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ABSTRACT

This report examines trends in enrollment, degrees awarded, and other selected data from Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) accountability reports published between 1996 and 2001. Where data were available, comparisons were made for Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and the State University System of Florida (SUS). Information in the report indicates that rates of growth in ICUF institutions and NSU exceed those of the SUS at all degree levels. However, ICUF's market share of the total enrollment between fall 1996 and fall 2000 rose from 27% to 29%, while its share of undergraduates remained constant at 25%. NSU emerged as a major provider of graduate and first-professional education in Florida. For example, NSU enrolled half of all graduate and first-professional students attending ICUF institutions, and it had the largest graduate student enrollment of all ICUF and SUS institutions. NSU showed an increase in total enrollment of students from racial and ethnic minorities that was twice that of ICUF and 2.8 times that of SUS institutions in the 1996-2000 period. Mean undergraduate class size and class size distribution at NSU and ICUF institutions as a whole remained nearly constant between fall 1996 and fall 2001. Aggregate 6-year rates of graduation remained nearly constant at 49% for ICUF and 61% for the SUS, but graduation rates at NSU increased from 32% to 45% in the same period. Four appendixes contain tables of data about institutional rankings. (Contains 7 tables, 19 figures, and 17 references.) (SLD)

Nova Southeastern University

ED 475 078

**Comparative Trends in Productivity and Access
for Nova Southeastern University, the Independent Colleges and
Universities of Florida, and the State University System of Florida**

Blair T. Atherton
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**December 2002
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Executive Summary

This report examines trends in enrollment, degrees awarded, and other selected data from ICUF Accountability Reports published between 1996 and 2001. Where data were available, comparisons were made with the State University System of Florida (SUS)¹.

Information presented in this report indicate that rates of growth in ICUF and NSU exceed that of the SUS at all degree levels. However, ICUF's market share of the total enrollment between fall 1996 and fall 2000 rose from 27 percent to 29 percent, while its share of undergraduates remained constant at 25 percent. NSU emerges as a major provider of graduate and first-professional education in Florida. For example, NSU enrolled half of all graduate and first-professional students attending ICUF institutions, and it has the largest graduate student enrollment of all ICUF and SUS institutions.

NSU's percentage increase in total enrollment of students from racial/ethnic minorities from fall 1997 to fall 2000 was twice that of ICUF and 2.8 times that of the SUS. In fact, NSU's increase in enrollment of graduate minority students represented 58 percent of the total increase for ICUF and the SUS combined. From the perspective of market share, ICUF's share of total minorities enrolled increased from 28 percent in fall 1997 to 29 percent in fall 2000. Its share of undergraduate minorities also rose only one percent for the period.

Growth in total degrees awarded by NSU from 1998-1999 to 2000-2001 was three times that of ICUF and the SUS. NSU awarded nine percent of bachelor's, 43 percent of master's, 76 percent of doctorates, and 44 percent of first-professional degrees awarded by ICUF as a whole in 2000-2001. During the same period, NSU and ICUF each had a 17 percent decline in the number of doctorates awarded to minorities.

Mean undergraduate class size and class size distribution at NSU and ICUF as a whole remained nearly constant between fall 1996 and fall 2001. Eighty-five percent of undergraduate classes had fewer than 30 students. Comparative data for SUS as a whole were not available, but limited data on class size ranges for individual institutions indicate that SUS institutions generally have larger classes than ICUF institutions.

Data for cohorts of first-time in college full-time freshmen entering college between fall 1991 and fall 1995 indicate that aggregate six-year rates of graduation remained nearly constant at 49 percent for ICUF and 61 percent for the SUS. Graduation rates at NSU increased from 32 percent to 45 percent during the same period. The latter compares favorably to an estimated national average of 45 percent (Astin et al, 1996).

¹Although the Florida public universities were placed within the Division of Colleges and Universities last year, this report will refer throughout to the SUS.

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Introduction

Beginning in 1995, the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) began to produce an accountability report in response to Florida Statute 20.147. Nova Southeastern University is a member of ICUF and has contributed to the Accountability Report since its inception. The initial accountability process was developed by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC) in consultation with the ICUF presidents. The original process had 12 indicators intended to address quality, access, and productivity in ICUF institutions.

The first report published in 1995 by PEPC had 10 pages of data tables and instructions with no accompanying narrative or comparative data. Since 1996, the Research and Planning Office at Nova Southeastern University has compiled and published the report for ICUF. Over the years, the scope and level of detail of data included in the report have gradually increased to provide broader context. Narrative discussion and limited comparisons with the State University System of Florida (SUS) were added to assist interpretation of the data. Today the report has grown to 54 pages excluding appendixes, and contains 36 tables and eight figures.

With the establishment of the new Division of Colleges and Universities of Florida, ICUF has been recognized as an important component of the overall Florida higher education system. For example, ICUF was asked to provide the Florida Department of Education with five year enrollment projections to facilitate state level planning for the first time this year.

Because NSU has the largest enrollment of all of the 27 ICUF member institutions, it is a major contributor to the performance of ICUF as a higher education sector in Florida. While the ICUF Accountability Report has been published annually since 1995, trends in enrollment and other data contained in the report have never been examined. Future projections are often informed by prior history; therefore, this report provides comparisons between NSU, ICUF, and the SUS for selected data taken primarily from published accountability reports, and Fact Books.

With the elimination of affirmative action in college admissions in Florida in 1999, access to higher education by students from racial/ethnic minorities became an area for scrutiny. Affirmative action was replaced by Governor Bush's Talented 20 Program. In lieu of affirmative action, Florida public universities must admit all students who graduate from a Florida high school in the top 20 percent of their class, regardless of race/ethnicity. The rule applies equally to high schools that are predominantly white, as well as those that are predominantly black or Hispanic.

Since the program applies to high school graduates entering college in fall 2000 and forward, only initial data are available for comparison with pre-program enrollments. Race/ethnicity data on freshmen entering the SUS were not available for this study. However, the policy change nevertheless begs the question of relative levels of service to students from minorities by NSU, ICUF, and the SUS. Therefore, this report focuses largely on trends in enrollment and degrees awarded to students from racial/ethnic minorities.

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Methods

Data for NSU students were obtained from the university's student information system. Data for ICUF were obtained from published ICUF Accountability Reports (see reference list). Similarly, data on the State University System of Florida (SUS) were obtained from Fact Books published by the Florida Board of Regents. Enrollment data in these publications came from the IPEDS Fall Enrollment Survey, and data on degrees awarded came from the IPEDS Completions Survey.

Enrollment data on undergraduates attending ICUF institutions were not added to the Accountability Report until 1997, while enrollments of graduate and first-professional students as separate categories were not added until 1999. Data on degrees awarded by degree level were not added to the Accountability Report until 1998-1999. Therefore, the number of years available to demonstrate trends varies by the datum being examined.

Comparative data on enrollment from the SUS Fact Book are available only through fall 2000, while ICUF data includes fall 2001. Data published in SUS Fact Books are always one year behind. That is, data for fall 2000 were not published until July 2002. This somewhat limits the types of comparisons made in this report. The range of years of data available for the three entities varies by entity, and for particular types of data. Therefore, a full six year range of data was not available for all variables examined.

Comparison of the proportional contribution of ICUF relative to data for ICUF and the SUS *combined* (i.e., Figures 3,14,15) was calculated as shown in the example below.

ICUF enrollment as a percentage of ICUF and SUS enrollments combined =

$$\frac{\text{ICUF enrollment}}{\text{ICUF enrollment} + \text{SUS enrollment}} \times 100\%$$

Similar comparisons between NSU and ICUF in Figures 3,12, and 13 were calculated as a standard fraction and converted to percent:

$$\frac{\text{NSU enrollment}}{\text{ICUF enrollment}} \times 100\%$$

Finally, certain types of data collected annually by ICUF were not collected by the SUS. The two sectors have different accountability processes. Consequently, comparisons of ICUF or NSU with corresponding data from the SUS were sometimes not possible.

Results

Trends in Enrollment

The 27 ICUF institutions are diverse in their missions, admissions criteria, and their level of service to students from racial/ethnic minorities. Ten ICUF institutions offer the bachelor's as the highest degree, nine offer the master's as the highest degree, and eight offer the doctorate (Atherton, 2002).

Figure 1 shows comparative data for five year trends in fall enrollment for NSU, ICUF and the SUS. Both NSU and ICUF as a whole had a five year percentage increase in enrollment that was approximately twice that of the SUS. However, in terms of head count ICUF grew by approximately 21,000, and the SUS by approximately 28,000 students.

