

GAO

Report to the Chairman, Committee on  
Education and Labor, House of  
Representatives

November 2007

# HIGHER EDUCATION

## Tuition Continues to Rise, but Patterns Vary by Institution Type, Enrollment, and Educational Expenditures



G A O

Accountability \* Integrity \* Reliability

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United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

November 28, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Higher education has increasingly become critical to our nation's cultural, social, and economic well-being, with 90 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in the knowledge economy requiring some postsecondary education. While a college graduate can expect to earn, on average, approximately \$1 million more over the course of his or her working life than those with a high school diploma, most students and their families can expect to pay more on average for college than they did just a year ago. Moreover, many are concerned that the increases in the cost of college may be discouraging large numbers of individuals, particularly minority and low-income individuals, from pursuing higher education.

The topic of college affordability continues to be an issue of great concern. As far back as 1997, the congressionally established National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education suggested that the public anxiety about rising tuition was already on par with "anxiety about how to pay for health care or housing" and that "financing a college education is a serious and troublesome matter to the American people."<sup>1</sup> Since that time various policymakers, national associations, and philanthropic foundations have documented the growth in college tuition and its potentially adverse effects on access to higher education and rates of degree completion. Recent years have witnessed the introduction of many federal-, state-, and institution-level initiatives aimed at curbing tuition increases, yet tuition continues to rise.

You asked us to provide information on trends in higher education enrollments, tuition and fees, and institutional expenditures on education-

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<sup>1</sup> The commission was established in 1992 and was authorized through 1998. Pub. L. No. 102-325; 105-18; 105-332

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related services that students receive by addressing the following questions:

1. What have been the patterns in college enrollment over the past decade and do these patterns differ by race?
2. What have been the patterns in the types of schools students attend and do these patterns differ by race?
3. How much have tuition and fees increased over the past decade across different types of higher education institutions?
4. To what extent have increases in tuition and fees been associated with increases in spending by institutions on education?

We briefed the committee staff on our results on October 31, 2007. This report formally conveys the information provided during that briefing. In summary, we reported the following findings:

- **More students are enrolling in college than ever before, and an increasingly larger percentage of all students are minorities.** Between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years, overall enrollment in U.S. higher education institutions increased by about 19 percent, or more than an estimated 2.2 million students.<sup>2</sup> During this same time period, the percentage of students studying full-time increased from 58 percent to 62 percent. In the 2006-2007 school year, more than four out of five college students were enrolled in public institutions. The largest proportion of students—46 percent—was enrolled in public 2-year schools, where enrollment grew by more than 20 percent over the prior decade.

At the same time, minority enrollments have increased at a much faster rate than White enrollments. Between school years 2000-2001 and 2006-2007, enrollment of Hispanic students grew the fastest, increasing by approximately 25 percent. During the same time period, Black and Asian/Pacific Islander enrollments both increased by approximately 15 percent. In contrast, the enrollment growth for White students was less than 3 percent.

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<sup>2</sup> Note that the 2006-2007 fall enrollment data have not been publicly released by the Department of Education and may be subject to change.

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- **While the types of schools in which students enroll have largely remained stable, the distribution of enrollment has shifted for some minority groups.** Over the last 12 years, the distribution of students across different types of institutions shifted for some minority groups toward 2-year schools. Specifically, between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years, Hispanic enrollments in 2-year schools increased by 4 percentage points, while their enrollments in both non-doctoral-granting public and private 4-year schools each decreased by 2 percentage points. During the same time period, Black enrollments in 2-year schools increased by 3 percentage points, while their enrollments in non-doctoral-granting public schools decreased by 3 percentage points. By the 2006-2007 school year, for some minority groups, the majority of students were enrolled in 2-year schools. Nearly 60 percent of all Hispanic students were enrolled in 2-year schools, as were 50 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander, Alaskan Native, and Black students. In contrast, 43 percent of White/non-Hispanic students attended 2-year schools.
  - **Although average tuition increased for all institution types, the smallest tuition increases occurred at the types of institutions that enroll the largest proportion of college students.** Between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years, tuition at private institutions increased the most in dollars, while tuition at public institutions increased the most in percentage points. Tuition increased in dollars the least at 2-year public schools—by \$420, from \$2,091 to \$2,510—and increased the most at private 4-year research/doctoral institutions—by \$7,330, from \$19,185 to \$26,515. Tuition increased in percentage points the least at 2-year private schools—by 14 percent—and increased the most at public, 4-year research/doctoral schools—by 57 percent.

