999	63.4	577	36.6	574	36.4	4	0.2
1979	1,572	990	63.0	582	37.0	578	36.8	4	0.2
1980	1,622	1,015	62.6	606	37.4	601	37.1	5	0.3
1981	1,617	999	61.8	618	38.2	614	37.9	5	0.3
1982	1,601	983	61.4	618	38.6	613	38.3	4	0.3
1983	1,619	986	60.9	633	39.1	628	38.8	5	0.3
1984	1,624	984	60.6	640	39.4	634	39.0	6	0.4
1985	1,650	1,002	60.7	648	39.3	643	38.9	5	0.3
1986	1,706	1,053	61.8	652	38.2	644	37.8	8	0.5
1987	1,720	1,055	61.3	666	38.7	662	38.5	3	0.2
1988	1,739	1,058	60.9	681	39.1	—	—	—	—
1989	1,796	1,090	60.7	706	39.3	—	—	—	—
1990	1,860	1,135	61.0	724	39.0	717	38.5	8	0.4
1991	1,920	1,162	60.5	758	39.5	747	38.9	11	0.6
1992	1,950	1,168	59.9	781	40.1	771	39.5	11	0.5
1993	1,981	1,177	59.4	804	40.6	790	39.9	14	0.7
1994	2,016	1,189	59.0	828	41.0	810	40.2	18	0.9
1995	2,030	1,189	58.6	841	41.4	824	40.6	17	0.8
1996	2,041	1,185	58.1	855	41.9	830	40.7	25	1.2
1997	2,052	1,189	57.9	863	42.1	838	40.8	25	1.2
1998	2,070	1,188	57.4	882	42.6	852	41.2	30	1.5
1999	2,110	1,199	56.8	911	43.2	869	41.2	42	2.0
2000	2,157	1,213	56.3	943	43.7	896	41.6	47	2.2
2001	2,212	1,247	56.4	965	43.6	910	41.1	55	2.5
2002	2,355	1,319	56.0	1,035	44.0	959	40.7	76	3.2
2003	2,431	1,336	54.9	1,096	45.1	994	40.9	101	4.2
2004	2,491	1,330	53.4	1,162	46.6	1,022	41.0	140	5.6
2005	2,524	1,324	52.5	1,199	47.5	1,036	41.1	163	6.5
2006	2,575	1,333	51.8	1,242	48.2	1,065	41.4	177	6.9
2007	2,644	1,353	51.2	1,291	48.8	1,101	41.6	190	7.2
2008	2,737	1,381	50.5	1,356	49.5	1,125	41.1	231	8.4
2009	2,862	1,424	49.8	1,438	50.2	1,172	40.9	267	9.3
Projected¹									
2010	2,932	1,460	49.8	1,474	50.3	—	—	—	—
2011	2,952	1,469	49.8	1,485	50.3	—	—	—	—
2012	2,976	1,481	49.8	1,500	50.4	—	—	—	—
2013	3,035	1,510	49.8	1,531	50.5	—	—	—	—
2014	3,118	1,551	49.8	1,572	50.4	—	—	—	—
2015	3,195	1,590	49.8	1,611	50.4	—	—	—	—
2016	3,266	1,625	49.8	1,645	50.4	—	—	—	—
2017	3,325	1,655	49.8	1,674	50.4	—	—	—	—
2018	3,380	1,682	49.8	1,700	50.3	—	—	—	—
2019	3,413	1,699	49.8	1,715	50.2	—	—	—	—
2020	3,429	1,707	49.8	1,722	50.2	—	—	—	—

— Not available.

¹ Projections are based on reported data through 2009. The most recent year of actual data is 2009, and 2020 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2011-026. Data for 1999 were imputed using alternative procedures. For more information, see NCES 2001-083, appendix E.

NOTE: Postbaccalaureate enrollment is the number of students with a bachelor's degree who are enrolled in graduate-level or first-professional programs. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. For more information on the Classification of Postsecondary Education Institutions, see *supplemental note 8*. See the glossary for definitions of full-time and part-time enrollment. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1967 through 1985; 1986 through 2009 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:86-99), and Spring 2001 through Spring 2010; and Enrollment in Degree-Granting Institutions Model, 1980–2009.

Supplemental Tables to Indicator 9

Postbaccalaureate Enrollment

Table A-9-2. Total postbaccalaureate enrollment and percentage distribution of students in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity and sex: Selected years, Fall 1976-2009

Race/ethnicity and sex	Enrollment (in thousands)					Percentage distribution of students				
	1976 ¹	1980 ¹	1990	2000	2009	1976	1980	1990	2000	2009
Total	1,578	1,622	1,860	2,157	2,862	99.3	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Race/ethnicity										
White	1,336	1,352	1,450	1,479	1,816	84.7	83.4	78.0	68.6	63.4
Black	90	88	100	181	342	5.7	5.4	5.4	8.4	12.0
Hispanic	31	39	58	111	184	2.0	2.4	3.1	5.1	6.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	29	38	72	133	195	1.8	2.3	3.9	6.2	6.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	6	6	7	13	18	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6
Nonresident alien	75	95	173	241	306	4.8	5.9	9.3	11.2	10.7
Sex and race/ethnicity										
Male	898	871	904	944	1,174	56.9	53.7	48.6	43.7	41.0
White	762	718	677	625	734	48.3	44.3	36.4	29.0	25.6
Black	39	36	37	58	99	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.7	3.5
Hispanic	18	20	27	45	69	1.1	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	17	23	40	64	87	1.1	1.4	2.2	3.0	3.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	3	3	5	7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Nonresident alien	58	71	120	147	178	3.7	4.4	6.5	6.8	6.2
Female	669	747	955	1,213	1,688	42.4	46.1	51.4	56.3	59.0
White	574	634	773	854	1,081	36.4	39.1	41.6	39.6	37.8
Black	50	52	63	123	244	3.2	3.2	3.4	5.7	8.5
Hispanic	13	18	31	66	115	0.8	1.1	1.7	3.1	4.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	11	15	32	69	108	0.7	0.9	1.7	3.2	3.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	3	4	8	12	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4
Nonresident alien	18	24	53	94	129	1.1	1.5	2.8	4.3	4.5

¹ Race/ethnicity estimates may not sum to totals due to underreporting and nonreporting of racial/ethnic data.

NOTE: Postbaccalaureate enrollment is the number of students with a bachelor's degree who are enrolled in graduate-level or first-professional programs. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Nonresident aliens are shown separately because information about their race/ethnicity is not available. See the glossary for the definition of nonresident alien. For more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), see *supplemental note 3*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Fall Enrollment in Colleges and Universities" surveys, 1976 and 1980; and 1990, 2000, and 2009 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2001 and 2010.