Characteristics of Students Enrolled at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

POLY VIEW FALL 2005

Applications for Fall 2005

Fall 2005 set a new record with 28,849 total applications. This number has been increasing since a low in Fall 1993. This increase is driven entirely by first-time freshmen (FTF) applications, which is also at an all-time high of 23,691. FTF applications increased 5.1% over last year, 41.6% since Fall 2000, and have nearly tripled since Fall 1993.

New Transfer applications have been up and down over the years. New Transfer applications are down 9.5% from last year in part because Cal Poly no longer accepts applications from lower division transfers.

After hitting an all-time high last year at 1,025, new post-baccalaureate applications dropped 13.2%.

The total includes 2,077 early decision applications for Fall 2005 of these 753 students were selected, and 629 (83.5%) enrolled.

New Freshmen	
Average High School GPA	3.73
Average SAT	1204

New Transfers	
Average College GPA	3.27

Academic Performance

	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate
Average Fall Term Units	14.20	11.04
*Average Cumulative GPA	2.87	3.57

* Based on the student's cumulative Cal Poly GPA, which does not include Fall 2005 grades.

College Size

College	Undergraduate	Post-baccalaureate	Total	Percent of Total
Agriculture	3,613	125	3,738	20.0%
Architecture & Env.	1,932	57	1,989	10.8%
Business	2,550	75	2,625	14.2%
Education	n/a	275	275	1.5%
Engineering	4,589	246	4,835	26.2%
Liberal Arts	2,953	109	3,062	16.6%
Science & Math	1,748	76	1,824	9.9%
Other	103	24	127	0.7%
University Total	**17,488**	**987**	**18,475**	**100.0%**

Enrollment

Cal Poly enrolled 18,475 students in Fall 2005. 17,488 (94.7%) of these students were undergraduates and 987 (5.3%) were post-baccalaureate students. The Fall total enrollment of 18,475 is an increase of 5.1% (893) from Fall of 2004.

Fall 2005 total headcount enrollment exceeded Cal Poly's internal headcount target of 18,150 by 1.8% (375 students). Fall 2005 undergraduate headcount was 2.0% above Cal Poly's internal undergraduate headcount target of 17,150. However, Fall 2005 post-baccalaureate headcount fell short of its internal target by 13 students.

Cal Poly enrolled a new first-time freshman class of 3,420 students in Fall 2005, which was 3.4% over Cal Poly's internal FTF target of 3,306. The Fall 2005 new transfer class of 898 students fell short of Cal Poly's internal new transfer target by 67 students.

The average load for all students in Fall 2005 was 14.03 with undergraduates carrying a load of 14.20 and post-baccalaureate students carrying a load of 11.04. This total student average load of 14.03 is down from last year's load of 14.20.

The historic Cal Poly Clocktower at the College of Education
Courtesy of Cal Poly News Photo Gallery

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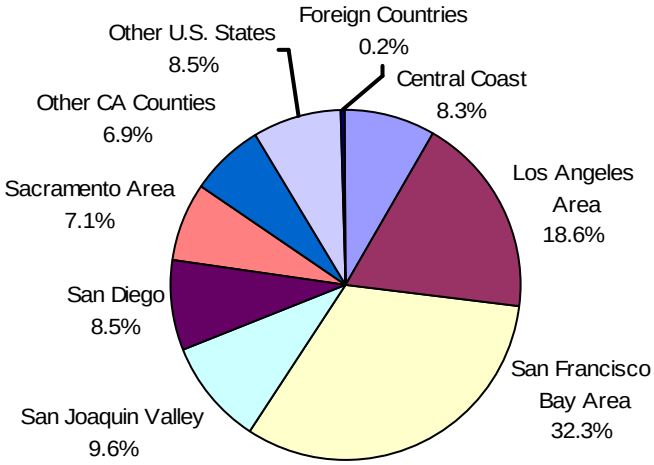
Institution of Origin (New Undergraduates)

What institutions do new Cal Poly undergraduates come from? The top "feeder" schools for Fall 2005 new undergraduates are:

High Schools		Community Colleges
Public	Private	
California High School (San Ramon)	St. Francis High School (Mountain View)	Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo High School	Jesuit High School (Carmichael)	Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria
Monte Vista High School (Danville)	Archbishop Mitty (San Jose)	Santa Rosa Junior College
Campolindo High School (Moraga)	Bellarmine College Prep (San Jose)	Ventura College
San Ramon High School (Danville)	Valley Christian High (San Jose)	Diablo Valley College
Poway High School		
Atascadero High School		