When enrollment and tuition trends are jointly considered, overall, the majority of students today attend institutions that have the lowest average tuition. During the 2006-2007 school year, nearly half of all students attended institutions where the average annual in-state tuition and fees was less than \$2,550, and more than 60 percent of all students attended institutions where the tuition and fees was less than \$4,750 per year. In contrast, relatively few students attend institutions with the highest average tuition. Only 3 out of every 100 students were enrolled

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at institutions where the average annual tuition and fees was more than \$25,000 per year.<sup>3</sup>

- **Between the 2000-2001 and 2005-2006 school years, increases in average tuition were matched or exceeded by increases in average institutional spending on education at private institutions, but not at public institutions.** Though average tuition at private schools increased the most in dollars, average spending on education by private schools grew faster, in percentage points, than average spending at comparable public schools. During the 1995-1996 school year, public 4-year research/doctoral institutions spent, on average, about \$370 million on education-related services, which at that time was approximately \$33 million more than that spent on average by private 4-year research/doctoral institutions. By the 2006-2007 school year, private 4-year research/doctoral institutions were spending on average \$578 million per year—or approximately \$115 million more, on average, than public 4-year research/doctoral institutions. Moreover, tuition increases at these private schools appear to have been used by institutions to support education-related services for students. Indeed, when comparing trends in tuition with trends in education-related expenditures, at private institutions, tuition increases have been matched by proportionally equal or greater spending on education-related services.

We provided copies of a draft of this report to the Department of Education (Education) for review and comment. Education provided us with technical comments which we incorporated as appropriate.

To develop our findings, we analyzed trends in enrollment, tuition and fees, and education-related expenditures. Our analysis of enrollment as well as tuition and fee trends spans the period from the 1995-1996 through 2006-2007 school years, and our analysis of expenditure trends spans the period from the 1995-1996 through 2005-2006 school years. All trends were derived from the Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Our analysis did not include proprietary (for-profit) higher education institutions. A more detailed explanation of our methodology can be found in appendixes II and III of this report. We determined that the IPEDS enrollment, tuition and fees, and education-related expenditures data are sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this

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<sup>3</sup> The tuition and fees identified here are the prices posted by institutions of higher education. They do not fully reflect the final or "net" price that students and families pay.

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report. We conducted our work from September 2007 through November 2007 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

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As agreed with your office, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 30 days from its issue date. At that time, copies of the report will be sent to relevant congressional committees, the Secretary of Education, and other interested parties and we will make copies available to others upon request. In addition, this report will be available at no charge on GAO's Web site at [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-7215 or [ScottG@gao.gov](mailto:ScottG@gao.gov). Contact points for our Office of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. Key contributors to this report include Sherri Doughty (Assistant Director), Carlo Salerno (Analyst-in-Charge), Jeffrey W. Weinstein, John Mingus Jr., Susannah Compton, and Sheila McCoy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George A. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

George A. Scott  
Director, Education, Workforce, and  
Income Security Issues

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**HIGHER EDUCATION:  
Tuition Continues to Rise, but  
Patterns Vary by Institution  
Type, Enrollment, and  
Educational Expenditures**

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Briefing for the  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
October 31, 2007

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## Overview

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- Introduction
- Research Objectives
- Scope and Methodology
- Summary of Findings
- Research Findings

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## Introduction

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- Higher education has increasingly become critical to our nation's cultural, social, and economic well-being, with 90 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in the knowledge economy requiring some postsecondary education.
- A college graduate can expect to earn, on average, over \$1 million dollars more over the course of his or her working life than individuals with just a high school education.
- However, many have expressed concerns that college is becoming less affordable for a growing number of students and their families.

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## Research Objectives

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- In response to a congressional request, GAO developed four research questions on trends in enrollment, tuition and fees, and institutional expenditures on education.
  1. What have been the patterns in college enrollment over the past decade and do these patterns differ by race?
  2. What have been the patterns in the types of schools students attend and do these patterns differ by race?
  3. How much have tuition and fees increased over the past decade across different types of higher education institutions?
  4. To what extent have increases in tuition and fees been associated with increases in spending by institutions on education?

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## Scope and Methodology

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- This analysis looks at various trends, the majority of which span periods between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years. Reported trends in tuition and fees and institutional expenditures on education are weighted by undergraduate enrollment.<sup>1</sup>
- Trends in tuition, fees, and education-related expenditures at institutions of higher education were derived from the Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
- The analysis does not include proprietary (for-profit) higher education institutions.
- We determined that the IPEDS data on enrollment, tuition and fees, and institutional expenditures on education-related services are sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this report.
- We conducted our work from September to October 2007 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

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<sup>1</sup> "Institutional expenditures on education" includes academic support, auxiliary enterprises, institutional support, instructional support, and student services; it does not include research support, public service support, net grant aid to students, hospital services, independent operations, operations and maintenance, and "other expenses," as defined in IPEDS.

