University Headcount Enrollment

Cal Poly’s enrollment increased in Fall 2011. This is primarily due to a higher-than-expected yield of our incoming first-time-freshman class. Cal Poly’s 18,762 total students enrolled in Fall 2011 is a 2.2% increase from Fall 2010.

Undergraduate headcount enrollment increased 2.3% from Fall 2010.

Post-baccalaureate headcount, which is comprised mostly of credential students, decreased 1.7% from Fall 2010.

Graduate enrollment rose to 919 students in Fall 2011, an increase of 1.2% from Fall 2010.

Notes: Post-baccalaureate category consists of credential and non-degree-seeking students. Graduate category consists of students who are pursuing master’s degrees.

Average Undergraduate Load

The Fall 2011 undergraduate average unit load of 14.34 is a 1.3% decrease from last year’s average of 14.53.

The unexpected increase in first-time-freshman yield, which contributed to an increased enrollment, along with a decrease in state funding resulting in limited course availability are the main factors that contributed to the drop in average unit loads. However, this drop is mitigated by Cal Poly’s improvements in efficiency and student throughput.

The Fall 2011 graduate student average unit load of 11.58 is a 2.8% increase from last year’s average of 11.26.

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Gender proportions do not change much from year to year. Of the Fall 2011 total student population, 44.6% are women. This proportion is the same as last Fall.

- 44.6% of Fall 2011 undergraduates are women.
- 66.9% of Fall 2011 post-baccalaureate students are women.
- 41.2% of Fall 2011 graduate students are women.

Of the Fall 2011 total student population, 12.9% identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and 10.8% identify themselves as Asian American.

A typical grouping of ethnic origins that is referred to as “under-represented minorities” (URM) consists of Hispanic, African American, and Native American. Cal Poly’s URM proportion of total enrollment for Fall 2011 is 14.1%.

Note: As of Summer 2009, Cal Poly converted to the new federal standards for collecting and reporting ethnicity. Among the changes is a new option for students to identify themselves in multiple races. Because of the new “multi-racial” category, we no longer aggregate students into a “non-white” category.

The College of Engineering continues to enroll the largest number of Cal Poly majors, with 29.2% of all Fall 2011 students. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences follows with 19.9% of all Fall 2011 students. The College of Engineering also has the most graduate (master’s) students (433). The College of Architecture and Environmental Design has the highest average undergraduate unit load. Conversely, the College of Engineering has the lowest average undergraduate unit load.