

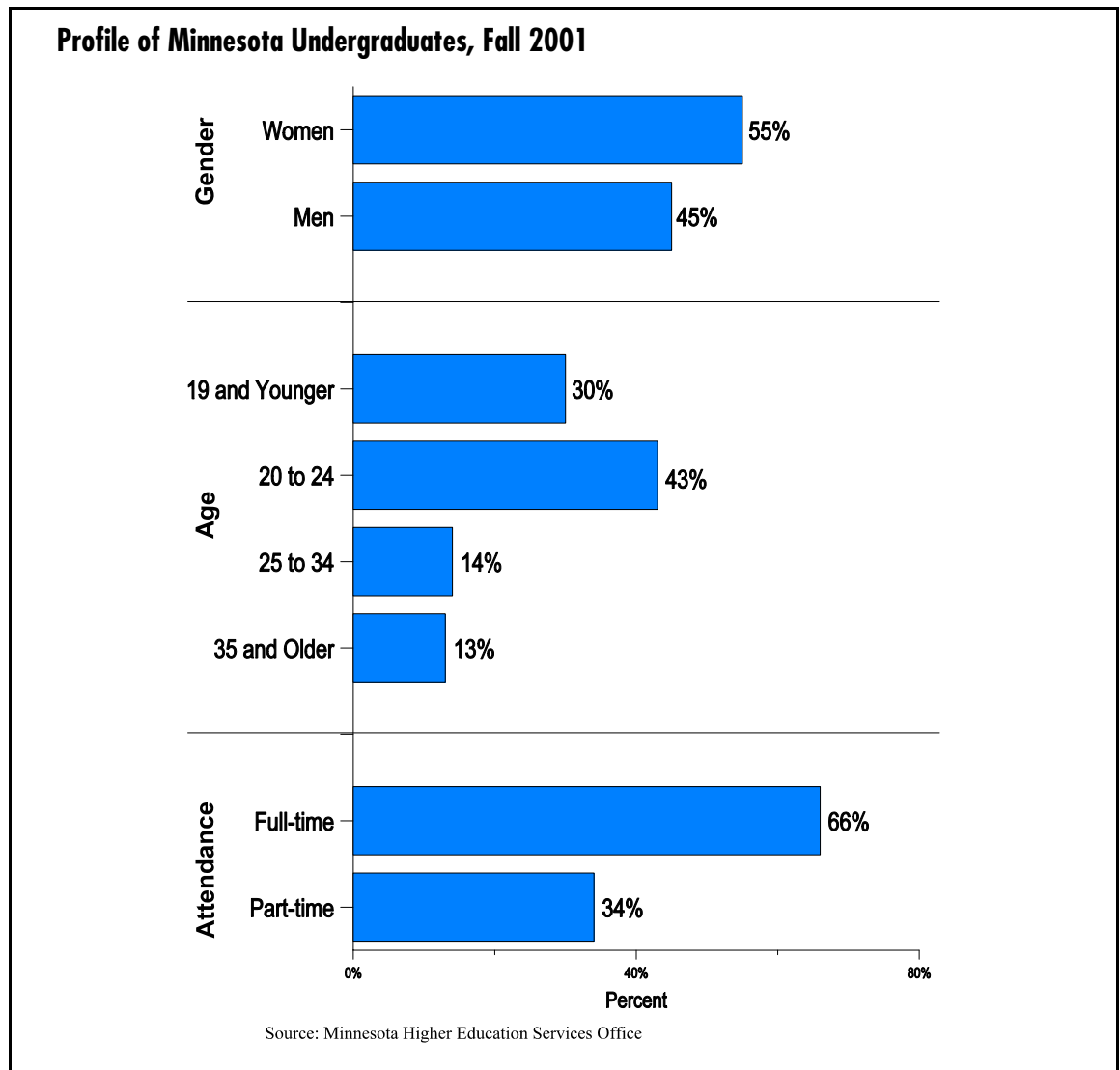
Minnesota Undergrads: Too Diverse for Typical Labels

Undergraduates at four-year institutions tended to be younger than students at two-year institutions and more likely to attend full-time.

