
Provost's Study of Accessibility and Career Choice in the Faculty of Law

Presented to the
Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
of the
Governing Council of the University of Toronto

February 27, 2003



Introduction

- Governing Council motion May 2, 2002
“That there be no further substantial increase in tuition fees for the JD program in the Faculty of Law until the Governing Council is satisfied that there has been no reduction in accessibility due to the 2002-03 tuition increase and no career distortion due to previous substantial increases based upon a comprehensive Accessibility and Career Choice Review to be conducted by the Provost's Office.”
- Methodology revised and approved by AP&P and circulated to the Committee in a memo December 15, 2002
- Methodology followed closely by study with some amendments after examination of data



Data Sources

- Section 1: Literature Review
- Section 2: Accessibility
 - Admission statistics from Faculty of Law
 - LSAT statistics
 - Financial aid data
- Section 3: Career Choice
 - Law Society of Upper Canada annual records of articling students
 - Law Society of Upper Canada members annual report for 2002



Results Section One – Literature Review

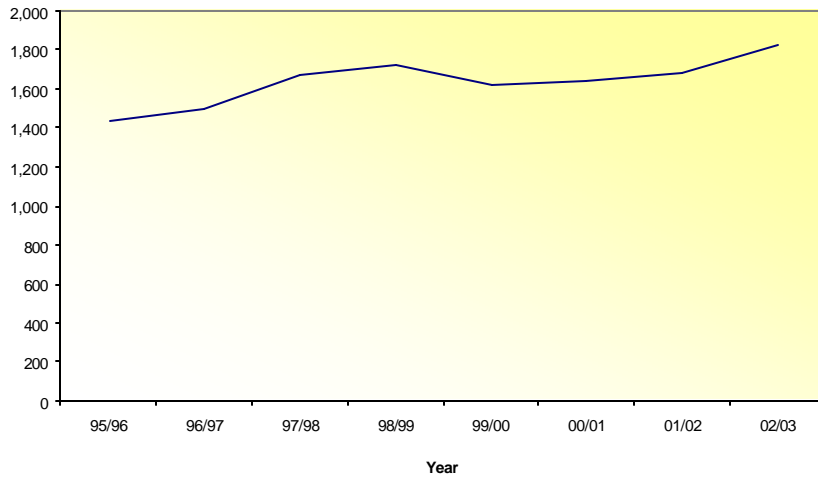
- Very little published on effect of tuition fee increases on accessibility to law school
- Important factors related to post-secondary education attendance are parental education and students' academic ability
- Debt-load does not play a significant role in legal career choice; characteristics of the work environment are more important factors
- Back-end debt relief programs can be valuable for certain groups entering certain types of careers