Figure 1
Growth in Total Enrollment

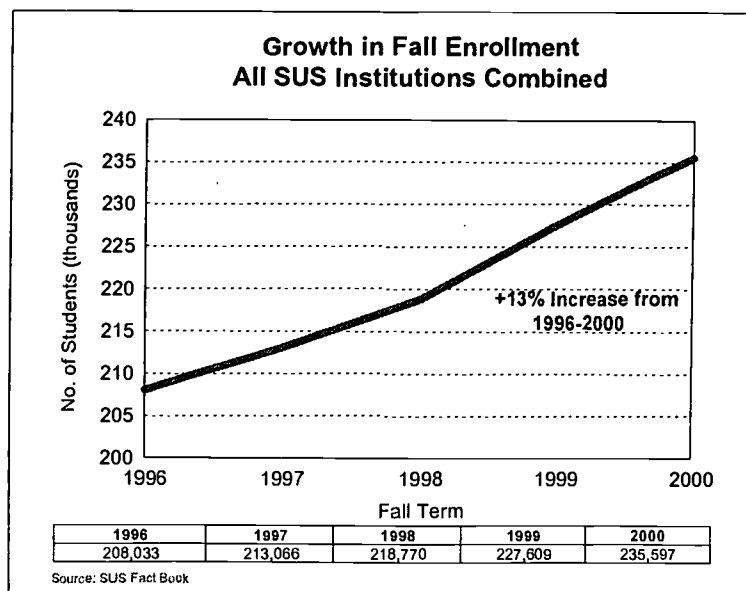
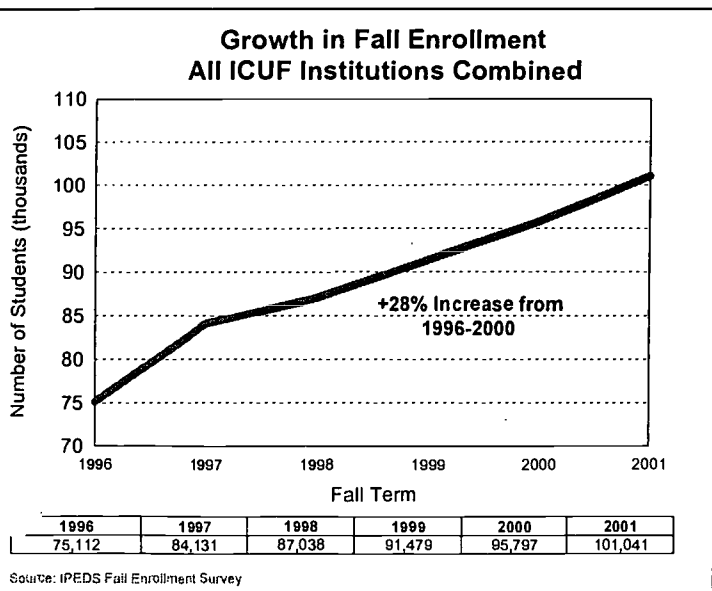
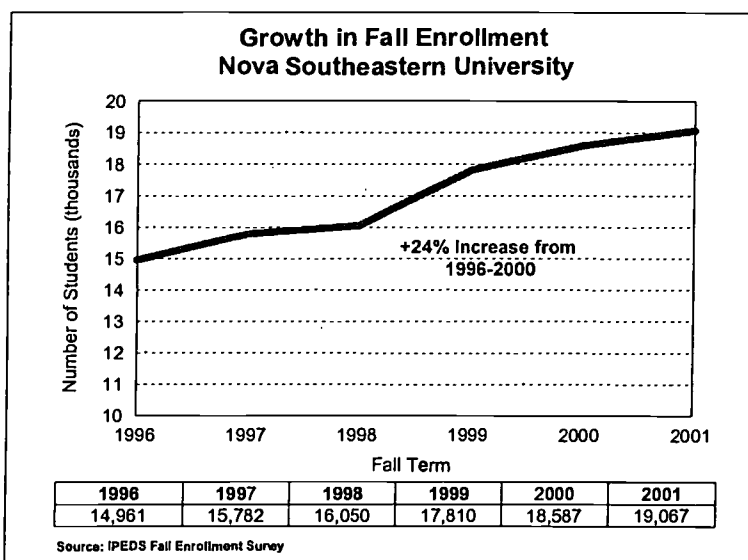
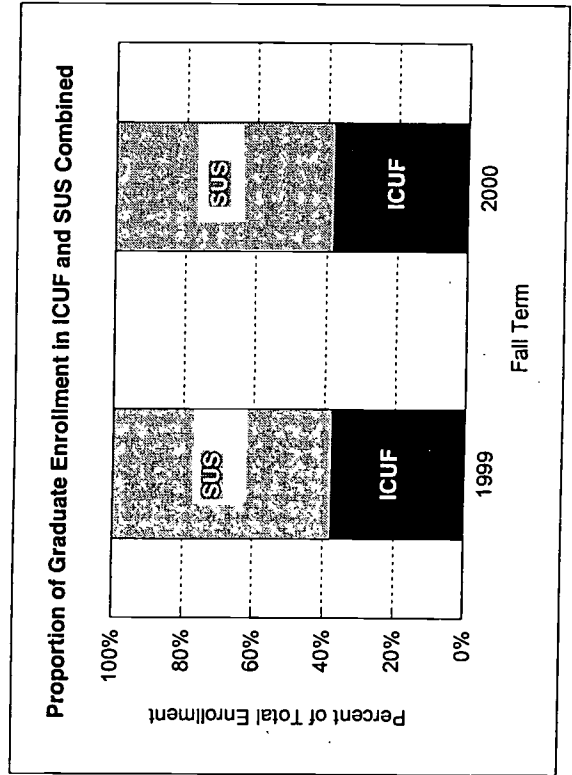
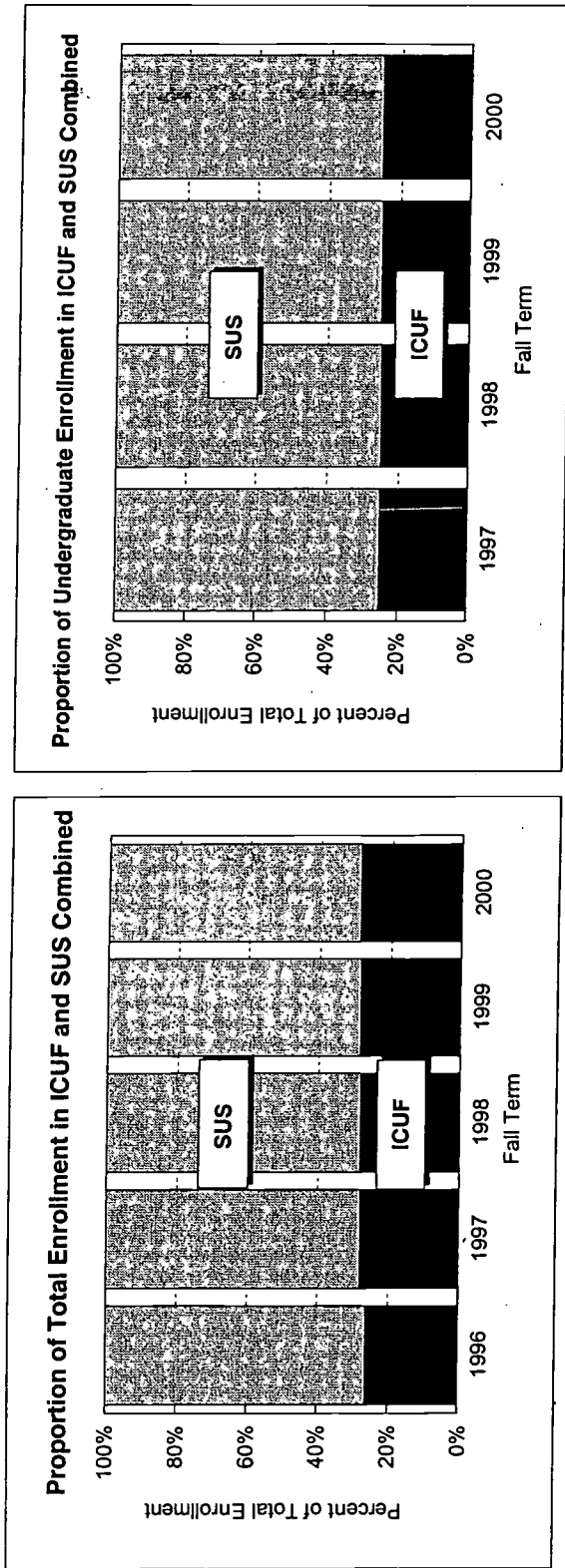


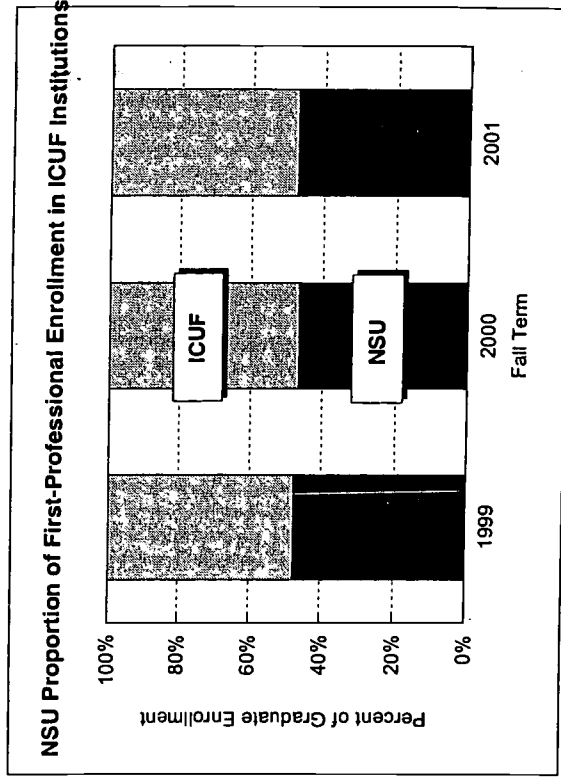
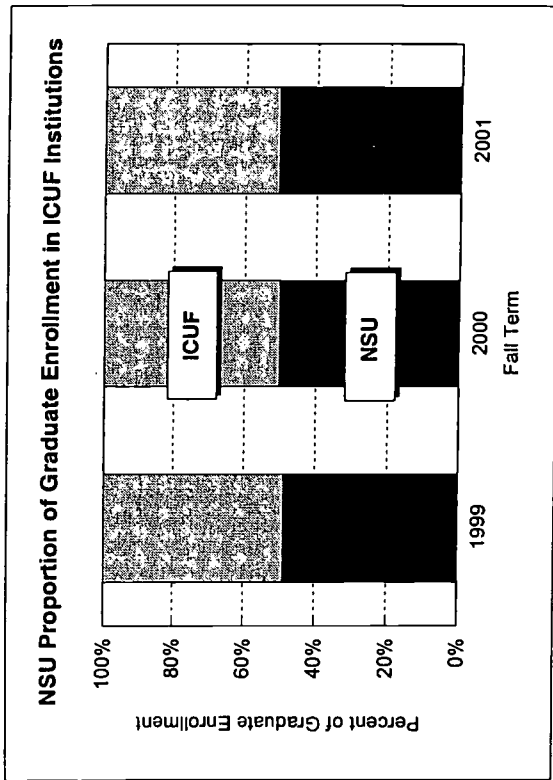
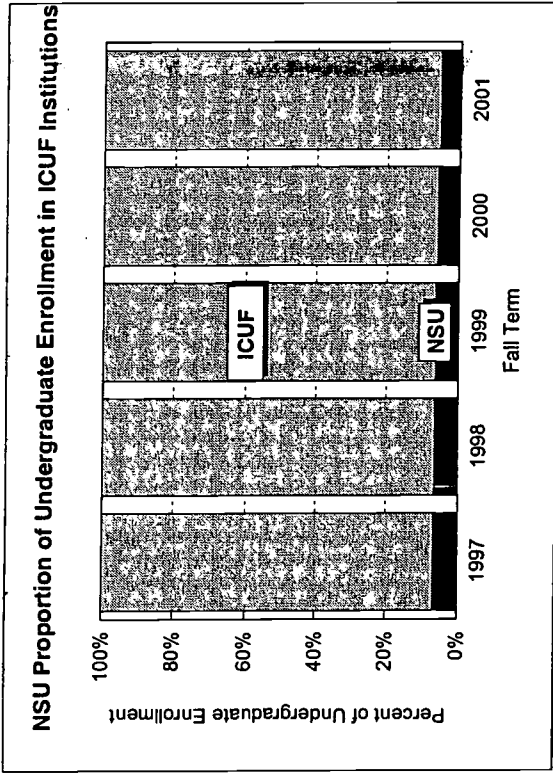
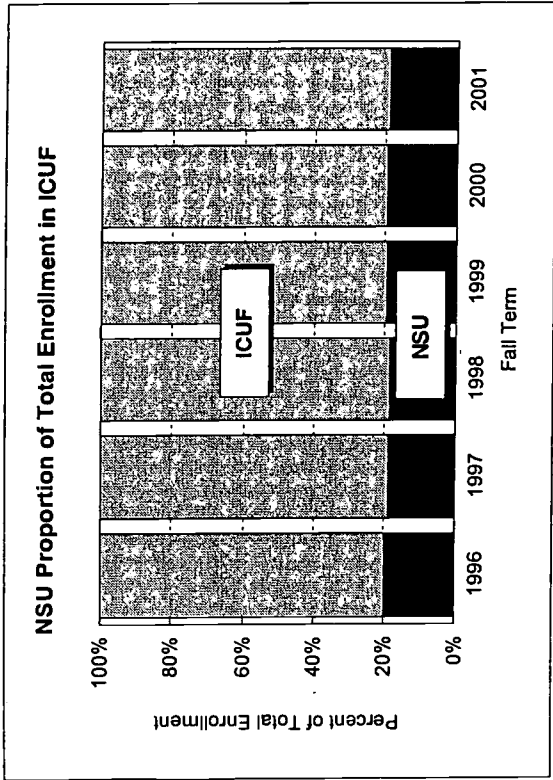
Figure 1 shows that ICUF had an increasing proportion of the total enrollment or market share of ICUF and the SUS combined during the period fall 1996 to fall 2000. Enrollment at ICUF institutions increased by approximately 21,000, compared to approximately 28,000 in the SUS for the same period. Growth at NSU contributed 18 percent of the total growth in ICUF (Figure 3).

Figure 2
Proportion of Total Enrollment for ICUF and the SUS Combined



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Figure 3
NSU Proportion of ICUF Enrollment



In fall 1996 ICUF held 26 percent of the market share of total enrollment for the two sectors combined, while in fall 2000 it held 29 percent. ICUF's share of the undergraduate population remained constant at 25 percent. NSU increased from five to six percent of the market share of the total enrollment. ICUF represented 38 percent of the combined graduate enrollment for ICUF and the SUS in fall 2000 (Figure 2).

Appendix A shows available enrollment data by degree level for NSU and the two state-wide groups of institutions. NSU has the largest graduate enrollment of all ICUF institutions (Appendix B), and it represented half of ICUF's graduate enrollment (Figure 3), and almost 20 percent of the SUS and ICUF graduate students combined in fall 2000.

During the period fall 1996 through fall 2001, NSU's market share or proportion of the enrollment in all ICUF institutions combined remained fairly constant at all degree levels (Figure 3). Approximately 50 percent of the enrollment of both graduate and first-professional students in ICUF institutions was attributable to NSU.

The advent of Florida's Talented 20 Program for college admissions and elimination of affirmative action provides occasion for reflection concerning access to higher education by students from racial/ethnic minorities. Figures 4-6 on the pages that follow below summarize trends in minority enrollment for NSU, ICUF, and the SUS. Differences in the increase in the number of students from minorities enrolled are substantial at all degree levels and among all three entities.

The increase in total minority enrollment at NSU from fall 1997 to fall 2000 was 53 percent. The percent increase was twice that of ICUF, and 2.8 times the percent increase in the SUS during the same time period. The percent increase in total minorities at ICUF was 25 percent versus 19 percent for the SUS. The percent increase in undergraduate minority students at NSU also exceeded increases in ICUF and the SUS, but differences were smaller.

Percentages alone do not give a complete picture of the gains made in service to students from racial/ethnic minorities. The corresponding increase in *number* of minority students differs among the three entities. Total minority enrollment at NSU increased by approximately 2,500 students, and increases in ICUF and the SUS were approximately 8,900 and 12,000 respectively.

