

Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report

CHAPTER 3

**ENROLLMENT IN GRADUATE  
EDUCATION**



## ***Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report***

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### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

*Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2024 Status Report* follows *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: A Status Report* (2019) and *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education: 2020 Supplement*. These reports and the accompanying website provide a data-informed foundation for those who are working to close persistent equity gaps and also offer a glimpse into the educational pathways of today’s college students and the educators who serve them. For more information, including downloadable figures and detailed data tables behind the figures presented in this report, please visit [equityinhighered.org](https://equityinhighered.org).

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# INTRODUCTION

Graduate and professional education play key roles in positioning individuals in the workforce and on career pathways. Jobs that require graduate or professional degrees continue to grow—the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Torpey 2024) projects new job openings within the next eight years for the current top occupations for those who have graduate degrees. Since advanced studies are becoming more relevant for employment, individuals are pursuing postbaccalaureate degrees at a higher rate. Between 2015 and 2021, this type of enrollment in the United States increased 10 percent (from approximately 2.9 million to 3.2 million students), and it is expected to grow another 6 percent (an increase of 200,000 students) by 2031 (NCES 2023).

On average, graduate degrees lead to significant increases in earnings. Median earnings for graduate degree holders ages 35 to 44 who worked full time year-round in 2022 were just over \$100,000, compared with \$80,520 for those whose highest degree earned was a bachelor's degree. However, the type of advanced degree is relevant. By highest degree earned, median earnings were \$95,480 for master's degrees, \$127,200 for doctoral degrees, and \$130,500 for professional degrees (U.S. Census Bureau 2022). The type of institution attended also matters. There is evidence, for example, that master's degrees from elite universities have the highest payoff, while degrees from for-profit institutions do not have the same return on investment for many students (Cooper 2022).

Differences in graduate enrollment patterns can have longstanding effects on students' career or professional trajectories, earning potential, and overall social and economic mobility. This chapter considers graduate enrollment differences at the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, and age, as well as the differences in where graduate students enroll and which degree types they pursue. The racial and ethnic composition of the graduate student population differs from that of undergraduate students. In 2019–20, 47.6 percent of undergraduates were domestic White students and 49.3 percent of graduate students were White. A much smaller share of graduate students than of undergraduates were Hispanic or Latino—10.1 percent versus 20.5 percent. And a much larger share of graduate students than of undergraduates were international—12.5 percent versus 2.5 percent. Asian students were a slightly larger share of graduate than of undergraduate students, and Black or African American students were a slightly larger share of undergraduate than of graduate students (see chapter 2).

This chapter reports on the growth and increasing diversity of graduate enrollment and differences in the programs and institutions at which graduate students from different racial and ethnic groups enroll. Notable findings include the concentration of Black or African American students, women, and older students in the for-profit sector and the concentration of Asian and international students at R1 doctoral institutions.

## KEY FINDINGS

- About one-third of 2015–16 bachelor’s degree recipients had enrolled in graduate school by 2019–20. The enrolled shares were 25.2 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students, 30.2 percent of Hispanic or Latino students, 36.1 percent of Black or African American students, and 52.4 percent of international students (see figure 3.1).
- Among all demographic groups, a larger share of women than that of men enrolled in graduate school. The largest gender gaps were about 23 percentage points among American Indian or Alaska Native students and 9.3 percentage points among those of more than one race. The smallest gender gap was 4.4 percentage points among international students (see figure 3.2).
- Among all racial and ethnic groups, students who completed their bachelor’s degrees at ages 23 and younger enrolled in graduate school within four years at a higher rate than those who were ages 23 and older. This gap was largest for Asian students, among whom 41.0 percent of the youngest group and less than 20.0 percent of older students enrolled (19.8 percent among those ages 24 to 29 and 17.0 percent among those ages 30 and older). Enrollment rates were similar for all age groups among Black or African American students (34.6 percent to 36.8 percent) (see figure 3.3).
- Overall, graduate school enrollment rates of dependent students ranged from 33.3 percent of those from the lowest family income quartile to 37.0 percent of those from the highest income quartile. The biggest differences were among Hispanic or Latino students, for whom enrollment rates ranged from 29.5 percent of the lowest-income students to 43.0 percent of the highest-income students (see figure 3.4).
- The share of graduate students who were White domestic students fell from 68.2 percent in 1999–2000 to 49.3 percent in 2019–20. This group declined in all program types but remained above 50 percent among both master’s and professional and other doctoral students, and it constituted just 41.0 percent of research doctoral students in 2019–20 (see table 3.1).
- The share of graduate students who were Black or African American domestic students rose from 8.3 percent in 1999–2000 to 11.5 percent in 2019–20. Enrollment of Black or African American graduate students in 2019–20 was higher in master’s degree programs (12.6 percent) than in research doctoral (9.2 percent) and professional and other doctoral (9.3 percent) degree programs (see table 3.1).
- Women made up about 60 percent of master’s and of professional and other doctoral students, but men and women were equally represented among research doctoral students. The largest gender gaps were among Black or African American students: women were 68.4 percent of Black or African American research doctoral students, 66.3 percent of Black or African American professional or other doctoral students, and 69.5 percent of Black or African American master’s degree students (see table 3.2).
- Professional and other doctoral degree students tended to be younger than other graduate students, with 24.4 percent who were ages 30 and older, compared with 58.1 percent of research doctoral students and 49.4 percent of master’s degree students. Larger shares of Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students than those of other groups were ages 30 and older, with the 77.8 percent of Black or African American research doctoral students in this age category representing the largest share among all program types and demographic groups (see table 3.3).
- The shares of graduate students enrolled at for-profit institutions ranged from 1.3 percent of international students and 7.4 percent of White graduate students to 21.6 percent of Black or African American students and 22.8 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students (see figure 3.6).
- The shares of graduate students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions ranged from 15.9 percent of Black or African American students to 42.8 percent of Asian students and 65.4 percent of international students (see table 3.6).

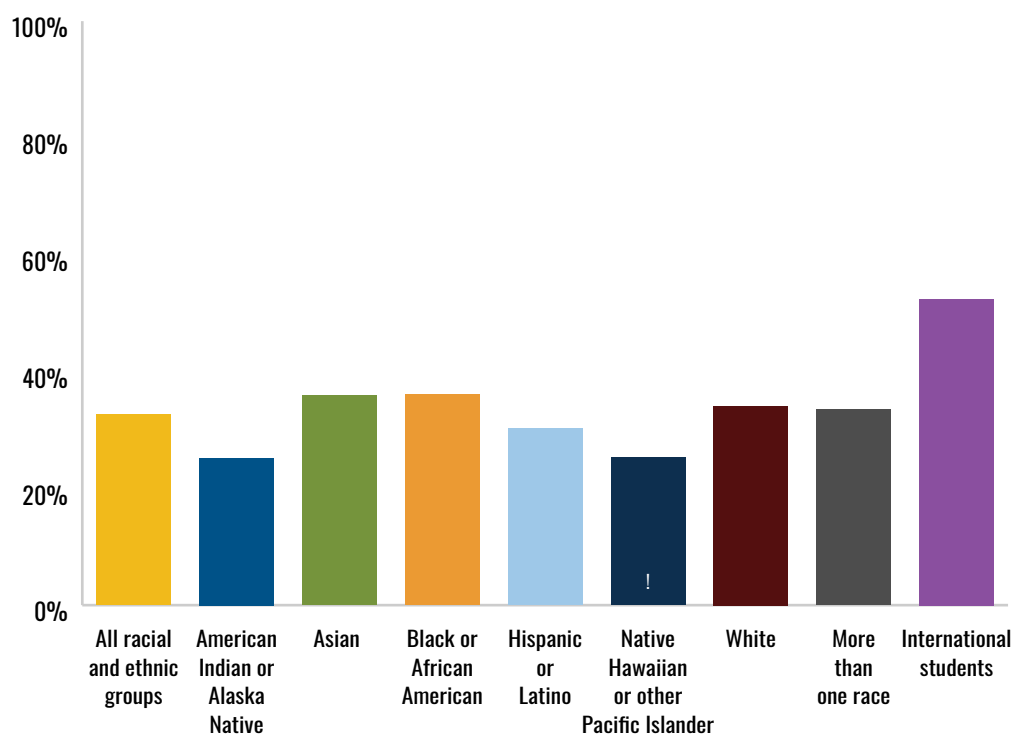
- More women than men graduate students enrolled in the for-profit sector (11.6 percent versus 6.4 percent). The largest gender gap was among Black or African American students, with 24.7 percent of Black or African American women and 14.6 percent of Black or African American men enrolled at for-profit institutions (see table 3.7).
- Older students attended for-profit institutions at a higher rate when compared with that of younger students: 14.5 percent of those ages 30 and older versus 5.0 percent of those ages 30 and younger. The age gap was largest for Black or African American students (28.6 percent versus 9.8 percent) (see table 3.8).
- Master's degree students were more concentrated at both private nonprofit and for-profit institutions than graduate students were in other programs. Patterns among racial and ethnic groups differed by program type; however—in all programs—Black or African American graduate students were overrepresented at for-profit institutions and Asian students were overrepresented at private nonprofit institutions (see figures 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9).
- The shares of master's degree students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions ranged from 9.9 percent of Black or African American students to 37.8 percent of Asian students and 52.0 percent of international students. Among professional and other doctoral students, the range was from 25.4 percent of Black or African American students to 40.2 percent of Asian students and 55.3 percent of international students. Among research doctoral students, the range was from 30.8 percent of Black or African American students to 71.5 percent of Asian students and 80.7 percent of international students (see tables 3.9 and 3.10 and figure 3.10).