Admission Statistics

Total Applications
1995/1996 to 2002/2003

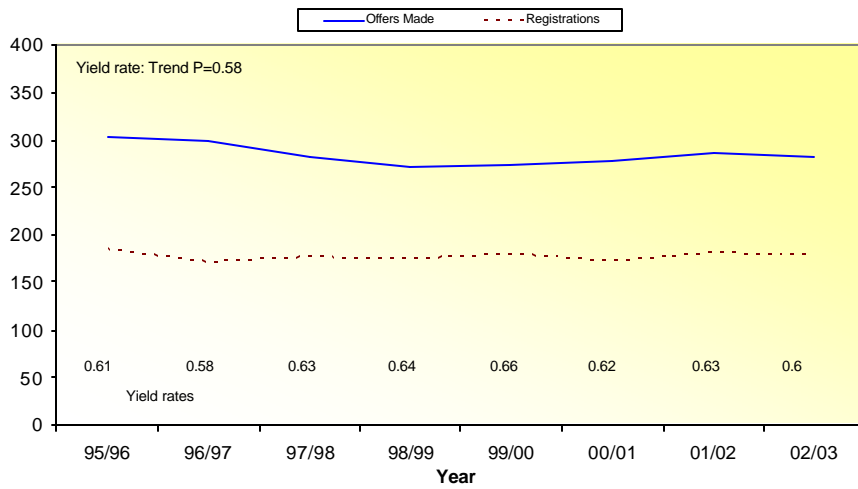
Figure 1



Admission Statistics

Registrations vs Offers Made
1995/1996 - 2002/2003

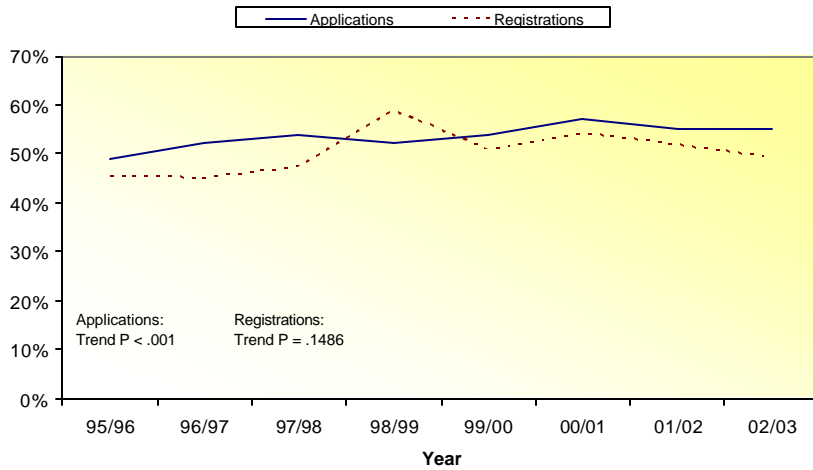
Figure 2



Admission Statistics

Figure 3

Applications and Registrations Percentage of Women
1995/1996 to 2002/2003

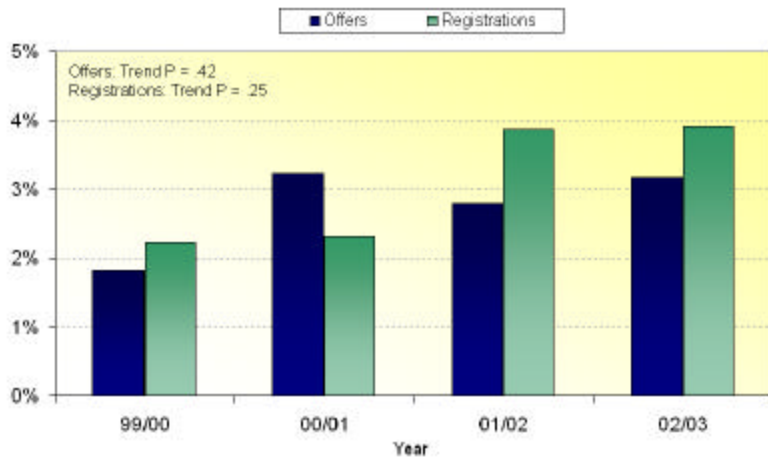