Figure 4
Growth in Minority Enrollment at NSU

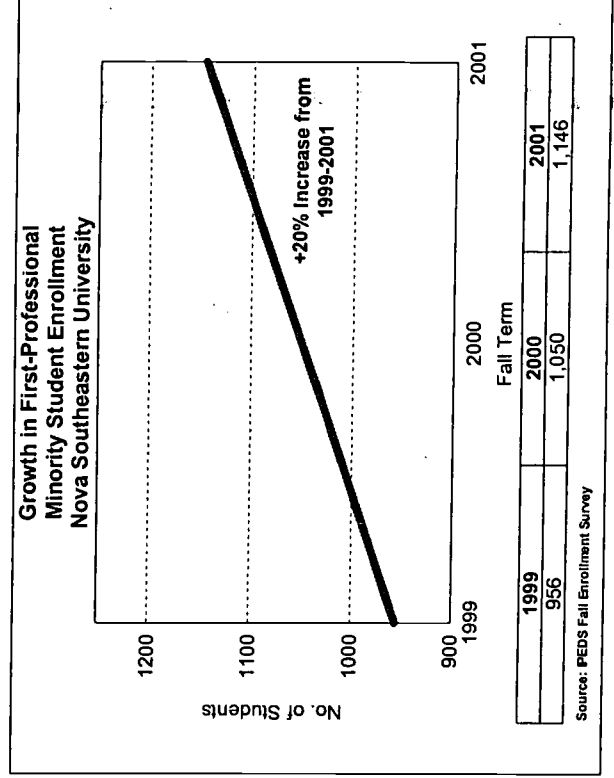
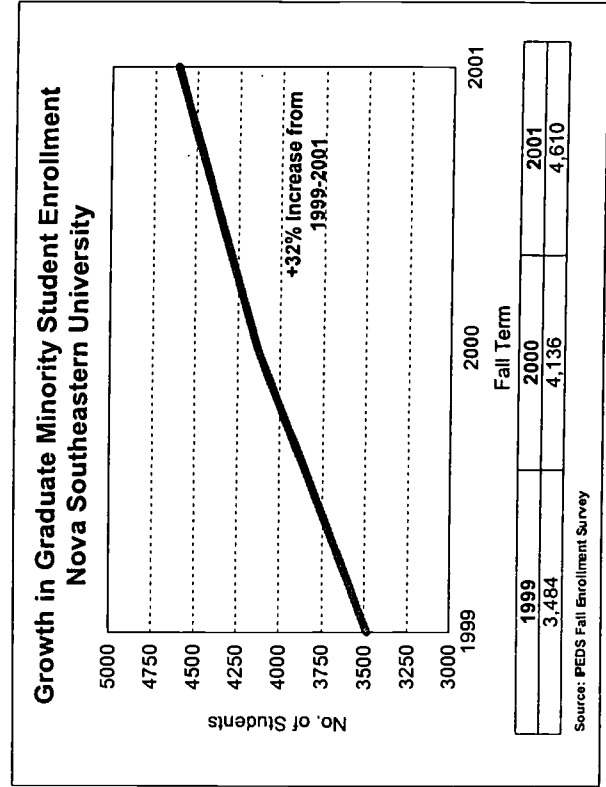
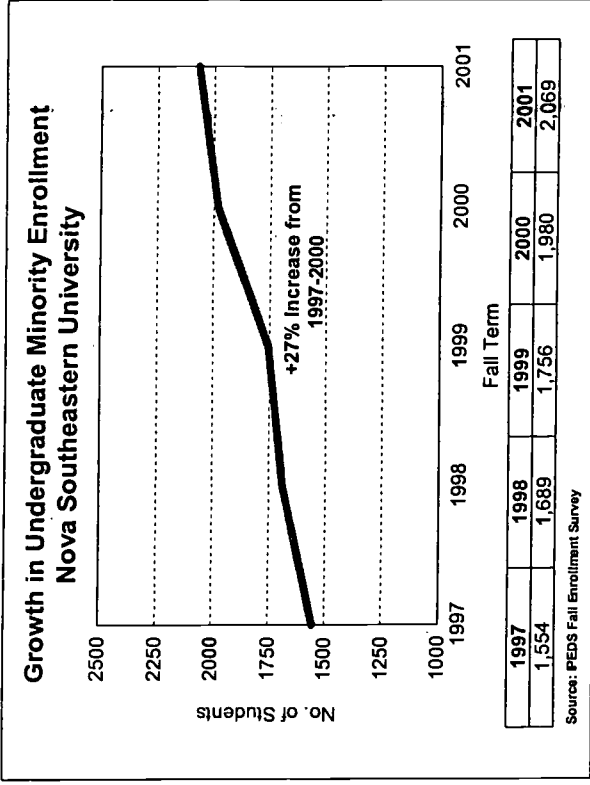
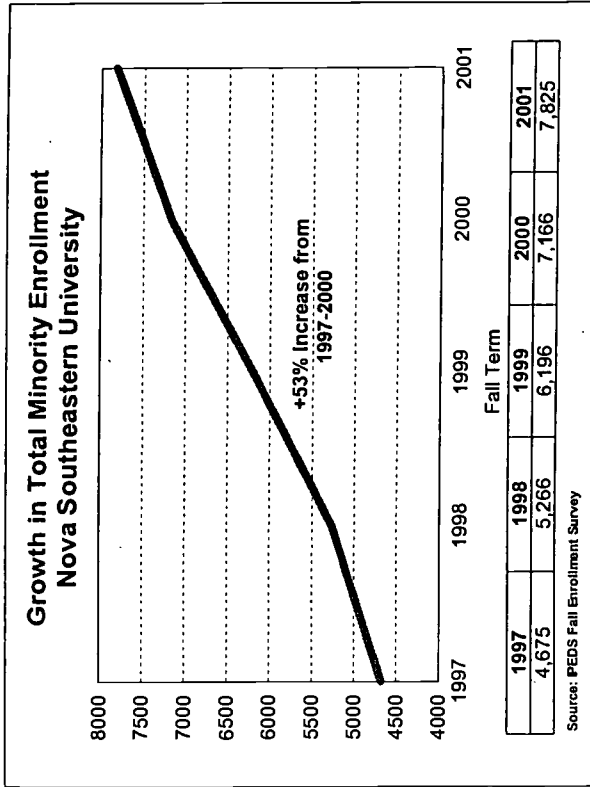


Figure 5
Growth in Minority Enrollment in ICUF

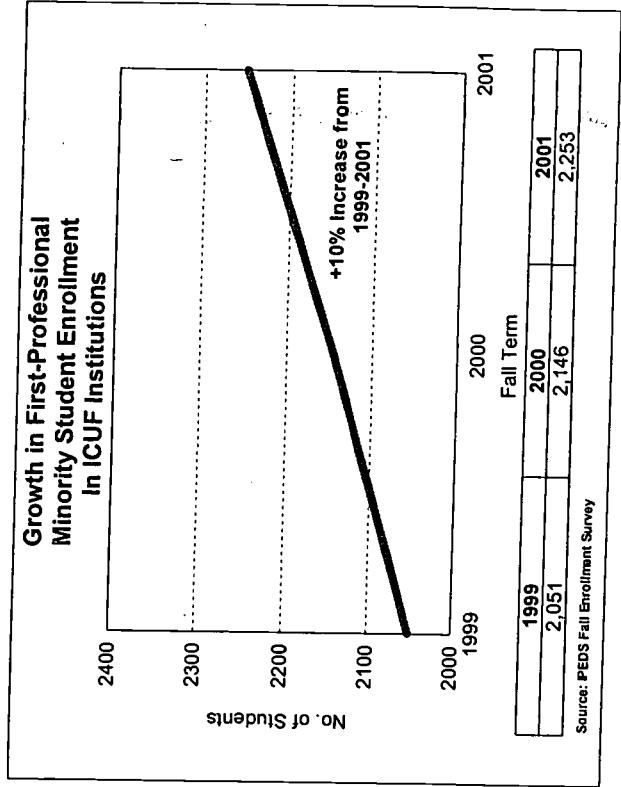
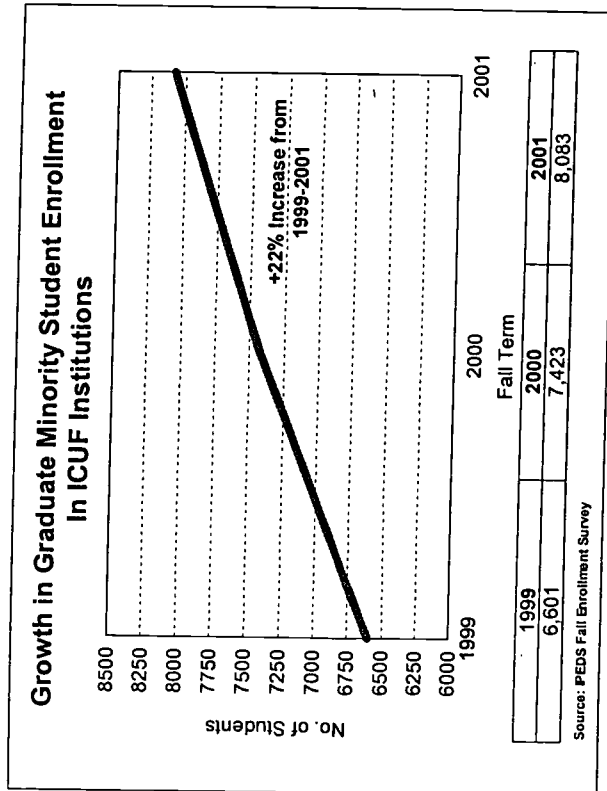
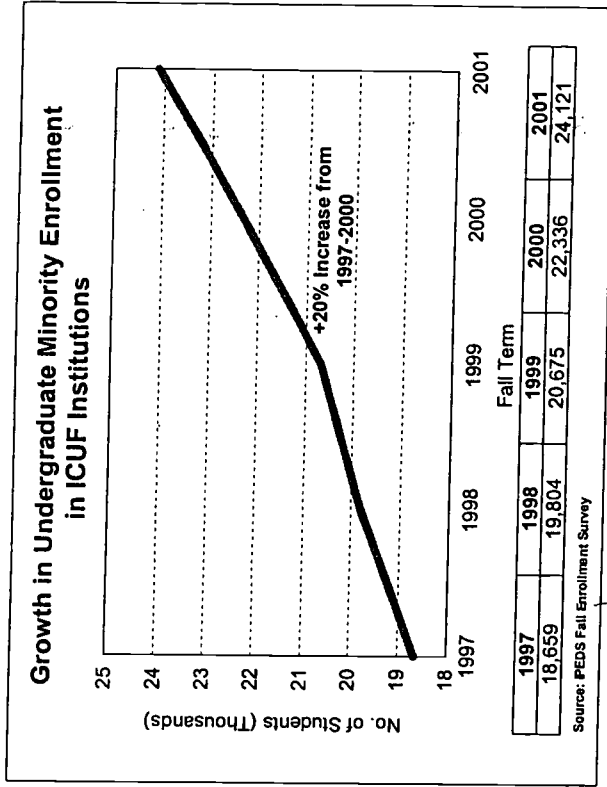
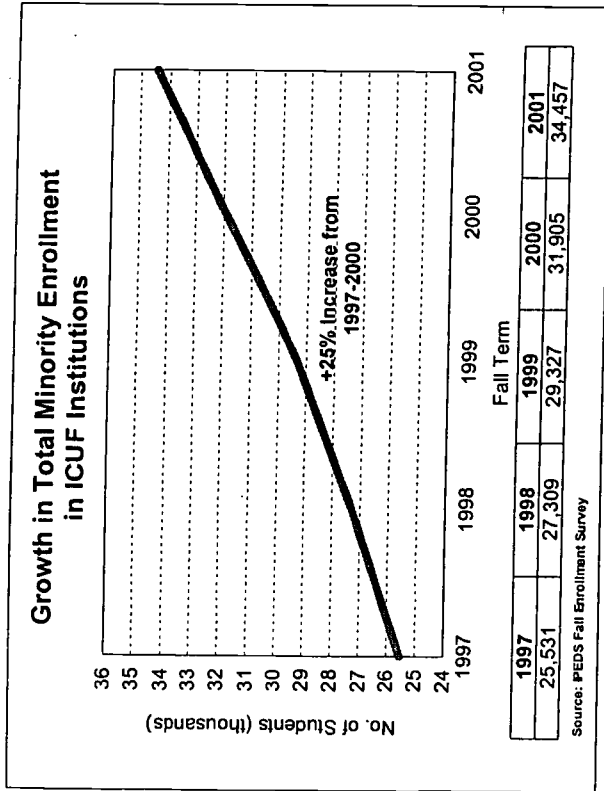
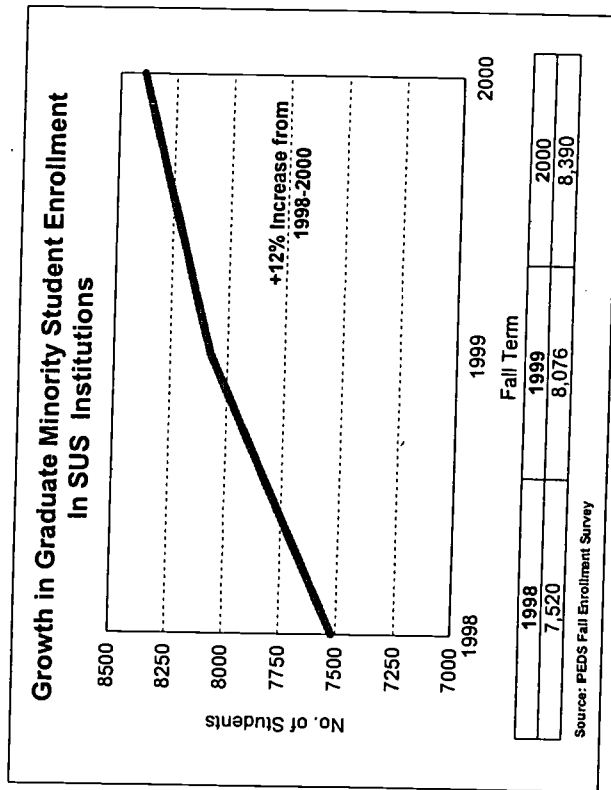
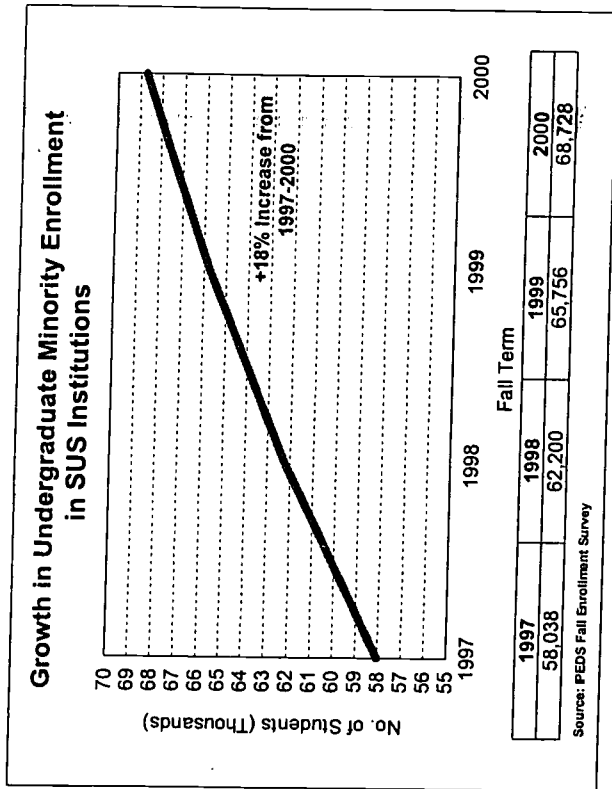
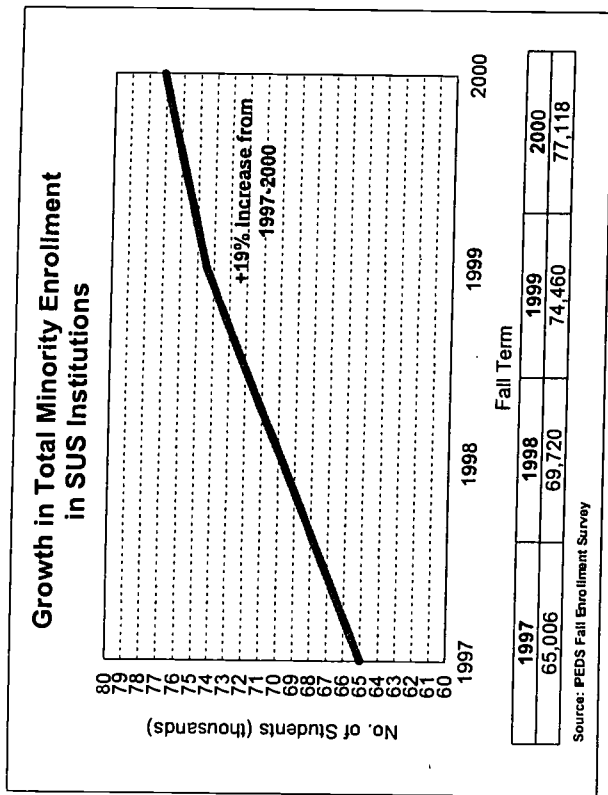
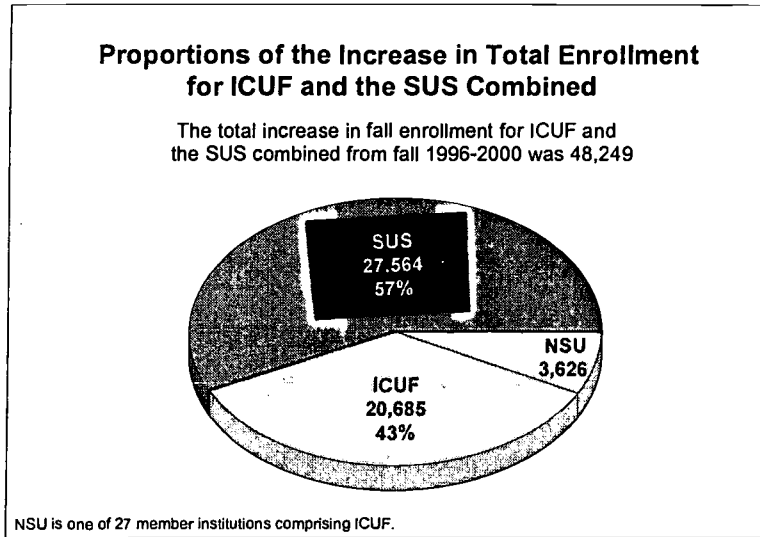