# GRADUATE ENROLLMENT RATES OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Data on the graduate enrollment rates of bachelor's degree recipients—those who enrolled in a graduate program within four years after bachelor's degree attainment—come from the U.S. Department of Education's Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B) Longitudinal Study. The B&B data presented here followed up in 2020 on a cohort of students who earned their bachelor's degrees in 2015–16 (NCES 2022).

Nearly one-third of first time 2015–16 bachelor's degree earners (32.6 percent) enrolled in a graduate program by 2020, but there was variation by race and ethnicity. Graduate enrollment rates of 2015–16 bachelor's degree earners were highest among international students (52.4 percent), followed by Black or African American students (36.1 percent), Asian students (35.9 percent), and students of more than one race (33.5 percent). The lowest graduate enrollment rates of bachelor's degree recipients were among American Indian or Alaska Native (25.2 percent), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (25.3 percent), and Hispanic or Latino (30.2 percent) students.

**Figure 3.1: Graduate Enrollment Rates of 2015–16 Bachelor's Degree Recipients, by Race and Ethnicity: 2020**

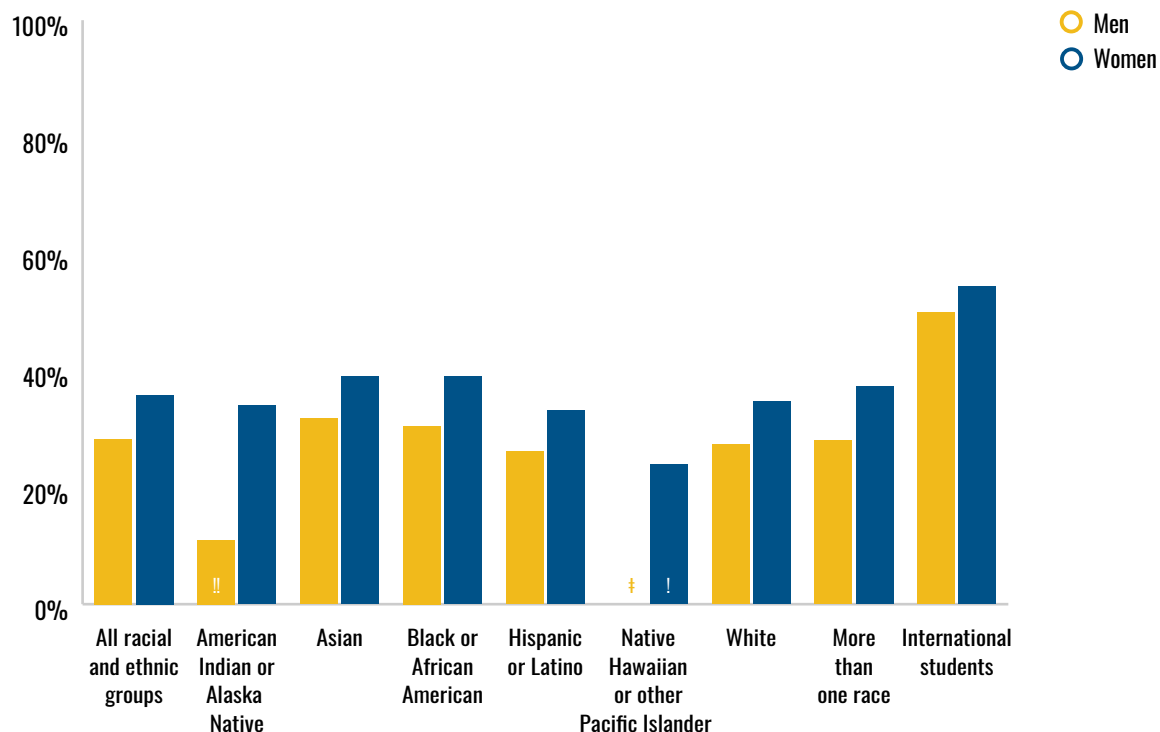


Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, B&B: 16/20.

Notes: Estimates exclude 2015–16 bachelor's degree recipients who had completed a prior bachelor's degree or higher. | Graduate enrollment includes enrollment in postbaccalaureate or post-master's certificates, master's degrees, research doctoral degrees, or professional and other doctoral degrees. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate.

The graduate enrollment rate of bachelor’s degree recipients was higher among women than men across all racial and ethnic groups. The gender gap for racial and ethnic groups ranged from 4.4 percentage points for international students to about 23 percentage points for American Indian or Alaska Native students. Among Hispanic or Latino students, 33.2 percent of women enrolled in a graduate program after they received their bachelor’s degree, and 26.1 percent of men did so. Among Black or African American students, these figures were 30.5 percent for men and 39.0 percent for women.

**Figure 3.2: Graduate Enrollment Rates of 2015–16 Bachelor’s Degree Recipients, by Gender and Race and Ethnicity: 2020**

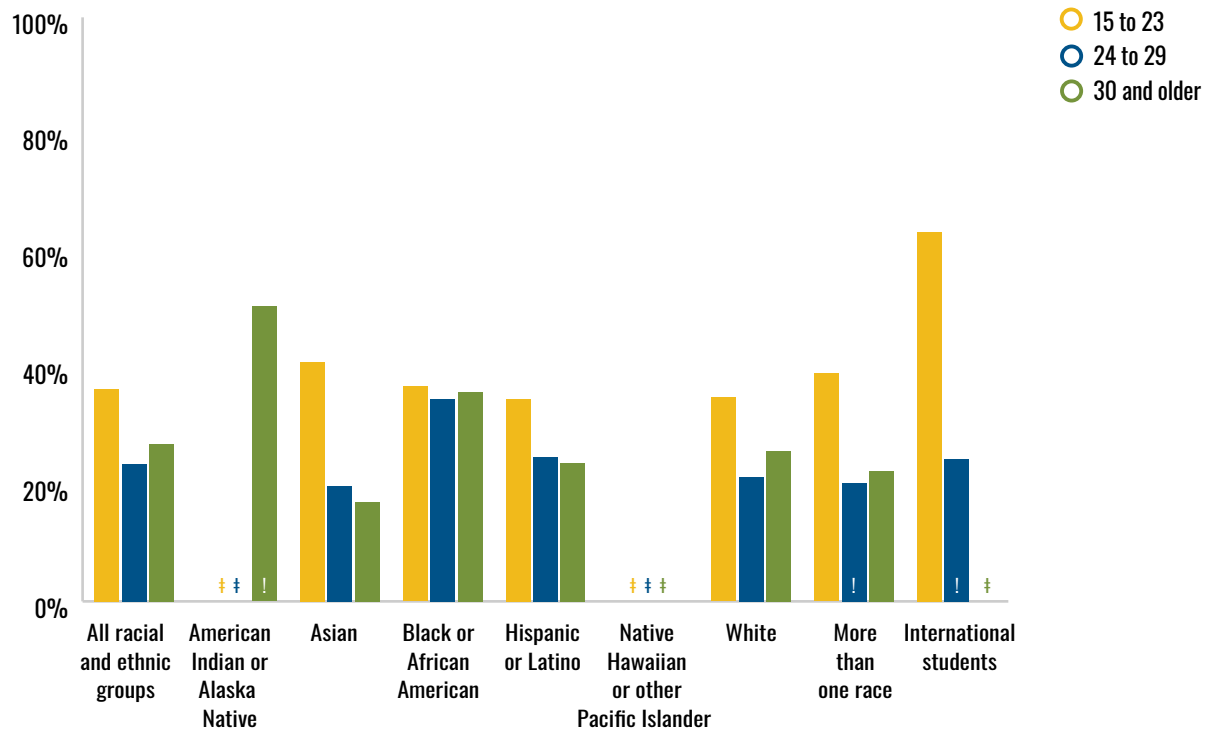


Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, B&B: 16/20.

Notes: Estimates exclude 2015–16 bachelor’s degree recipients who had completed a prior bachelor’s degree or higher. | Graduate enrollment includes enrollment in postbaccalaureate or post-master’s certificates, master’s degrees, research doctoral degrees, or professional and other doctoral degrees. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

Students who received their bachelor’s degree in 2015–16 at ages 23 and younger were more likely than those who were older to enroll in graduate education by 2020 (36.4 percent versus 23.5 percent of those who were ages 24 to 29 and 27.0 percent among those who graduated from college at ages 30 and older). Across all racial and ethnic groups, 15- to 23-year-olds had higher graduate enrollment rates than that of older students, but the variation across age groups was minimal among Black or African American students.

