Characteristics of Students Enrolled at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

POLY VIEW FALL 2002

New Students for Fall 2002

Cal Poly processed a total of 24,922 applications during the Fall 2002 application cycle – the most Fall applications processed in the past fifteen years. Undergraduate applications numbered 24,006, an increase of 781 over Fall 2001; 8,946 new undergraduate applicants were selected and 3,718 enrolled.

First-time freshmen applying for admission numbered 19,739 or 82.2% of the total undergraduate applicant pool, and represented 76.4% of the new undergraduates who enrolled.

Cal Poly received 4,098 early decision applications for Fall 2002, 892 students were selected and 647 (72.5%) enrolled.

New Freshmen	
Average High School GPA	3.71
Average SAT	1192

New Transfers	
Average College GPA	3.24

Academic Performance – Fall 2001

	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate
Average Fall Term Units	14.22	11.04
Average Fall Term GPA	2.85	3.58

College Size

College	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate	Total	Percent of Total
Agriculture	3,624	114	3,738	20.3%
Architecture & Environmental Design	1,771	66	1,837	9.9%
Business	2,525	115	2,640	14.3%
Engineering	4,568	214	4,782	25.9%
Liberal Arts	3,060	83	3,143	17.0%
Science & Math	1,733	86	1,819	9.9%
Univ. Center for Teacher Education	n/a	345	345	1.9%
Other	120	29	149	0.8%
University Total	**17,401**	**1,052**	**18,453**	**100.0%**

Enrollment

The University enrolled 18,453 students (headcount) for Fall 2002, an increase of 374 students over Fall 2001. Undergraduate enrollment was 17,401 students, up 2.0% over Fall 2001.

Undergraduate continuing and returning student enrollment was over the projected number by about 550 students, with 13,976 students enrolling.

New post-baccalaureate student enrollment was above target by 25 headcount, while continuing post-baccalaureates returned as projected. Total post-baccalaureate enrollment was 1,052 students.

New students first enrolled for Fall 2002 comprised 25.4% of the total enrollment with 3,435 new undergraduates (2,601 new freshmen, 733 new transfers, 10 students seeking a second baccalaureate, and 91 other new undergraduates*) and 360 new post-baccalaureate students.

Fall 2002 saw an increase over Fall 2001 in the overall average units taken per student to 14.04 (14.22 for undergraduate and 11.04 for post-baccalaureate students).

*Other undergraduate students include transitory students 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
San Ramon High (Danville)	Bellarmine College Prep (San Jose)	Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill)
Davis Senior High	Bishop O'Dowd High (Oakland)	Santa Rosa Junior College
Poway High	Santa Margarita High School (Rancho Santa Margarita)	De Anza College (Cupertino)
Granite Bay High (Sacramento area)	Garces Memorial High (Bakersfield)	City College of San Francisco

Study Abroad

In Fall 2002, 85 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 Australia, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Spain.

As part of the National Student Exchange program, 23 students studied at campuses across the United States.

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

Other opportunities exist to study in Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Honduras, India, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

Cal Poly sent 4 professors and 51 students to the London Study Program during Fall quarter 2002. Six Cal Poly faculty and 65 students participated in the program during Spring 2002.

Also during Spring quarter, 95 Cal Poly students and four faculty participated in the Cal Poly at Sea Program, a collaboration between Cal Poly and the California Maritime Academy.

Other Study Abroad opportunities include the Thai Study Program (35 students and 2 Cal Poly professors participated this Fall), and language training programs in Spain and Mexico.

Housing

As of October 1, 2002, 2,758 students (15% of the total enrollment) lived in the residence halls: 1,537 men (56%) and 1,221 women (44%). The remaining students lived off campus with the majority residing in the city of San Luis Obispo.

Cal Poly is continuing construction on a project that will house 800 more students on campus beginning in Fall 2003.

International Students

In Fall 2002, Cal Poly enrolled 211 international students, including 181 undergraduates and 30 post-baccalaureate students. These students came from 57 countries. Countries sending three or more students to Cal Poly include Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom (based on students' reported institution of origin).

Financial Aid

During the 2001-02 academic year approximately 54% of all enrolled Cal Poly students received some type of traditional financial assistance, such as scholarships, loans, grants and work-study.

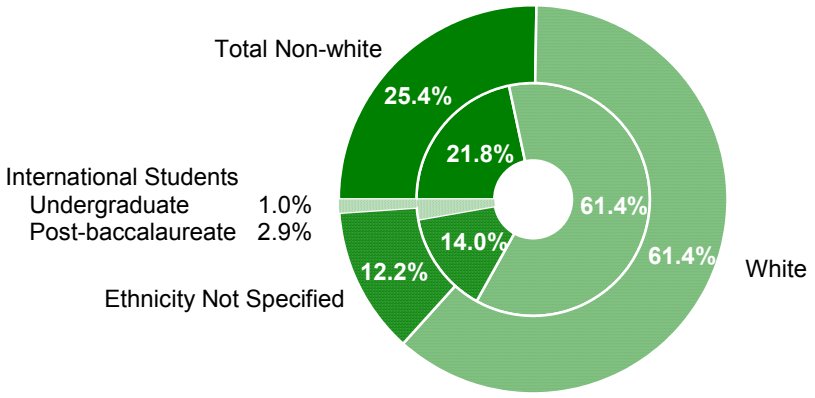
The amount of financial aid awards varied little from 2001-02 with disbursements processed by the Cal Poly Financial Aid Office reaching over $65 million (compared to $27 million in 1990-91 and $60 million in 2000-01).

During the 2001-02 academic year, federal, state, and state university grants accounted for 29% of the financial aid dollars distributed. Scholarships accounted for 10%; loans, 60%; and federal work study, about 1%.