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Admission Statistics

Figure 4

Offers and Registrations – Percentage of Black Students
1995/1996 - 2002/2003

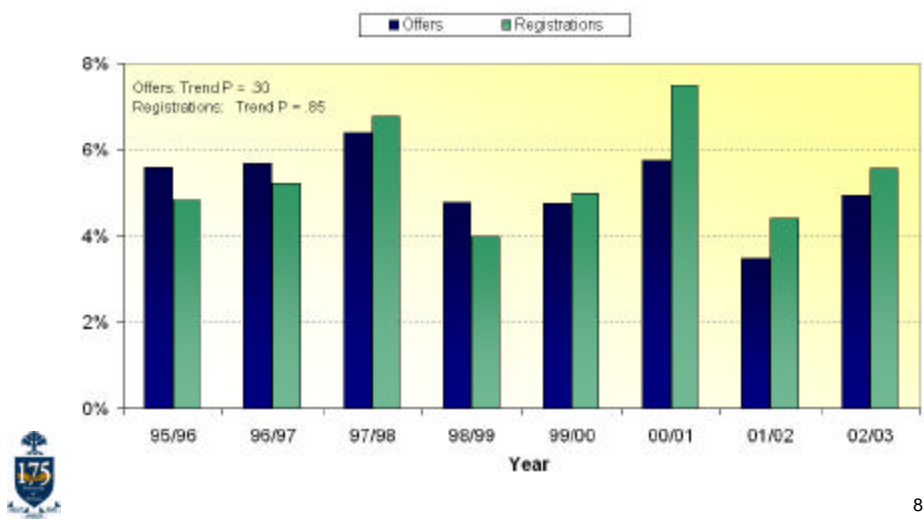


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Admission Statistics

Figure 5

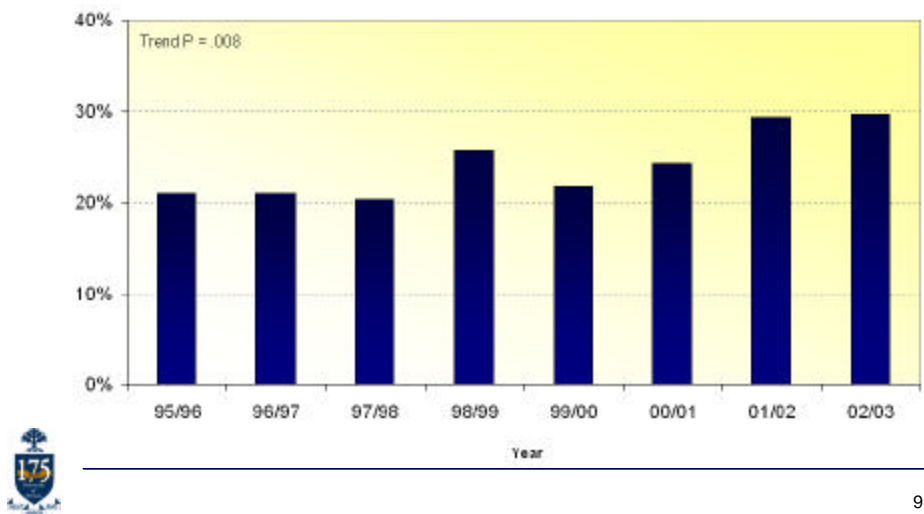
Offers and Registrations – Percentage of Aboriginal Students
1995/1996 - 2002/2003



