



A history of integration in higher education

■ 1823

The first African-American to receive a US college degree, Alexander Twilight, graduates from Middlebury College in Vermont.

Associate Justice ►
JOHN HARLAN was the lone dissenter in the 'separate but equal' case.



COLLECTION OF THE US SUPREME COURT

■ 1896

Plessy v. Ferguson

Black shoemaker Homer Plessy sues when he is barred from a 'whites only' railroad car. The US Supreme Court rules that it is legal to maintain 'separate but equal' public facilities.



LINDA BROWN SMITH at the Topeka, Kan., school where she broke the color barrier as a child.

■ 1954

Brown v. Board of Education

Linda Brown's family sues to allow the third-grader to attend a nearby white elementary school. The high court overturns Plessy v. Ferguson and orders public schools to integrate.

JAMES MEREDITH, escorted by federal marshals, enters the all-white University of Mississippi, 1962.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS



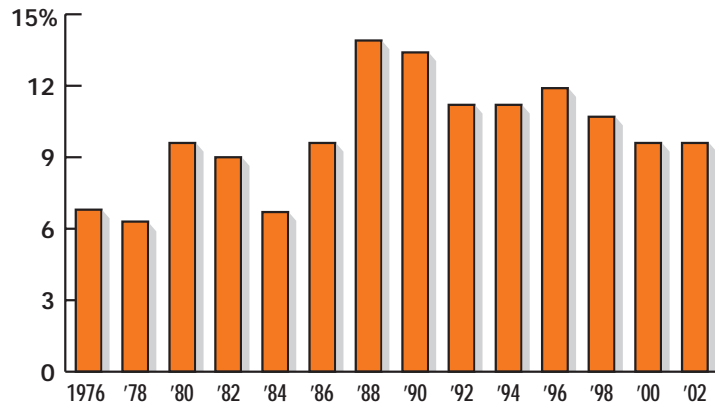
■ 1962

James Meredith becomes the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Two students die in the ensuing riots.



Percentage of blacks in UVA freshman class

African-American enrollment peaked in the late 1980s, but then declined with a shift in admissions policies.



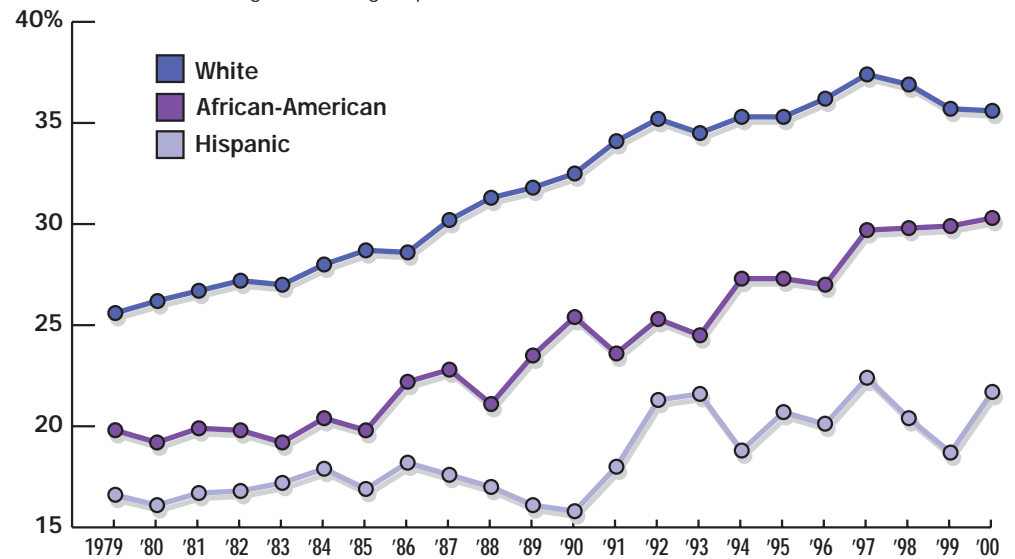
SOURCE: University of Virginia

KAREN SCHNEIDER - STAFF



College attendance rates by race

The percentage of high school graduates going to college has shown a significant increase among all racial groups since 1979.



SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

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■ 1963

Gov. George Wallace bars the door of the University of Alabama to prevent two black students from enrolling.

■ 1978

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke

Allan Bakke sues when he is twice denied admission to a California medical school despite having better grades and test scores than some minority enrollees. The high court outlaws a racial quota system, but affirms race as a factor in school admissions.

ALLAN BAKKE after his first day at the University of California at Davis, Sept. 25, 1978.



