

Still We Rise?:
African American Higher Education
Patterns and Trends, 1971- 2004

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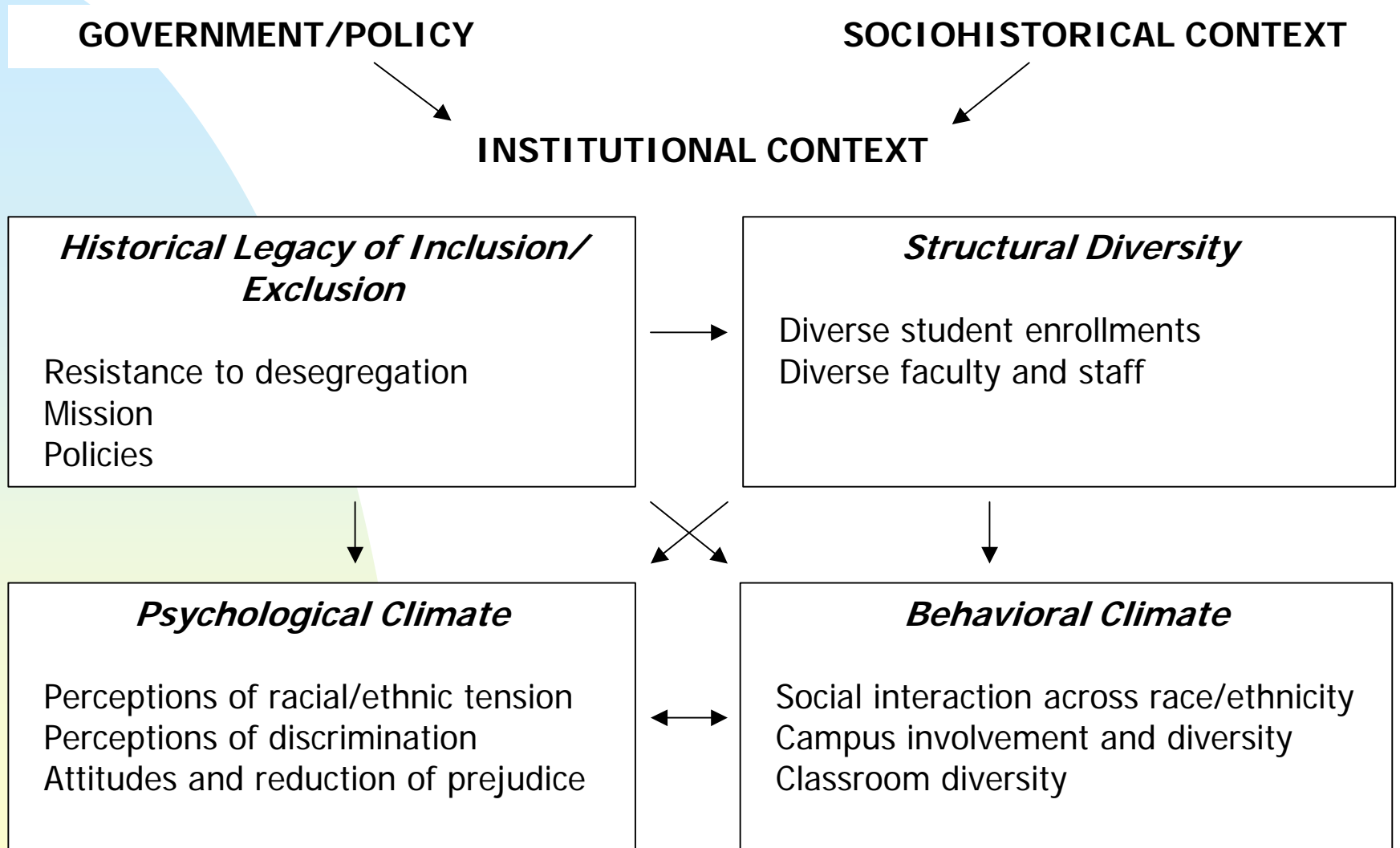
The American Dream lies at the very heart of the American cultural ethos. At the center of the American Dream is the emphatic conviction that, in this society, education opens the door to success. Education has long been seen as an essential foundation of democracy. The extent to which citizens are given or denied equal educational opportunity speaks volumes about openness and power relations within our society. For African Americans, the centuries-old struggle for education has been emblematic of a larger fight for personhood and equality in America. In this struggle, progress has come in fits and starts, interspersed with rollbacks and lost ground.

