Characteristics of Students Enrolled at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

POLY VIEW FALL 2000

New Students for Fall 2000

Cal Poly processed a total of 21,693 applications during the Fall 2000 application cycle – the most Fall applications processed in the past thirteen years. Undergraduate applications numbered 20,816, an increase of 1,420 applications over Fall 1999; 8,870 new undergraduate applicants were selected and 3,972 enrolled. First-time freshmen applying for admission numbered 16,600 or 79.7% of the total undergraduate applicant pool, and represented 78.3% of the new undergraduates who enrolled.

New Freshmen	
Average High School GPA	3.62
Average SAT	1165

New Transfers	
Average College GPA	3.22

Academic Performance – Fall 2000

	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate
Average Fall Term Units	14.09	10.50
Average Fall Term GPA	2.83	3.63

College Size

College	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate	Total	Percent of Total
Agriculture	3,473	95	3,568	21%
Architecture & Environmental Design	1,575	47	1,622	10%
Business	2,226	122	2,348	14%
Engineering	4,034	149	4,183	25%
Liberal Arts	2,849	90	2,939	17%
Science & Math	1,576	96	1,672	10%
Univ. Center for Teacher Education	n/a	376	376	2%
Other	134	35	169	1%
University Total	**15,867**	**1,010**	**16,877**	**100%**

Enrollment

The University enrolled 16,877 students (headcount) for Fall 2000, an increase of 407 students over Fall 1999. Undergraduate enrollment was 15,867 students, up 2.3% over Fall 1999. Post-baccalaureate enrollment was 1,010 students, up 4.4% over Fall 1999. New students comprised 25.6% of the total enrollment with 3,972 new undergraduate and 341 new post-baccalaureate students. The largest group of new students was first-time freshmen at 3,111, or 78.3%, of the new undergraduate student headcount.

Fall 2000 saw a slight decrease in the overall average units taken per student to 13.87 (14.09 for undergraduate and 10.50 for post-baccalaureate students).

Student Age and Gender

The average age of all Cal Poly students enrolled for Fall 2000 was 21.9 years. Undergraduates averaged 21.5 years, compared to 24.3 years for all undergraduates enrolled in the CSU system (based on last available data, Fall 1999).

There were 7,592 female students (45%) and 9,285 male students (55%) on campus in Fall 2000. Undergraduate gender diversity at a campus wide level has shown a gradual increase. In Fall 2000, the percentages were 44.3% female and 55.7% male compared to 42.6% female and 57.4% male in Fall 1990.

Institutional Planning and Analysis, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
(805) 756-2461 • fax (806) 756-5292 • http://www.calpoly.edu/~inststdy

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Institution of Origin

What institutions do Cal Poly undergraduates come from? The top "feeder" schools are:

High Schools		Community Colleges
Public	Private	
San Luis Obispo High School	St. Ignatius College Prep, San Francisco	Cuesta College
Arroyo Grande High School	Bellarmine College Prep, San Jose	Allan Hancock College
Davis Senior High	Archbishop Mitty, San Jose	Ventura College
Atascadero High School	St. Francis High School, Mountain View	De Anza College
Soquel High School	Jesuit High, Carmichael	Bakersfield College

Study Abroad

In Fall 2000, 93 Cal Poly students studied in 10 countries as part of the California State University system's 2000-01 International Programs. The students' courses of study represented a variety of disciplines. They studied in universities and centers in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, and United Kingdom.

Several Cal Poly colleges and departments hold individual exchange agreements with universities on six of the world's continents. This year, 24 students participated in exchanges to Australia, Germany, Mexico, and France.

Cal Poly sent two professors and 43 students to the London Study Program during Fall quarter. Six Cal Poly faculty and 97 students participated in the program during Spring 2000.

Also during Spring quarter, 65 Cal Poly students and four faculty participated in the California Maritime Academy/ Golden Bear Study Abroad program. The curriculum is science-based.

Other Study Abroad opportunities include the Thai Study Program, Japan Study, and language training programs in Spain and Mexico.