■ 1996

Hopwood v. Texas

Cheryl Hopwood, a white applicant, sues the University of Texas Law School when she is rejected and minority students with lower scores are accepted. The Fifth Circuit court rules that the affirmative-action system is discriminatory, ending all consideration of race in college admissions in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

■ 1997

Grutter v. Bollinger

Barbara Grutter sues the University of Michigan for denying her admission to its law school, citing higher grades and test scores than some minority applicants who won admission. Her case goes to the US Supreme Court.



AP/FILE
BARBARA GRUTTER, Washington, December 1997

■ 1997

Gratz v. Bollinger

Jennifer Gratz sues the University of Michigan after her undergraduate application is rejected. Her claim was denied by a federal district judge. Her case heads to the US Supreme Court.

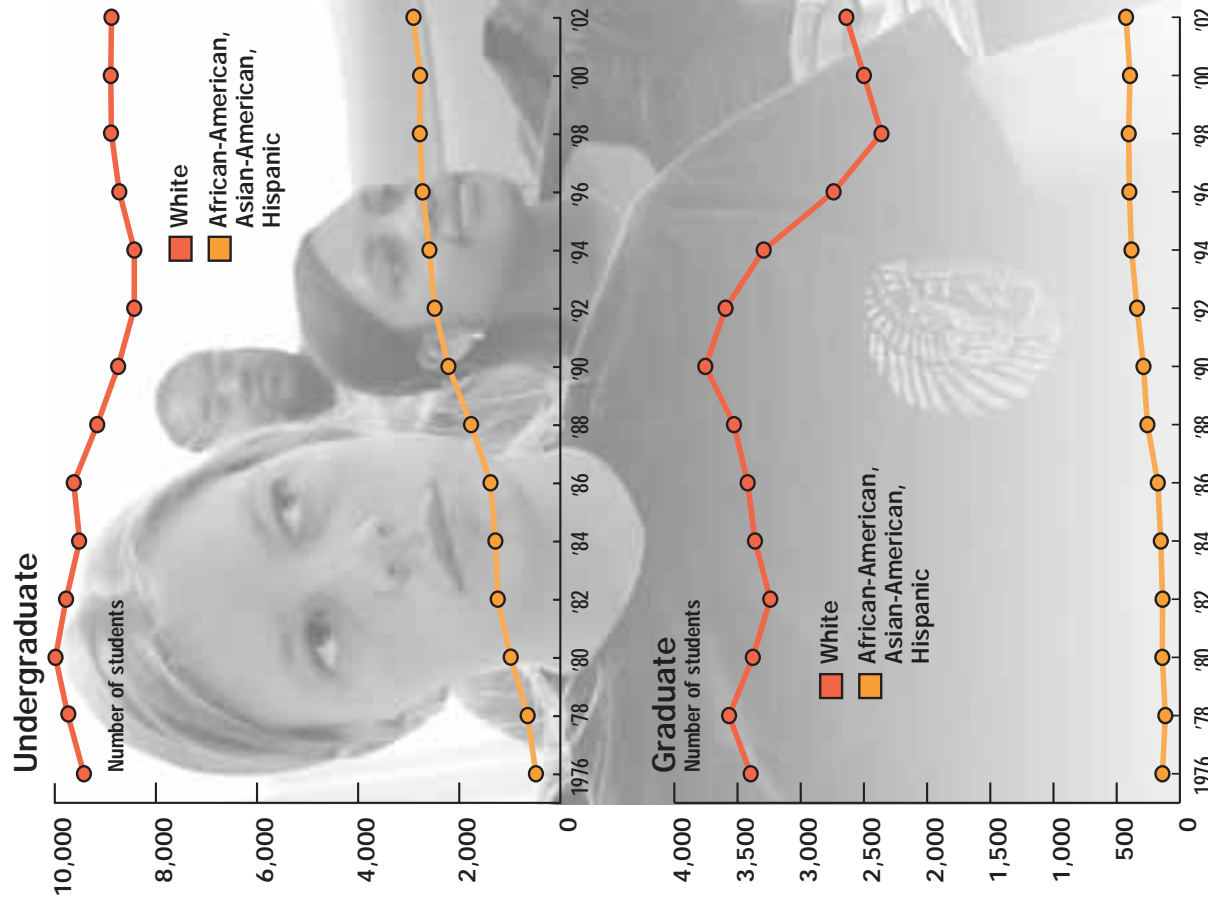
■ 2003

The US Supreme Court hears arguments on Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger. A decision is expected by July.

KAREN SCHNEIDER – STAFF

University of Virginia enrollment by race

Minority enrollment has risen steadily since 1976.



SOURCE: University of Virginia
GRAPHIC BY KAREN SCHNEIDER – STAFF; PHOTO BY STEVEN HARRIS