(Allen & Jewell, 1995)

President Lyndon Baines Johnson

“You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say, ‘You are free to compete with all the others,’ and still justly believe that you have been completely fair.” (1965)

Elements Influencing Campus Climate Diversity



Data and Methods of Study

- UCLA CIRP and HERI annual survey
- Reaches 400,000 freshmen annually
- In 2004, 440 of 720 participating institutions sent data (75% freshmen response rate)
- This report based on responses of 541,824 African American/Black first, full-time freshmen attending 1,112 institutions from 1971- 2004

Figure 1. Gender Differences in Four-Year College and University Attendance

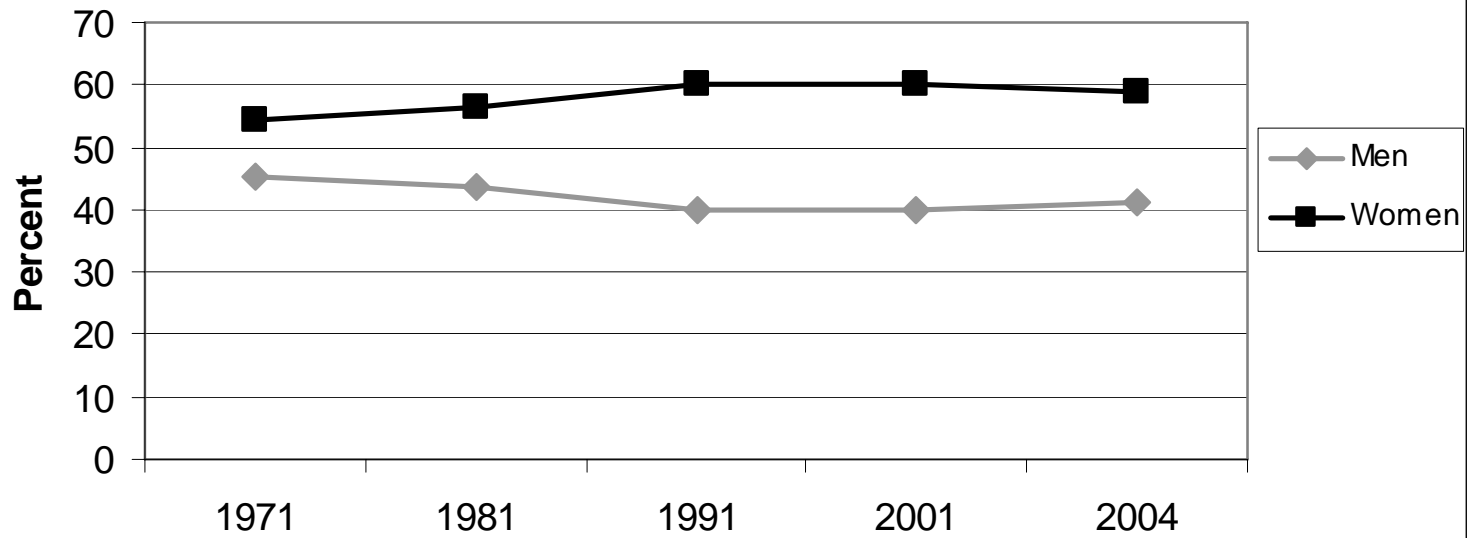


Figure 2. Percentage of Black Freshmen at Various Income Levels by Institutional Type (1971)

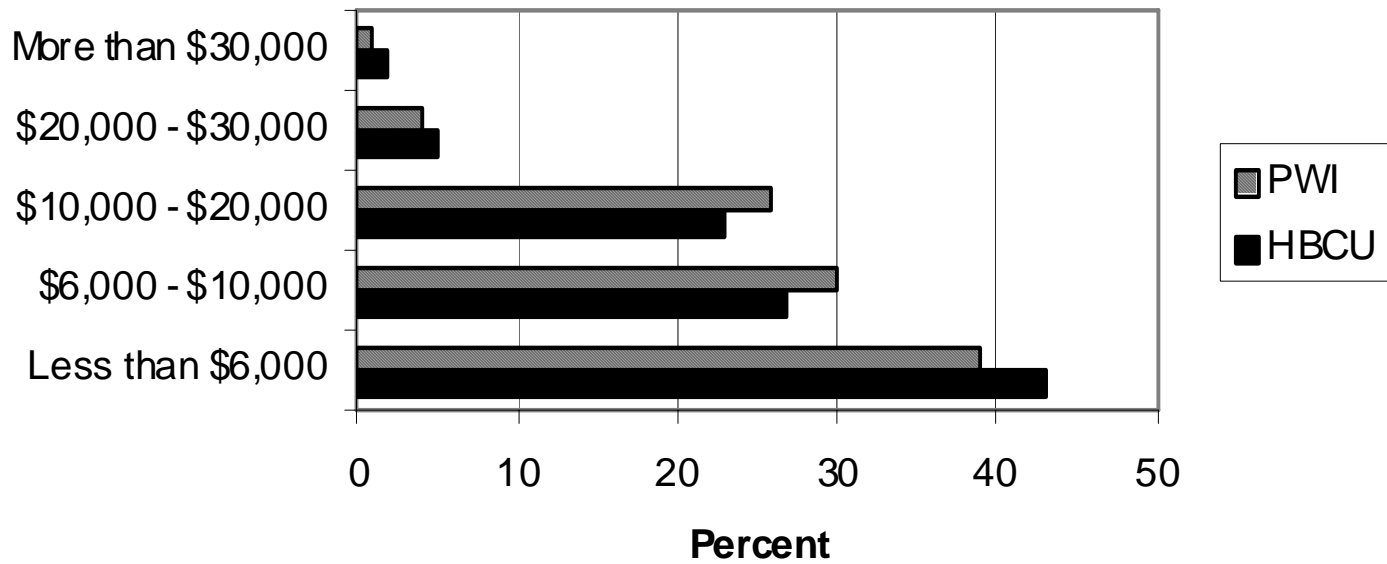


Figure 3. Percentage of Black Freshmen at Various Income Levels By Institutional Type (2004)