International Students

In Fall 2000, Cal Poly enrolled 192 international students, including 157 undergraduates and 35 post-baccalaureate students. These students came from 48 countries. Countries sending five or more students to Cal Poly include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Peoples Republic of China, Sweden, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom (based on student's reported institution of origin).

Financial Aid

During the 1999-2000 academic year approximately 60% of all enrolled Cal Poly students received some type of traditional financial assistance, such as scholarships, loans, grants and work-study. The amount of financial aid awards varied little from 1998-99 with disbursements processed by the Cal Poly Financial Aid Office reaching just over $59 million (compared to $27 million in 1990-91 and $59 million in 1998-99). During the 1999-2000 academic year, federal, state, and state university grants accounted for 28% of the financial aid dollars distributed. Scholarships accounted for 8%; loans, 63%; and federal work study, about 1%.

Housing

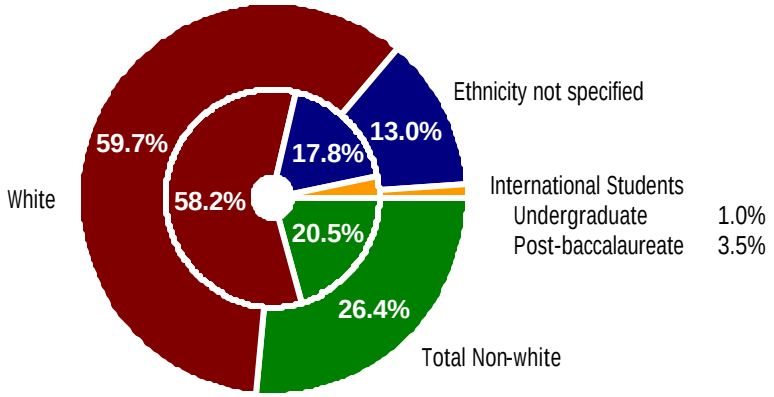
As of December 1, 2000, 2,811 students (17% of the total enrollment) lived in the residence halls: 1,589 men (57%) and 1,222 women (43%). The remaining students lived off campus with the majority living in the city of San Luis Obispo.

Ethnic Origin

	Undergraduates		Post-baccalaureates		Total	
African American	160	1.0%	9	0.9%	169	1.0%
Asian	1,234	7.8%	47	4.7%	1,281	7.6%
Filipino	372	2.3%	16	1.6%	388	2.3%
Pacific Islander	73	0.5%	4	0.4%	77	0.5%
Mexican Descent	1,221	7.7%	57	5.6%	1,278	7.6%
Other Hispanic	505	3.2%	28	2.8%	533	3.2%
Native American	161	1.0%	18	1.8%	179	1.1%
Other Non-white	461	2.9%	28	2.8%	489	2.9%
Total Non-white	4,187	26.4%	207	20.6%	4,394	26.0%
White	9,465	59.7%	588	58.2%	10,053	59.6%
Ethnicity not specified	2,058	13.0%	180	17.8%	2,238	13.3%
International	157	1.0%	35	3.5%	192	1.1%
University Totals	15,867	100.1%	1,010	100.1%	16,877	100.0%

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Ethnic Distribution of Undergraduates (Outer Circle) and Post-baccalaureates (Inner Circle)



Cal Poly's undergraduate student population has experienced distinct changes in ethnic diversity over the past decade. The proportion of non-white students grew from 26.6% in Fall 1990 to a high of 34% in Fall 1995. It declined gradually from 1996 to 1998, then sharply from 1998 to 1999. In Fall 2000, 26.4% of Cal Poly's undergraduates are non-white students, a moderate additional decrease from Fall 1999. The decreases between Fall 1995 and Fall 2000 were consistent for all of the non-white ethnic categories.

The total undergraduate numbers are influenced by differences in retention rates as well as admissions criteria and procedures. Non-white students represented 31.5% of the new undergraduates in Fall 1995. This proportion grew to 34.9% in Fall 1997, then dropped sharply in Fall 1998. In Fall 2000, 25.8% of the new undergraduates are non-white.

In recent years an increasing number of students have declined to specify their ethnic origin, complicating trend analysis. For example, this percentage grew from just over 7% during Fall 1995 through Fall 1998, to 13% in Fall 2000.