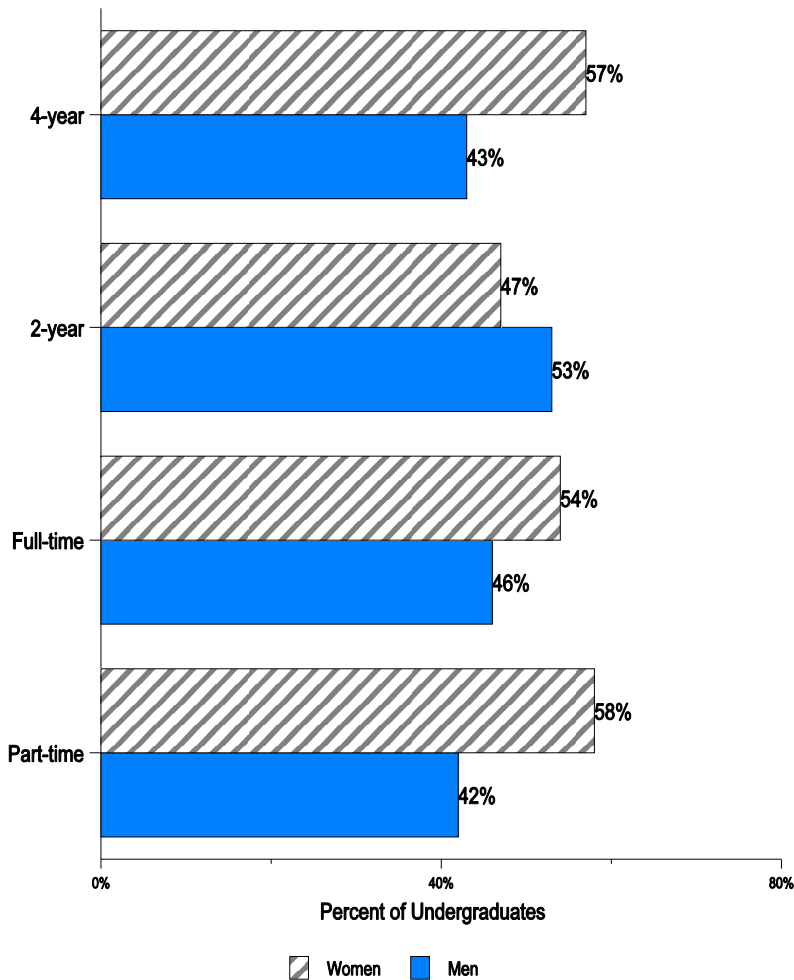
In fall 2001, 87 percent of all students attending Minnesota post-secondary institutions were undergraduates. Undergraduates comprised all students attending community and technical colleges and private career schools, 92 percent of students at state universities, 77 percent of students at private colleges, and 75 percent of

students at the University of Minnesota.

Generally speaking, the typical undergraduate was a white (90 percent) female (55 percent) who was younger than 24 years old (73 percent) and attended full-time (66 percent). Minnesota undergraduates, however, are too diverse to be captured by any typical description.



Gender of Undergraduates by Institution Type and Attendance, Fall 2001



Source: Minnesota Higher Education Services Office

Total Numbers of Undergraduates

In fall 2001, there were 258,114 undergraduate students enrolled at Minnesota post-secondary institutions, distributed as follows:

- 105,267, or 41 percent, attended community and technical colleges
- 55,399, or 21 percent, attended state universities
- 45,324, or 18 percent, attended the University of Minnesota
- 44,233, or 17 percent, attended private four-year colleges
- 7,891, or 3 percent, attended 28 private career schools.¹

Ten percent of Minnesota undergraduates were students of color. Seventeen percent were non-Minnesota residents. The total undergraduate population included 12,952 students who were identified as being

concurrently enrolled in high school. They were taking one or more courses at a post-secondary institution while still enrolled in high school.