**Figure 3.3: Graduate Enrollment Rates of 2015–16 Bachelor’s Degree Recipients, by Age and Race and Ethnicity: 2020**



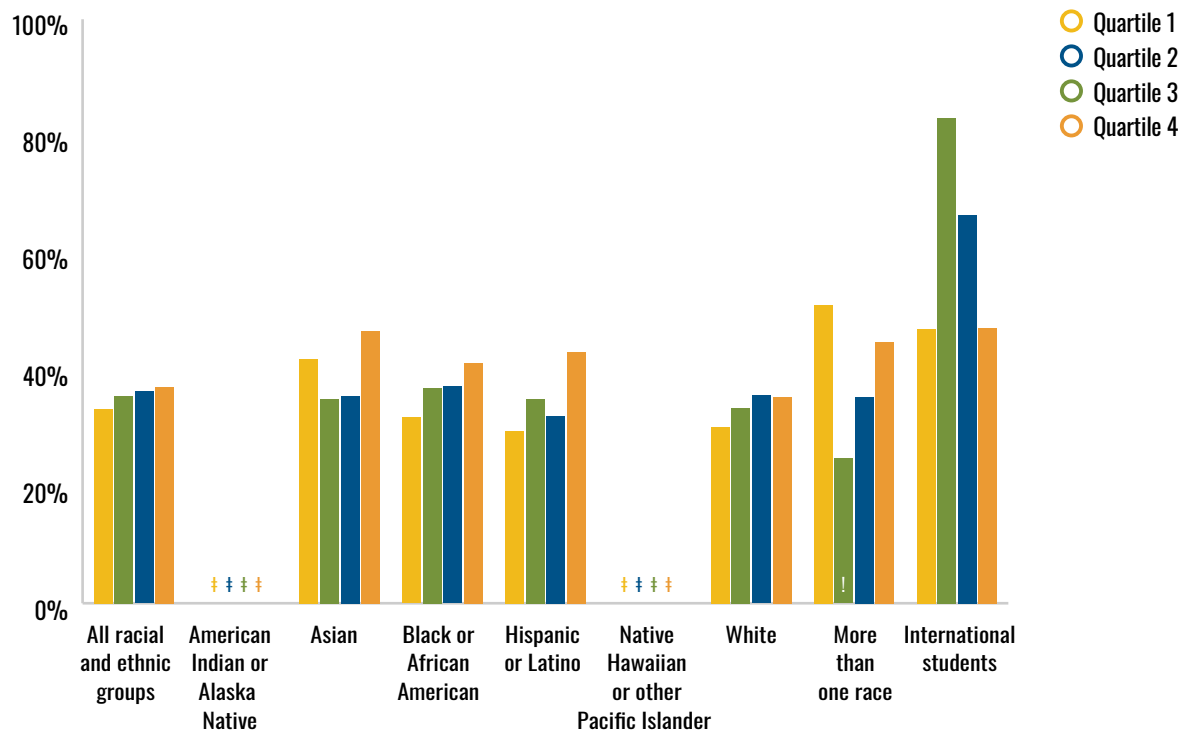
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, B&B: 16/20.

Notes: Estimates exclude 2015–16 bachelor’s degree recipients who had completed a prior bachelor’s degree or higher. | Graduate enrollment includes enrollment in postbaccalaureate or post-master’s certificates, master’s degrees, research doctoral degrees, or professional and other doctoral degrees. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | # Reporting standards not met.



Among dependent students, graduate school enrollment rates did not differ substantially across income groups.<sup>1</sup> Overall, the range was from 37.0 percent of those from the highest income quartile to 33.3 percent of those from the lowest income quartile. The largest differences were among Black or African American students—41.1 percent of those from the highest income quartile enrolled, compared with 31.8 percent of those from the lowest income quartile. Among multiracial bachelor’s degree recipients, the pattern was reversed; 51.1 percent of the lowest-income students, compared with 44.7 percent of students from the highest-income families, enrolled in graduate school within four years after college.

**Figure 3.4: Graduate Enrollment Rates of 2015–16 Bachelor’s Degree Recipients (Dependent Students), by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2020**



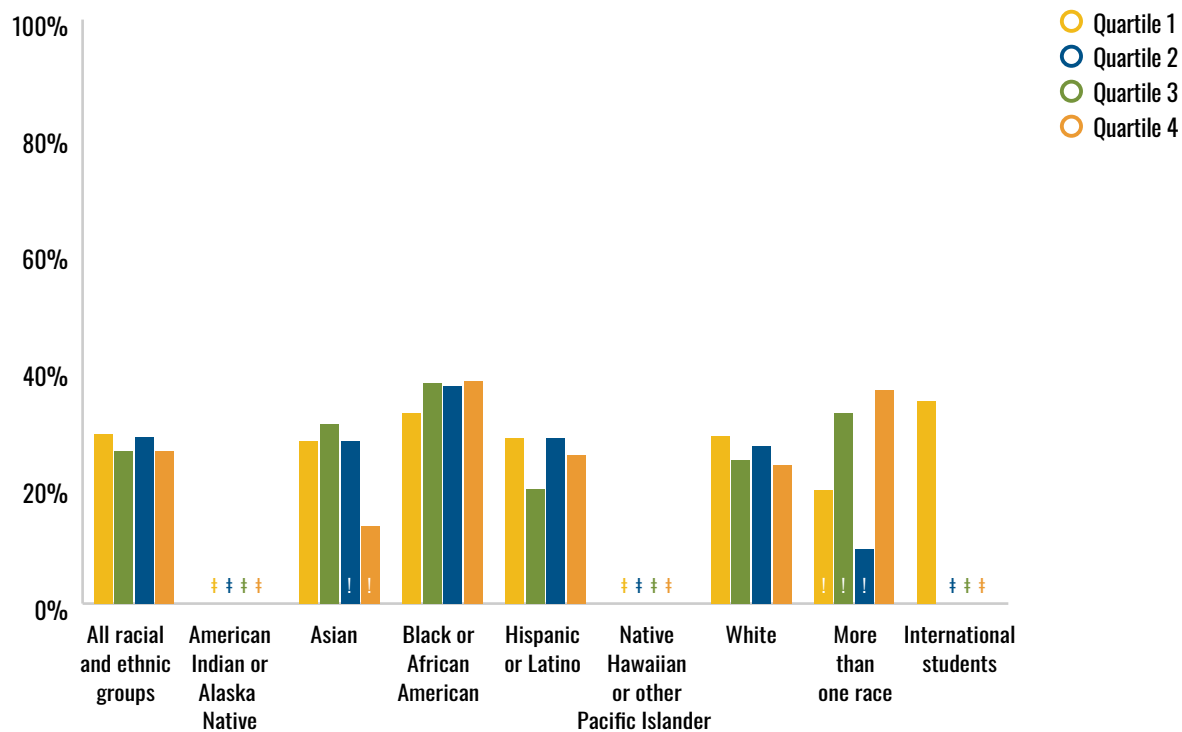
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, B&B: 16/20.

Notes: Income quartiles for dependent students reflects income of the student’s parents or guardians. | The approximate income ranges for the income quartiles of dependent students’ parents or guardians are: 1) less than \$27,900; 2) \$27,901 to \$63,000; 3) \$63,001 to 113,500; 4) more than \$113,500. | Estimates exclude 2015–16 bachelor’s degree recipients who had completed a prior bachelor’s degree or higher. | Graduate enrollment includes enrollment in postbaccalaureate or post-master’s certificates, master’s degrees, research doctoral degrees, or professional and other doctoral degrees. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | # Reporting standards not met.

1 The National Postsecondary Student Aid Study’s (NPSAS) *dependent* category comprises students “under 24 years of age who are unmarried, do not have dependents, are not veterans or on active military duty, are not orphans or wards of the court, are not homeless or at risk of homelessness, and have not been deemed independent by a financial aid officer” (Radwin et al. 2018).

Independent student graduate enrollment also showed little variation in enrollment rates across income groups, but the pattern was different from that of dependent students. The enrollment rate was the highest among the lowest income group (29.1 percent) and the lowest among the highest income group (26.1 percent). Among independent bachelor’s degree recipients from the highest income quartile by race and ethnicity, 38.1 percent of Black or African American, 36.6 percent of multiracial, 25.5 percent of Hispanic or Latino, and 23.7 percent of White students enrolled in graduate school within four years of completing their undergraduate degree. In contrast, among independent students from the lowest income quartile, 34.7 percent of international, 32.7 percent of Black or African American, 28.6 percent of White, 28.4 percent of Hispanic or Latino, and 27.8 of Asian students did so.

**Figure 3.5: Graduate Enrollment Rates of 2015–16 Bachelor’s Degree Recipients (Independent Students), by Income and Race and Ethnicity: 2020**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study, B&B: 16/20.

Notes: Income quartiles for independent students reflect the student’s own income; if they were married, their spouse’s income was also included. | For independent students, the approximate income ranges for the quartiles are: 1) less than \$7,200; 2) \$7,201 to \$20,200; 3) \$20,201 to \$43,000; and 4) more than \$43,000. | Estimates exclude 2015–16 bachelor’s degree recipients who had completed a prior bachelor’s degree or higher. | Graduate enrollment includes enrollment in postbaccalaureate or post-master’s certificates, master’s degrees, research doctoral degrees, or professional and other doctoral degrees. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT: 1999–2000 TO 2019–20

The graduate student population continued to diversify between 1999–2000 and 2019–20; specifically, international student enrollment increased by 3.4 percentage points, Black or African American student enrollment increased by 3.2 percentage points, Hispanic or Latino student enrollment increased by 3.9 percentage points, and multiracial student enrollment increased by 4.6 percentage points. Although nearly half of graduate students were White in 2019–20 (49.3 percent), this share decreased by 18.9 percentage points (from 68.2 percent) between 1999–2000 and 2019–20. Furthermore, fewer than 1 percent of graduate students in 2019–20 were Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, which was consistent with their graduate student enrollment between 1999–2000 and 2019–20.