Admission Statistics

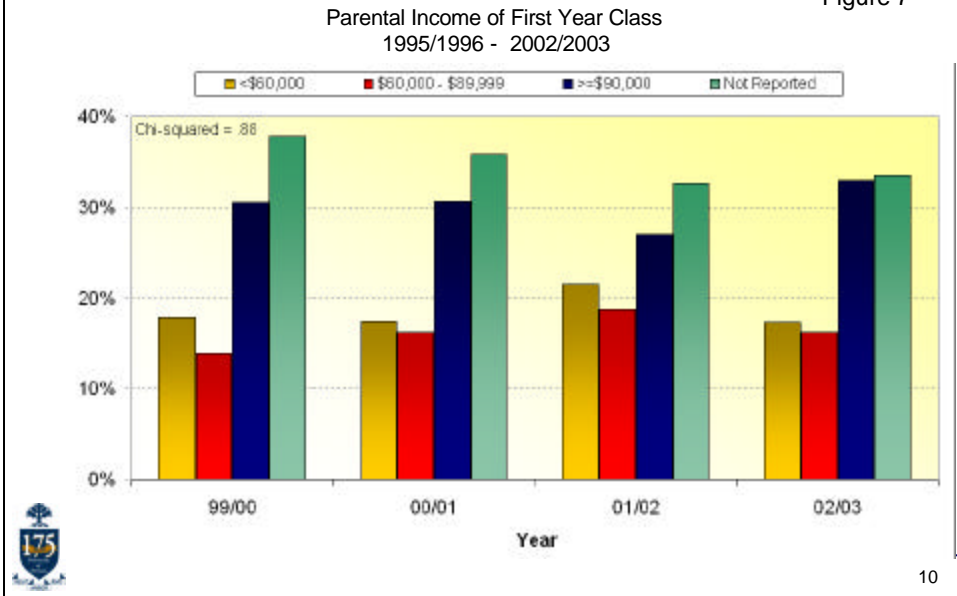
Figure 6

Percentage of Visible Minorities Registered
1995/1996 - 2002/2003



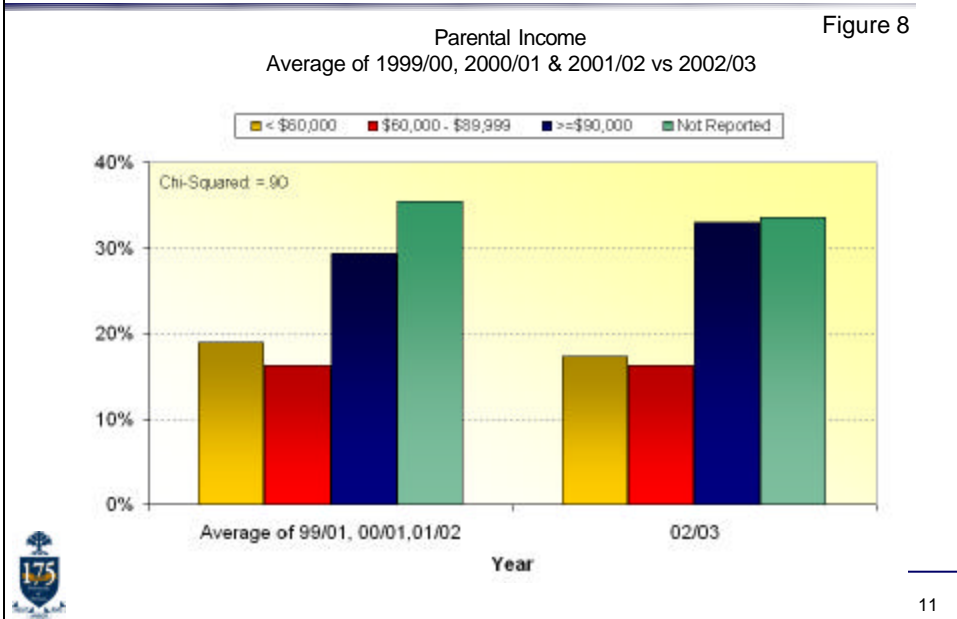
Student Parental Income

Figure 7



Student Parental Income

Figure 8



Results Sections Two: Financial Accessibility

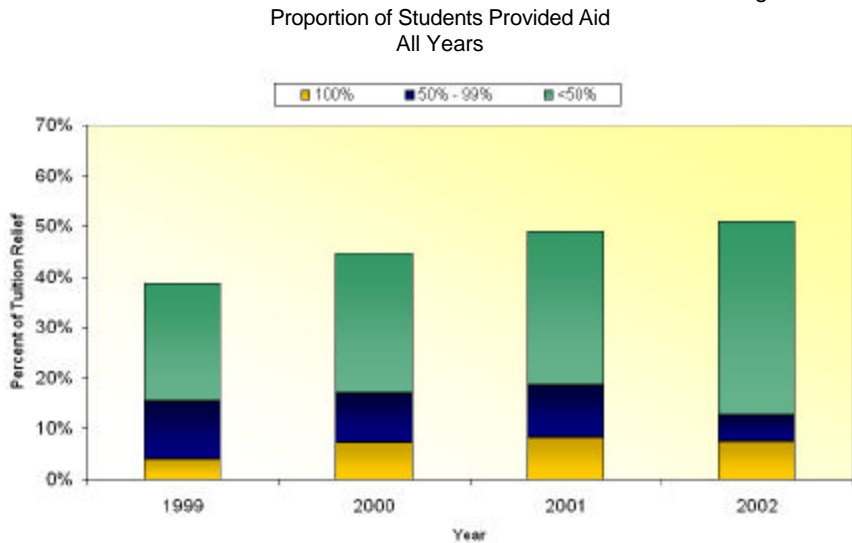
- Share of pool of Canadian students applying to U of T law school has increased
- Share of good candidates has increased
- Proportion of students accepting offers has remained steady
- Proportion of women and visible minorities applicants and registrants have increased
- There has been no change in the proportion of students from lower-income backgrounds



