Characteristics of Students Enrolled at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

POLY VIEW FALL 2001

New Students for Fall 2001

Cal Poly processed a total of 24,023 applications during the Fall 2001 application cycle – the most Fall applications processed in the past fourteen years. Undergraduate applications numbered 23,225, an increase of 3,421 over Fall 2000; 10,673 new undergraduate applicants were selected and 4,590 enrolled.

First-time freshmen applying for admission numbered 18,886 or 80.6% of the total undergraduate applicant pool, and represented 73.4% of the new undergraduates who enrolled.

Cal Poly received 1,848 early decision applications for Fall 2001, 841 students were selected and 665 (79%) enrolled.

New Freshmen	
Average High School GPA	3.64
Average SAT	1169

New Transfers	
Average College GPA	3.21

Academic Performance – Fall 2001

	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate
Average Fall Term Units	14.09	10.51
Average Fall Term GPA	2.85	3.63

College Size

College	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate	Total	Percent of Total
Agriculture	3,574	101	3,675	20.3%
Architecture & Environmental Design	1,678	56	1,734	9.6%
Business	2,464	115	2,579	14.3%
Engineering	4,456	166	4,622	25.6%
Liberal Arts	3,082	90	3,172	17.5%
Science & Math	1,699	79	1,778	9.8%
Univ. Center for Teacher Education	n/a	364	364	2.0%
Other	113	42	155	0.9%
University Total	**17,066**	**1,013**	**18,079**	**100.0%**

Enrollment

The University enrolled 18,079 students (headcount) for Fall 2001, an increase of 1,202 students over Fall 2000. Undergraduate enrollment was 17,066 students, up 7.6% over Fall 2000.

Undergraduate continuing and returning student enrollment was over the projected number for the first time in several years, with 12,951 students, over 900 more than expected, enrolling.

Post-baccalaureate enrollment was 1,013 students, nearly equal to Fall 2000 data. Post-baccalaureate student enrollment was under target for both new and continuing students.

New students comprised 25.4% of the total enrollment with 4,137 new undergraduates (3,003 new freshmen, 1,030 new transfers, and 104 other new students*) and 327 new post-baccalaureate students enrolling for Cal Poly courses for the first time in Fall 2001.

Fall 2001 saw a slight increase over Fall 2000 in the overall average units taken per student to 13.89 (14.09 for undergraduate and 10.51 for post-baccalaureate students).

*Other undergraduate students include transitory students, those seeking a second baccalaureate, and those returning to a new major.

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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	Archbishop Mitty, San Jose	Cuesta College
Arroyo Grande High School	St. Francis High School, Mountain View	Allan Hancock College
Atascadero High School	Jesuit High, Carmichael	De Anza College
Poway High School	Bellarmine College Prep, San Jose	Diablo Valley College
Amador Valley High School (Pleasanton)	Santa Margarita High School (Rancho Santa Margarita)	Bakersfield College

Study Abroad

In Fall 2001, 74 Cal Poly students studied in eight countries as part of the California State University system's International Programs. The students' courses of study represented a variety of disciplines. They studied in universities and centers in Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, and the United Kingdom. During Spring 2001, 90 students studied in nine countries.

Several Cal Poly colleges and departments hold individual exchange agreements with universities on six of the world's continents. This Fall, 39 students participated in exchanges to eight countries including Australia, France, Germany, India, and Sweden. Last Spring 35 students participated in department exchange programs to six countries.

Cal Poly sent two professors and 60 students to the London Study Program during Fall quarter. Six Cal Poly faculty and 77 students participated in the program during Spring 2001.

Also during Spring quarter, 35 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 (42 students and one Cal Poly professor participated this Fall), the Salamanca Study in Spain Program (18 students and one professor this Fall), and language training programs in Spain and Mexico.

International Students

In Fall 2001, Cal Poly enrolled 210 international students, including 169 undergraduates and 41 post-baccalaureate students. These students came from 53 countries. Countries sending five or more students to Cal Poly include Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Mexico, the Peoples Republic of China, Sweden, and Taiwan (based on students' reported institution of origin).

Financial Aid

During the 2000-01 academic year approximately 55% 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 2000-01 with disbursements processed by the Cal Poly Financial Aid Office reaching just over $60 million (compared to $27 million in 1990-91 and $59 million in 1999-2000).

During the 2000-01 academic year, federal, state, and state university grants accounted for 29% of the financial aid dollars distributed. Scholarships accounted for 9%; loans, 60%; and federal work study, about 2%.

Housing

As of October 1, 2001, 2,939 students (16% of the total enrollment) lived in the residence halls: 1,600 men (54%) and 1,339 women (46%). The remaining students lived off campus with the majority residing in the city of San Luis Obispo.

Cal Poly has started construction on a project that will house 800 more students on campus beginning in Winter 2003.