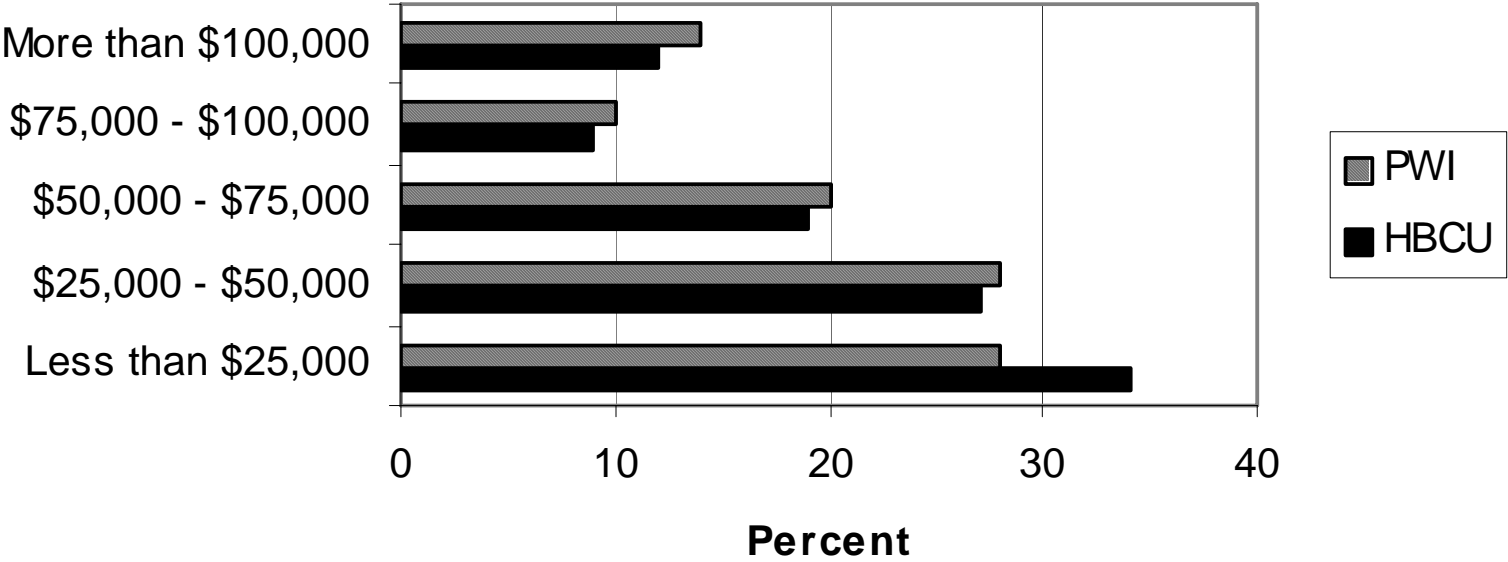


Figure 4. Percentage of Students With Parents Who Completed At Least A College Degree