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## Summary of Findings

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- More students are enrolling in college than ever before, and an increasingly larger percentage of all students are minorities.
- While the types of schools in which students enroll have largely remained stable, the distribution of enrollment has shifted for some minority groups.
- Although average tuition and fees increased for all institution types, the smallest tuition increases occurred at institutions that enroll the largest proportion of college students.
- Between the 2000-2001 and 2005-2006 school years, increases in average tuition and fees were matched or exceeded by increases in average institutional spending on education at private institutions, but not at public institutions.

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Objective One: Enrollment Growth

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**More Students Are Enrolling In College than Ever Before**

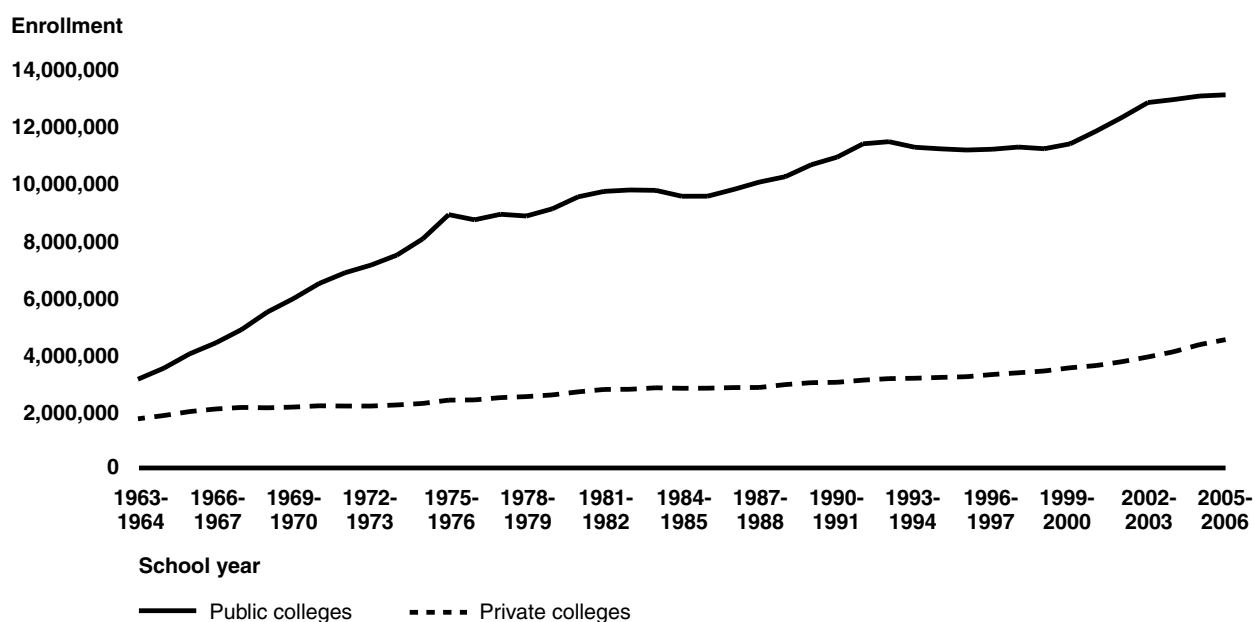
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- Between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years, overall enrollment in U.S. higher education institutions increased by about 19 percent, or more than an estimated 2.2 million students.<sup>1</sup>
- The percentage of students studying full-time increased from 58 percent to 62 percent over the same time period.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the 2006-2007 fall enrollment data has not been publicly released by the Department of Education and may be subject to change.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