Figure 6
Growth in Minority Enrollment in the SUS



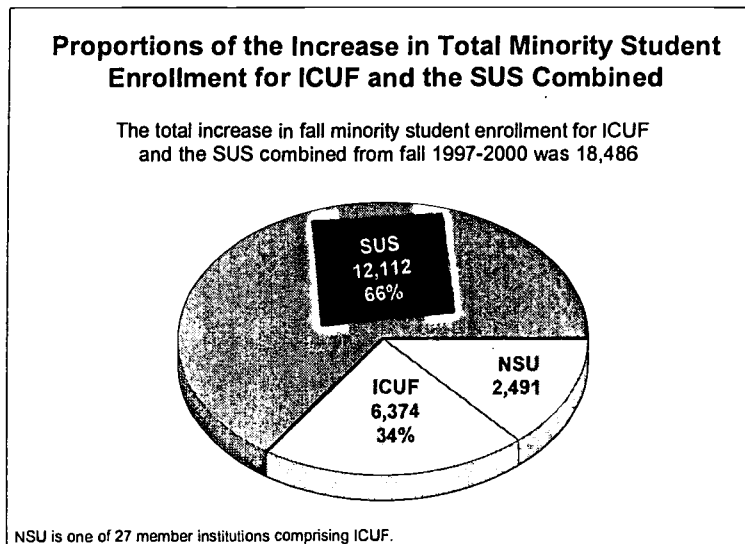
Figures 7-10 show the relative contributions of NSU, ICUF, and the SUS to net increases in enrollments for ICUF and the SUS combined. ICUF realized 43 percent of the increase in total enrollment for the two sectors (Figure 7). NSU is one of the 27 member institutions in ICUF. Yet, it contributed approximately 18 percent of the increase in enrollments in ICUF (versus 1/27 or 4 percent if each member contributed equally).

Figure 7



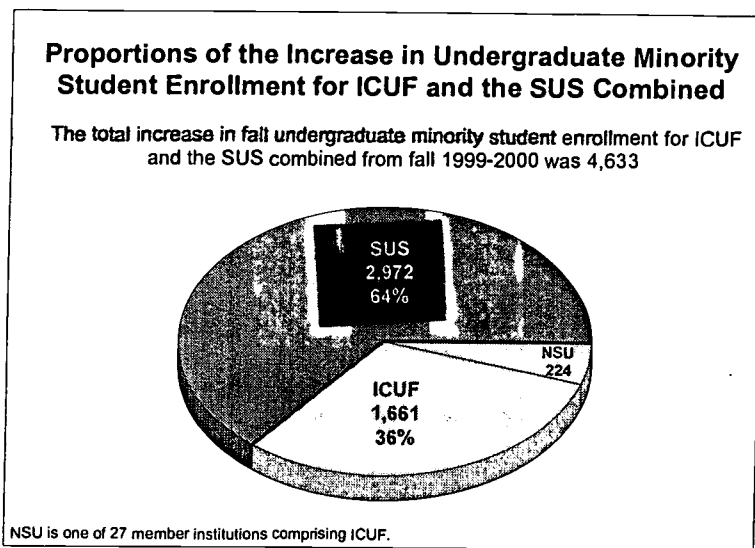
ICUF's market share of total minorities enrolled increased from 28 percent in fall 1997 to 29 percent in fall 2000. Its share of undergraduate minorities also increased one percent for the period. Data examining increases in the enrollments of students from racial/ethnic minorities is shown in Figure 8. ICUF was responsible for 34 percent of the increase in minority students for the two sectors combined. However, NSU enrollments accounted for 39 percent of the increase in minority student enrollments at all ICUF institutions combined, and approximately 14 percent of the increase in minority enrollment at ICUF and the SUS combined. Thus, NSU made a disproportionately high contribution to the overall growth in minority enrollments from fall 1997 to fall 2000.

Figure 8



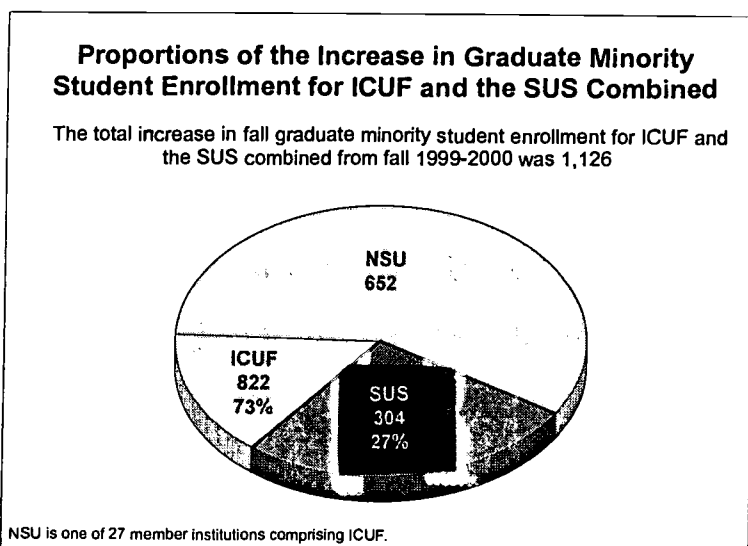
NSU's contribution to the increase in minority student enrollment was smallest at the undergraduate level (Figure 9).

Figure 9



ICUF and NSU's contribution to increased enrollments of students from minorities was most pronounced at the graduate level (Figure 10). Seventy-three percent of the increase in minority enrollments in graduate programs at ICUF and the SUS combined was attributable to ICUF. Almost 80 percent of the increase in ICUF was contributed by NSU. In fact, NSU's increase in enrollment of graduate minority students represented 58 percent of the total increase for ICUF and the SUS combined.