**Table 3.1: Graduate Enrollment Across Race and Ethnicity, by Award Level, Select Years: 1999–2000 to 2019–2016**

		1999–2000	2003–04	2007–08	2011–12	2015–16	2019–20
All Degrees	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%
	Asian	5.2%	6.4%	5.5%	6.9%	6.3%	9.0%
	Black or African American	8.3%	9.2%	12.0%	11.4%	13.5%	11.5%
	Hispanic or Latino	6.2%	7.3%	7.5%	8.1%	9.2%	10.1%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%
	White	68.2%	65.9%	63.8%	62.0%	56.0%	49.3%
	More than one race	2.0%	2.6%	2.2%	2.0%	2.3%	6.6%
	International students	9.1%	7.9%	8.5%	8.7%	12.0%	12.5%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Research Doctoral Degrees	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
	Asian	4.8%	6.3%	5.5%	6.7%	5.4%	6.7%
	Black or African American	6.5%	7.7%	12.0%	10.3%	12.8%	9.2%
	Hispanic or Latino	4.9%	5.3%	6.7%	5.5%	7.5%	7.6%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1% !!
	White	60.3%	57.0%	54.2%	50.6%	50.0%	41.0%
	More than one race	2.3%	2.9%	2.5% !!	2.1%	2.3%	6.4%
	International students	20.4%	20.3%	18.6%	24.2%	21.5%	28.6%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Professional and Other Doctoral Degrees	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.7%	0.4%	‡	0.2%	0.6%	0.6% !!
	Asian	11.2%	11.5%	10.5%	12.4%	13.1%	16.2%
	Black or African American	5.9%	5.9%	6.3%	8.4%	11.2%	9.3%
	Hispanic or Latino	5.1%	8.6%	6.5%	6.1%	9.4%	8.8%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.5%	‡	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%	0.6% !!
	White	71.6%	66.0%	71.7%	65.8%	60.6%	54.9%
	More than one race	2.1%	4.3%	2.4%	3.1%	3.0%	7.2%
	International students	2.9%	3.1%	2.0%	3.4%	1.9%	2.3%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Master's Degrees	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%
	Asian	4.6%	5.6%	5.3%	6.1%	5.4%	8.3%
	Black or African American	9.6%	10.2%	12.6%	12.3%	14.4%	12.6%
	Hispanic or Latino	6.1%	7.6%	7.9%	8.5%	9.9%	11.2%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.5%
	White	68.1%	66.0%	64.1%	62.5%	54.7%	49.6%
	More than one race	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	2.3%	6.5%
	International students	9.0%	7.6%	7.8%	7.6%	12.7%	10.4%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Sources: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020.

Notes: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

Women represented over half of all graduate students in 1999–2000, both overall (57.6 percent) and within all racial and ethnic groups; however, 57.1 percent of international graduate students were men. This gender gap increased, both overall and for most racial and ethnic groups, between 1999–2000 and 2019–20. However, in 2019–20, women remained the highest share of graduate students overall (58.6 percent) and men were more than half of the shares of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and international graduate students. The widest gender gap in graduate enrollment was among Black or African American students, followed by Hispanic or Latino, Asian, and White students.

**Table 3.2: Graduate Enrollment Across Gender, by Award Level and Race and Ethnicity: 1999–2000 and 2019–20**

		1999–2000			2019–20			
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Genderqueer, Gender Nonconforming, or a Different Gender Identity	Total
All Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	42.4%	57.6%	100%	40.3%	58.6%	1.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	41.7%	58.3%	100%	51.1%	46.0%	‡	100%
	Asian	47.3%	52.7%	100%	38.1%	60.6%	1.3%	100%
	Black or African American	31.6%	68.4%	100%	29.2%	70.3%	0.5% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	38.3%	61.7%	100%	37.9%	61.5%	0.6%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	35.0%	65.0%	100%	56.9%	42.2%	‡	100%
	White	41.7%	58.3%	100%	38.7%	60.3%	1.1%	100%
	More than one race	46.4%	53.6%	100%	45.1%	51.9%	3.0% !	100%
	International students	57.1%	42.9%	100%	57.1%	42.3%	0.6% !!	100%
Research Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	50.7%	49.3%	100%	48.9%	49.2%	2.0%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	51.3%	48.7%	100%	50.9%	45.7%	3.4% !	100%
	Black or African American	42.9%	57.1%	100%	29.9%	68.4%	1.7% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	32.2%	67.8%	100%	43.7%	55.1%	1.2% !	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	48.9%	51.1%	100%	44.2%	53.6%	2.2%	100%
	More than one race	34.1%	65.9%	100%	54.2%	41.4%	4.4% !	100%
	International students	65.1%	34.9%	100%	61.2%	37.9%	0.9% !!	100%
Professional and Other Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	54.1%	45.9%	100%	39.9%	59.8%	0.3% !	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	49.7%	50.3%	100%	34.4%	65.0%	0.6% !!	100%
	Black or African American	45.6%	54.4%	100%	33.7%	66.3%	‡	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	49.3%	50.7%	100%	38.7%	60.5%	0.9% !!	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	55.6%	44.4%	100%	41.7%	58.1%	0.2% !	100%
	More than one race	‡	‡	‡	41.9%	57.7%	‡	‡
	International students	68.3%	31.7%	100%	40.3%	59.7%	‡	100%

		1999–2000			2019–20			
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Genderqueer, Gender Nonconforming, or a Different Gender Identity	Total
Master's Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	40.8%	59.2%	100%	39.0%	59.9%	1.0%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	49.8% !	50.2% !	‡	100%
	Asian	44.6%	55.4%	100%	37.4%	61.6%	1.0% !	100%
	Black or African American	28.3%	71.7%	100%	30.1%	69.5%	0.4% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	40.4%	59.6%	100%	36.6%	63.0%	0.4% !!	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	51.3%	48.7% !	‡	100%
	White	40.5%	59.5%	100%	38.1%	60.8%	1.2%	100%
	More than one race	44.6%	55.4%	100%	44.2%	52.6%	3.2% !	100%
	International students	53.2%	46.8%	100%	53.7%	45.9%	‡	100%

Sources: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2000 and 2020.

Notes: Categories for a student's gender identity provided for self-identification were updated in the NPSAS:20 survey to include male; female; transgender, male-to-female; transgender, female-to-male; genderqueer or gender nonconforming; or a different gender identity. Students who identified as male or transgender, female-to-male were classified as *men*. Students who identified as female or transgender, male-to-female were classified as *women*. Students who identified as genderqueer or gender nonconforming, a different gender identity, or more than one gender identity were classified as *genderqueer, gender nonconforming, or a different identity* (except students who selected multiple responses within the same gender binary, who were classified within that binary—e.g., students who selected both male and transgender, female-to-male were classified as male). | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- Women represented 42.2 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander graduate students in 2019–20, a decrease from 65.0 percent in 1999–2000 (a decline of 35 percent)—the largest decrease in women's representation within racial and ethnic groups during this period.
- The share of Black or African American women in 2019–20 (70.3 percent) was about 41 percentage points larger than that of men (29.2 percent).
- Men and women's enrollment was nearly equal among graduate students who were pursuing research doctoral degrees in 2019–20 (48.9 percent and 49.2 percent, respectively). In contrast, men composed less than 40 percent of graduate students enrolled in professional and other doctoral degree programs (39.9 percent) and master's degree programs (39.0 percent).

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT: 2019–20

In 2019–20, 49.3 percent of all graduate students were White, 38.4 percent were students of color, and 12.5 percent were international students.<sup>2</sup> The largest group of graduate students of color was Black or African American students, who composed 11.5 percent of total enrollment, followed by Hispanic or Latino students (10.1 percent), Asian students (9.0 percent), and multiracial students (6.6 percent) (see table 3.1).

### Graduate Enrollment Across Ages

In 2019–20, over half of graduate students were ages 29 and younger (52.9 percent); of this percentage, 39.4 percent were 24 to 29 years old and 13.5 percent were between 15 and 23 years old. Adults ages 30 and older represented 47.1 percent of all graduate students.

**Table 3.3: Graduate Enrollment Across Ages, by Award Level and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

		15 to 23	24 to 29	30 and Older	Total
All Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	13.5%	39.4%	47.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	17.8% !	75.3%	100%
	Asian	15.0%	49.6%	35.4%	100%
	Black or African American	9.4%	27.7%	62.8%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	11.3%	39.4%	49.3%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	18.0% !!	14.8% !	67.2%	100%
	White	13.6%	38.2%	48.2%	100%
	More than one race	13.0%	36.2%	50.8%	100%
	International students	18.5%	50.9%	30.6%	100%
Research Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	6.2%	42.0%	51.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	10.6% !	50.0%	39.4%	100%
	Black or African American	1.8% !	20.4%	77.8%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	2.6% !	34.3%	63.1%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	6.7%	39.3%	54.0%	100%
	More than one race	7.6% !	46.0%	46.3%	100%
	International students	6.5%	53.1%	40.4%	100%
Professional and Other Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	19.9%	55.7%	24.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	18.4%	63.1%	18.5%	100%
	Black or African American	15.2%	34.7%	50.1%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	13.7%	58.1%	28.1%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	22.7%	56.5%	20.8%	100%
	More than one race	14.8% !	60.7%	24.5%	100%
	International students	15.1% !	59.2%	25.6% !	100%

2 Some international students who were not classified by race and ethnicity may have been included as White students. The group *students of color* included American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and multiracial students. International students were not included as students of color because of the lack of precise data on their race or ethnicity.