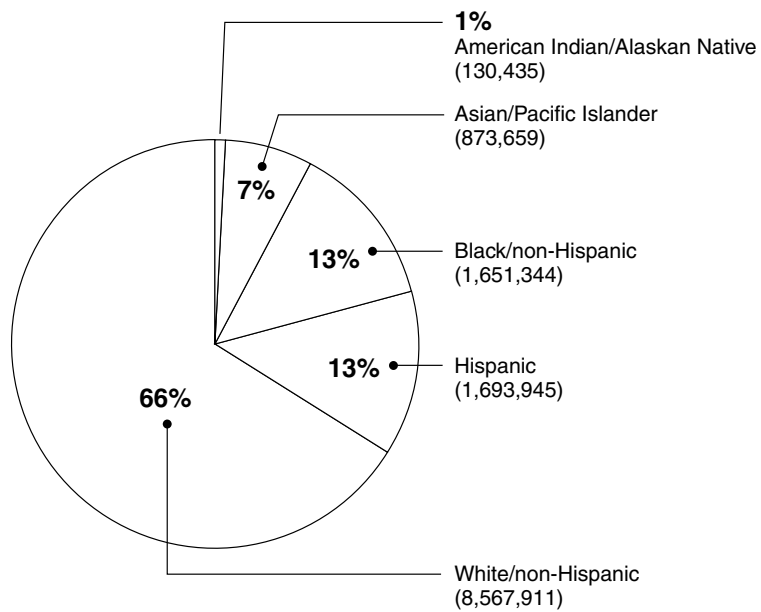
**More Students Are Enrolling in College than Ever Before****Figure 1: Enrollment In U.S. Degree-Granting Institutions,  
School Years 1963-1964 through 2005-2006**

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

### The Majority of Students Continue to Be White/Non-Hispanic

**Figure 2: Enrollment in Higher Education in 2006-2007, by Major Race Categories**

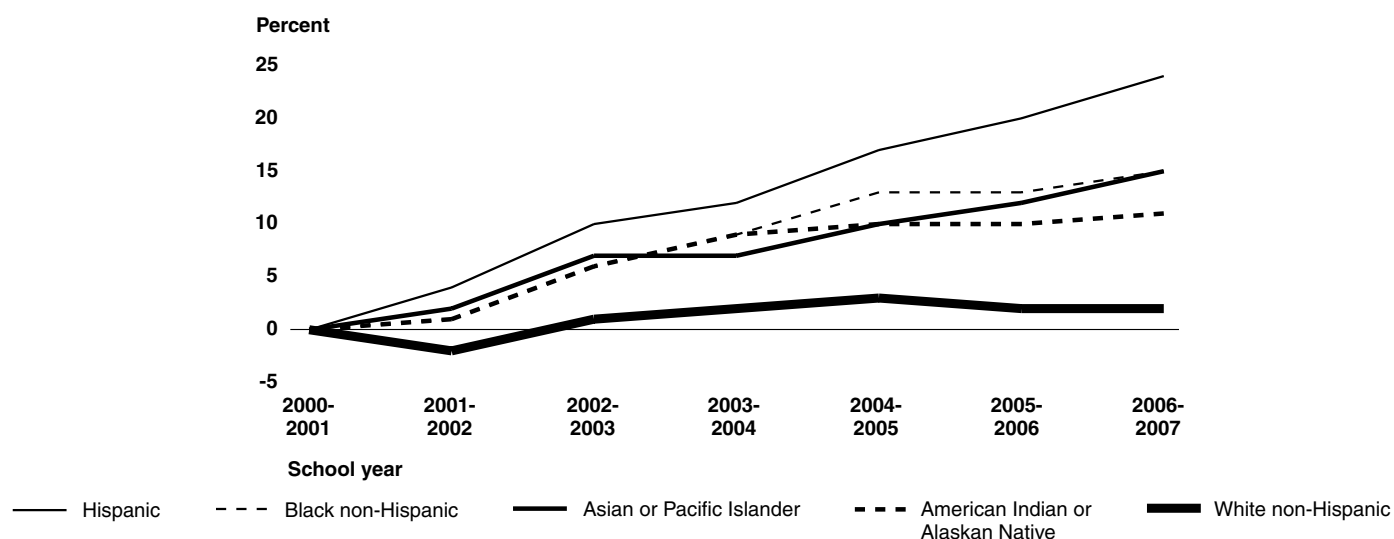


Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

## Minority Enrollments Have Rapidly Increased since the 2000-2001 School Year

**Figure 3: Growth in Higher Education Enrollment since the 2000-2001 School Year, by Major Race Categories**



Note: The IPEDS survey changed from a paper-based system to a Web-based system between the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years. Thus, trends up to the 1999-2000 school year may not be comparable to trends starting in the 2000-2001 school year.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

### Enrollments Increased across Almost All School Types, Particularly at Public Institutions and 2-Year Schools

**Table 1: Enrollment In U.S. Higher Education Institutions by Form of Control and School Type, School Years 1995-1996 and 2006-2007**