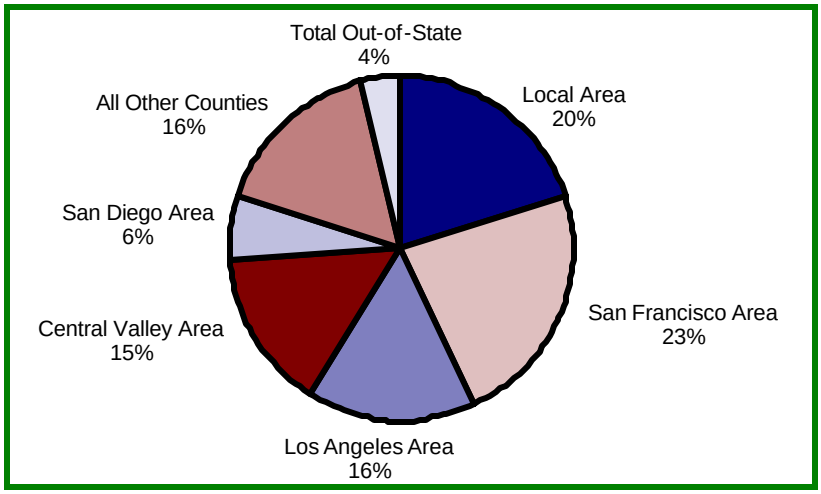
Classes Offered

In Fall 2000 the university offered 3,408 total sections (not including Independent Study), an increase (183 sections) from Fall 1999. The university filled 84% of combined lecture and laboratory capacity (based on expected enrollment set by academic departments during the scheduling phases). By using the Schedule25 software, we utilized 89% of general purpose lecture space during the Fall quarter. Laboratory space is assigned by individual departments.

Geographic Origin

In Fall 2000, Cal Poly undergraduate students came from every county in California, 45 other states and U.S. territories and 39 foreign countries. Nevertheless, 96% are California residents.

The 20% of undergraduate students who are local area residents include students from Santa Barbara County (4%), Monterey County (3%) and San Luis Obispo County (13%).



Retention & Persistence to Graduation

The following data is derived from a comprehensive cohort study developed by the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis. To date, the study follows the retention of students first enrolling in the Summer and Fall of 1990 through Fall 1999. Six year graduation rates for first-time freshmen (the six-year observation interval is the rate most often used by federal and other reporting bodies) are available for the 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993 first-time freshmen cohorts.

First to Second Year Retention for First-time Freshmen	
Fall 1995 to Fall 1996	86.4%
Fall 1996 to Fall 1997	85.8%
Fall 1997 to Fall 1998	87.1%
Fall 1998 to Fall 1999	89.0%

Six-year Graduation Rate for First-time Freshmen	
Summer-Fall Cohort 1990	58.2%
Summer-Fall Cohort 1991	57.3%
Summer-Fall Cohort 1992	59.8%
Summer-Fall Cohort 1993	64.5%

Fields of Study

Cal Poly offers 59 bachelor's degrees, 21 master's degrees, 16 credential programs and 41 minors. Majors that graduated the most students in 1999-2000 were:

Bachelor's Degrees	
Business	17%
Agribusiness	6%
Mechanical Engineering	4%
Liberal Studies	4%
Electrical Engineering	3%

Master's Degrees	
Education	21%
Business	15%
Agriculture	12%
Computer Science	6%
Industrial and Technical Studies	5%
English	5%

Degrees Conferred

Cal Poly first awarded bachelor's degrees in 1942-43. Total bachelor's degrees awarded through 1999-2000 number 99,068.

Cal Poly awarded 3,832 degrees in 1999-2000.

Bachelor's Degrees	3,545
Master's Degrees	287
Credential Recommendations	320

Poly*View* is a publication of Cal Poly's Office of Institutional Planning & Analysis, based on enrollment statistics for Fall Quarter 2000.
We gratefully acknowledge data supplied by Admissions, Financial Aid, International Education and Programs, and Residential Life & Education.

Institutional Planning and Analysis, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
(805) 756-2461 • fax (806) 756-5292 • http://www.calpoly.edu/~inststdy