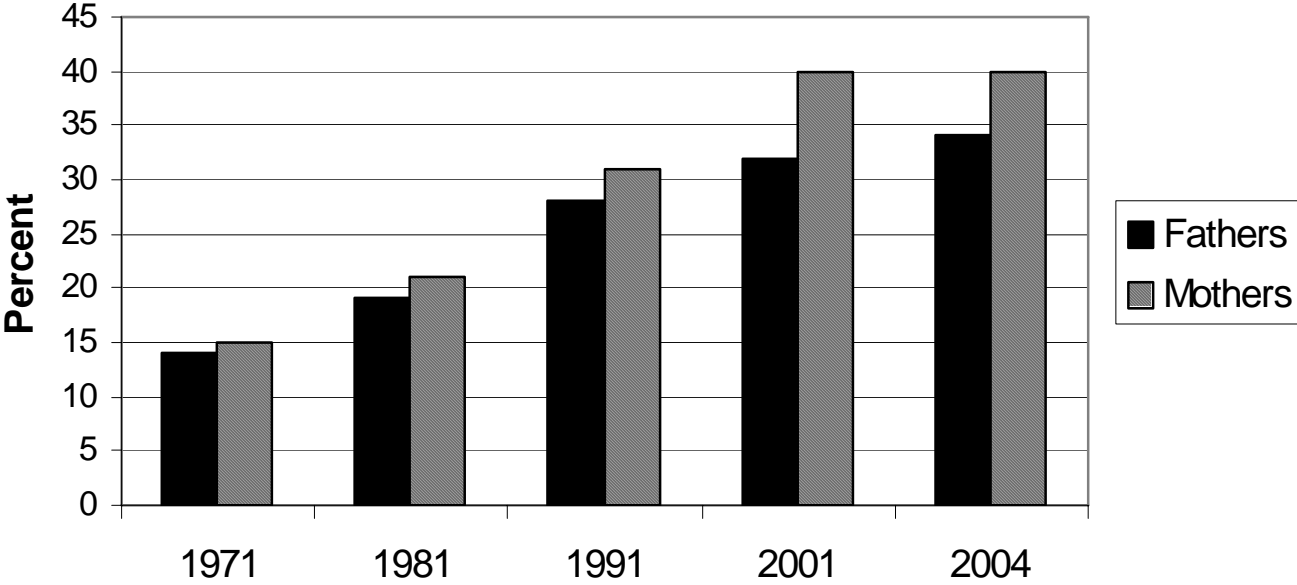


Figure 5. Parents' Occupations