Geographic Origin of New First-Time Freshmen



Fall 2005 New FTF Enrollment by Geographic Region

Note: Based on county/state/country of residence at time of application

Area	Counties
Central Coast	San Benito, Monterey, SLO, Santa Barbara
Los Angeles	Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange
San Francisco Bay Area	Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Marin, SF, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
San Joaquin	San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern
San Diego	San Diego
Sacramento Area	Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado
Other	All other CA counties

Nearly one-third (32.3%)of Fall 2005 new first-time freshmen (FTF) came from the San Francisco Bay area. Another 18.6% of Fall 2005 new FTF came from the Los Angeles area. The top "feeder" counties for Fall 2005 new FTF were Santa Clara (8.8%), San Diego (8.5%), and Los Angeles (8.4%). The central coast area accounted for 8.3% of Fall 2005 new FTF with 4.4% from San Luis Obispo County.

Study Abroad

In Fall 2005, 86 Cal Poly students studied in ten countries as part of the California State University system's International Programs. The students' courses of study represented a variety of disciplines, and most participated in intensive language study at their host university.

As part of the National Student Exchange program, the only nationwide domestic student exchange program, 19 Cal Poly students studied at other universities across the United States. Cal Poly hosted 19 NSE students during 2005-06.

In Fall 2005 36 students participated in international exchanges to seven countries: Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, and Taiwan. Other opportunities exist to study in Austria, Canada, Honduras, India, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Other Study Abroad opportunities include, the Australia Study Program, the Cal Poly at Sea Program, the London Study Program, the Thai Study Program, the Rome Architecture Program, Valladolid Fall Studies Program in Spain and several extended field trips led by Cal Poly faculty (e.g. Honduras, Korea, Mexico).

International Students

Note: Based on country of citizenship

In Fall 2005, Cal Poly enrolled 130 international students, including 98 undergraduates and 32 post-baccalaureate students. These students came from 36 countries. The countries sending five or more students to Cal Poly were Germany, Japan, India, Denmark, France, Mexico, Hong Kong, Sweden, Taiwan and South Korea.

Ethnic Origin

Note: Student ethnic origin is self-reported.

	Undergraduates		Post-baccalaureates		Total	
African American	204	1.2%	6	0.6%	210	1.1%
Asian American	1,991	11.4%	100	10.1%	2,091	11.3%
Hispanic/Latino	1,750	10.0%	88	8.9%	1,838	9.9%
Native American	142	0.8%	8	0.8%	150	0.8%
Other Non-White	527	3.0%	37	3.7%	564	3.1%
Total Non-White	4,614	26.4%	239	24.2%	4,853	26.3%
White	11,357	64.9%	594	60.2%	11,951	64.7%
Ethnicity Not Specified	1,419	8.1%	122	12.4%	1,541	8.3%
International	98	0.6%	32	3.2%	130	0.7%
University Totals	17,488	100.0%	987	100.0%	18,475	100.0%

Cal Poly's total student population has experienced distinct changes in ethnic diversity over the past decade. The proportion of non-white students grew from 25.3% in Fall 1990 to a high of 32.8% in Fall 1995. The non-white proportion then declined to a low of 25.2% and has been climbing again since, resulting in a current (Fall 2005) non-white proportion of 26.3%

Non-white students accounted for 25.8% of the Fall 2005 first-time freshman class of 3,420 students. The non-white proportion of Fall 2005 new transfers was 31.8%.

A complication in trend analysis of ethnic origin comes from students who chose not to disclose their ethnic origin. A spike in this proportion occurred in the years subsequent to the passage of Proposition 209 which resulted in lower proportions of both white and non-white students. This effect has dissipated since then and it appears that the "no-response" proportion is back to the level it was prior to this anomaly.

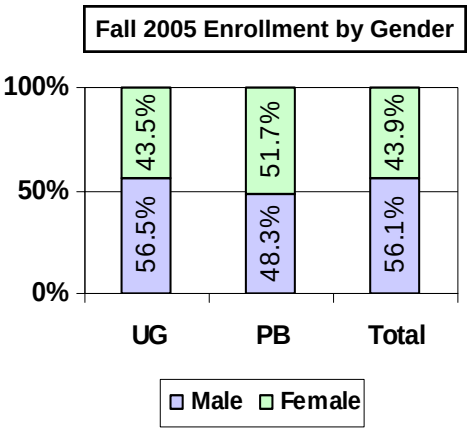
Student Age

Note: Based on student's age at census date for Fall 2005 (10-27-05)

The average age of Fall 2005 undergraduates was 20.8 with 94.4% of them under the age of 25. The average age of Fall 2005 post-baccalaureate students was 29.0.