Ethnic Origin

	Undergraduates		Post-baccalaureates		Total	
African American	151	0.9%	8	0.8%	159	0.9%
Asian	1466	8.4%	60	5.7%	1526	8.3%
Filipino	416	2.4%	7	0.7%	423	2.3%
Pacific Islander	64	0.4%	7	0.7%	71	0.4%
Mexican Descent	1155	6.6%	71	6.7%	1226	6.6%
Other Hispanic	502	2.9%	36	3.4%	538	2.9%
Native American	151	0.9%	15	1.4%	166	0.9%
Other Non-white	515	3.0%	25	2.4%	540	2.9%
Total Non-white	4420	25.4%	229	21.8%	4649	25.2%
White	10676	61.4%	646	61.4%	11322	61.4%
Ethnicity Not Specified	2124	12.2%	147	14.0%	2271	12.3%
International	181	1.0%	30	2.9%	211	1.1%
University Totals	**17,401**	**100.0%**	**1,052**	**100.0%**	**18,453**	**100.0%**

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 with a moderate decline in Fall 2000 to 26.4%. In Fall 2002, 25.4% of Cal Poly's undergraduates identify themselves as non-white students, a slight additional decrease from Fall 2001. (Student ethnic origin is self-reported.)

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 to 30.0%. In Fall 2002, 23.7% of the new undergraduates are non-white, a decrease from Fall 2001 (25.9%).

In recent years an increasing number of students have declined to specify their ethnic origin, complicating trend analysis. This percentage grew from just over 7% during Fall 1995 through Fall 1998, to 13% in Fall 2000. In Fall 2002, about 12% of students chose to not specify an ethnicity.

To illustrate, in 1998, 29.3% of all enrolled students identified themselves as non-white, 61.9% chose white and 8.0% chose not to respond. In 2002, the non-white percentage was 25.2%, the white percentage was 61.4% and the no response percentage equaled 12.3%. With the available data, it is difficult to know what the true change in diversity has been over that four year period.

Student Age and Gender

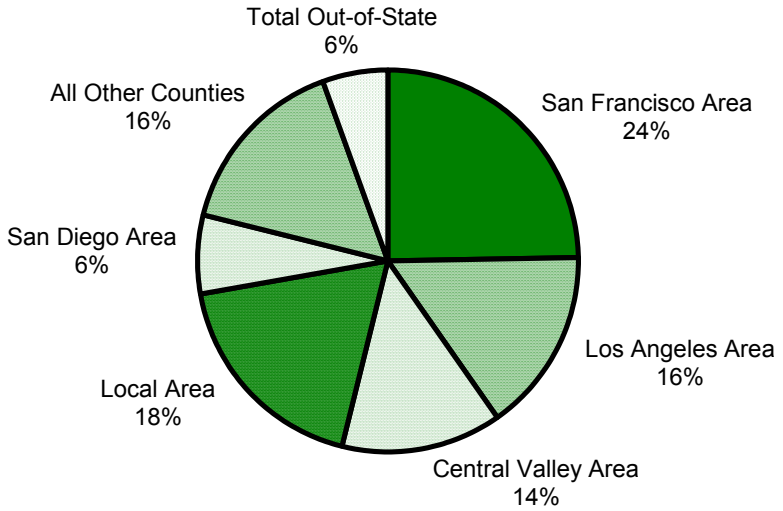
The average age of all Cal Poly students enrolled for Fall 2002 was 21.6 years. Undergraduates averaged 21.1 years, compared to 24.0 years for all undergraduates enrolled in the CSU system (based on last available data, Fall 2000).

There were 8,276 females (44.8%) and 10,177 males (55.2%) enrolled for Fall 2002. Undergraduate gender diversity at a campus wide level has shown a gradual increase. In Fall 2002, the percentages were 44.3% female and 55.7% male, compared to 42.6% female and 57.4% male in Fall 1990. Post-baccalaureate enrollment, traditionally more female, has shown a steady decrease in female enrollment over the last few years. In Fall 2002 53.6% of the campus wide graduate population was female. This is a slight decrease from 55.9% in Fall 2001 and 56.2% in Fall 2000.

Geographic Origin

In Fall 2002, Cal Poly undergraduate students came from every county in California, 46 other states and U.S. territories, and 31 foreign countries. Nevertheless, 96% are California residents.

The 18% of undergraduate students who are local area residents include students from Santa Barbara County (4%), Monterey County (2%) and San Luis Obispo County (12%).



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 2001.

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 1995 first-time freshmen cohorts.

For more detailed information, see the IP&A publication Poly*Trends* on "Retention and Graduation of Full-time Undergraduates" or the "Retention and Graduation Report updates" at http://www.ipa.calpoly.edu.

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%
Fall 2000 to Fall 2001	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	64.6%
Summer-Fall Cohort 1995	66.0%

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 2001-02 were:

Bachelor's Degrees	
Business Administration	13%
Agricultural Business	6%
Electrical Engineering	4%
Architecture	4%
Liberal Studies	4%
Mechanical Engineering	4%
Biological Sciences	3%
Kinesiology	3%
Psychology	3%

Master's Degrees	
Agriculture	18%
Business Administration	16%
Education	14%
Engineering	7%
Psychology	6%
Industrial and Technical Studies	5%

Degrees Conferred

Cal Poly first awarded bachelor's degrees in 1942-43. Total bachelor's degrees awarded through 2001-02 number 105,674.

Cal Poly awarded 3,765 degrees in 2001-02.

Bachelor's Degrees	3,508
Master's Degrees	257
Credential Recommendations	318

For more detailed information, see the Fact Book at http://www.ipa.calpoly.edu/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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