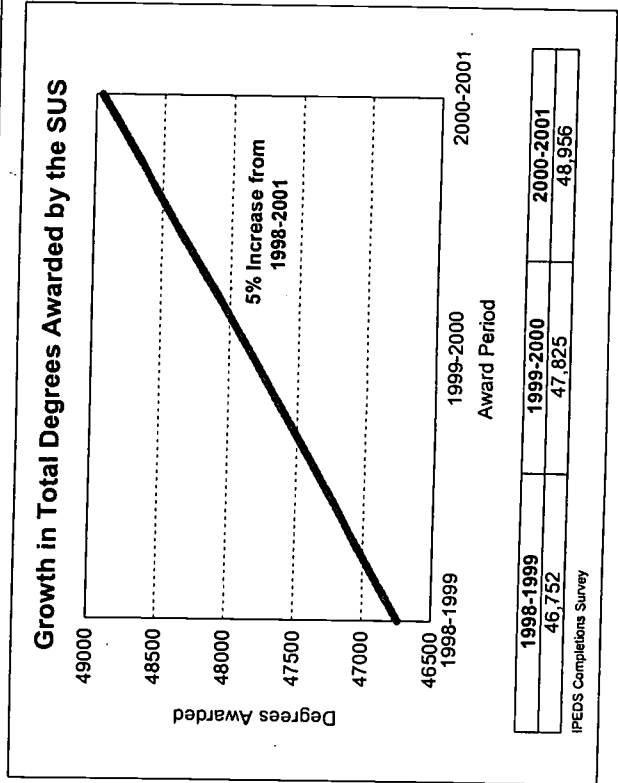
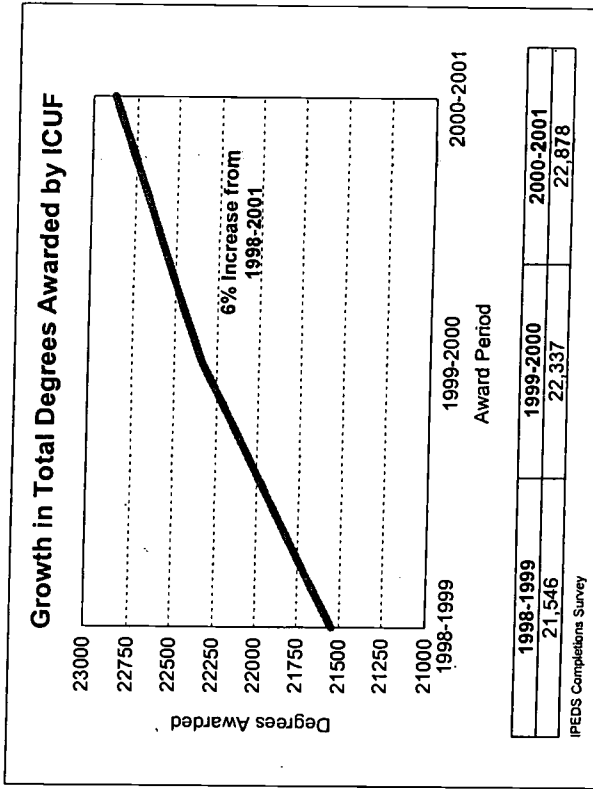
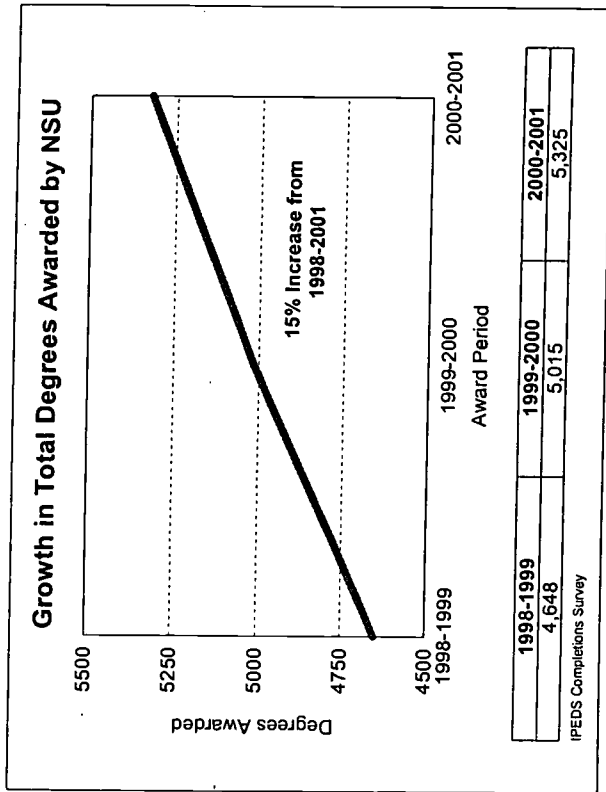
Figure 10



Trends in Degrees Awarded

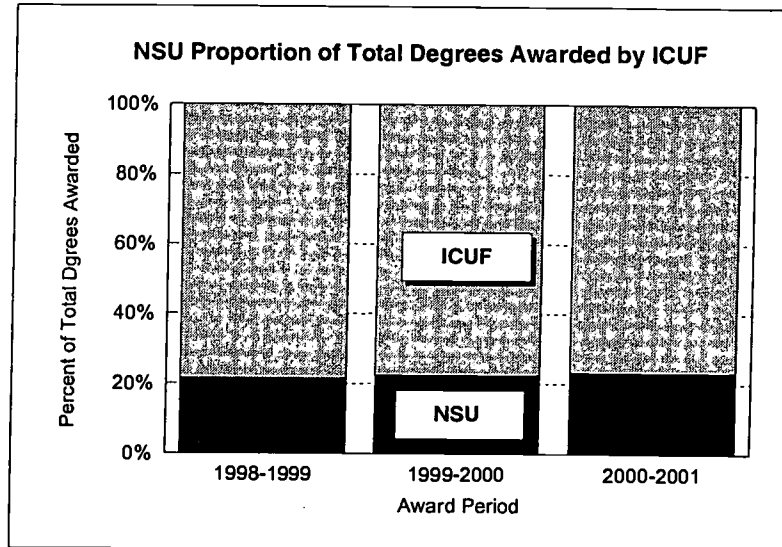
As shown in Figure 11, ICUF and the SUS had similar increases in the total degrees awarded at all degree levels between 1998 and 2001. In contrast, NSU's 15 percent increase in degrees awarded was three times that of ICUF and the SUS.

Figure 11
Growth in Total Degrees Awarded



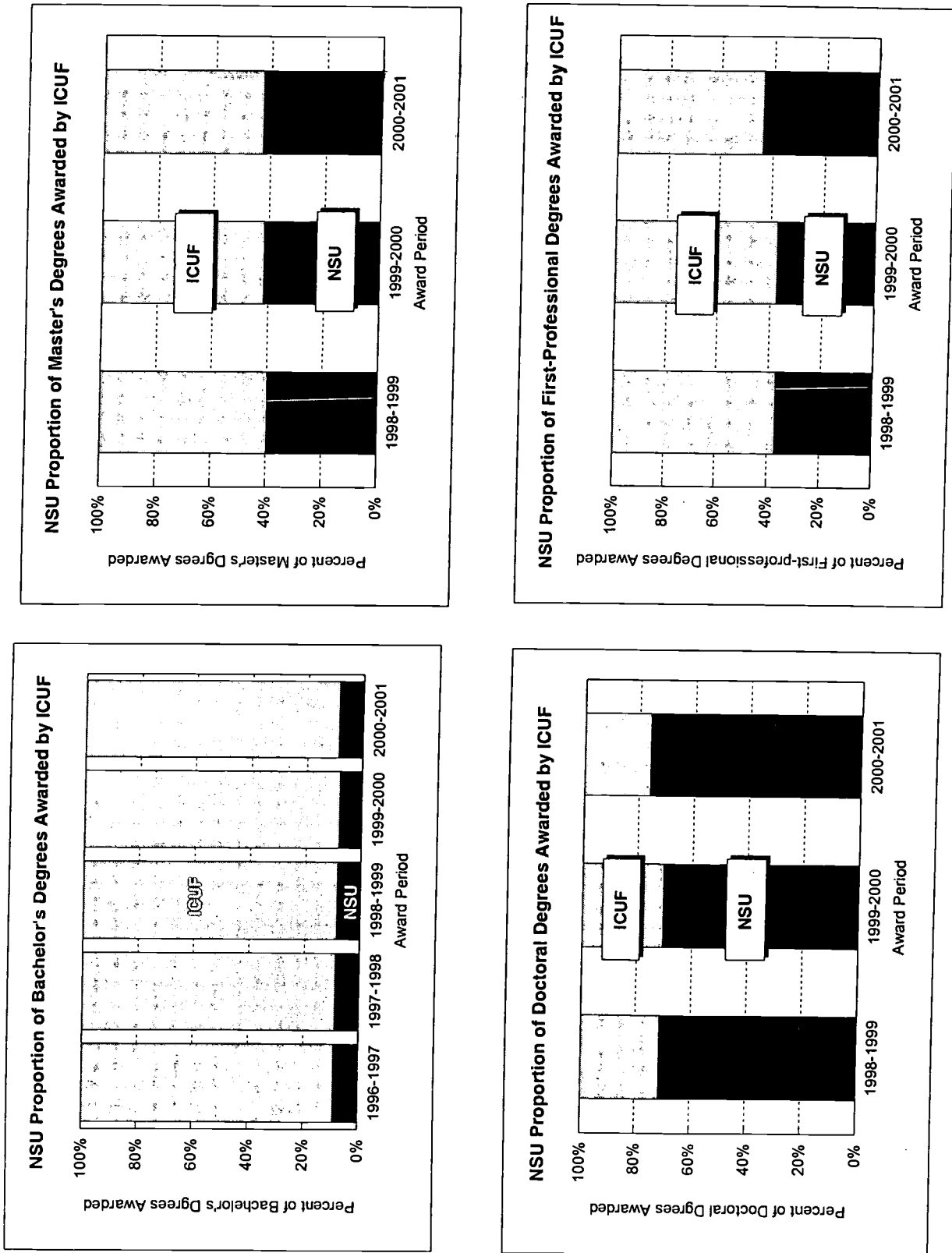
NSU's proportion of the total degrees awarded by ICUF increased slightly over the last three years (Figure 12). In 2000-2001, NSU awarded 23 percent of all degrees awarded by ICUF institutions.

Figure 12
NSU's Proportion of Total Degrees Awarded by ICUF



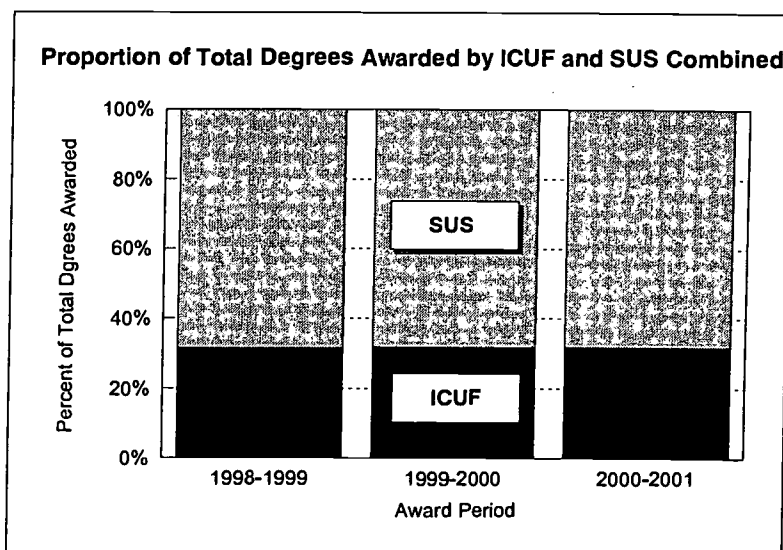
As shown in Figure 13 below, NSU's proportion of degrees awarded during the five year period at all four degree levels was nearly constant also. However, NSU's relative contribution varied by degree level. NSU awarded nine percent of the bachelor's, 43 percent of the master's, 76 percent of the doctorates, and 44 percent of the first-professional degrees awarded by ICUF as a whole in 2000-2001. Clearly, NSU is a major producer of students with graduate degrees.

Figure 13
NSU Proportion of Degrees Awarded by ICUF by Degree Level



The relative pattern of contributions of ICUF to the degrees awarded by ICUF and the SUS combined are similar to that for NSU's contribution to ICUF. For the last three years, ICUF has awarded approximately one-third of the total degrees awarded by ICUF and the SUS combined (see Figure 14).

