

Black Male Students at Predominantly White Institutions

EDUC-C565 - Intro to College & University Administration

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Student Population/Overview

- ❖ Black Cisgender men attending Predominantly White Institutions
- ❖ Black men remain one of the most underrepresented groups in higher education (Kim & Hargrove, 2013), when compared to the general college-age population (Hall, 2017; Palmer, Wood, Dancy & Strayhorn, 2014)
- ❖ Black men accounted for 31.3% of 18-24-year olds enrolled in degree-granting postsecondary institutions in 2016 (U.S. Department of Education, 2017)

Relevant terms and definitions

- ❖ Black/ African American: A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)
- ❖ First Generation: First-generation college student as a person who has neither parent having received a bachelor's degree (NCES, 2017)
- ❖ Student-Athlete: A student who has been solicited by a member of the athletic staff or other interested party associated with athletics and who actively participates on one or more intercollegiate team under the jurisdiction of the athletics department (NCAA bylaw 12.02.13)
- ❖ School to Prison Pipeline: When schools criminalize minor infractions that result in student exposure to the criminal justice system. A disproportionate number of these children are people of color (Evans, 2022)
- ❖ Engagement: Parties who enter into an agreement about the educational experience (Wolf-Wendel et. al, 2009)
- ❖ Retention: the process of keeping students enrolled in higher education institutions year after year (Noel-Levitz Retention Codifications, 2008)
- ❖ Campus Climate: the current perceptions and attitudes of faculty, staff, and students regarding issues of diversity on a campus (Rankin & Reasons, 2005)

Historical Background, Statistics, Social issues, Concerns/Challenges

- ❖ One out of every three Black males is incarcerated during their lifetime (Amurao, 2013)
- ❖ Challenges they found that were facing Black males were: lack of African American male teachers, low expectations from teachers, lack of mentorship and positive images of Black males in society, and family and community support (Scott et al., 2013)
- ❖ School to Prison Pipeline, the hidden curriculum emphasizes discipline for students of color, which opens the door to teacher subjectivity and bias, based on young people's roles in society (Kayama et al., 2015)
- ❖ 20% of African-American boys received out of school suspension during the 2013-2014 school year. (U.S. Department of Education, 2014, p. 3)

- ❖ As we are in the post Brown era there are still racial and gender inequities in schools where there is a larger concentration of African Americans students such as Southern states and urban centers (Harper, 2008)
- ❖ Black males are less likely to seek professional help than their white counterparts (Helling & Chandler, 2021)

Collegiate Experience

- ❖ Black students face a hidden mental health crisis, and that these students draw upon grit and tenacity to persevere in school; however, they also are less likely than their peers to seek institutionalized support (McGee & Stovall, 2015)
- ❖ Black undergraduate male students are faced with microaggressions, discrimination, alienation, stereotype, and cultural issues when they enroll in college (Harper, 2012; Strayhorn, 2008)
- ❖ Through internalizing homophobic and heterosexist experiences of discrimination “the spoiled identity of the gay Black male is silenced, and the group becomes slaves to a masculinist—in the logic of Western racist, sexist, patriarchal discourse—organization of social life” (Lemelle & Battle, 2004, p. 48)
- ❖ False and negative labels attached to Black men made it more difficult for them to connect with a faculty or staff for support reasons. False or negative perceptions, lack of “fitting in”, and other barriers may have a negative impact on Black students’ scholastic and co-curricular engagement within the university (Hall, 2017)
- ❖ Black males navigate the college-going process just as their peers do, but many of them are first-generation and therefore have the added pressure of being the first to attend college from their family (Hilton & Bonner, 2017)
- ❖ When accepting to attend a Predominantly White Institution (PWI) Black male students expose themselves to hostility and lack of support (McElderry, 2022)

Diversity within the population

- ❖ Black males were just 2.8% of full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students across the 76 sports programs in the six major NCAA Division I athletic conferences between 2007 and 2010 but made up 57.1% of football teams and 64.3% of basketball teams (Harper et al., 2013)
- ❖ Gay Black males feel isolated by the community at large within colleges and universities (Strayhorn and Tillman-Kelly, 2013)
- ❖ When focusing on Black males, it is worth noting that many are also first-generation students, and this adds to the lower college enrollment rate in comparison to those who are not first-generation (Cataldi, Bennett, Chen, 2018)

Implications on Higher Education

- ❖ Black male college completion rates are lowest among both sexes and all racial/ethnic groups in U.S. higher education (Harper, 2006a; Strayhorn, 2010)

- ❖ Programs and curricula surrounding counseling services will work to ensure success for Black males' holistic career in college (Goodwill, et al., 2022)
- ❖ Many administrators and professors lack the cultural competence to work effectively with the gay Black male population (Fischer, 2007)

Strategies for working/advising black male students

- ❖ Develop counseling and psychological services targeted toward Black male students at a discounted price or free (Patterson, 2020)
- ❖ Black faculty going above and beyond their obligations, they were holding Black students to a higher academic standard. Faculty held those students accountable by monitoring their academic progress and pushed them beyond their limitations in their academic work (Guiffrida & Douthit, 2010)
- ❖ Academic success of Black men is enhanced when course content is directly related to their interests and concerns (Bush and Bush, 2010; Robertson, 2012; Thompson and Louque, 2005)
- ❖ Many institutions have initiatives that focus on pairing Black males with other Black students on campus or with faculty members of color, to form a mentoring relationship (Clark & Brooms, 2018; Palmer et.al, 2014)
- ❖ Develop more creative ways for recruitment and admission strategies that are targeted for non-athletic Black males (Theune, et al. 2020)

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