

STUDENT POPULATION CHANGES AND AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION

(abstract)
Chen Yung Fan

During the mid-1960s higher education in the United States expanded rapidly; the universities and colleges enjoyed steady increases in enrollments, budgets, and numbers of faculty members. After an era of unprecedented growth, however, American higher education has entered a new period of "survivalism." Today American higher education faces serious financial crisis and many universities and colleges are finding that attracting students is becoming very difficult and that tuition income is decreased and faculty positions are threatened. The reasons for the decreasing of student population of American higher education can be summarized as follows:

- (1) The decline in the numbers of 18-year-olds in the United States.
- (2) The lack of employment opportunities for the college graduate because of the recession of the economy in the United States.
- (3) The changing attitude of the American public toward the degrees of colleges.
- (4) The lower earnings of college-educated workers.
- (5) The high tuition policy of American universities and colleges.

In order to survive in the academic world, the American universities and colleges have to adopt new policies to increase their tuitions continually, recruit students of various backgrounds, hire part-time professors and change from scholasticism to vocationalism.