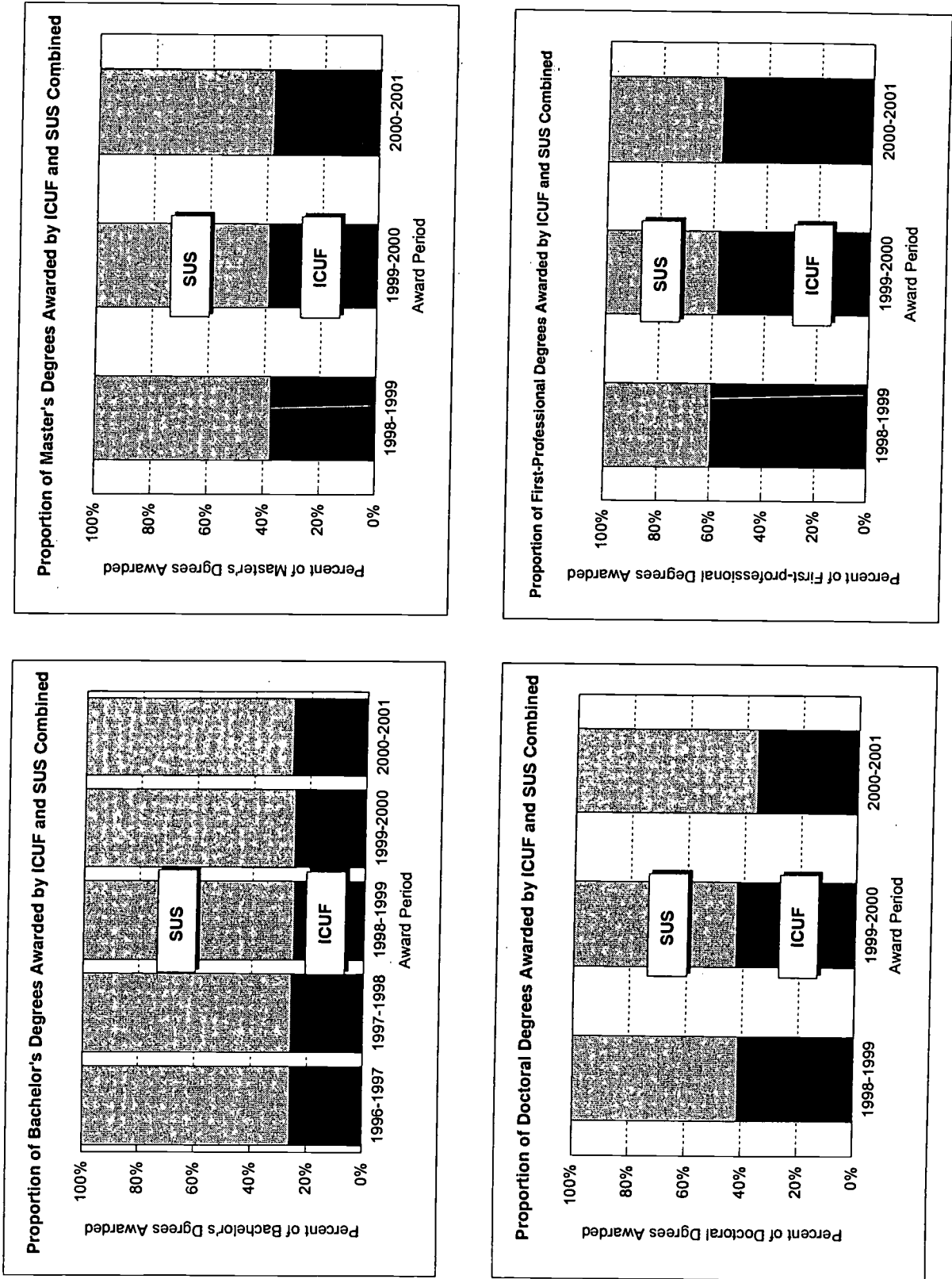
Figure 14
Proportion of Total Degrees Awarded by ICUF
Relative to ICUF and the SUS Combined



When similar data were examined by degree level, the relative contribution of ICUF has been fairly constant over the last three years with a small decline in ICUF's share of doctorates and first-professional degrees (Figure 15). Another few years of data will be needed to determine whether the apparent decline represents annual variation, or a downward trend for ICUF associated with an upward trend in the SUS.

In 2000-2001, ICUF awarded 26 percent of the bachelor's, 38 percent of the master's, 36 percent of the doctorates, and 57 percent of the first-professional degrees awarded by ICUF and the SUS combined (Figure 15). ICUF is a major producer of students with graduate degrees in Florida. In turn, NSU is by far the largest producer of students with graduate and first-professional degrees among all of the ICUF institutions (see Appendix C).

Figure 15
Awards by Degree Level from ICUF Relative to ICUF and the SUS Combined



Wh data were examined by race/ethnicity, the percent increase in degrees awarded to minorities by NSU was substantially larger than ICUF or the SUS, except for doctoral degrees (see Table 1). Differences were most pronounced for master's and first-professional degrees.

Table 1
Growth in Degrees Awarded to Students from Minorities
Total Degrees Awarded to Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities

*Award Period	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001
2000-2001	1,846	28%	7,083	13%	14,011	10%
1999-2000	1,608	58%	6,740		13,449	
1998-1999	1,442		6,259		12,766	
1997-1998	1,270				12,011	
1996-1997	1,167				11,140	26%

Bachelor's Degrees Awarded to Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities

*Award Period	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001
2000-2001	464	18%	3,954	12%	10,871	9%
1999-2000	372	16%	3,732		10,591	
1998-1999	393		3,541		9,999	
1997-1998	405		3,486		9,522	
1996-1997	399		3,391		9,003	21%

Master's Degrees Awarded to Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities

*Award Period	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001
2000-2001	965	27%	2,027	22%	2,594	14%
1999-2000	850	81%	1,854		2,377	
1998-1999	759		1,655		2,276	
1997-1998	581				2,043	
1996-1997	533				1,753	48%

*Awards made July 1 through June 30 of each year.

Table 1 Continued
Growth in Degrees Awarded to Students from Minorities

Similarly, except for doctorate and first-professional degrees, the percentage increase in degrees awarded between 1998-1999 and 2000-2001 to students from minorities at all other degree levels was higher in ICUF than the SUS.

Doctoral Degrees Awarded to Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities

*Award Period	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001
2000-2001	86	-17%	119	-17%	170	13%
1999-2000	106	-11%	162		140	
1998-1999	103		144		150	
1997-1998	105				156	
1996-1997	97				130	

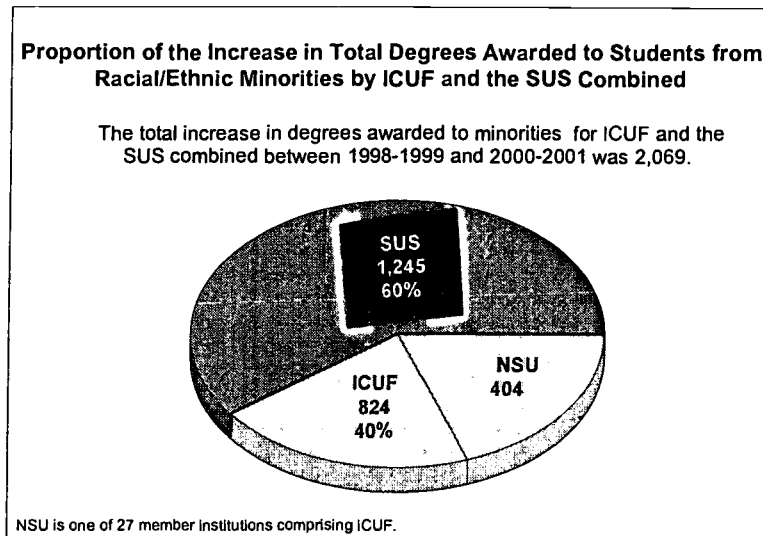
First-Professional Degrees Awarded to Students from Racial/Ethnic Minorities

*Award Period	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1998-2001
2000-2001	236	48%	538	11%	376	10%
1999-2000	209		519		341	
1998-1999	160	84%	483		341	
1997-1998	159				290	
1996-1997	128				254	

*Awards made July 1 through June 30 of each year.

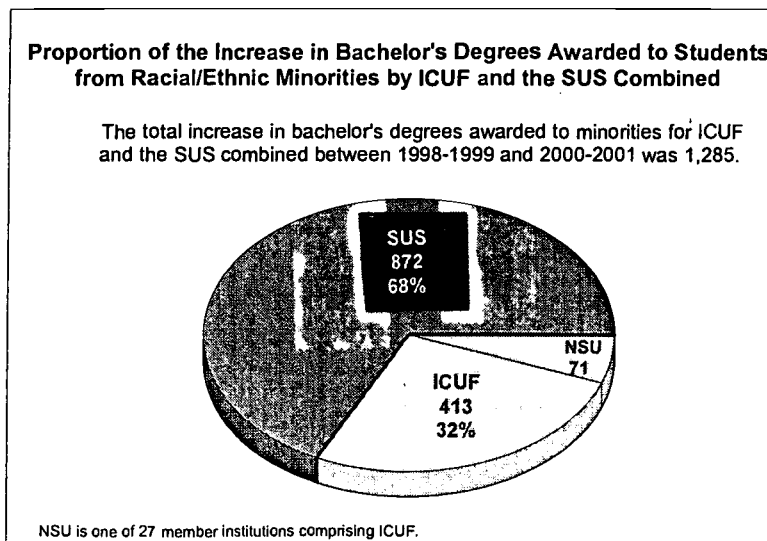
Figures 16-19 show the relative contributions of NSU, ICUF, and the SUS to the net increase in degrees awarded by ICUF and the SUS combined between 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. Forty percent of the net increase in total degrees awarded to students from racial/ethnic minorities was attributable to ICUF (Figure 16). Half of the increase in ICUF came from NSU.

Figure 16



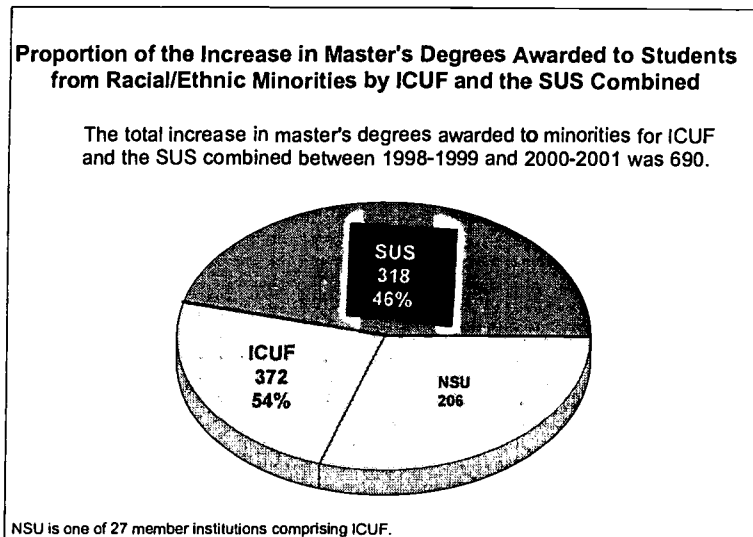
As shown in Figure 17, ICUF contributed approximately one-third of the increase in bachelor's degrees awarded to students from minorities. Bachelor's degrees from NSU represented 17 percent of the increase in ICUF.

Figure 17



Fifty-four percent of the increase in master's degrees awarded to minority students was attributable to ICUF (Figure 18). NSU contributed 30 percent of the net increase in master's awards to minorities by ICUF and the SUS combined.

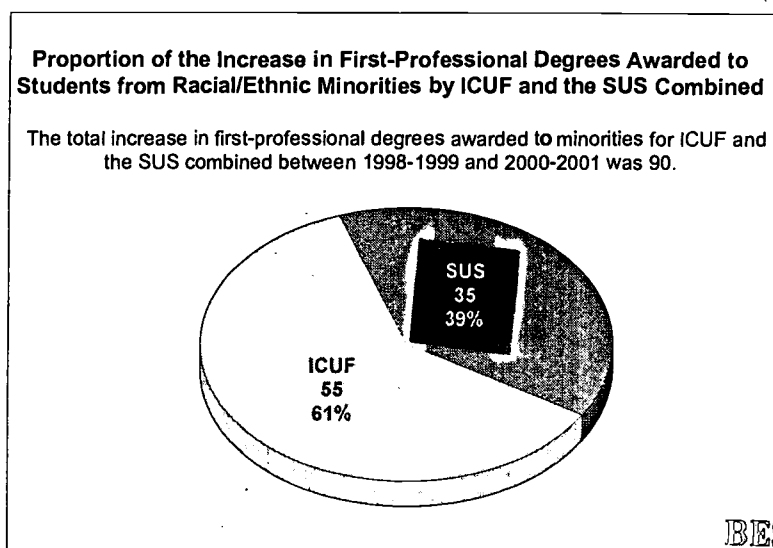
Figure 18



NSU and ICUF had a 17 percent decline in the number of doctoral degrees awarded to students from racial/ethnic minorities between 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. Awards by the SUS rose 13 percent during the same period (Table 1).

First-professional degrees awarded to minorities rose approximately 10 percent in ICUF and the SUS (Table 1). Awards by NSU rose 48 percent for the same period. In fact, the increase in the number of first-professional degrees awarded to minorities by NSU exceeded the net increase in ICUF as a whole. Overall, the number of first-professional awards to minorities increased by only 90 for ICUF and the SUS combined (Figure 19). Sixty-one percent of the net increase came from ICUF.

Figure 19



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Trends in Accountability Measures

As shown in Tables 2 and 3 below, mean undergraduate class size and class size distribution remained constant at NSU for the last six years as did undergraduate enrollments. They also remained remarkably constant for ICUF as a whole, despite a 22 percent growth in enrollment. Based on mean class size distribution for the last six years, 72 percent of undergraduate classes at NSU were less than 20 students, and 94 percent were less than 30 students. For ICUF as a whole, 59 percent were less than 20, and 86 percent were less than 30 students. Data on mean class size were not available for the SUS.

