Department of Geosciences student demographics

Last updated: December, 2020

Demographic information for our student enrollment (**Fig. 1**), Ph.D. applicant pool (**Fig. 2**), and Ph.D. offers and acceptances (**Fig. 3**) are given below. For reference, we include 2019 population estimates for the United States general population, the U.S. Geoscience Workforce, and for U.S. Geoscience degrees awarded in 2019 (**Table 1**). Our goal is to achieve a demographic makeup that mirrors that of the U.S. population through a variety of actions.

Table 1. 2019 U. S. Population Estimates				
	General Population (%)	Environmental Science & Geoscience Workforce (%)	Geoscience Bachelors degrees, 2019 (%)	Geoscience Doctorate degrees, 2019 (%)
Black or African American	13.4	5	3.5	1.5
American Indian and Alaskan Native	1.3	*n.g.*	0.2	0.2
Asian	5.9	*n.g.*	*n.g.*	*n.g.*
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.2	*n.g.*	0.4	0
Two or more races	2.8	*n.g.*	*n.g.*	*n.g.*
Hispanic or Latinx*	18.5	12.5	11.7	4.8
White, not Hispanic or Latinx	60.1	*n.g.*	*n.g.*	*n.g.*
White	76.3	*n.g.*	*n.g.*	*n.g.*
Source	1	2	2	2

*The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin. Percentages for the various race categories add to 100 percent, and should not be combined with the percent Hispanic (verbatim from (*1*)). "n.g." = "not given"

1-- U. S. Census Bureau; 2-- American Geosciences Institute

For workforce and geoscience degree information in years prior to 2019, please see the AGI Diversity in the Geosciences Report.
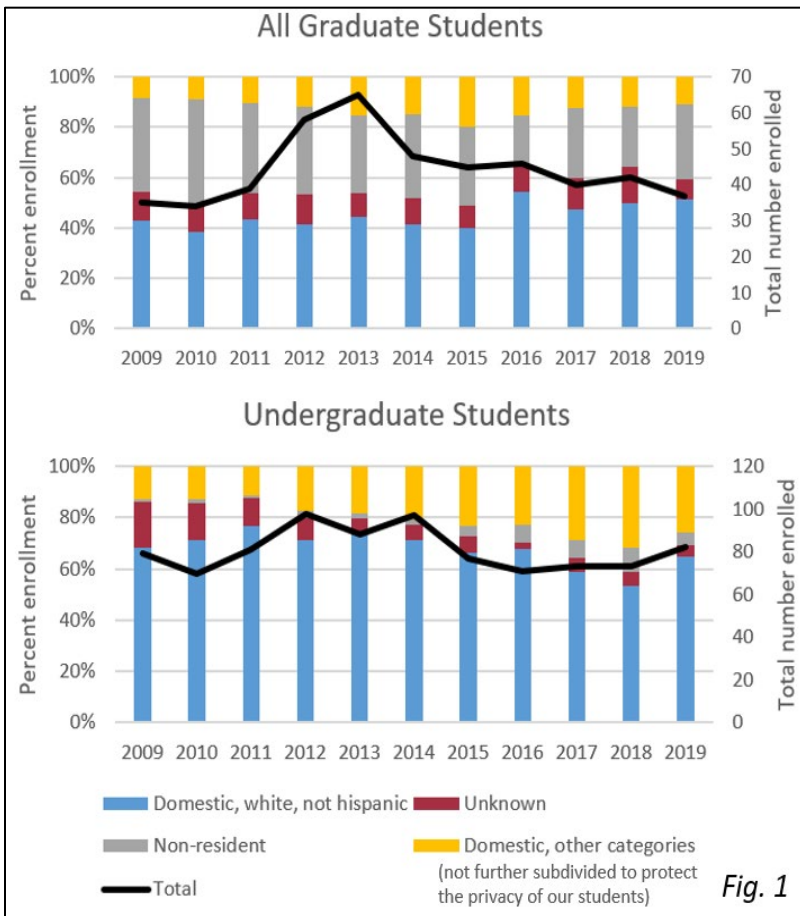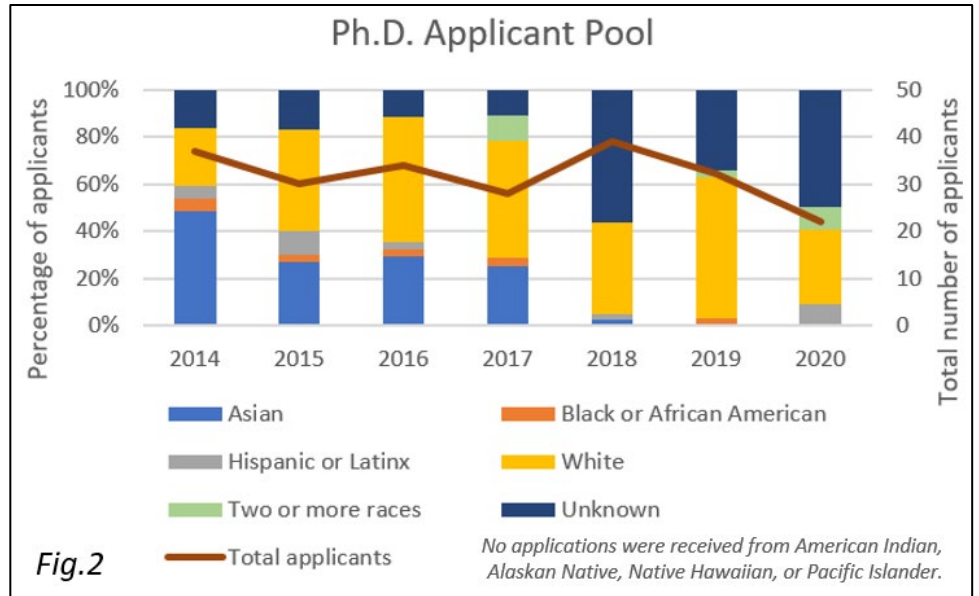

Fig. 1

Figure 1 shows SBU Geosciences department annual student enrollment for the period 2014-2020. The "graduate students" category includes both M.S. and Ph.D. programs; demographic proportions are similar between these two types of programs. "Domestic, other categories" refers to non-White students and those who self-identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Source: Institutional Research.