		15 to 23	24 to 29	30 and Older	Total
Master's Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	14.7%	35.8%	49.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	22.6% !!	72.2%	100%
	Asian	14.1%	42.6%	43.3%	100%
	Black or African American	10.2%	29.8%	59.9%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	11.8%	37.7%	50.5%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	12.5% !!	87.5%	100%
	White	13.8%	34.8%	51.4%	100%
	More than one race	14.2%	26.1%	59.7%	100%
	International students	30.3%	49.1%	20.6%	100%

Sources: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- Nearly four in 10 Black or African American graduate students (37.1 percent) were ages 29 and younger, compared with 50.7 percent of Hispanic or Latino graduate students.
- Just over half of all multiracial students (50.8 percent) and nearly half of all Hispanic or Latino (49.3 percent) and White (48.2 percent) students were ages 30 and older.
- Three-quarters of American Indian or Alaska Native graduate students (75.3 percent), 67.2 percent of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 62.8 percent of Black or African American students were ages 30 and older. In contrast, fewer than a third (30.6 percent) of international graduate students and 35.4 percent of Asian graduate students were in this older age range.

## Graduate Enrollment Across Urbanities

Almost 80 percent of all graduates enrolled in 2019–20 had a permanent residence in either cities (36.5 percent) or suburban areas (42.5 percent), as opposed to rural areas (15.3 percent) or towns (5.7 percent). Overall, the share of those enrolled in a research doctoral degree in a city (45.2 percent) was higher than that of those in a professional and other doctoral degree (37.1 percent) and those in master’s degrees (34.6 percent).

**Table 3.4: Graduate Enrollment Across Urbanities (Student Permanent Address), by Award Level and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

		City	Suburban	Town	Rural	Total
All Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	36.5%	42.5%	5.7%	15.3%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	23.6%	16.6%	7.9% !!	51.9%	100%
	Asian	45.2%	46.6%	1.9%	6.3%	100%
	Black or African American	40.9%	47.4%	3.2%	8.5%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	42.6%	44.5%	4.4%	8.5%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	20.7%	60.6%	5.1% !!	13.6% !!	100%
	White	32.6%	40.6%	7.1%	19.7%	100%
	More than one race	40.0%	40.9%	6.0%	13.0%	100%
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Research Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	45.2%	38.9%	5.0%	10.9%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	51.7%	41.8%	1.2% !!	5.2%	100%
	Black or African American	43.0%	45.2%	1.8%	10.0%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	55.5%	36.1%	4.4%	4.0%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	43.1%	38.3%	5.8%	12.8%	100%
	More than one race	46.0%	34.2%	9.0% !!	10.8%	100%
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Professional and Other Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	37.1%	42.2%	4.9%	15.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	46.2%	46.3%	2.4% !!	5.1%	100%
	Black or African American	45.4%	41.6%	3.3%	9.7%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	44.0%	39.7%	3.4% !!	12.8%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	32.1%	40.0%	6.5%	21.3%	100%
	More than one race	38.5%	50.0%	3.1%	8.3%	100%
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Master’s Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	34.6%	43.2%	6.0%	16.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	23.1% !!	5.3% !!	11.7% !!	59.9%	100%
	Asian	43.3%	47.3%	1.9%	7.5%	100%
	Black or African American	38.8%	49.6%	3.1%	8.5%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	41.1%	45.3%	5.0%	8.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	30.4%	41.1%	7.7%	20.8%	100%
	More than one race	40.1%	41.1%	5.7%	13.1%	100%
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: This table includes respondents who had a permanent residence in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.



Almost 90 percent of graduates from all racial and ethnic groups enrolled at institutions located in cities (68.3 percent) or suburban areas (20.8 percent), compared with those located in rural areas (1.1 percent) or towns (9.8 percent). The share of students enrolled at institutions in the city or suburban areas was highest for international students (91.5 percent).

**Table 3.5: Graduate Enrollment Across Institutional Urbanities, by Award Level and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

		City	Suburban	Town	Rural	Total
All Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	68.3%	20.8%	9.8%	1.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	63.3%	15.7% !!	19.8% !	1.1% !!	100%
	Asian	72.2%	20.3%	6.6%	0.9% !	100%
	Black or African American	66.4%	23.0%	9.6%	1.1% !	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	69.3%	24.5%	5.6%	0.6% !	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	69.5%	7.5% !!	23.0% !!	†	100%
	White	65.1%	22.0%	11.5%	1.4%	100%
	More than one race	67.7%	22.0%	10.0%	†	100%
	International students	79.9%	11.6%	7.8%	0.7%	100%
Research Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	79.1%	14.2%	6.3%	0.3% !!	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	†	†	†	†	†
	Asian	79.1%	14.2%	6.2% !	†	100%
	Black or African American	80.7%	10.9%	8.3%	†	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	81.5%	15.6%	2.8% !	†	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†
	White	75.9%	17.2%	6.1%	0.7% !!	100%
	More than one race	76.7%	13.2% !	10.1% !!	†	100%
	International students	83.3%	11.1%	5.6%	†	100%
Professional and Other Doctoral Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	74.7%	18.5%	6.4%	0.4% !!	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	†	†	†	†	†
	Asian	70.3%	21.4%	8.0%	†	100%
	Black or African American	75.0%	18.8%	5.7% !	0.5% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	78.2%	19.8%	2.0% !!	†	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†
	White	75.3%	17.1%	7.2%	0.5% !!	100%
	More than one race	76.8%	21.4% !	1.7% !	†	100%
	International students	87.9%	8.9% !	3.2% !!	†	100%
Master's Degrees	All racial and ethnic groups	63.9%	23.0%	11.6%	1.5%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	67.8%	12.2% !!	18.3% !!	1.7% !!	100%
	Asian	71.3%	21.7%	5.5% !!	1.6% !	100%
	Black or African American	61.0%	26.5%	10.8%	1.6% !	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	65.2%	27.2%	6.7%	0.9% !	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	67.4%	4.3% !!	28.2% !!	†	100%
	White	60.6%	23.8%	13.8%	1.8%	100%
	More than one race	61.7%	25.8%	12.0%	†	100%
	International students	76.0%	12.0%	10.6%	1.4%	100%

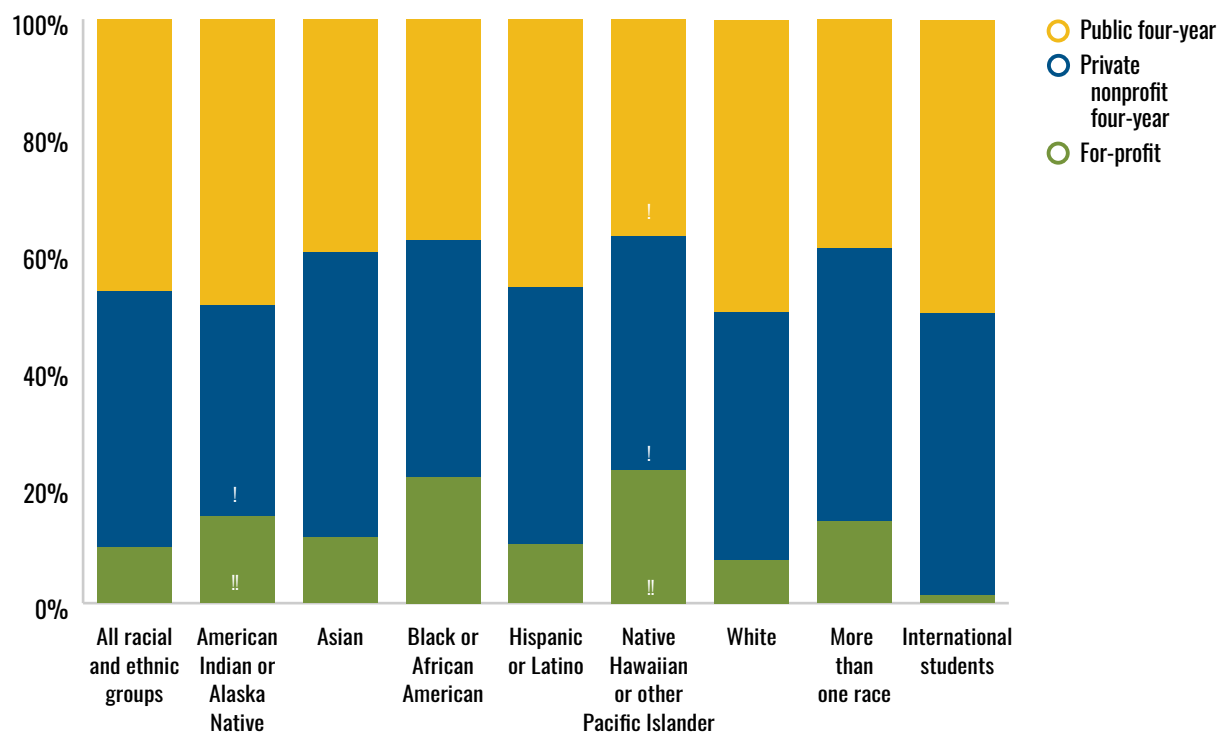
Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

## Graduate Enrollment Across Institution Types

Most 2019–20 graduate students were enrolled at either public four-year universities (46.6 percent) or private nonprofit four-year universities (43.9 percent). Only 9.5 percent of all graduate students were enrolled at for-profit institutions. However, there was considerable variation across racial and ethnic groups.