Table 2
Mean Undergraduate Class Size

Fall Term	Mean Class Size	
	NSU	ICUF
2001	17	19
2000	18	18
1999	17	19
1998	16	19
1997	17	19
1996	17	18

Table 3
Undergraduate Class Size Distribution

NSU							
Fall Term	Class Size Range						
	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	>99
2001	15%	53%	27%	5%	0%	0%	0%
2000	15%	52%	23%	8%	<1%	1%	0%
1999	18%	56%	22%	3%	<1%	1%	0%
1998	14%	60%	21%	4%	1%	1%	0%
1997	17%	58%	20%	4%	0%	0%	1%
1996	16%	58%	19%	6%	0%	1%	0%
Mean	16%	56%	22%	5%	<1%	1%	0%
ICUF							
Fall Term	Class Size Range						
	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	>99
2001	22%	35%	28%	10%	2%	2%	<1%
2000	23%	36%	26%	10%	2%	2%	<1%
1999	23%	36%	27%	10%	2%	2%	<1%
1998	23%	35%	26%	11%	3%	2%	0%
1997	23%	37%	27%	10%	2%	1%	<1%
1996	23%	37%	27%	9%	2%	1%	<1%
Mean	23%	36%	27%	10%	2%	2%	<1%

Approximately two-thirds of all undergraduate course sections were taught by full-time faculty in ICUF as a whole (Table 4). At NSU, the reverse was true; namely, approximately one-third of undergraduate classes were taught by full-time faculty. The data suggest a gradual increase the use of part-time faculty by ICUF institutions.

Table 4
Proportion of Undergraduate Classes Taught by Full-time Faculty

Fall Term	NSU		ICUF	
	Full-time	*Part-time	Full-time	*Part-time
1996	34	66	68	32
1997	30	70	65	35
1998	32	68	68	32
1999	37	63	66	34
2000	40	60	60	40
2001	33	67	62	38
Six-Year Mean	34	66	65	35

*Part-time includes visiting faculty, emeriti, and part-time/adjunct faculty.

The trend for the period fall 1996 through fall 2001 indicates an increase in the mean number of credits earned in excess of that needed for graduation from undergraduate programs at NSU (Table 5). However, the mean for ICUF as a whole remained fairly constant during the six year period.

Table 5
Undergraduate Credits Earned in Excess of Graduation Requirements

Fall Term	Mean Excess Credits	
	NSU	ICUF
2001	6	8
2000	10	8
1999	13	8
1998	2	6
1997	2	9
1996	1	6

The mean years for first-time in college full-time freshmen to graduate remained fairly constant at approximately 4.1 years for the six year period (Table 6).

Table 6
Mean Years for First-time in College Freshmen to Graduate

Fall Cohort	Mean Years to Graduate	
	NSU	ICUF
1995	3.8	4.2
1994	4.1	4.1
1993	3.9	4.1
1992	4.1	4.2
1991	4.1	4.2
1990	4.1	4.1

The ICUF aggregate six-year rate of graduation for first-time in college full-time freshmen remained approximately 49 percent for cohorts of students entering in fall 1991 through 1995 (Table 7). Rates of graduation at NSU ranged from 31 percent to 46 percent during the same period with a mean of 38 percent over five years. Comparable six-year graduation rates for the SUS as a whole had a mean of approximately 61 percent for the five year period.

Table 7
Six-Year Rates of Graduation
of First-time in College Full-time Freshmen

Cohort	NSU	ICUF	SUS
Fall 1991	32%	49%	61%
Fall 1992	31%	47%	62%
Fall 1993	46%	48%	61%
Fall 1994	37%	49%	60%
Fall 1995	45%	49%	60%

Discussion

In 2001, there was a major reorganization of the Florida Board of Education and associated boards and commissions. Important results included the abolition of the Board of Regents that oversaw the State University System of Florida, and establishment of the Division of Colleges and Universities within the Florida Board of Education².

The Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, previously under the purview of the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities, was placed within the Division of Colleges and Universities, along with the state universities and community colleges. This move reflects recognition of the important contributions the ICUF institutions make to higher education in Florida, and creates the potential for ICUF to be a participant in statewide planning for higher education in Florida. For example, the Florida Board of Education asked ICUF to provide five-year enrollment projections for the first time this year. The closer association between ICUF and SUS institutions in the new organizational structure of the Florida Board of Education makes comparisons of the two groups of institutions concerning access, productivity, and diversity more salient than ever.

An examination of the comparative contributions of NSU, ICUF, and the SUS to growth in enrollments and degrees awarded statewide over the last three to five years has resulted in some interesting findings. First, the percentage increase in enrollment of both NSU and ICUF over the last four years was twice that of the SUS (i.e., approximately 25 percent versus 13 percent). It should be noted that a smaller increase in enrollment will yield a larger percent increase than a larger increase against a larger base. Thus, although enrollment at the SUS only increased 13 percent, the number of students increased by almost 28,000. A 25 percent increase in ICUF resulted in an increase of nearly 21,000 students. The growth at ICUF institutions is remarkable in view of the fact that tuition at many Florida independent institutions is on the order of four times as much as that to attend a public university in Florida.

Possible factors impinging on this difference may include broader access (i.e. more liberal admission standards, and greater availability of online and distance education courses which appeal to working adults), and the availability of financial aid at independent institutions. The possible effect of broader access on growth in enrollment is supported by the fact that enrollments of students from racial/ethnic minorities increased by 25 percent between 1997-2000 in ICUF, but only 19 percent in the SUS. However, this does not appear to fully explain the difference in growth in enrollments in the private versus the public sector.

²This organization was modified by a voters referendum on November 4, 2002.

Although data were not available from the sources used in this study, access to higher education by working adult students is an important contemporary issue. The SUS serves primarily students of traditional age; that is, undergraduates entering college directly from high school, and graduate students entering soon after receiving their bachelor's degree. In fall 2000, 86 percent of all students enrolled in the SUS across all degree levels ranged in age from 17-33 years old (Florida Board of Education, 2001). Historically, the SUS has had strict residency requirements, and typical Monday through Friday work-week class scheduling.

Many of the ICUF institutions also serve primarily traditional-aged students, but some of the larger institutions, such as NSU, St. Leo University, Barry University, and others serve large numbers of adult students through online courses, distance education, and weekend and evening scheduling. The working adult population is a growing segment of higher education that has found private education often more welcoming than public education.

Another interesting finding was that NSU's enrollment in graduate and first-professional programs each represented approximately half of the corresponding enrollment for all ICUF institutions combined. This is consistent with the fact that NSU is the largest of the ICUF institutions, and its graduate and professional programs represent approximately 80 percent of the university's total enrollment.

None of the other ICUF institutions with graduate and professional programs come close to this ratio. For example, the proportion of total enrollment represented by graduate and professional students at the Florida Institute of Technology was 50 percent and that at St. Thomas University was 45 percent (Atherton, 2002).

NSU's graduate enrollment was equivalent to 31 percent of that at the SUS in fall 2000 (Florida Board of Education, 2001). Graduate students represented 23 percent of the total enrollment at ICUF institutions and 16 percent of the enrollment at SUS institutions. In fact, NSU has the largest graduate program among all of the ICUF and SUS institutions. Appendix B ranks ICUF and SUS institutions by fall 2000 enrollment. Only the University of Florida has a graduate program that is the same order of magnitude as NSU.

NSU and the ICUF institutions have an impressive record of access to higher education, and degrees awarded to students from racial/ethnic minorities (Atherton, 2002). The proportion of enrolled students that are from minorities in ICUF exceeded that in the SUS substantially at all degree levels. The same is true for degrees awarded at all levels to students from minorities.

This is consistent with the fact that the increase in minority enrollments at NSU and ICUF exceeded that of the SUS. Growth in total minority enrollments between fall 1997 and fall 2000 was 53 percent at NSU, 25 percent at ICUF, and 19 percent at SUS institutions (Figure 4). This corresponds to increases of approximately 2,500 minority students at NSU, 6,400 students in ICUF, and 12,000 in the SUS at all degree levels. Differences were smaller at the undergraduate level, but percent increases at NSU and ICUF were still greater than at the SUS.

It should be noted that the data presented in this report do not allow for a direct assessment of the effect of the Florida Talented 20 Program that replaced affirmative action in 1999. Although fall 2000 was the first year for admission of high school graduates under the program, the relevant datum for measuring change is entry of new freshmen students. Racial/ethnic data on freshmen entering SUS institutions was not reported in SUS Fact Books.

A picture similar to that above for enrollments emerged for degrees awarded. The increase in total degrees awarded between 1998-2001 by NSU was three times that for ICUF and the SUS. The number of doctoral degrees awarded by NSU in 2000-2001 was equivalent to 76 percent of those awarded by ICUF, and 42 percent of those awarded by the SUS.

Appendix C shows ICUF and SUS institutions ranked by degrees awarded in 2000-2001. NSU ranks first in the number of master's, and second in the number of doctoral and first-professional degrees awarded by ICUF and SUS institutions, but only thirteenth in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded. In terms of enrollment and degrees awarded, NSU is a major force in graduate and first-professional education in Florida.

A notable difference between the ICUF institutions and the SUS is in class size. Unfortunately, a common attribute of public education at all levels is large class size. There is much debate concerning whether class size is an important factor in student success. Intuitively, it would seem that smaller classes would increase opportunities for students to receive more personal attention from instructors. Smaller classes likely enhance social interactions and students' sense of belonging to the group. The extent to which these psycho-social factors affect student achievement is unclear. In any case, the ICUF institutions consider small classes to be a strength that is consonant with a mission of broader access to higher education, because students who need a lot of academic support are most likely to benefit from small classes.

The ICUF Accountability Report has included data on class size since its inception. Data in this report demonstrate that mean undergraduate class size and the

distribution of class sizes has remained very constant at NSU (mean class size approximately 17) and for ICUF (mean class size approximately 19) as a whole for the last six years. The total enrollment of undergraduates at NSU remained approximately 4,000 during the period. However, mean class size for ICUF remained constant despite a 22 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment between fall 1997 and fall 2001. Consistent with mean class size is no increase in the proportion of classes with 30 or more students during the period of growth.

It is well known from testimonials of students attending public universities that class sizes in the SUS can range into the hundreds. Neither the SUS Fact Book nor periodic SUS accountability reports provide data on class size. However, limited data on class size distribution were provided in US News and World Report's America's Best Colleges 2003 edition. Appendix D ranks ICUF and SUS institutions by the percent of undergraduate classes that were either greater than or equal to 50, or less than 20. The data show that 9-22 percent of the classes in the SUS contained 50 or more students, while 0-9 percent of classes at ICUF institutions were greater than or equal to 50 students with the exception of Southeastern College.

With regard to small classes, 21-89 percent of classes at ICUF institutions had fewer than 20 students, versus 24-40 percent for SUS institutions. Therefore, there are substantial differences in the class size distribution at ICUF and SUS institutions.

As enrollment increases, either class size must increase, or more sections must be offered. More sections require more faculty to teach them. In order to control costs and minimize tuition increases, many institutions are turning to increased use of part-time faculty. Many research institutions, such as those in the SUS and a few in ICUF, use graduate teaching assistants in lieu of part-time faculty to supplement the full-time teaching faculty. NSU does not utilize graduate students for teaching. The data in Tables 4 and 8 exclude teaching/research assistants.

The use of part-time faculty in postsecondary education institutions has been increasing for many years. As indicated in Table 8, the proportion of total faculty employed part-time is highest in public two-year institutions, and more part-time faculty are employed in private four-year (independent) institutions than in public four-year institutions (National Center for Education Statistics, 2001).

Employment of part-time faculty at NSU was high compared to both four-year public and private institutions (Table 8). In fall 1999, part-time faculty university-wide represented 67 percent of the total faculty employed at NSU. In the Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies, 79 percent of the total faculty teaching classes

in fall 1999 were part-time, while half of all course sections taught *university-wide* were taught by part-time faculty (MacFarland, 2000).

Data on the relative number of full-time and part-time faculty are not a part of the ICUF Accountability Report data collection. Therefore, direct comparisons to national data on employment of part-time faculty by ICUF institutions could not be made here. Data collected by ICUF relates to *usage* of part-time faculty rather than numbers employed. Although greater usage may imply larger numbers of part-time faculty employed, the relationship between the two has not been established for the data included in this report.

Usage of part-time faculty for teaching undergraduate classes at NSU was high compared to ICUF (Table 8). From fall 1997 to fall 2001, NSU's undergraduate enrollment fluctuated slightly around a five-year mean of 4,100 students. The proportion of undergraduate course sections taught by part-time faculty at NSU fluctuated between 60 and 70 percent during the past six years. In fall 2001, NSU had the second largest percentage of undergraduate sections being taught by part-time faculty among the 27 ICUF institutions.