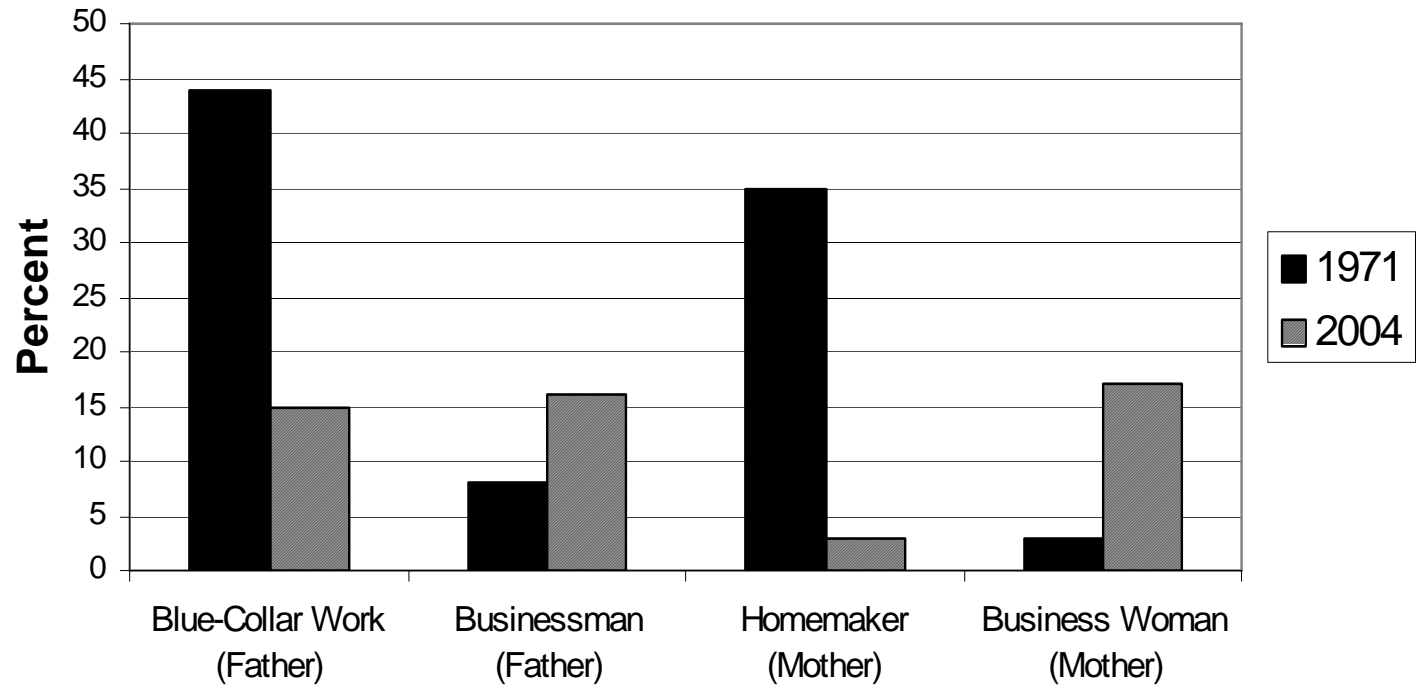
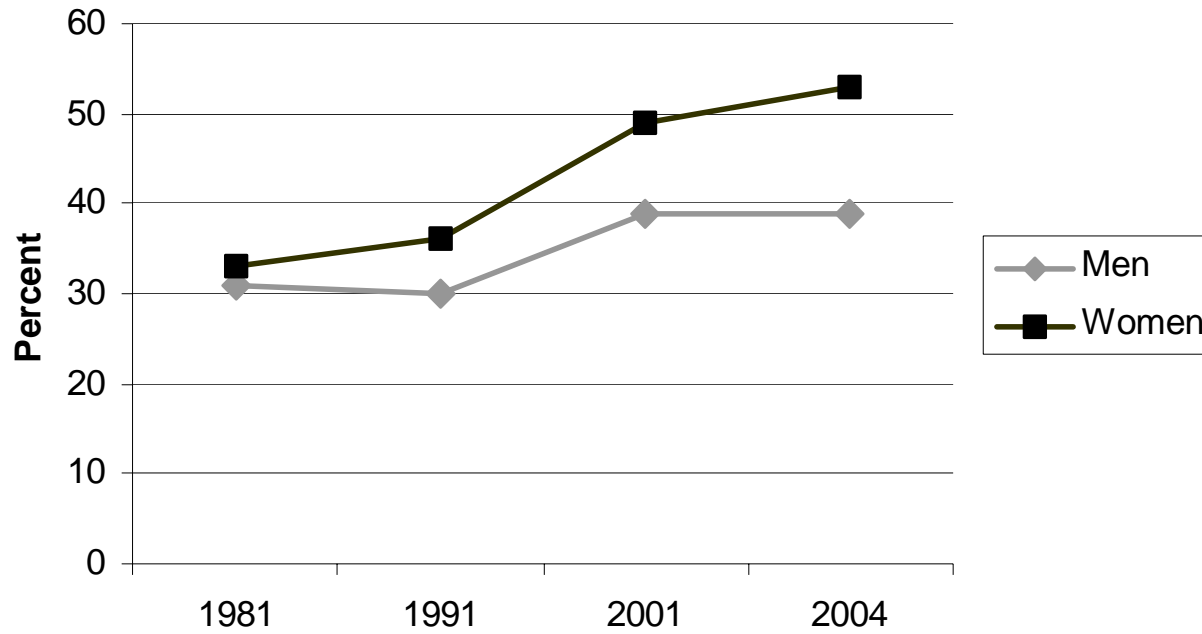