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Financial Aid

Figure 9a

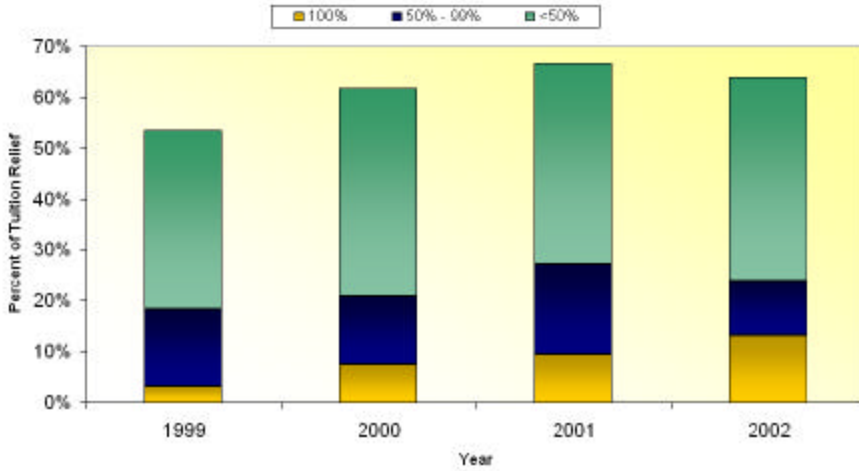


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Financial Aid

Figure 9b

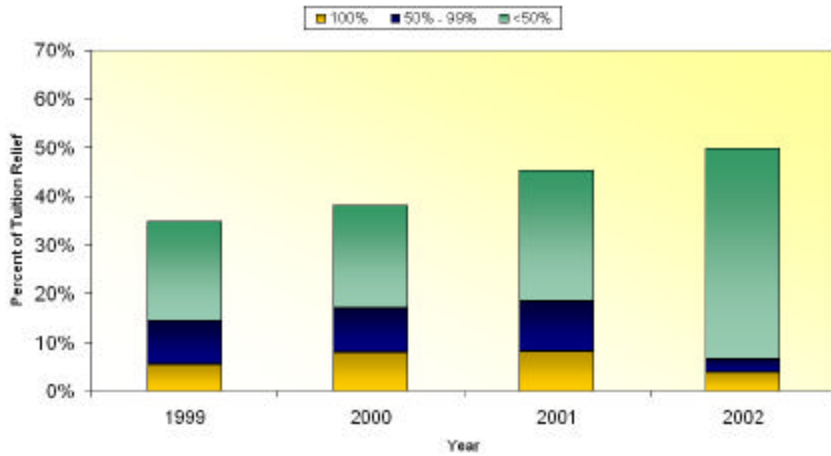
Proportion of Students Provided Aid
1st Year Students