**Figure 3.6: Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect graduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate.

- Among Black or African American students, 40.8 percent were enrolled at private four-year institutions, 37.9 percent at public four-year institutions, and 21.6 percent at for-profit institutions.
- International students had the lowest share of enrollment at for-profit institutions (1.3 percent).
- The shares of students enrolled at public four-year institutions ranged from about 37 percent of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students to 50.3 percent of international students. The shares enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions ranged from about 36 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native students to 48.7 percent of Asian students.

R1 doctoral institutions enrolled 34.3 percent of graduate students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, followed by other doctoral institutions (26.3 percent) and master’s institutions (24.4 percent). The groups with the largest shares at R1 doctoral institutions were international (65.4 percent) and Asian (42.8 percent) students. Black or African American students had the smallest share at R1 doctoral institutions (15.9 percent).

**Table 3.6: Graduate Enrollment Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

	R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master’s Institutions	Bachelor’s Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
All racial and ethnic groups	34.3%	26.3%	24.4%	2.0%	0.2%	12.8%	0.02% !!	100%
American Indian or Alaska Native	20.1% !	23.7% !	36.0% !	‡	‡	17.3% !!	1.1% !!	100%
Asian	42.8%	16.8%	16.1%	1.4% !	0.2% !!	22.7%	‡	100%
Black or African American	15.9%	39.2%	30.6%	1.4%	0.1% !!	12.7%	‡	100%
Hispanic or Latino	27.8%	28.2%	27.3%	1.4%	0.4% !	14.9%	‡	100%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	18.1% !!	46.0% !	23.0% !	‡	‡	10.8% !!	‡	100%
White	31.2%	26.7%	26.9%	2.5%	0.2%	12.6%	‡	100%
More than one race	32.2%	24.6%	26.1%	2.2% !!	‡	14.9%	‡	100%
International students	65.4%	18.6%	10.7%	1.1% !	‡	4.1%	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect graduate enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

Overall, the share of women pursuing graduate education at for-profit institutions was higher than that of men. The shares of men graduate students enrolled at public four-year and private nonprofit four-year institutions were higher than those of women. Gender differences in enrollment patterns were particularly large for Hispanic or Latino and Black or African American graduate students. Among Hispanic or Latino students, 42.3 percent of women and 51.4 percent of men enrolled at public four-year institutions, 46.0 percent of women and 41.0 percent of men enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and 11.7 percent of women and 7.7 percent of men enrolled at for-profit institutions. Among Black or African American students, 35.2 percent of women and 43.4 percent of men enrolled at public four-year institutions, 40.1 percent of women and 42.0 percent of men enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and 24.7 percent of women and 14.6 percent of men enrolled in the for-profit sector.

**Table 3.7: Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Gender and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	For-Profit	Total
Men	Men total	48.7%	44.9%	6.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	39.9%	49.0%	11.1%	100%
	Black or African American	43.4%	42.0%	14.6%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	51.4%	41.0%	7.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	51.5%	43.2%	5.3%	100%
	More than one race	41.0%	50.3%	8.7%	100%
	International students	50.4%	48.6%	0.9% !!	100%
Women	Women total	45.1%	43.3%	11.6%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	49.1%	32.1%	18.8% !!	100%
	Asian	39.9%	48.4%	11.7%	100%
	Black or African American	35.2%	40.1%	24.7%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	42.3%	46.0%	11.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	49.2%	41.9%	8.9%	100%
	More than one race	36.7%	44.8%	18.5%	100%
	International students	50.3%	47.8%	1.9%	100%
Genderqueer, Gender Nonconforming, or a Different Gender Identity	Genderqueer, gender nonconforming, or a different gender identity total	54.1%	40.5%	5.4%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Black or African American	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Hispanic or Latino	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	50.8%	47.0%	2.1% !!	100%
	More than one race	‡	‡	‡	‡
	International students	‡	‡	‡	‡

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect graduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Categories for a student's gender identity provided for self-identification were updated in the NPSAS:20 survey to include male; female; transgender, male-to-female; transgender, female-to-male; genderqueer or gender nonconforming; and a different gender identity. Students who identified as male or transgender, female-to-male, were classified as *men*. Students who identified as female or transgender, male-to-female, were classified as *women*. Students who identified as genderqueer or gender nonconforming, a different gender identity, or more than one gender identity were classified as *genderqueer, gender nonconforming, or a different identity* (except students who selected multiple responses within the same gender binary, who were classified within that binary—e.g., students who selected both male and transgender, female-to-male, were classified as male). | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | | Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- The share of all women enrolled at for-profit institutions (11.6 percent) was higher than that of men (6.4 percent). This pattern was consistent across all racial and ethnic groups.
- Nearly one-quarter of Black or African American women graduate students were enrolled at for-profit institutions in 2019–20 (24.7 percent), followed by 18.5 percent of multiracial women, 11.7 percent of Asian women, 11.7 percent of Hispanic or Latina women, and 8.9 percent of White women.

Overall, a greater share of graduate students enrolled at public four-year institutions than in other institutional sectors in 2019–20. Over half of graduate students ages 15 to 23 (53.1 percent), 48.9 percent of graduate students ages 24 to 29, and 42.9 percent of graduate student ages 30 and older were enrolled at public four-year institutions. Furthermore, the group of students ages 30 and older had the highest enrollment rate at for-profit institutions (14.5 percent), compared with students ages 24 to 29 (6.1 percent) and ages 15 to 23 (1.8 percent). That was consistent across all racial and ethnic groups. Also, while students ages 30 and older were evenly divided between public four-year and private nonprofit four-year institutions (42.9 and 42.6 percent, respectively), students ages 15 to 23 and 24 to 29 enrolled at public four-year institutions at a higher rate (53.1 percent and 48.9 percent, respectively).

**Table 3.8: Graduate Enrollment Across Sectors, by Age and Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

		Public Four-Year	Private Nonprofit Four-Year	For-Profit	Total
15 to 23	15 to 23 total	53.1%	45.1%	1.8%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Asian	55.5%	40.5%	4.0% !!	100%
	Black or African American	53.5%	44.0%	2.4% !!	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	47.2%	48.0%	4.9% !	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	58.8%	39.6%	1.6% !	100%
	More than one race	61.8%	37.5%	0.7% !!	100%
	International students	35.3%	64.7%	‡	100%
24 to 29	24 to 29 total	48.9%	45.0%	6.1%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	100%
	Asian	37.9%	53.3%	8.7% !	100%
	Black or African American	46.6%	41.1%	12.3%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	51.7%	42.3%	5.9%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡
	White	51.1%	43.3%	5.5%	100%
	More than one race	41.4%	45.8%	12.8%	100%
	International students	51.3%	48.3%	0.4% !	100%
30 and Older	30 and older total	42.9%	42.6%	14.5%	100%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	37.0% !	43.4% !	19.6% !!	100%
	Asian	36.3%	45.6%	18.2%	100%
	Black or African American	31.7%	39.7%	28.6%	100%
	Hispanic or Latino	40.9%	44.4%	14.7%	100%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	37.3% !	32.3% !	30.4% !!	100%
	White	46.9%	42.5%	10.6%	100%
	More than one race	31.7%	50.0%	18.3%	100%
	International students	57.8%	38.4%	3.8%	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect graduate enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

- The largest concentrations of students in the for-profit sector were among Black or African American students ages 30 and older (28.6 percent) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students in this age range (about 30 percent). In the 24 to 29 age bracket, the share of graduate students enrolled in public four-year institutions was higher than those at private nonprofit four-year institutions across all racial and ethnic groups except for Asian students and students of more than one race.

- Among graduate students under ages 30 and younger, all groups except Asian and international students had larger shares of students enrolled at public four-year institutions than at private nonprofit four-year institutions.
- Among graduate students ages 30 and older, enrollment at public four-year institutions was higher than that at private nonprofit four-year institutions for White (46.9 versus 42.5 percent), international (57.8 versus 38.4 percent), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander students (37.3 versus 32.3 percent).