In this report, four-year students were those who attended the University of Minnesota, public state universities, and private colleges. Two-year students attended public community and technical colleges and private career schools.

Of the selected characteristics studied, undergraduate profiles were more diverse between students who attended four-year and two-year institutions than within four and two-year institutions.²

Full-Time and Part-Time Attendance Differed Between Two and Four-Year Institutions

Undergraduate students at two-year institutions had a different attendance profile than those at four-year institutions.³

Undergraduates at four-year institutions tended to be younger than students at two-year institutions and more likely to attend full-time.

While 66 percent of all undergraduates attended full-time, 80 percent attending four-year institutions were full-time. Ninety percent attending private four-year colleges attended full-time, while 76 percent did so at the University of Minnesota, and 74 percent at state universities.

Thirty-four percent of all undergraduates attended part-time. Part-time undergraduates accounted for 57 percent of undergraduates at two-year institutions and 20 percent at four-year institutions.

Attendance Level of Undergraduates Varied by Age

As a group, full-time students were younger than part-time students. Sixty-six percent of all undergraduates attended full-time. Among this group, 87 percent were younger than age 25.

Of all full-time students:

- 35 percent were 19 and younger
- 52 percent were ages 20 to 24
- 9 percent were ages 25 to 34
- 4 percent were 35 and older.

Thirty-four percent of undergraduates attended part-time. Among this group, 55 percent were older than age 25. Part-time students were more evenly distributed across all age categories than full-time students.

Of all part-time students:

- 19 percent were 19 and younger

- 26 percent were ages 20 to 24
- 26 percent were ages 25 to 34
- 29 percent were age 35 and older.

More Women Attended Four-Year Institutions than Men

Women made up the majority of undergraduates attending four-year institutions, while men made up the majority of undergraduates attending two-year institutions.

At four-year institutions, 57 percent of undergraduates were women and 43 percent were men. At two-year institutions, 53 percent of undergraduates were men, and 47 percent were women.

Gender differences were also seen in attendance patterns. While women made up the majority of students attending both full and part-time, they were a larger majority of part-time students.

Of undergraduates who attended full-time, 54 percent were women and 46 percent were men.

Of undergraduates who attended part-time, 58 percent were women and 42 percent were men.

Women Comprised Majority Across Age and Racial/Ethnic Groups

Women comprised the majority of undergraduates among all racial/ethnic groups. Sixty percent of American Indian undergraduates were women. Among other groups, 56 percent of white, 56 percent of Asian, 55 percent of Hispanic, and 53 percent of black undergraduates were women.

Women comprised the majority in all age groups, but were a particularly large percentage of undergraduates over 24 years old.