Financial Aid

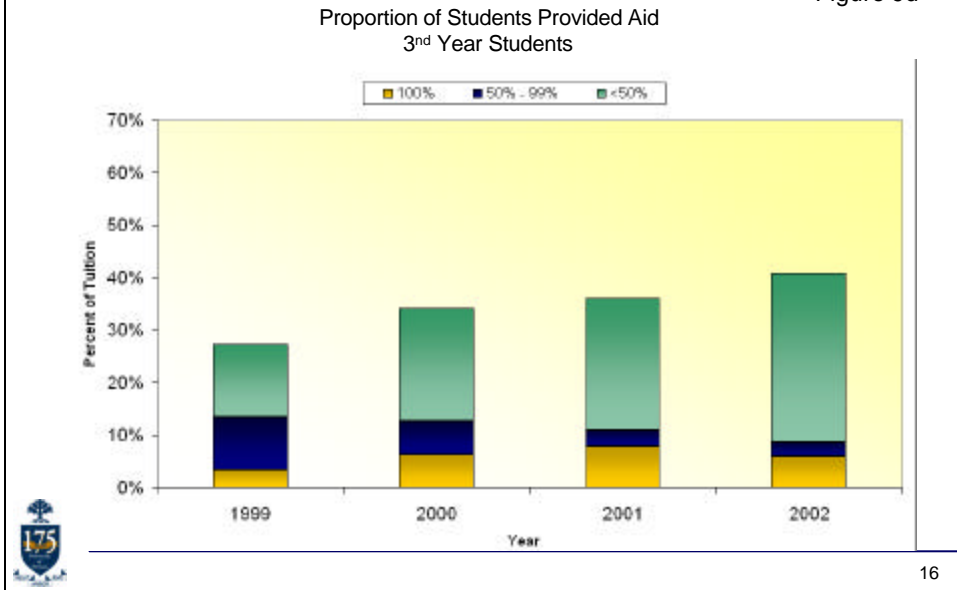
Figure 9c

Proportion of Students Provided Aid
2nd Year Students



Financial Aid

Figure 9d



Results Section 2: Financial Aid

- Total financial aid provided by the Faculty of Law has increased from \$102,000 in 1995 to \$1,900,000 in 2002; aid from all sources is at \$2,600,000
- In 1999 39% of all law students received some aid, this increased to 51% in 2002
 - Bursary assistance reduced tuition to 0 for 4% in 1999, rising to 7% in 2002
- In 1999 53% of first year law students received some aid, this increased to 64% in 2002
 - Bursary assistance reduced tuition to 0 for 3% in 1999, rising to 13% in 2002



Section 3: Career Choice - Articling

Figure 10a

Proportion of U of T Graduates by Size and Type of Articling Firm

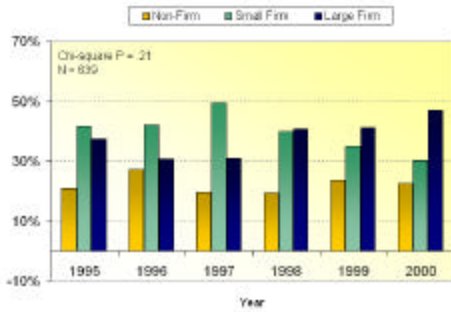
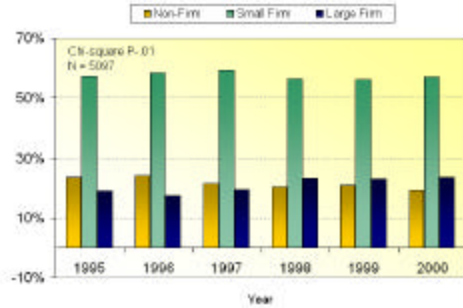


Figure 10b

Proportion of Graduates in Other Institutions by Size and Type of Articling Firm



Section 3: Career Choice – Current Employment

Figure 11a

Proportion of U of T Graduates by Size and Type of Firm

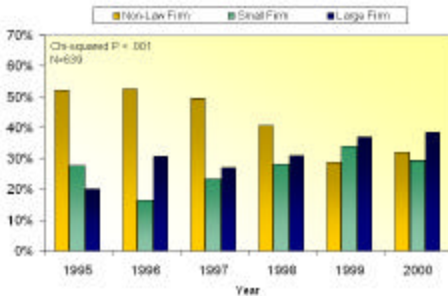
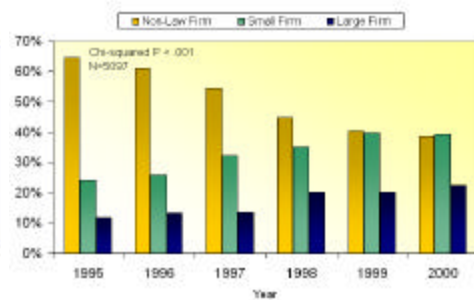


Figure 11b

Proportion of Graduates from Other Institutions by Size and Type of Firm



Results Section 3: Career Choice

- UoT graduates have slightly increased likelihood of articling in non-firm setting, while graduates of other institutions have decreased
- UoT graduates have been more likely to article at large firms, relative to other law schools, and the change in this pattern is not different over time
- The change in patterns for current employment do not differ for UoT graduates as compared to other institutions

