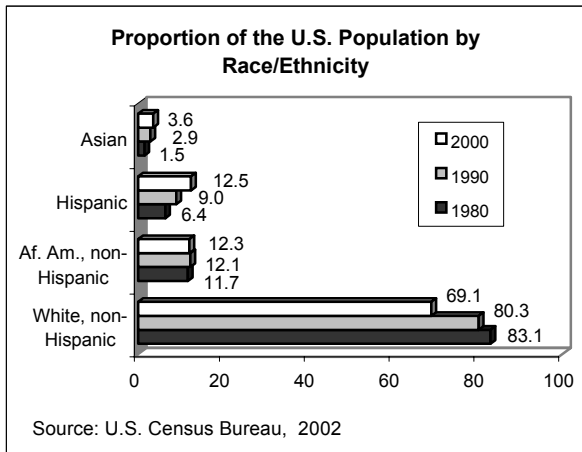


CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL ENROLLMENTS

This section of *Professional Women and Minorities* examines the human resource pool of the United States and traces the changes in that pool over time. Highlights include:

- The American populace is becoming larger and more diverse. In 1980, white non-Hispanics represented 83.1% of the U.S. population. By 1990, that proportion had dropped to 80.3%, and by 2000, to 69.1%, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In contrast, the Hispanic population (which includes all races) increased from 6.4% of the U.S. population in 1980 to 12.5% in 2000, as shown in the accompanying chart.



- In national assessments of mathematics and science learning, students in 1999 did as well as the students nearly 30 years ago. Nine-year olds and 13-year-olds scored higher on mathematics and science tests in 1999 than they did in 1973, while the performance of 17-year-olds in math improved, but in science it declined significantly. Substantial differences remain at all grade levels in the achievement scores of African American and Hispanic students as compared with whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders in both math and science.

- Overall, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans are less likely than whites and Asians to graduate from high school, to enroll in college and to graduate from college. But, among those who do enroll in or graduate from college, they are about as likely as whites to choose science and engineering fields. Women are more likely than men to graduate from high school, to

enroll in college and to graduate from college, but are less likely than men to choose science and engineering fields.

- After several decades of continual expansion of higher education in the United States, total enrollment fell for the first time in 1993 and continued to decline until 1995, due partially to demographics. But total enrollment has been increasing since 1996. Women are continuing to hold their proportional advantage over men in undergraduate education and underrepresented minorities are making some progress. In 1999, women comprised 56.2% of undergraduate enrollment, while White non-Hispanics were 69.4%, African American non-Hispanics 11.6%, Asians 6.2%, Native Americans 1.0% and Hispanics (who may be of any race) were 9.6%.

- While total enrollment in U.S. higher education has continued upward, graduate enrollment in science and engineering (S&E) programs, which grew for almost 20 years, reaching a peak of almost 436,000 students in 1993, declined over the next five years to nearly 405,000 in 1998. While total graduate enrollment in S&E increased in both 1999 and 2000, reaching 414,570, it was still below the 1993 total. Looking only at U.S. citizens and permanent residents, the biosciences, the health fields and computer sciences showed an increase in the number of students entering graduate programs over the 1993-2000 period.