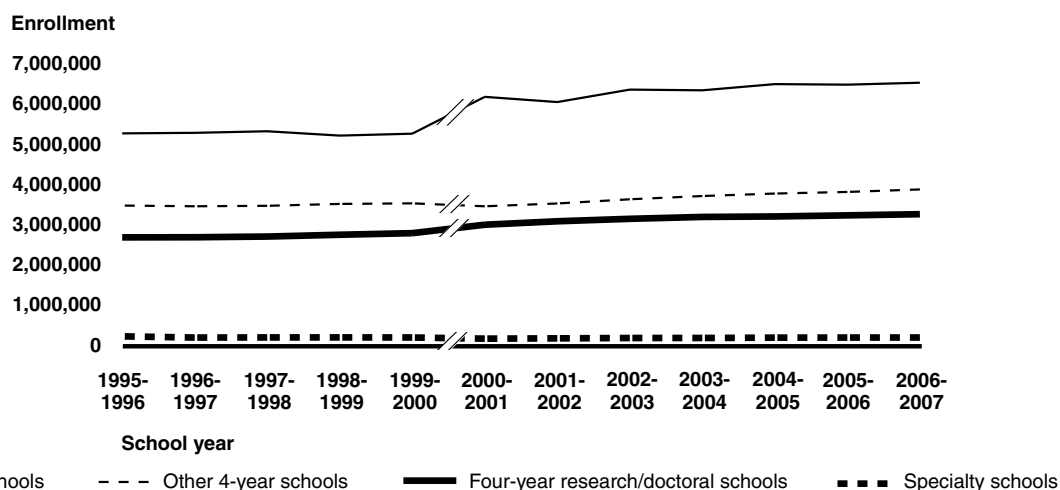
|                                   | 1995-1996 | 2006-2007  | 2006-2007<br>Enrollment<br>share<br>(percent) | Increase  |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
|                                   |           |            |                                               | Number    | Percent |
| Public schools                    | 9,779,145 | 11,674,338 | 83                                            | 1,895,193 | 19      |
| Private schools                   | 2,025,529 | 2,337,509  | 17                                            | 311,980   | 15      |
| 4-year, research/doctoral schools | 2,722,192 | 3,298,474  | 24                                            | 576,282   | 21      |
| Other 4-year schools              | 3,512,962 | 3,913,643  | 28                                            | 400,681   | 11      |
| 2-year schools <sup>a</sup>       | 5,307,447 | 6,566,142  | 47                                            | 1,258,695 | 24      |
| Specialty schools <sup>b</sup>    | 262,073   | 233,588    | 2                                             | -28,485   | -11     |

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

<sup>a</sup>These primarily 2-year schools are institutions that offer associate of arts certificate or degree programs and, with few exceptions, offer no baccalaureate degrees. These include community, junior, and technical colleges.

<sup>b</sup>These institutions offer degrees ranging from the bachelor's to the doctorate, and typically award a majority of degrees in a single field. Institution types include, but are not limited to, medical and business schools, schools of art, music, and design; and law schools.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

**Two-Year Schools Enrolled the Majority of New Entrants****Figure 4: Enrollment In U.S. Higher Education Institutions by Institutional Type, School Years 1995-1996 through 2006-2007**

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

Note: The IPEDS survey changed from a paper-based system to a Web-based system between the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years. Thus, trends up to the 1999-2000 school year may not be comparable to trends starting in the 2000-2001 school year.

## Objective One: Enrollment Growth

### **Most Students Are Enrolled in Public Institutions, and Particularly 2-Year Schools**

- In the 2006-2007 school year, 83 percent of all students were enrolled in public institutions, while 17 percent were enrolled in private institutions.
- The largest proportion of students – 46 percent – were enrolled in public 2-year schools, where enrollment grew by over 20 percent over the past decade.
- Among 4-year schools, less than half of all students were enrolled in research/doctoral-granting universities; however enrollments at these institutions increased, in percentage terms, almost twice as fast as they did at other 4-year schools.<sup>1</sup>
- Specialty schools were the only institution type where enrollments declined over the past decade.

<sup>1</sup> Other 4-year institutions include, but are not limited to, public bachelor's/master's-granting institutions and private liberal arts colleges.

## Objective Two: Enrollment Distribution

### **Over the Last 12 years, the Distribution of Students across Institution Types Shifted for Some Minority Groups toward 2-Year Schools**

- In the 2006-2007 school year, 58 percent of Hispanic students were enrolled in 2-year schools, and approximately 50 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander, Alaskan Native, and Black/Non-Hispanic students were enrolled in 2-year schools. In contrast, 43 percent of White/non-Hispanic students were enrolled in 2-year schools.
- Hispanic enrollments in 2-year schools increased by 4 percentage points between the 1995-1996 and 2006-2007 school years, while enrollments in both public and private 4-year master's and baccalaureate schools each decreased by 2 percentage points.<sup>1</sup>
- Black enrollments in 2-year schools increased by 3 percentage points over this same time period, while enrollments in public 4-year master's and baccalaureate schools decreased by 3 percentage points.<sup>1</sup>
- The distributions in enrollments for other major race categories changed by less than 2 percentage points over this time.