Figure 6. Expectations to Work to Help Finance College



**Figure 7. Sources of Financial Support
(% over \$1500)**

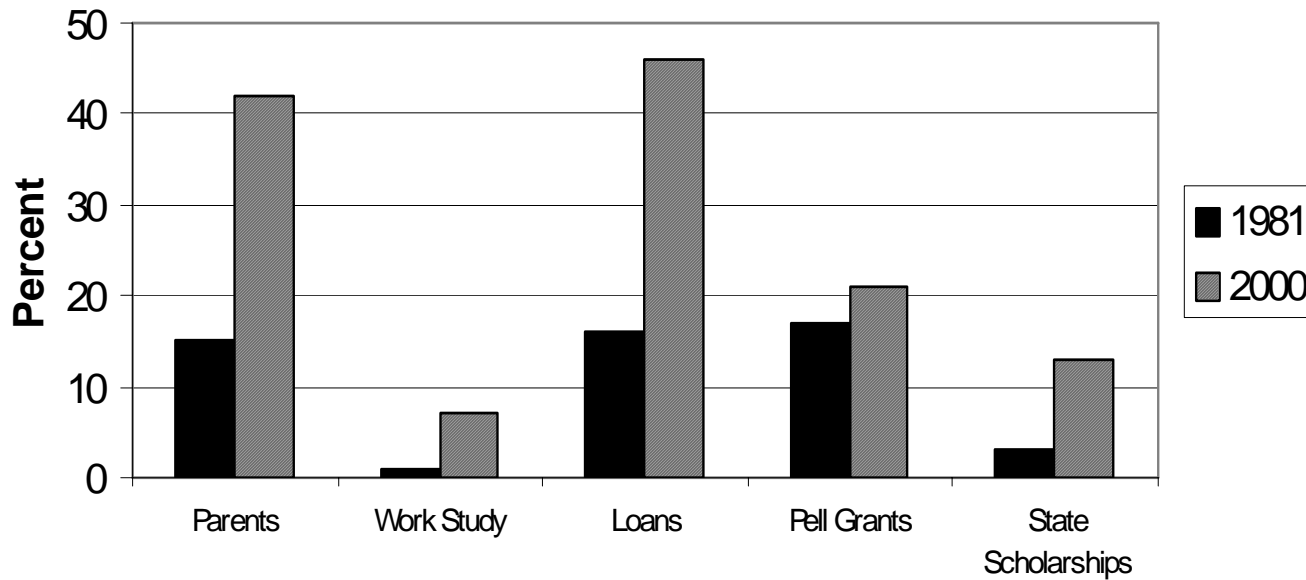


Figure 8. Gender Differences in Academic Achievement and Self-Confidence in 2004

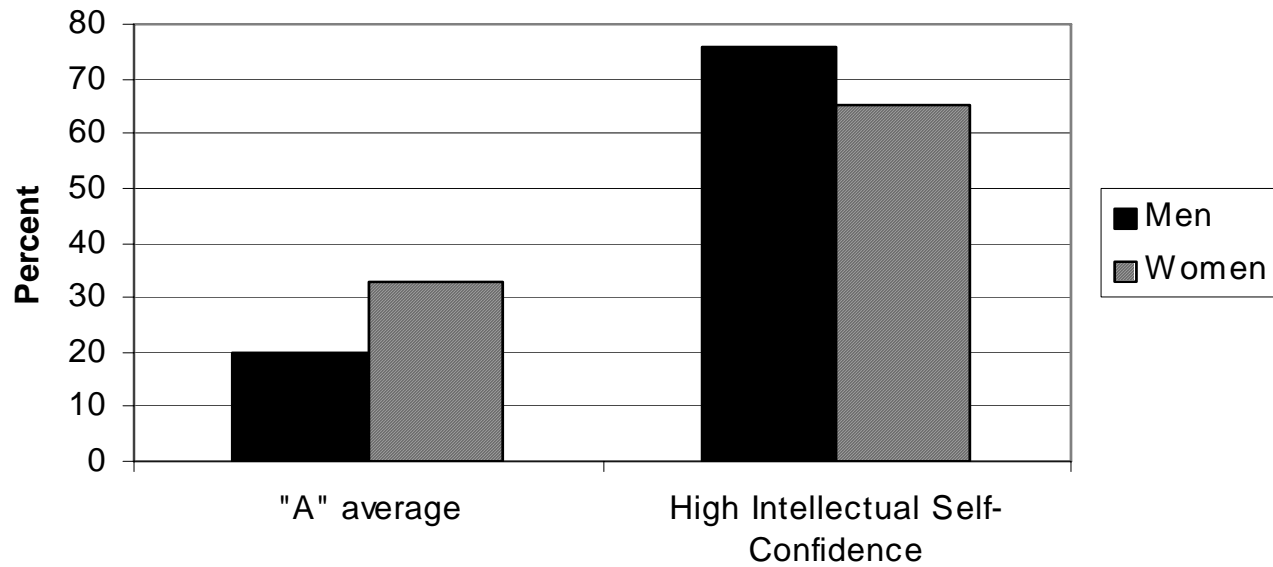


Table 1. The Top Ten Major Fields for Black Freshmen in 1971 and 2004

1971	%	2004	%
Business Administration (general)	10	Biology (general)	7
General Education	8	Psychology	7
Psychology	6	Nursing	6
Medical, Dental, Veterinary	5	Medical, Dental, Veterinary	6
Sociology	5	Management	5
Nursing	4	Business Administration (general)	4
Social Work	4	Elementary Education	4
Physical Education or Recreation	4	Political Science	3
Accounting	4	Marketing	3
History	3	Accounting	3