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT, BY DEGREE PROGRAM

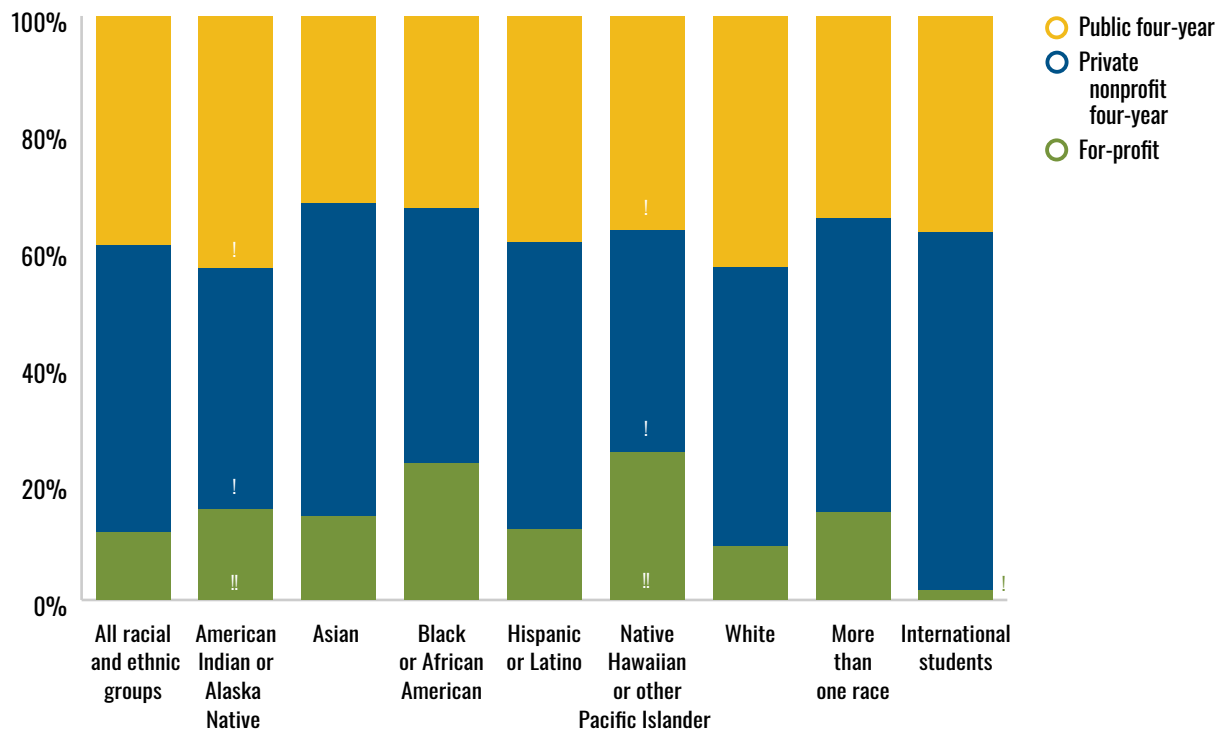
Similar to differences seen in undergraduate enrollment (see chapter 2), there was great variation by student group as to where students enroll in graduate education. For example, 11.5 percent of master’s students enrolled at for-profit institutions, compared with 8.9 percent of professional and other doctoral degree students and 5.0 percent of research doctoral students. A larger share of research doctoral students than those of other graduate students enrolled at public institutions (57.3 percent), and a larger share of master’s students than those of other graduate students enrolled at private nonprofit institutions (49.3 percent).

### Master’s Degree Programs

#### Institutional Sector

Most 2019–20 master’s degree students were enrolled in programs at either private or public nonprofit four-year institutions (49.3 percent and 39.2 percent, respectively). Only 11.5 percent of master’s degree students were enrolled at for-profit institutions.

**Figure 3.7: Graduate Enrollment in Master’s Degree Programs Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect master’s degree programs enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate.

- Master's degree students enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions at a higher rate than at public four-year institutions; this was true for all racial and ethnic groups except for American Indian or Alaska Native students.
- More than six in 10 international students in master's degree programs were enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions (61.4 percent), compared with 36.9 percent enrolled at public four-year institutions—the largest difference in sector enrollment within racial and ethnic groups.
- Among Black or African American master's degree students, the differences in enrollment across institutional sectors—43.7 percent were enrolled in programs at private nonprofit four-year institutions, 32.9 percent were enrolled at public four-year institutions, and 23.4 percent were enrolled at for-profit institutions—were smaller than differences in institutional sector enrollment of other racial and ethnic groups.
- Around a quarter of Black or African American (23.4 percent) and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (about 25 percent) master's degree students attended for-profit institutions.

## Carnegie Classification

In 2019–20, over a third of all graduate students pursuing a master's degree (34.8 percent) were enrolled at master's institutions, compared with 28.4 percent enrolled at other doctoral institutions and less than a quarter enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions (24.2 percent). Graduate student enrollment across Carnegie Classifications differed among racial and ethnic groups.

**Table 3.9: Graduate Enrollment in Master's Degree Programs Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

	R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master's Institutions	Bachelor's Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
All racial and ethnic groups	24.2%	28.4%	34.8%	2.2%	0.1%	10.4%	0.01% !!	100%
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	25.6% !!	51.4% !	‡	‡	16.9% !!	1.7% !!	100%
Asian	37.8%	19.1%	26.1%	1.8% !	‡	15.1%	‡	100%
Black or African American	9.9%	37.1%	39.1%	1.6%	‡	12.3% !	‡	100%
Hispanic or Latino	21.5%	30.2%	35.3%	1.1% !	0.1% !!	11.9%	‡	100%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	24.2% !!	30.9% !!	32.4% !	‡	‡	9.4% !!	‡	100%
White	20.9%	29.0%	37.5%	2.6%	0.1% !	10.1%	‡	100%
More than one race	22.4%	26.2%	37.8%	3.2% !!	‡	10.4% !	‡	100%
International students	52.0%	22.1%	20.1%	1.8% !	‡	3.9%	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect master's degree programs enrollment in institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

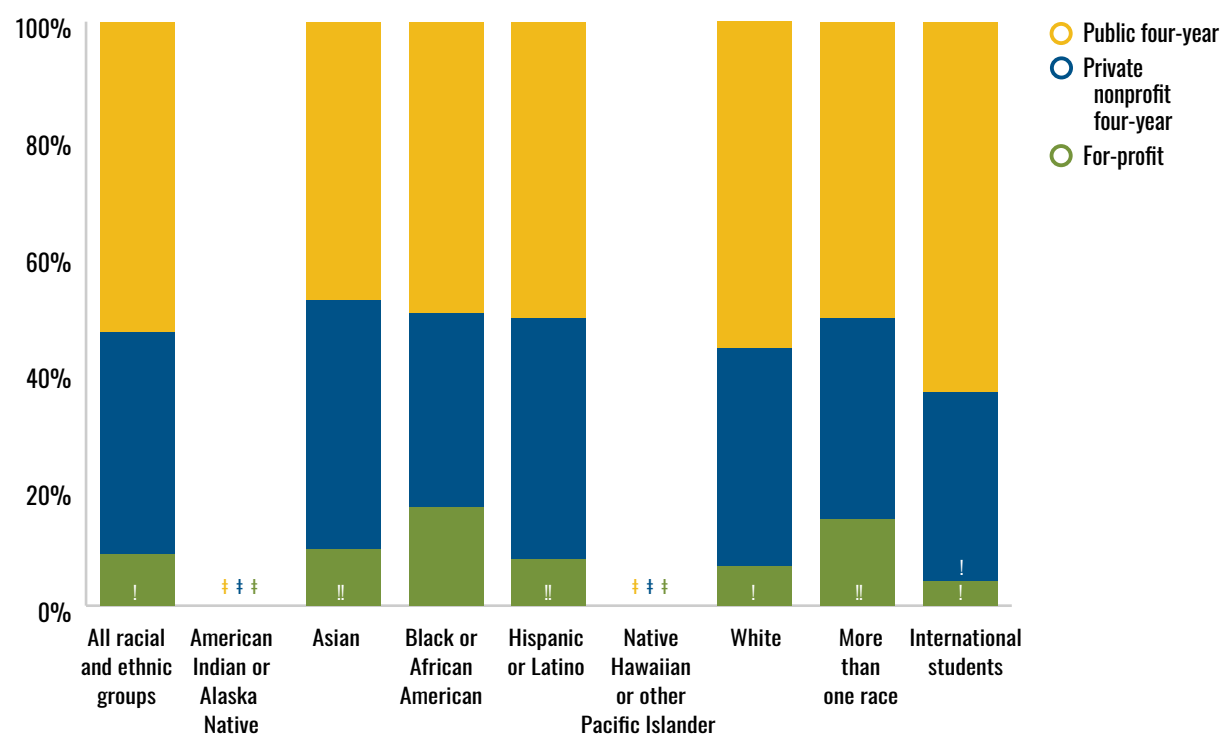
- The shares of master's degree students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions ranged from 9.9 percent of Black or African American students to 37.8 percent of Asian students and 52.0 percent of international students.
- Asian and international students had the highest concentration of master's students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions (37.8 and 52.0 percent, respectively).
- Black or African American and international master's students showed the highest enrollment difference between enrollment at R1 doctoral institutions and other doctoral institutions. Almost 10 percent of Black or African American students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions (9.9 percent), compared with 37.1 percent at other doctoral institutions. International students were more concentrated at R1 doctoral institutions (52.0 percent), followed by 22.1 percent at other doctoral institutions.

## Professional and Other Doctoral Degree Programs

### Institutional Sector

In 2019–20, over half of the students seeking professional (e.g., law and medical fields) and other doctoral degrees were enrolled at public four-year institutions (53.2 percent), 37.9 percent were enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and 8.9 percent were enrolled at for-profit institutions. Across all racial and ethnic groups, larger shares of students enrolled at public four-year institutions than at private nonprofit four-year institutions. Nearly half of Asian (47.6 percent) and at least half of Black or African American (50.0 percent), Hispanic or Latino (50.8 percent), multiracial (50.8 percent), White (56.0 percent), and international (63.5 percent) professional and other doctoral degree students were enrolled at public four-year institutions. The gap between public and private nonprofit enrollment was largest among international students (63.5 percent versus about 32 percent).

**Figure 3.8: Graduate Enrollment in Professional and Other Doctoral Degree Programs Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect professional and other doctoral degree programs enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.



## Carnegie Classification

A larger share of professional and other doctoral degree program students enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions (37.9 percent) than at other types of institutions, with 21.2 percent at other doctoral institutions and 7.5 percent at master’s institutions.