<sup>1</sup> The distribution of Hispanic and Black enrollments for all other institution types changed by 1 percentage point or less over the time period.

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Objective Three: Patterns in Tuition Increases

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**Average Tuition and Fees Increases over the Past Decade Vary by Institution Type**

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- Average tuition and fees increased the least at 2-year public institutions – by \$420, from \$2,091 to \$2,510 (a 20 percent increase).
- Average tuition and fees increased the most at private 4-year research/doctoral institutions – by \$7,330, from \$19,185 to \$26,515 (a 38 percent increase).

## Objective Three: Patterns in Tuition Increases

### **Tuition and fees at Private Institutions Increased the Most in Dollars, while Tuition and fees at Public Institutions Increased the Most in Percentage Points**

**Table 2: Comparison of Tuition and Fees Increases by Type of School, School Years 1995-1996 and 2006-2007**

| School type                                | Dollar increase |         | Percentage increase |         |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
|                                            | Public          | Private | Public              | Private |
| 4-year, research/doctoral schools          | \$2,245         | \$7,330 | 57                  | 38      |
| 4-year, master's and baccalaureate schools | 1,511           | 5,064   | 47                  | 37      |
| 4-year diverse fields schools              |                 | 5,521   |                     | 38      |
| 2-year schools                             | 420             | 1,276   | 20                  | 14      |
| Specialty schools                          | 1,166           | 3,763   | 39                  | 33      |

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

### Objective Three: Patterns in Tuition Increases

#### **Today, the Majority of Students Attend Institutions That Have the Lowest Average Tuition and Fees, while Relatively Few Students Attend Institutions with the Highest Average Tuition and Fees**

- Nearly half of all students in 2006-2007 attended institutions where the average annual in-state tuition and fees was less than \$2,550.
- Three out of every five students attended institutions where the average annual in-state tuition and fees was less than \$4,750 per year.
- In contrast, only 3 out of every 100 students were enrolled at institutions where the average annual tuition and fees was more than \$25,000 per year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tuition and fees identified here are prices posted by institutions of higher education. Because they do not account for institutional grants-in-aid or other forms of external grant funding, they do not fully reflect the final, or “net,” price that students and families pay. Also, they do not reflect the other costs borne by families for students to attend school, such as room and board, textbooks, and other required supplies. For example, see GAO, *College Textbooks: Enhanced Offerings Appear to Drive Recent Price Increases*, GAO-05-806 (Washington, D.C.: July 29, 2005), for a discussion of textbook prices.

### Objective Three: Patterns in Tuition Increases

**Today, the Majority of Students Attend Institutions That Have the Lowest Average Tuition & Fees, while Relatively Few Students Attend Institutions with the Highest Average Tuition and Fees**

**Table 3: Comparison of Average Undergraduate Tuition and Fees, by Type of School, School Years 1995-1996 and 2006-2007**

| School type                                | 1995-1996 |          | 2006-2007 |          |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                                            | Public    | Private  | Public    | Private  |
| 4-year, research/doctoral schools          | \$3,952   | \$19,185 | \$6,197   | \$26,515 |
| 4-year, master's and baccalaureate schools | 3,218     | 13,829   | 4,730     | 18,893   |
| 4-year diverse fields schools              | NA        | 14,707   | NA        | 20,228   |
| 2-year schools                             | 2,091     | 8,812    | 2,510     | 10,088   |
| Specialty schools                          | 2,960     | 11,546   | 4,125     | 15,309   |

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

## Objective Four: Institutional Expenditures on Education

### Average Spending on Education by Private Schools Has Grown Faster, in Percentage Terms, than Average Spending at Comparable Public Schools

**Table 4: Comparison of Average Institutional Expenditures on Education-Related Services and Increases by Type of School, School Years 1995-1996 and 2005-2006**

| School type                                | Average institutional expenditures <sup>a</sup> |               | Average increase |         |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
|                                            | 1995-1996                                       | 2005-2006     | Amount           | Percent |
| Public, 4-year, research/doctoral          | \$370,170,005                                   | \$463,288,443 | \$93,118,439     | 25      |
| Private, 4-year, research/doctoral         | 337,162,086                                     | 577,912,870   | 240,750,784      | 71      |
| Public, 4-year, master's and baccalaureate | 86,131,029                                      | 107,121,584   | 20,990,555       | 24      |
| Private, 4-year, master's                  | 49,850,299                                      | 79,706,791    | 29,856,492       | 60      |
| Private, 4-year, diverse fields            | 27,262,798                                      | 44,593,799    | 17,331,001       | 64      |
| Public, primarily 2-year colleges          | 43,573,365                                      | 57,950,331    | 14,376,966       | 33      |
| Private, primarily 2-year colleges         | 18,618,195                                      | 34,876,449    | 16,258,254       | 87      |