Figure 9. Change in Career Aspirations

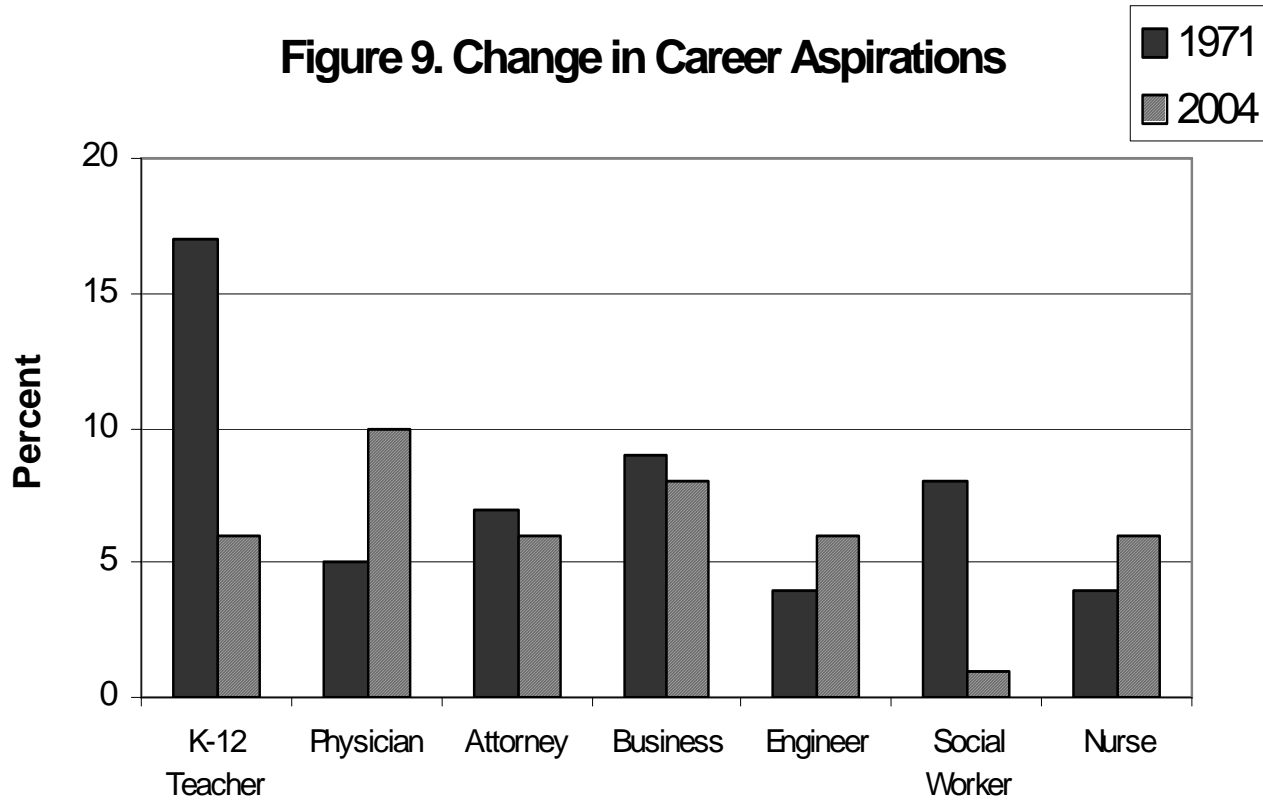
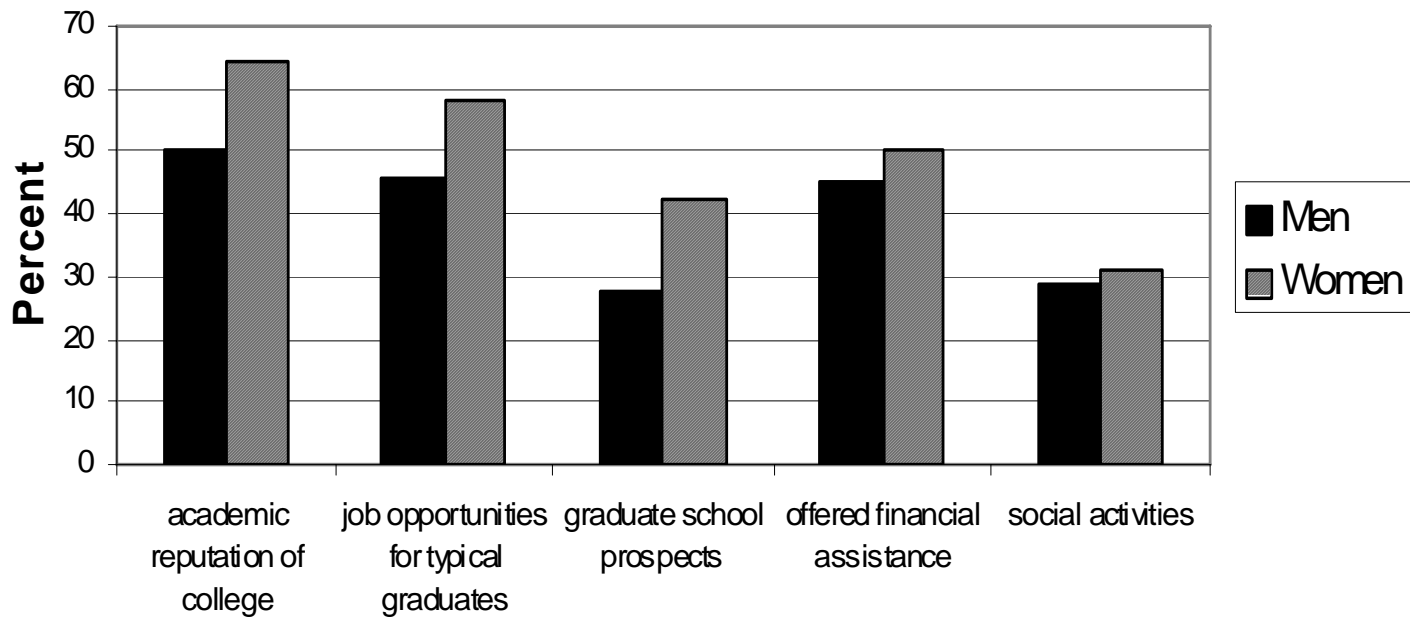


Figure 10. Top Five Reasons for Choosing A Particular College in 2004 (% Stating a Major Reason)