Our student enrollment demographics for 2014-2020 show that White, non-Hispanic students comprise ~65-80% of our *domestic* graduate population, with little change in those percentages over time. For comparison, this category comprises ~60% of the general U.S. population (**Table 1**). Within our undergraduate population, we observed an increase in diversity in recent years. This increase parallels campus-wide enrollment trends.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of our Ph.D. applicants by IPEDS race/ethnicity. Categories include Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, White, Two or more races, and Unknown. The "Unknown" category includes applicants who did not report a race/ethnicity and/or who were reported by the system as non-residents according to the visa and citizenship information on record. However, not all international students are flagged by this method, thus

Fig.2

No applications were received from American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander.

every category shown contains both domestic and international students. To help interpret the "Unknown" category, we break down the category by continent of origin (averaged over all years shown): Asia (74%), North America (16%), Europe (3%), South America (<2%), Africa (<2%). Within our Ph.D. applicant pool, those who self-identify as Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx constitute only a small fraction (~3% and 4% over the 2014-2020 time period, respectively).
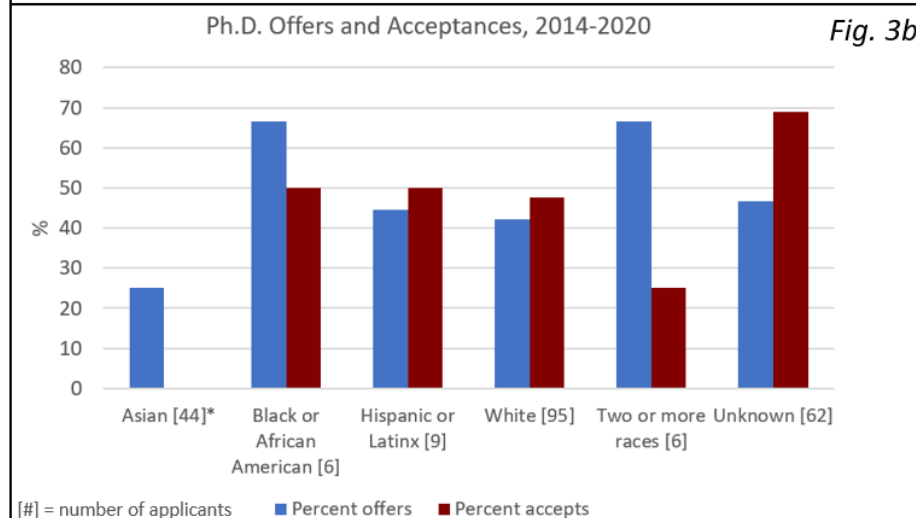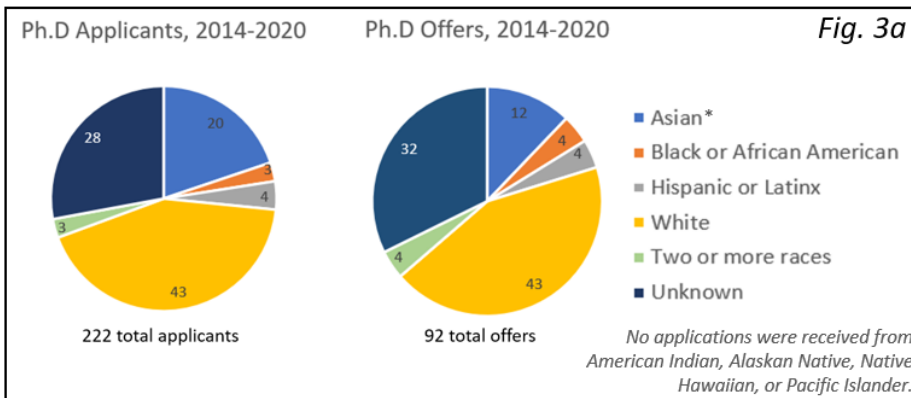

Fig. 3a

No applications were received from American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander.

Fig. 3b

[#] = number of applicants   ■ Percent offers   ■ Percent accepts

*Though the percentage of offers to Asian students appears low relative to other categories, it is important to note that the "Unknown" category is dominated by students from Asian countries of origin, likely explaining the apparent deficit.

Figure 3 shows the demographic makeup of our Ph.D. applicants compared to that of applicants who were offered admission to our program, for the total period of 2014-2020, again using IEPDS race/ethnicity reporting. **Fig. 3a** shows that department selections for graduate admissions mirror the demographic makeup of our applicant pool. **Fig. 3b** shows the percentage of offers and acceptances within each race category. For example, 44% of all (9) Hispanic/Latinx applicants from 2014-2020 received Ph.D. offers. Of those, 50% accepted our offer. Our Ph.D. applicant pool is generally lacking in diversity (**Figs. 2-3**), which is the dominant factor in our department enrollment demographics for graduate students (**Fig. 1**). Through our EDI Action plan, we hope to secure an increase in diverse applicants and to continue our recent increase in the number of underrepresented minorities within our undergraduate population.