**Table 3.10: Graduate Enrollment in Professional and Other Doctoral Degree Programs Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**

	R1 Doctoral Institutions	Other Doctoral Institutions	Master’s Institutions	Bachelor’s Institutions	Associate Institutions	Special Focus Institutions	Tribal Colleges and Universities	Total
All racial and ethnic groups	37.9%	21.2%	7.5%	1.5% !	0.1% !!	31.9%	‡	100%
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian	40.2%	11.1% !	3.5% !	‡	‡	45.2%	‡	100%
Black or African American	25.4%	36.9%	12.5%	0.7% !	‡	24.4%	‡	100%
Hispanic or Latino	34.7%	24.8%	7.9% !	‡	‡	32.2%	‡	100%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
White	39.5%	21.7%	8.3%	2.2% !	0.03% !!	28.2%	‡	100%
More than one race	36.3%	14.6%	4.5% !!	‡	‡	44.5%	‡	100%
International students	55.3%	17.5% !	3.6% !!	‡	‡	17.1% !!	‡	100%

Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect professional and other doctoral degree programs enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | ‡ Reporting standards not met.

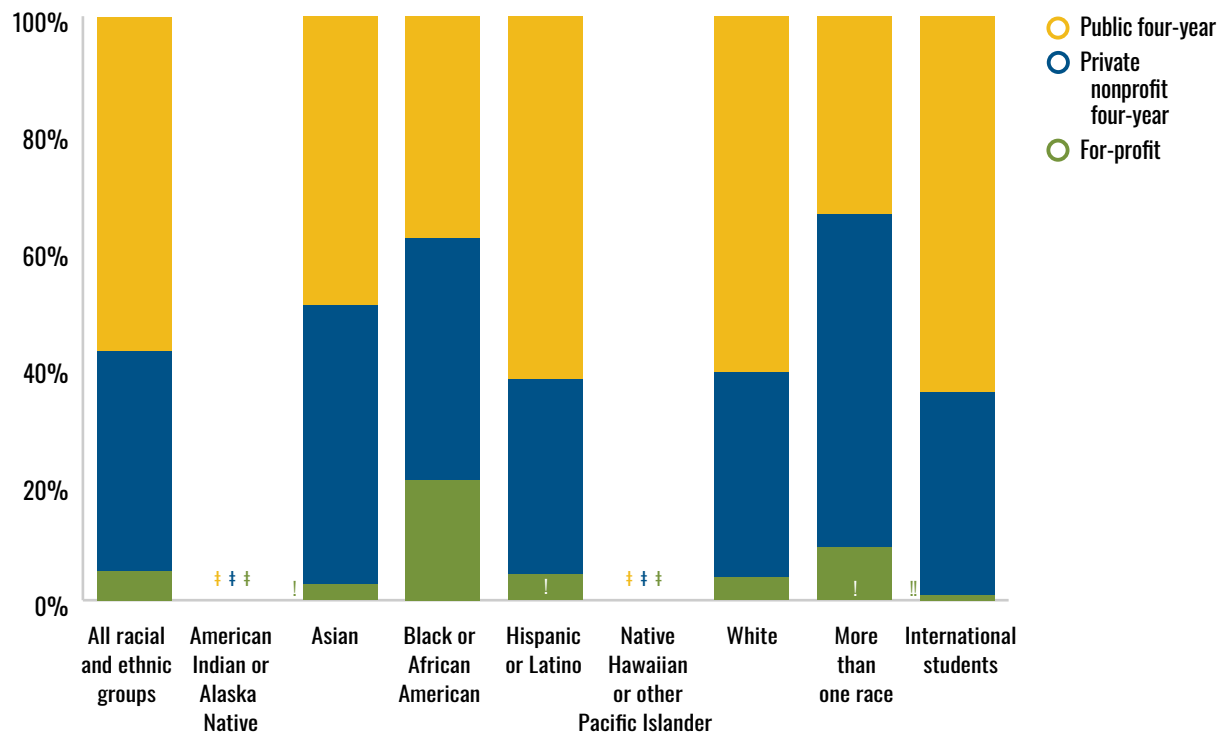
- The shares of students in professional and other doctoral degree programs enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions ranged from 25.4 percent of Black or African American students to 55.3 percent of international students.
- Black or African American professional students were enrolled at other doctoral institutions (36.9 percent)—the only racial and ethnic group to show greater enrollment at this institutional type than at R1 doctoral universities.

## Research Doctoral Degree Programs

### Institutional Sector

Among students who were pursuing research doctoral degrees, over half (57.3 percent) were enrolled at public four-year institutions, 37.6 percent were enrolled at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and 5.0 percent attended for-profit institutions. There was considerable variation by race, ethnicity, and international status.

**Figure 3.9: Graduate Enrollment in Research Doctoral Degree Programs Across Sectors, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

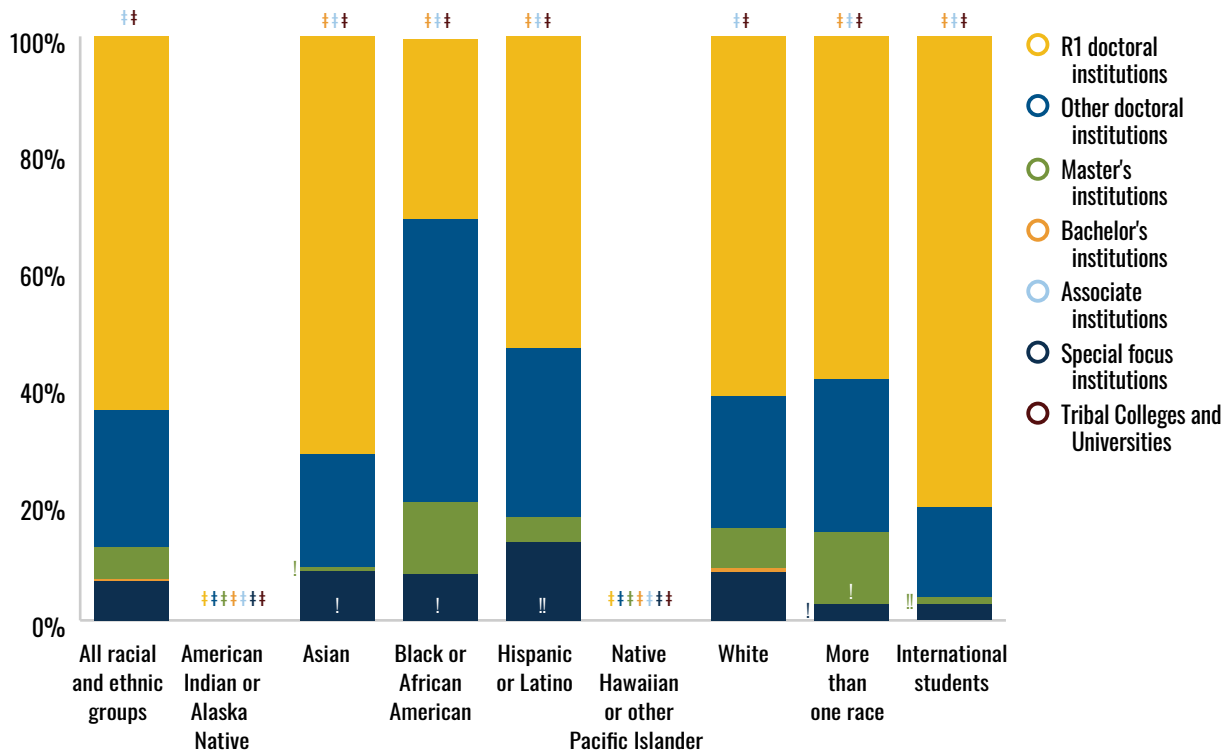
Notes: Data reflect research doctoral degree programs enrollment at public four-year, private nonprofit four-year, and for-profit institutions. | Institutions were categorized into sectors based upon control of the institution and the length of the predominant award granted. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

- In 2019–20, 20.6 percent of Black or African American students in research doctoral programs were enrolled at for-profit institutions, compared with 5.0 percent of all students in this sector.
- A larger share of international students (64.4 percent) than that of any other group enrolled at public four-year institutions, followed closely by Hispanic or Latino students (62.1 percent) and White students (60.9 percent).
- Over half of multiracial students (57.1 percent) enrolled as doctoral students at private nonprofit institutions.

## Carnegie Classification

When comparing graduate students who were pursuing a research doctoral degree in 2019–20, 64.0 percent were enrolled at R1 doctoral institutions, 23.5 percent were enrolled at other doctoral institutions, 5.5 percent were enrolled at master’s institutions, and fewer than 1.0 percent (0.3 percent) were enrolled at bachelor’s institutions.

**Figure 3.10: Graduate Enrollment in Research Doctoral Degree Programs Across Carnegie Classifications, by Race and Ethnicity: 2019–20**



Source: Data from U.S. Department of Education, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2020.

Notes: Data reflect research doctoral degree programs enrollment at institutions that were classified by the 2018 Carnegie Basic Classification. | Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. | ! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 30 percent of the estimate. | !! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error represents more than 50 percent of the estimate. | † Reporting standards not met.

- Larger shares of international (80.7 percent) and Asian (71.5 percent) students than those of other groups attended R1 doctoral institutions while pursuing a research doctoral degree in 2019–20.
- Nearly half of Black or African American research doctoral students (48.4 percent) were enrolled at other doctoral institutions—the only racial and ethnic group for whom enrollment in these institutions was higher than enrollment in R1 doctoral institutions.

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