Table 8
Fall 1999 Proportion of Total Faculty That Were Part-Time

Percent of Total Faculty Employed Part-Time	
Sector	Percent Part-Time Faculty
Four-Year Private	41
Four-Year Public	27
Two-Year Private	47
Two-Year Public	65
All Public and Private	42

Source: Digest of Education Statistics, 2001.

Percent of Undergraduate Course Sections Taught by Part-Time Faculty	
Entity	Percent
NSU	63
Florida Four-Year Private (ICUF)	34
Florida Four-Year Public (SUS)	Not available

Source: ICUF Accountability Report, 1999

During the same six-year period, undergraduate enrollment in ICUF institutions as a group increased by 22 percent. Data suggest an upward trend in the use of part-time faculty in ICUF institutions. In fall 1996, the aggregate mean proportion of undergraduate course sections taught by part-time faculty for ICUF was 32 percent, while in fall 2001 it had increased to 38 percent.

For many years, substantial numbers of undergraduate students at SUS institutions were graduating with large numbers of credits in excess of the minimum number needed to graduate. This increased students' length of stay in the system exacerbating the problem of crowded classrooms, and increasing the cost to state tax payers. The SUS instituted a policy that attempts to limit excess credits to less than 115 percent of the total credits required for graduation. For the typical 120 credit program, this translates to a maximum of 138 credits, or 18 credits in excess to that needed for graduation. An extra 18 credits is equivalent to one and a half additional semesters of full-time attendance. At the 2000-2001 in-state tuition of \$99 per credit hour (data for Florida Atlantic University; tuition varies slightly by institution), the additional cost *to the student* is approximately \$1,800.

The 2001 SUS Accountability Report indicates that 31 percent of undergraduates (or more than 3,300 students) that graduated in 2000-2001 had more than 115 percent of the total credits required for graduation. No data were reported concerning students with more than 120 credits, but less than 115 percent of that required for graduation. The mean number of excess credits was not reported either.

Between fall 1996 and fall 2001, the mean excess credits for ICUF as a whole was only 8 credits, well within the SUS 115 percent limit. Excess credits at NSU increased slightly during the period from one to a maximum of 13 credits, and then declined to six credits in 2001. An extra six to eight credits is equivalent to an additional semester at approximately half-time attendance. Using NSU as an example, an additional eight credits would cost the student \$3,552 (\$444 per credit hour for academic year 2001-2002). This is substantially more than the cost to students at SUS institutions and could provide some deterrence to students taking extra courses at independent institutions such as NSU.

However, the additional cost is small on the scale of the total cost of the bachelor's degree, and may not be an important factor underlying the low number of excess credits accrued by undergraduates at ICUF institutions. Other possible factors may include better advising and institutional tracking of students' progress toward the degree, and/or a larger population of nontraditional adult students who may take a more active part in managing their own progress toward degree attainment than younger less mature students without work or family obligations.

Another datum tracked by ICUF and SUS institutions is six-year rates of graduation of first-time in college full-time freshmen. Interest in this particular

group of students was stimulated by the Student Right-to-Know Act (Rules and Regulations, Part 668, Student Assistance General Provisions, 1995) that requires federal reporting and public disclosure of graduation rates for this student group. The SUS and ICF have maintained graduation rates of approximately 61 percent and 49 percent, respectively, for first-time in college full-time freshmen entering college between fall 1991 and fall 1995. Fluctuations in rates for individual institutions tend to average out in the aggregate pool.

However, NSU has had a gradual improvement in graduation rates for students entering between fall 1991 and fall 1995 from 31 percent to 45 percent. The latter approximates the estimated national average (Astin et al, 1996). Freshmen entering NSU in fall 1995 had an average high school GPA of 3.2, and an average combined SAT score of 1026. Six years later, the average high school GPA for first-time in college freshmen admitted in fall 2001 was 3.4, and the average SAT score was 1048. Thus, the undergraduate College of Professional and Liberal Studies has seen a small increase in the preparedness of freshmen enrolled. Hopefully, this will contribute to further gains in rates of graduation in the future.

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Appendix A Enrollment Trends

Total Enrollment

Fall Term	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Four Year Change 1996-2000	Number of Degrees	Four Year Change 1996-2000	Number of Degrees	Four Year Change 1996-2000
2001	19,067	27%	101,041	28%	N/avail	13%
2000	18,587		95,797		235,597	
1999	17,810	24%	91,479		227,609	
1998	16,050		87,038		218,770	
1997	15,782		84,131		213,066	
1996	14,961		75,112		208,033	

Undergraduate

Fall Term	NSU		ICUF		SUS	
	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1997-2000	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1997-2000	Number of Degrees	Three Year Change 1997-2000
2001	4,019	2%	70,830	14%	N/avail	14%
2000	4,110		66,427		195,906	
1999	4,218		63,411		189,063	
1998	4,153		60,870		182,094	
1997	4,040		58,018		172,032	

Graduate and Professional

Fall Term	NSU		ICUF	
	Number of Degrees	Four Year Change 1997-2001	Number of Degrees	Four Year Change 1997-2001
2001	15,048	28%	30,211	16%
2000	14,477		29,370	
1999	13,592		28,068	
1998	11,897		26,168	
1997	11,742		26,113	

A-1

Appendix B
Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Enrollment

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Fall 2000 Undergraduate Enrollment
 (ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Rank	Institution	Enrollment
1	University of Florida	33,788
2	University of Central Florida	29,152
3	University of South Florida	28,910
4	Florida State University	27,500
5	Florida International University	26,719
6	Florida Atlantic University	18,347
7	University of North Florida	10,907
8	Florida A and M University	10,566
9	University of Miami	8,955
10	Saint Leo University	8,462
11	University of West Florida	6,925
12	Barry University	5,777
13	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	4,525
14	Nova Southeastern University	4,110
15	Florida Gulf Coast University	3,092
16	University of Tampa	2,961
17	Rollins College	2,837
18	Bethune-Cookman College	2,745
19	Florida Southern College	2,334
20	Stetson University	2,155
21	Florida Institute of Technology	2,034
22	Florida Memorial College	1,985
23	Palm Beach Atlantic College	1,964
24	Flagler College	1,830
25	Lynn University	1,817
26	Jacksonville University	1,814
27	Eckerd College	1,572
28	Southeastern College	1,232
29	Saint Thomas University	1,221
30	Warner Southern College	1,001
31	Edward Waters College	987
32	International College	961
33	Ringling School of Art & Design	958
34	Clearwater Christian College	654
35	Florida Hospital College of the Health Sciences	580
36	Florida College	537
37	Webber International University	419

Appendix B continued
Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Enrollment

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Fall 2000 Graduate Enrollment
 (ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Rank	Institution	Enrollment
1	Nova Southeastern University	11,450
2	University of Florida	10,692
3	Florida State University	6,087
4	University of South Florida	5,014
5	University of Central Florida	4,301
6	Florida International University	4,006
7	University of Miami	3,246
8	Florida Atlantic University	2,597
9	Barry University	2,343
10	Florida Institute of Technology	2,215
11	University of North Florida	1,510
12	University of West florida	1,293
13	Florida A and M University	1,157
14	Rollins College	716
15	Saint Thomas University	602
16	University of Tampa	491
17	Florida Gulf Coast University	404
18	Stetson University	336
19	Palm Beach Atlantic College	331
20	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	278
21	Saint Leo University	258
22	Jacksonville University	235
23	Lynn University	217
24	International College	65
25	Florida Southern College	48
26	Webber International University	40

Appendix C

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Degrees Awarded in 2000-2001 (ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Rank	Institution	Bachelor's
1	University of Florida	7,663
2	University of Central Florida	5,766
3	Florida State University	5,470
4	University of South Florida	4,639
5	Florida International University	4,000
6	Florida Atlantic University	3,193
7	University of North Florida	1,803
8	Saint Leo University	1,765
9	University of Miami	1,750
10	Florida A and M University	1,404
11	Barry University	1,266
12	University of West Florida	1,179
13	Nova Southeastern University	1,088
14	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	737
15	Rollins College	570
16	University of Tampa	520
17	Florida Southern College	507
18	Stetson University	436
19	Florida Gulf Coast University	434
20	Florida Institute of Technology	391
21	Jacksonville University	378
22	Flagler College	361
23	Warner Southern College	339
24	Palm Beach Atlantic College	338
25	Eckerd College	314
26	Lynn University	308
27	Saint Thomas University	233
28	Southeastern College	215
29	International College	208
30	Bethune-Cookman College	206
31	Florida Memorial College	200
32	Ringling School of Art & Design	198
33	Edward Waters College	130
34	Clearwater Christian College	116
35	Webber International University	97
36	Florida Hospital College of the Health Sciences	17
37	Florida College	8

Appendix C continued

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Degrees Awarded in 2000-2001
(ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Rank	Institution	Master's
1	Nova Southeastern University	2,801
2	University of Florida	2,470
3	University of South Florida	1,709
4	Florida State University	1,514
5	Florida International University	1,478
6	University of Central Florida	1,295
7	University of Miami	1,273
8	Florida Atlantic University	813
9	Barry University	679
10	Florida Institute of Technology	595
11	University of North Florida	562
12	University of West Florida	395
13	Florida A and M University	344
14	Rollins College	268
15	Florida Gulf Coast University	186
16	Saint Thomas University	179
17	University of Tampa	143
18	Palm Beach Atlantic College	125
19	Stetson University	119
20	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	97
21	Saint Leo University	87
22	Lynn University	85
23	Jacksonville University	71
24	Webber International University	16
25	Florida Southern College	12
26	International College	5

Appendix C continued

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Degrees Awarded in 2000-2001
(ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Rank	Institution	Doctorate
1	University of Florida	574
2	Nova Southeastern University	519
3	Florida State University	252
4	University of South Florida	158
5	University of Miami	109
6	University of Central Florida	89
7	Florida International University	69
8	Florida Atlantic University	35
9	Florida Institute of Technology	35
10	University of West Florida	21
11	Florida A and M University	16
12	Barry University	10
13	Lynn University	9
14	University of North Florida	7

Rank	Institution	First-Professional
1	University of Florida	838
2	Nova Southeastern University	730
3	University of Miami	451
4	Stetson University	257
5	Florida State University	222
6	Saint Thomas University	114
7	Barry University	109
8	Florida A and M University	95
9	University of South Florida	90

Appendix D

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Fall 2001 Undergraduate Class Size Distribution (ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Institution	Percent of Classes Greater Than or Equal to 50
University of Florida	22%
Florida Atlantic University	20%
Florida International University	20%
University of Central Florida	20%
Florida State University	15%
Southeastern College	15%
Florida A and M University	13%
University of South Florida	12%
University of North Florida	11%
University of West Florida	9%
Clearwater Christian College	8%
Florida Institute of Technology	7%
Florida College	6%
Florida Hospital College of the Health Sciences	6%
University of Miami	6%
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	3%
Palm Beach Atlantic College	2%
Barry University	1%
Bethune-Cookman College	1%
Edward Waters College	1%
Flagler College	1%
Florida Gulf Coast University	1%
Florida Memorial College	1%
Florida Southern College	1%
Jacksonville University	1%
Lynn University	1%
Ringling School of Art & Design	1%
University of Tampa	1%
Eckerd College	0%
International College	0%
Nova Southeastern University	0%
Rollins College	0%
Saint Leo University	0%
Saint Thomas University	0%
Stetson University	0%
Warner Southern College	0%
Webber International University	0%

Sources: Data for SUS institutions came from America's Best Colleges, 2003 edition. Other data were from the ICUF Accountability Report, 2001.

Appendix D continued

Ranking of ICUF and SUS Institutions by Fall 2001 Undergraduate Class Size Distribution
 (ICUF institutions are in bold letters)

Institution	Percent of Classes Less Than 20
International College	89%
Warner Southern College	73%
Barry University	70%
Nova Southeastern University	68%
Florida Memorial College	67%
Florida Southern College	67%
Jacksonville University	67%
Clearwater Christian College	64%
Rollins College	64%
Saint Leo University	62%
Stetson University	62%
Edward Waters College	55%
Florida Gulf Coast University	55%
Ringling School of Art & Design	54%
Bethune-Cookman College	53%
University of Tampa	53%
Palm Beach Atlantic College	51%
Saint Thomas University	50%
Webber International University	50%
Flagler College	49%
Lynn University	49%
University of Miami	49%
Eckerd College	46%
Southeastern College	43%
Florida Atlantic University	40%
Florida College	37%
Florida A and M University	36%
University of West Florida	34%
Florida State University	33%
University of Central Florida	33%
University of Florida	33%
Florida International University	30%
University of South Florida	29%
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	28%
Florida Institute of Technology	25%
University of North Florida	24%
Florida Hospital College of the Health Sciences	21%



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