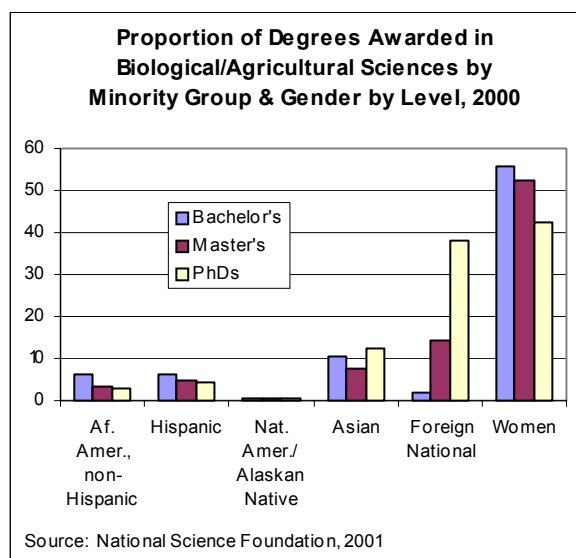


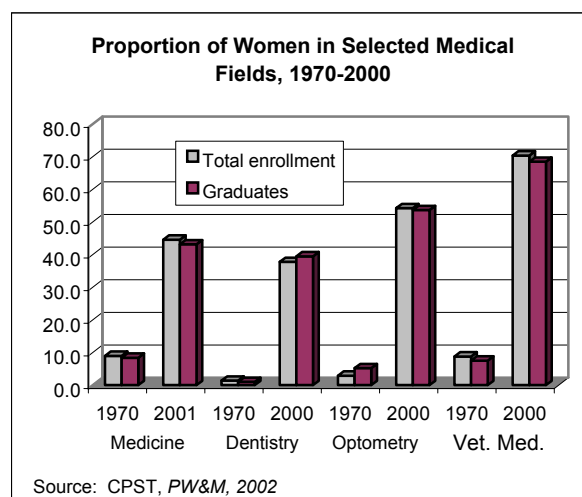
CHAPTER 8 – AGRICULTURAL, BIOLOGICAL, MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The life sciences comprise the agricultural, biological sciences, and the medical sciences. Some highlights from this section include:

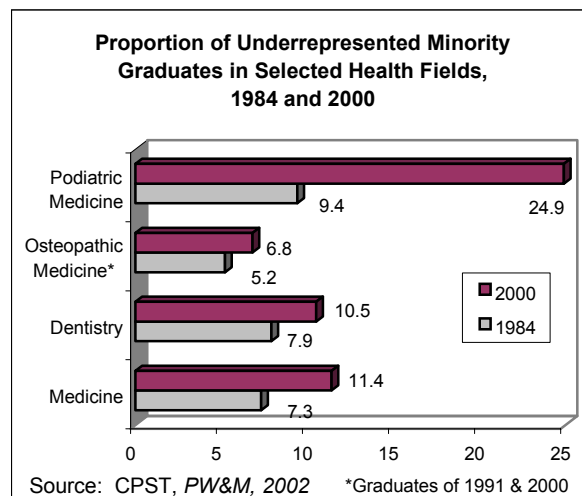
- Women have made great strides in degree attainment in the life sciences at all three degree levels. They now earn more than half of the bachelor's and master's degrees, doubling their proportion since 1970. At the doctorate level, women earn nearly 43% of the doctorates.
- Regardless of level, underrepresented minority groups earned less than 10% of all degrees in the biological/agricultural sciences regardless of degree level in 1997. Foreign nationals earned about a quarter of the PhD degrees in these fields.



- Women have made great strides in increasing their participation in the health fields. For example, in 1970, women constituted 9.0% of total enrollment and 8.4% of the graduates in medicine. By 2000, they were 43.9% of enrollment and 42.5% of graduates. In dentistry, in 1970, women comprised about 1.4% and 1.0% of total enrollment and graduates. By 2000, they comprised 38.7% of total enrollment and 39.5% of the graduates. In optometry, they were 5.2% of the graduates in 1970; by 2000, they were 53.7%. In veterinary medicine, they increased their enrollment from 8.8% in 1970 to 70.4% by 2000 as shown in the accompanying chart.



- Underrepresented minorities have made some gains in their participation in medical and allied fields, although not to the extent of women.



- Despite the gains made by women and underrepresented minority groups, they still comprise a small proportion of the total faculty in these health fields. For example, in 2001 in medicine, women constituted 28.8% of medical school faculty, African Americans 2.9%, Native Americans 0.1%, and Hispanics 3.3%.
- Women, however, lost ground in a couple of allied health fields. In medical laboratory technology, women's proportion of bachelor's and master's degrees declined from 88% and 80% in 1970 to 73% and 67% respectively in 2000. A similar decline occurred in physical therapy.