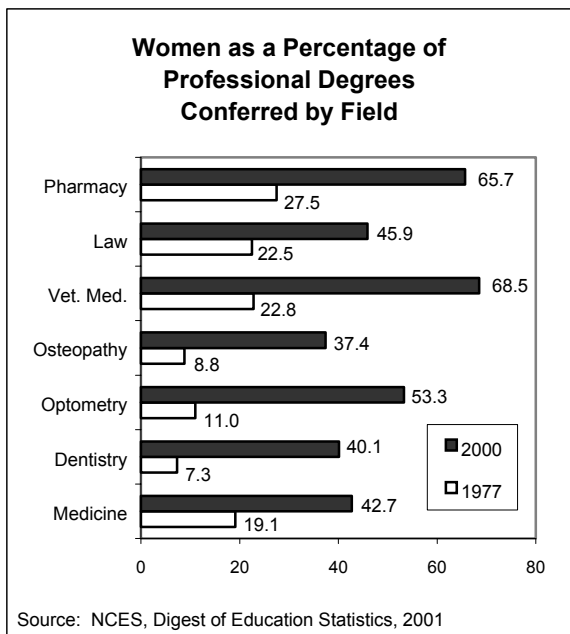


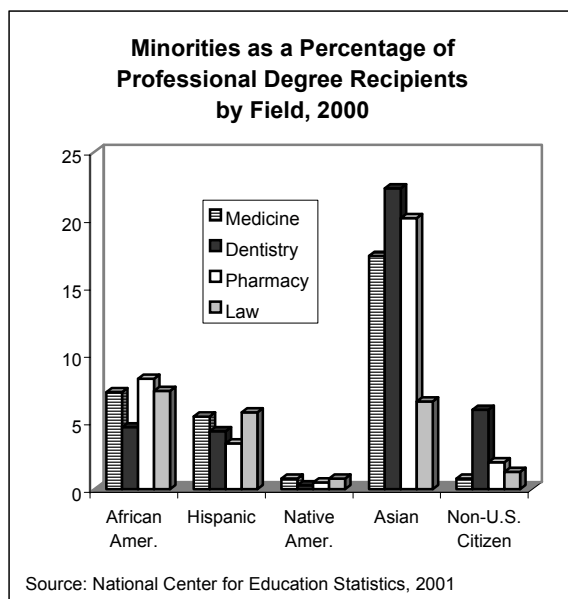
CHAPTER 3 – GENERAL PROFESSIONS

Women and minorities have made significant progress in preparing for careers in the professional fields. For example:

- Women earned nearly 42% of the doctorates awarded in professional fields in 2000, up from 35% in 1991. By selected field, women earned nearly 32% of doctorates awarded in business and management, nearly 54% in communications, 39% in law and 34% in architecture.
- Women also have made tremendous progress in preparing for careers in the medically related fields as well as law. In just 20 years – from 1980 to 2000 – women entered these areas in such numbers that they now receive a majority of the degrees awarded in optometry, veterinary medicine and pharmacy. In addition, they are approaching parity in medicine, earning 42.7% of the degrees awarded in 2000, and in law, earning 45.9% of the degrees awarded in 2000 as shown in the accompanying chart.



- Underrepresented minorities have not made nearly as much progress in preparing for careers in the professional fields. For example, the number of African Americans earning first professional degrees in medicine increased more than 40% over the 1981-2000 period, from 769 to 1,106. However, they still received only 7.2% of the total degrees awarded. In contrast, Asians showed tremendous growth in their number of degrees in medicine in that time period, increasing from 446 to 2,639. By 2000, Asians earned 17.3% of first professional degrees in medicine.



- The progress made by women and members of minority groups in law will likely continue based on first year and total enrollments in law schools. While first-year enrollment, which has been dropping since 1995, started to increase in 1999, both the proportion of women and the proportion of underrepresented minorities continued to increase. In academic year 2001, women were 49.4% of first year law school students; African Americans, 7.8%; Hispanics, 6.1%; Asians, 6.7%; and Native Americans, 0.8%.