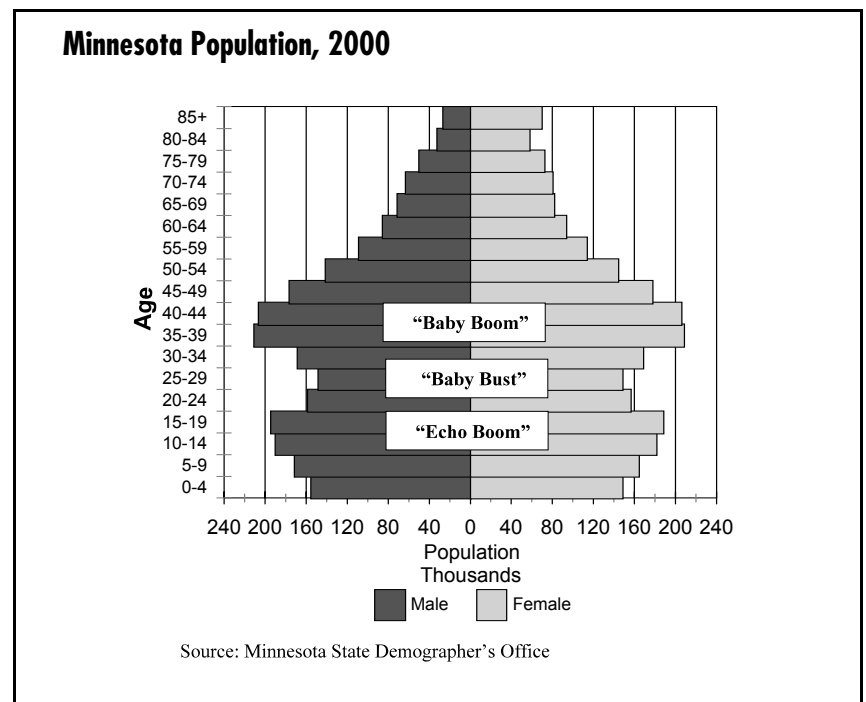
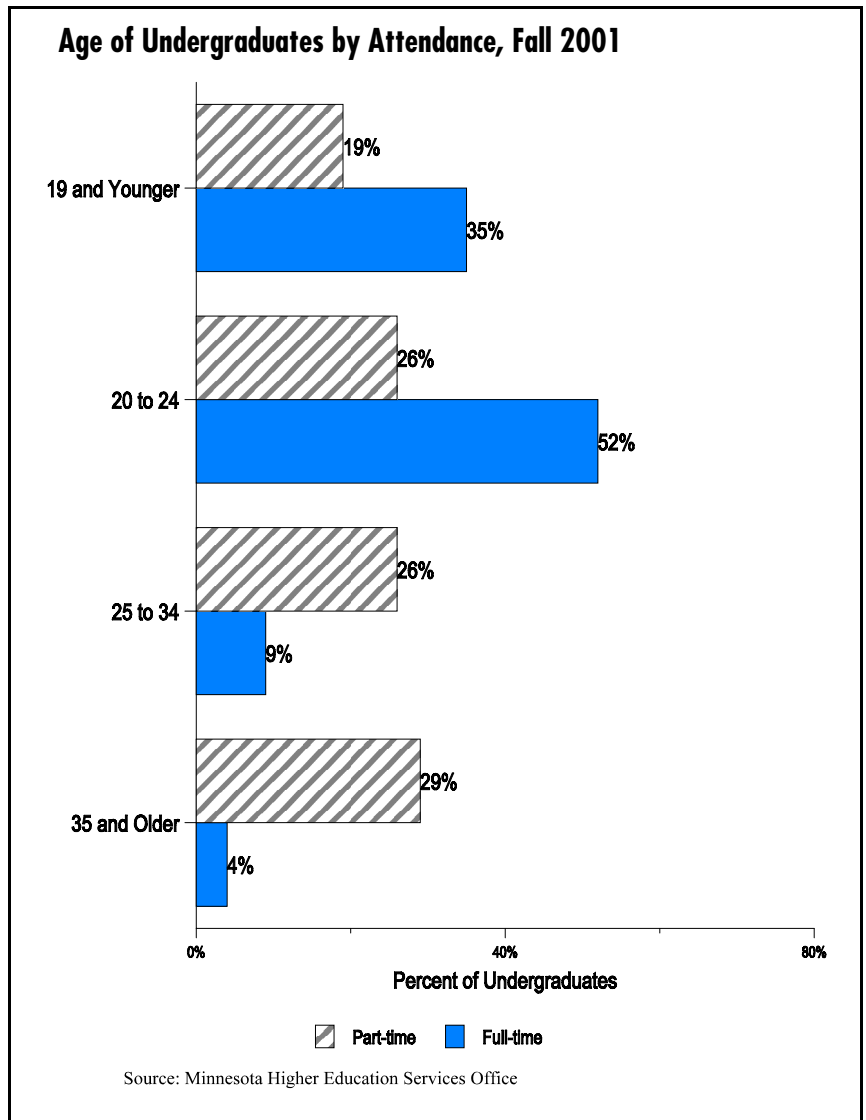
Within age groups, women undergraduates comprised:

- 57 percent 19 years old and younger
- 54 percent ages 20 to 24
- 54 percent ages 25 to 34
- 59 percent 35 years and older.