Ethnic Origin

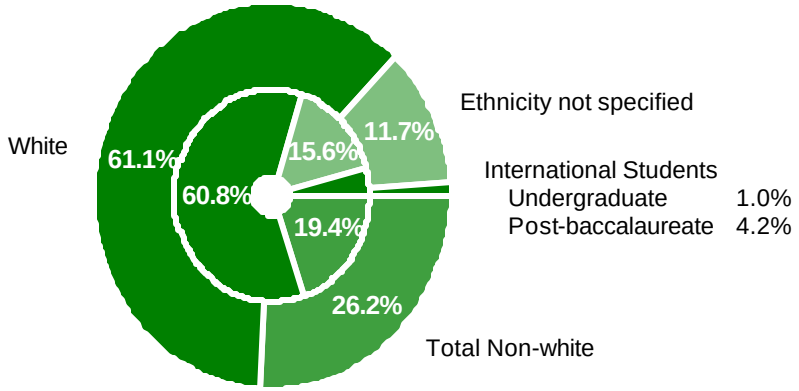
	Undergraduates		Post-baccalaureates		Total	
African American	156	0.9%	8	0.8%	164	0.9%
Asian	1,398	8.2%	53	5.2%	1,451	8.0%
Filipino	414	2.4%	8	0.8%	422	2.3%
Pacific Islander	63	0.4%	3	0.3%	66	0.4%
Mexican Descent	1,225	7.2%	57	5.6%	1,282	7.1%
Other Hispanic	557	3.3%	32	3.2%	589	3.3%
Native American	147	0.9%	13	1.3%	160	0.9%
Other Non-white	515	3.0%	23	2.3%	538	3.0%
Total Non-white	4,475	26.2%	197	19.4%	4,672	25.9%
White	10,427	61.1%	615	60.8%	11,042	61.1%
Ethnicity not specified	2,000	11.7%	158	15.6%	2,158	11.9%
International	164	1.0%	43	4.2%	207	1.1%
University Totals	**17,066**	**100.0%**	**1,013**	**100.0%**	**18,079**	**100.0%**

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 and a moderate decline in Fall 2000. In Fall 2001, 26.2% of Cal Poly's undergraduates are non-white students, a slight additional decrease from Fall 2000.

Typically, the entering class is slightly more diverse than the continuing students. 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 2001, 25.4% of the new undergraduates are non-white, a slight decrease from Fall 2000.

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. In Fall 2001, less than 12% of students chose to not specify an ethnicity.

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



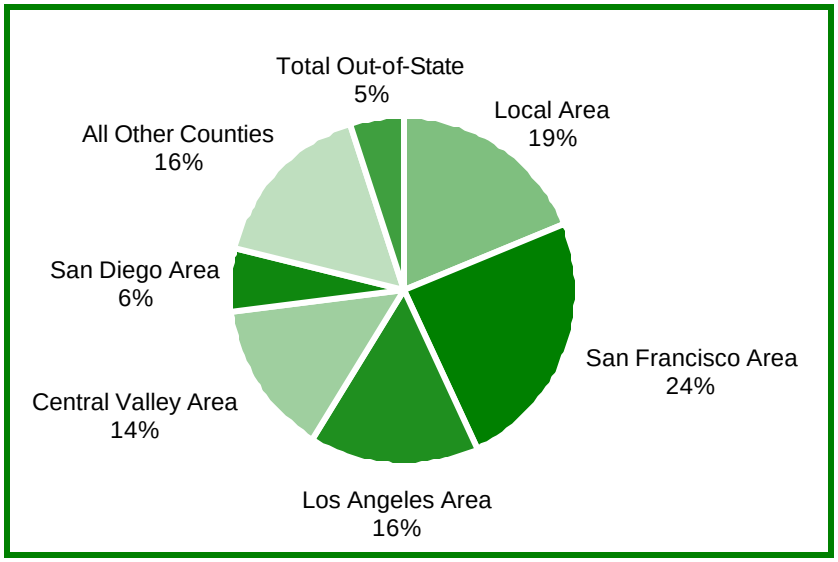
Student Age and Gender

The average age of all Cal Poly students enrolled for Fall 2001 was 21.6 years. Undergraduates averaged 21.1 years, compared to 24.1 years for all undergraduates enrolled in the CSU system (based on last available data, Fall 1999). There were 8,186 female students (45.3%) and 9,893 male students (54.7%) on campus in Fall 2001. Undergraduate gender diversity at a campus wide level has shown a gradual increase. In Fall 2001, the percentages were 44.7% female and 55.3% male, compared to 42.6% female and 57.4% male in Fall 1990.

Geographic Origin

In Fall 2001, Cal Poly undergraduate students came from nearly every county in California, 48 other states and U.S. territories, and 33 foreign countries. Nevertheless, 95% are California residents.

The 19% of undergraduate students who are local area residents include students from Santa Barbara County (4%), Monterey County (2%) 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 2000.

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 through 1994 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%
Fall 1999 to Fall 2000	88.6%

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%
Summer-Fall Cohort 1994	64.4%

Fields of Study

Cal Poly offers 66 bachelor's degrees, 30 master's degrees, 15 credential programs and 49 minors. Majors that graduated the most students in 2000-01 were:

Bachelor's Degrees	
Business Administration	18%
Agricultural Business	7%
Mechanical Engineering	6%
Liberal Studies	4%
Animal Science	3%
Industrial Technology	3%
Psychology	3%
Computer Science	3%

Master's Degrees	
Business Administration	20%
Education	19%
Agriculture	12%
Industrial and Technical Studies	8%
Engineering	8%

Degrees Conferred

Cal Poly first awarded bachelor's degrees in 1942-43. Total bachelor's degrees awarded through 2000-01 number 101,909.

Cal Poly awarded 3,133 degrees in 2000-01.

Bachelor's Degrees	2,841
Master's Degrees	292
Credential Recommendations	298

For more detailed information, see the Fact Book at http://www.calpoly.edu/~inststdy/fact_bk/fb_toc.html

Poly*View* is a publication of Cal Poly's Office of Institutional Planning & Analysis, based on enrollment statistics for Fall Quarter 2001.
We gratefully acknowledge data supplied by Admissions, Financial Aid, International Education and Programs, and Residential Life & Education.

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