**Figure 11. Information Sources in Choice of College
in 2004**

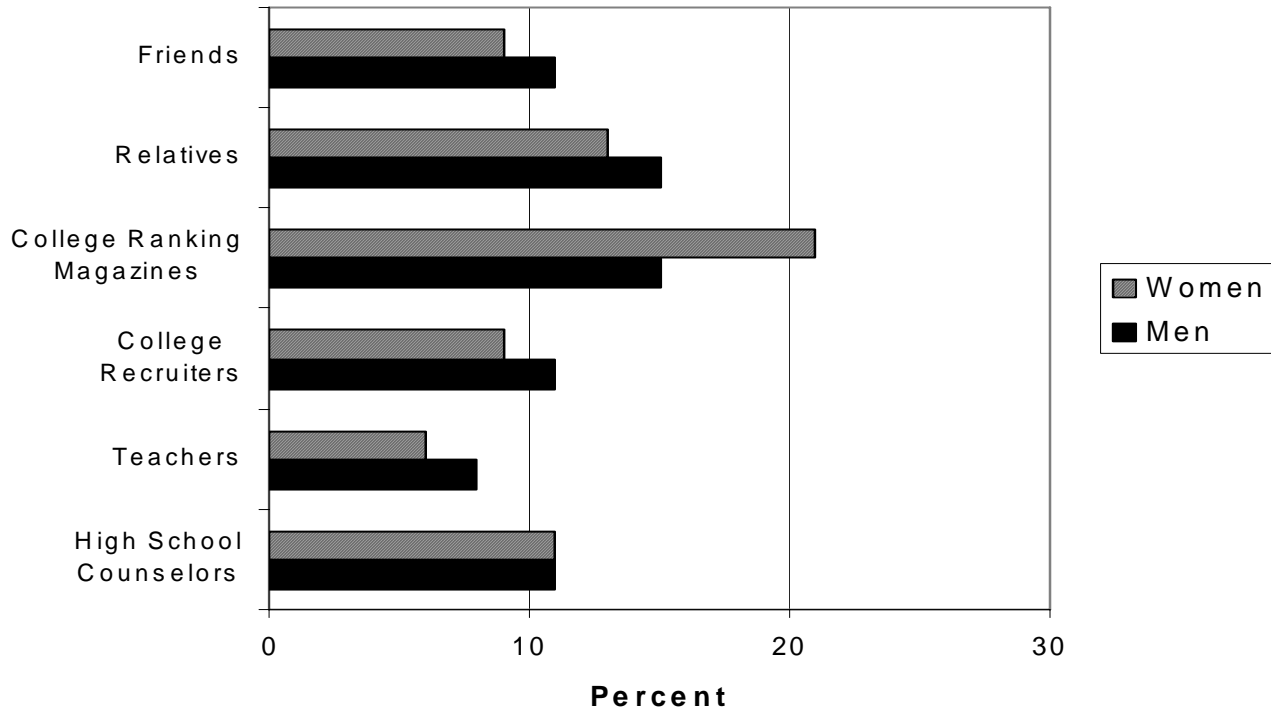
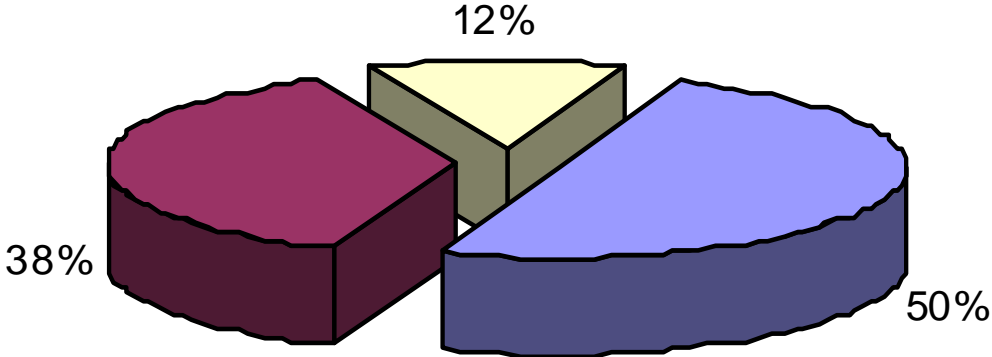
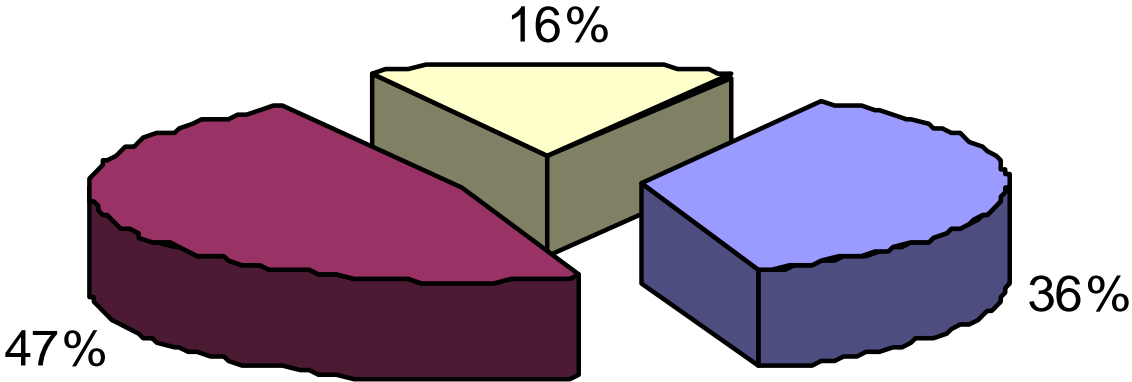


Figure 12. Students' Political Views - 1971



- Liberal or Far Left
- Middle of the Road
- Conservative or Far Right

Figure 13. Students' Political Views - 2004



- Liberal or Far Left
- Middle of the Road
- Conservative or Far Right

Black Freshman Status, Trends and Prospects: 1971- 2004

- Significant and dramatic changes
- “Good News - Bad News Era”
- In 2004, 1.8 million Blacks in college
- Changing educational access and equity - affirmative action, admissions procedures, financial aid, political climate, racial climate
- 2006 UCLA, 150 Blacks of 4,400 admits

Universities are on the front lines in a battle for the soul of the nation and the security of the world. Colleges and universities should vision and model society's highest ideals. We must win the struggle for equity, excellence and diversity – the larger struggle for human dignity. Otherwise we fail our most sacred trust.

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

from AND STILL I RISE by Maya Angelou,

Further Contact Information and Details:

www.choices.gseis.ucla.edu