

Female presence rising in some areas

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STAFF WRITER

More women are showing up in the medical and law fields than ever before.

In areas of study that have not shown much female presence in the past, women are now appearing in numbers sometimes greater than men.

"Basically women are increasing both their enrollment and graduation and practice rates," said Jennifer Horan, lecturer in the political science department at UNCW. "There is a high demand for women doctors, for example, OB/GYN, and they've actually started to dominate this field."

The roles of women have evolved sig-

nificantly over the past 50 years. A woman's place was previously seen as at home with the children, but it is now in areas such as medical school, law school, doctors' offices and courtrooms.

According to Horan, women started entering schools of higher education in the 1800s, but the admissions and societal expectation barriers were removed in the 1970s. In 1963, females represented only 4 percent of the law school enrollment, but in 2001, represented 49 percent.

Women's enrollment in undergraduate programs often surpasses men. According to Yale student body characteristics, 177 females received

their first professional J.D. (law) or Medical degrees through July 2000 and June 2001, outnumbering men by approximately 1 percent.

There is a 55 percent female enrollment in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. UNC-CH's graduate school also has a high female percentage at 62 percent, as opposed to men who come in at 38 percent.

A recent report from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) stated that women are more likely than men to desire to continue their education, to enroll in college and to persist in obtaining a degree.

Having women in the medical field seems to be embraced by many. Kenneth Sutton, junior in the biology department at UNC-CH who is training to be a pediatric

doctor said, "I see women as more compassionate than men, so I see their increase in enrollment in medical school as a good thing."



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Recently, there has been a rise in female doctors, notably obstetricians.



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