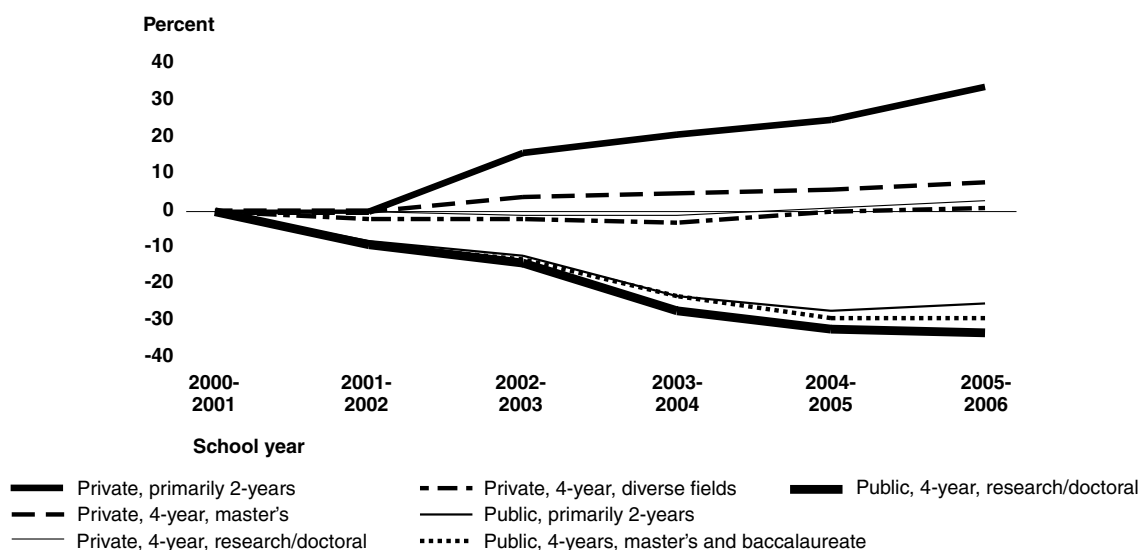
Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

<sup>a</sup>New accounting standards for public institutions were phased in over a several-year period during the time period above, which may have affected some public institutions' reported expenditures.

## Objective Four: Institutional Expenditures on Education

## At Private Institutions, Tuition and Fees Increases Have Been Matched by Proportionally Equal or Greater Spending on Education-Related Services

**Figure 5: Cumulative Difference between Percentage Change in Institutional Expenditures on Education-Related Activities and Percentage Change in Tuition and Fees, by Institution Type, School Years 2000-2001 through 2005-2006**



Source: GAO analysis of Department of Education data.

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# Appendix II: IPEDS Variables

The following variables were analyzed to assess trends in enrollment, tuition and fees, and educational expenditures by type of institution. All variables were downloaded directly from Education’s IPEDS system.

**Table 1: Variables used in IPEDS analysis**

| Variable category                 | Variable name                               | IPEDS code(s)                         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Institution type                  | Carnegie classification code, 2000 system   | carnegie                              |
| Enrollment (total undergraduates) | Nonresident alien men                       | efrace01                              |
|                                   | Nonresident alien women                     | efrace02                              |
|                                   | Black non-Hispanic men                      | efrace03                              |
|                                   | Black non-Hispanic women                    | efrace04                              |
|                                   | American Indian or Alaskan Native men       | efrace05                              |
|                                   | American Indian or Alaskan Native women     | efrace06                              |
|                                   | Asian or Pacific Islander men               | efrace07                              |
|                                   | Asian or Pacific Islander women             | efrace08                              |
|                                   | Hispanic men                                | efrace09                              |
|                                   | Hispanic women                              | efrace10                              |
|                                   | White non-Hispanic men                      | efrace11                              |
|                                   | White non-Hispanic women                    | efrace12                              |
|                                   | Race-ethnicity unknown men                  | efrace13                              |
|                                   | Race-ethnicity unknown women                | efrace14                              |
|                                   | Total men                                   | efrace15                              |
|                                   | Total women                                 | efrace16                              |
| Tuition & fees                    | Tuition, full-time undergraduates, in-state | tuition2                              |
|                                   | Fees, full-time undergraduates, in-state    | fee2                                  |
| Expenditures                      | Academic support – current year total       | b043, fb04_1, f1c051, f2b04, f2e041   |
|                                   | Auxiliary enterprises – current year total  | b133, fb07_1, f1c111, f2b07_1, f2e071 |
|                                   | Institutional support – current year total  | b073, fb06_1, f1c071, f2b06_1, f2e061 |
|                                   | Instructional support – current year total  | b013, fb01_1, f1c011, f2b01_1, f2e011 |
|                                   | Student services – current year total       | b063, fb05_1, f1c061, f2b05_1, f2e051 |

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data dictionary, National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education.