	UG	PB	Total
Average Age	20.8	29.0	21.2
< 25 years of age	94.4%	39.9%	91.4%

Student Gender



There were 8,110 females (43.9%) and 10,365 males (56.1%) enrolled at Cal Poly in Fall 2005. The proportion of female students is up from the Fall 2004 proportion of 43.2%.

Among post-baccalaureate students, women slightly outnumbered men. 51.7% (510 students) of Fall 2005 post-baccalaureate students were female compared to 48.3% (477 students) being male.

Financial Aid

During the 2004-05 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 awarded in 2004-05 totaled over $81 million (an increase of over 3% over 2003-04).

During the 2004-05 academic year, federal, state, and state university grants accounted for 25% of the financial aid dollars distributed. Scholarships accounted for 10%; loans, 64%; and federal work study, 1%.

Housing

As of December 1, 2005, 3,598 students (20.5% of the undergraduates) lived on campus: 1,905 men (52.9%) and 1,693 women (47.1%). The remaining students lived off campus, with the majority residing in the city of San Luis Obispo.

On-campus housing includes the Cerro Vista apartments that opened in Fall 2003, accommodating nearly 800 students.

Degrees Conferred

The 3,410 bachelor's degrees awarded in 2004-05 is a decrease of 12.6% from last years' total of 3,903 bachelor's degrees awarded. However, this total is 6.8% higher than the number of bachelor's degrees awarded in 2002-03. The number of master's degrees awarded in 2004-05 (273) is the lowest total since 2001-02.

Business Administration awarded the most bachelor's degrees in 2004-05 of all bachelor's programs with 519 (15.2%). Agricultural Business followed with 232 (6.8%) bachelor's degrees awarded.

	Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	Credential Recommendations
1999-00	3,543	282	320
2000-01	2,850	286	298
2001-02	3,533	252	318
2002-03	3,193	316	311
2003-04	3,903	408	294
2004-05	3,410	273	262

The Agriculture and Education master's programs shared the highest number of master's degrees awarded with 35 (12.8%) each.

Majors that graduated the most students in 2004-05 were:

Bachelor's Degrees	
Business Administration	15.2%
Agricultural Business	6.8%
Mechanical Engineering	5.7%
Architecture	4.2%
Electrical Engineering	3.3%
Kinesiology	3.1%
Animal Science	2.8%
Psychology	2.8%
Liberal Studies	2.7%
Industrial Technology	2.6%

Master's Degrees	
Agriculture	12.8%
Education	12.8%
Business Administration	12.1%
Engineering	9.9%
Industrial & Technical Stds	7.0%
Electrical Engineering	6.2%
City and Regional Planning	5.1%
English	5.1%
Psychology	5.1%

Fields of Study

Cal Poly offers 68 bachelor's degree programs including new programs of a BS in Biomedical Engineering and a BA in Comparative Ethnic Studies. Also, the BA in Speech Communications was renamed to a BA in Communication Studies.

At the graduate level Cal Poly offers 24 master's degree programs with the addition of an MA in History. Cal Poly also offers an Ed.D. degree in Educational Leadership in conjunction with UC-Santa Barbara.

In addition to the degree programs, Cal Poly also offers 64 minors and 8 credential programs.

Nine bachelor's and seven master's programs are unique to Cal Poly among the California State University system campuses.

Retention & Persistence to Graduation

One Year Retention Rate for First-time Freshmen	
Fall 1997 Cohort	87.1%
Fall 1998 Cohort	89.0%
Fall 1999 Cohort	88.6%
Fall 2000 Cohort	88.6%
Fall 2001 Cohort	88.3%
Fall 2002 Cohort	89.1%
Fall 2003 Cohort	90.9%
Fall 2004 Cohort	91.3%

Cohorts used for retention and graduation rates are based on the federal "student right to know act" methodology which is defined as any student entering post-secondary education for the first time in Fall term (or the preceding Summer term) who is enrolled as full-time in the Fall.

One year retention rates have reached a high of 91.3% from the Fall 2004 cohort. Six year graduation rates have increased substantially since the Fall 1992 cohort. The most recent rate shows Cal Poly graduating 68.9% of the Fall 1999 cohort within six years.

Six-year Graduation Rate for First-time Freshmen	
Fall Cohort 1992	59.7%
Fall Cohort 1993	64.4%
Fall Cohort 1994	64.5%
Fall Cohort 1995	66.0%
Fall Cohort 1996	64.4%
Fall Cohort 1997	65.3%
Fall Cohort 1998	68.6%
Fall Cohort 1999	68.9%

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 2005.
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