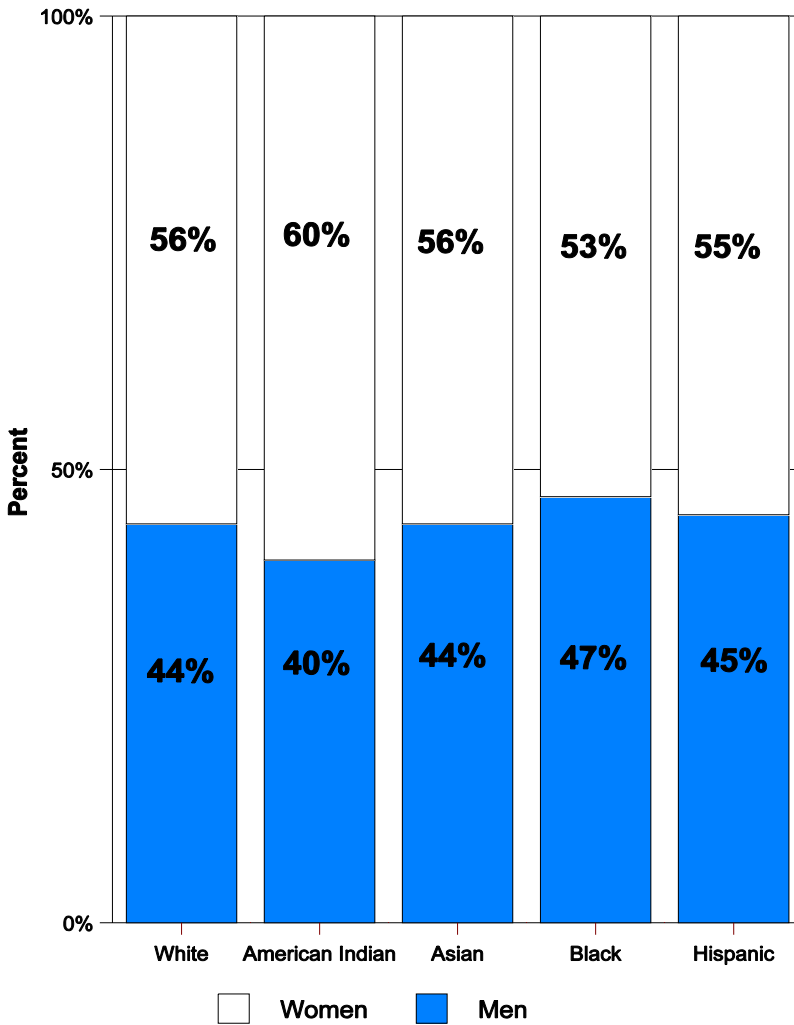
Undergraduate Population Likely to Grow

The age structure of the Minnesota population indicates the number of undergraduates could continue to grow in the near future. A large number of “echo boomers”—people born between 1980 and the early 1990s—will age into “traditional” undergraduate ages (19 to 24), potentially sustaining or increasing current enrollment levels.⁴

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the undergraduate population in



Gender by Racial/Ethnic Background of Undergraduates, Fall 2001



Source: Minnesota Higher Education Services Office

America is projected to grow sharply in the next decade, especially at four-year institutions and among full-time students.⁵

More Information

Additional data on undergraduates at specific institutions can be retrieved by searching the enrollment database maintained by the Higher Education Services Office. Logon to: www.mheso.state.mn.us. Go to *Data on Enrollments & Financing > Student Enrollments*.

Notes

1. Not all private career schools report annual enrollment data. Data are received from approximately 50 percent of the schools.
2. The student enrollment database maintained by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office contains information on student's demographic and attendance characteristics.
3. Attendance status, or whether students attend full or part-time, is defined by the institution. A **full-time** student has an academic course load that is at least 75 percent of the normal full-time load as defined by the institution. A **part-time** student has an academic course load is less than 75 percent of the normal full-time load.
4. Minnesota Higher Education Services Office. *"Baby Boom" Yields to "Baby Bust" Across Registration Loads. Insight*, March 2001.
5. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. *The Condition of Education 2001*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

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