# Appendix III: Carnegie Classifications

For the purposes of this report, institutions of higher education were grouped into nine categories based on their sector (i.e., whether they are private or public institutions) and their Carnegie Classification code (2000 System). The following table lists how those categories were generated. All values were downloaded directly from Education's IPEDS system.

**Table 2: Groupings of institutions of higher education**

| Group number | Group name                                 | Sector(s)                                                       | Carnegie codes and labels (2000)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1)          | Public, 4-year, research/doctoral          |                                                                 | 11 – Research Universities I<br>12 – Research Universities II<br>13 – Doctoral Universities I<br>14 – Doctoral Universities II<br>15 – Doctoral/Research Universities (Extensive)<br>16 – Doctoral/Research Universities (Intensive)                                                                                   |
| (2)          | Public, 4-year, master's and baccalaureate |                                                                 | 21 – Master's Colleges and Universities I<br>22 – Master's Colleges and Universities II<br>31 – Baccalaureate Colleges (Liberal Arts)<br>32 – Baccalaureate Colleges (General)                                                                                                                                         |
| (3)          | Public, primarily 2-year colleges          | Public, 4-year or above<br>Public, 2-year                       | 33 – Baccalaureate/Associates Colleges<br>40 – Associate of Arts Colleges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| (4)          | Public, specialty                          |                                                                 | 51 – Theological Seminaries<br>52 – Medical Schools<br>53 – Other Health Profession Schools<br>54 – Schools of Engineering and Technology<br>55 – Schools of Business and Management<br>56 – Schools of Art, Music, and Design<br>57 – Schools of Law<br>58 – Teachers Colleges<br>59 – Other Specialized Institutions |
| (5)          | Private, 4-year, research/doctoral         | Private nonprofit, 4-year or above<br>Private nonprofit, 2-year | 11 – Research Universities I<br>12 – Research Universities II<br>13 – Doctoral Universities I<br>14 – Doctoral Universities II<br>15 – Doctoral/Research Universities (Extensive)<br>16 – Doctoral/Research Universities (Intensive)                                                                                   |
| (6)          | Private, 4-year, master's                  |                                                                 | 21 – Master's Colleges and Universities I<br>22 – Master's Colleges and Universities II                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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**Appendix III: Carnegie Classifications**

| <b>Group number</b> | <b>Group name</b>                  | <b>Sector(s)</b>                                                | <b>Carnegie codes and labels (2000)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (7)                 | Private, 4-year, diverse fields    |                                                                 | 31 – Baccalaureate Colleges (Liberal Arts)<br>32 – Baccalaureate Colleges (General)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| (8)                 | Private, primarily 2-year colleges |                                                                 | 33 – Baccalaureate/Associates Colleges<br>40 – Associate of Arts Colleges                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| (9)                 | Private, specialty                 |                                                                 | 51 – Theological Seminaries<br>52 – Medical Schools<br>53 – Other Health Profession Schools<br>54 – Schools of Engineering and Technology<br>55 – Schools of Business and Management<br>56 – Schools of Art, Music, and Design<br>57 – Schools of Law<br>58 – Teachers Colleges<br>59 – Other Specialized Institutions |
|                     |                                    | Private nonprofit, 4-year or above<br>Private nonprofit, 2-year |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Source: GAO analysis of Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education.

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*Distance Education: Growth in Distance Education Programs and Implications for Federal Education Policy.* [GAO-02-1125T](#). Washington, D.C.: September 26, 2002.

*College Tuition and Fees: Changes in the 1995-96 to 1999-2000 Period Compared with Median Household Income.* [HEHS-00-198R](#). Washington, D.C.: September 26, 2000.

*Higher Education: Tuition Increases and Colleges' Efforts to Contain Costs.* [HEHS-98-227](#). Washington, D.C.: September 30, 1998.

*Higher Education: Students Have Increased Borrowing and Working to Help Pay Higher Tuitions.* [HEHS-98-63](#). Washington, D.C.: February 18, 1998.

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