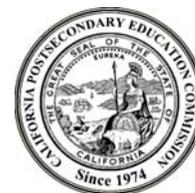


# New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET



## Trends in new transfer enrollments

The opportunity for California students to begin a post-secondary education at a community college and to transfer to a four-year institution to complete a baccalaureate degree is a major cornerstone of California's Master Plan for Higher Education. Over the past four decades, many hundreds of thousands of students have taken advantage of this route to a bachelor's degree. This Factsheet examines the enrollment trends of community college students who transferred to the State's public universities.

Recognizing the transfer function as an important facet of educational opportunity, the community colleges' *Partnership for Excellence Program*, in extensive consultation with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) has established aggressive community college transfer goals: 64,000 community college transfers annually to CSU by year 2005, and 14,500 such transfers to the UC by 2005.

To support these goals, the systems are engaged in several initiatives intended to: (1) improve course articulation, (2) increase joint participation at transfer centers, (3) intensify outreach activities, (4) expand evaluation procedures, and (5) offer more part-time options for UC transfer students.

Despite these initiatives, the annual number of community-college transfers to the CSU and UC have declined by nearly 3,500 students, or 6.0 percent since 1994-95. These trends run counter to the growth in the community-college student population and underscore the need for more effective evaluative practices.

## Difference among campuses

Contrary to the statewide trend, four CSU campuses increased their enrollment of new community college students between the 1996 and 1998 academic years. As shown in Display 1, these campuses were Fullerton (+9.0%), Cal Poly Pomona (+8.3%), Monterey Bay (+6.9%), and San Marcos (+2.6%).

During the same period, as revealed by Display 2, two UC campuses experienced an increase in the number of community college transfer students enrolled. These were Berkeley (2.8%) and San Diego (3.1%).

*DISPLAY 1 New Community College Transfer Students at the California State University, by Campus, 1996-97 to 1998-99*

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>
CSU Bakersfield	833	783	821
CSU Chico	2,056	2,111	1,992
CSU Dominguez	1,470	1,499	1,335
CSU Fresno	2,116	2,184	1,991
CSU Fullerton	3,785	3,518	4,126
CSU Hayward	2,219	2,056	1,869
Humboldt State	978	971	923
CSU Long Beach	3,794	3,148	3,264
CSU Los Angeles	2,104	2,230	1,939
Maritime Academy	35	42	46
CSU Monterey Bay	406	310	434
CSU Northridge	3,738	3,388	3,388
Cal Poly Pomona	1,826	2,003	1,977
CSU Sacramento	3,688	3,573	3,664
CSU San Bernardino	1,794	1,924	1,715
San Diego State	4,513	4,322	3,746
San Francisco State	3,863	3,138	3,508
San Jose State	3,916	3,714	3,681
Cal Poly San Luis	1,593	1,342	1,248
CSU San Marcos	1,249	1,074	1,282
Sonoma State	1,176	1,059	1,033
CSU Stanislaus	<u>1,197</u>	<u>1,157</u>	<u>1,007</u>
Total	48,349	45,456	44,989

*DISPLAY 2 New Community College Transfer Students at the University of California, by Campus, 1996-97 to 1998-99*

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>
Berkeley	1,624	1,721	1,652
Davis	1,477	1,394	1,371
Irvine	934	820	827
Los Angeles	2,105	2,066	2,054
Riverside	843	814	799
San Diego	1,045	1,186	1,108
Santa Barbara	1,460	1,203	1,459
Santa Cruz	<u>1,004</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>891</u>
Total	10,499	10,210	10,161

## Transfers to the California State University

Community college transfers account for about 86.3 percent of the CSU entering transfer population. As shown in Display 3, community college transfers to the CSU declined during the reporting period by over 1,900 students,

or 4.1 percent. The largest proportional declines occurred among White students (-14%) and African Americans (-21%). In contrast, Latino community college transfers increased by about 10 percent. The number of Asian transfers remained virtually unchanged.

The overall decline appears to be associated, in part, with the State University's stricter enforcement of lower-division transfer requirements. Between Fall 1994 and Fall 1998, the enrollment of lower-division transfers declined by 2,459 students, or 8.7 percent per year. During the same period, the enrollment of upper-division community college transfers increased by about 1.0 percent each year.

There was a decline in the CSU community college transfer admission rates among all racial-ethnic categories. Between the 1994-95 and 1997-98 academic years, for example, the admission rate, expressed as the ratio of applicants to admits, declined from .64 to .55 for African-American transfers, from .73 to .66 for Asian transfers, from .75 to .69 for Latino transfers, and from .81 to .73 for White students. Once admitted, however, approximately 72 percent (ratio of admits to enrollments) of each racial group enrolled and began matriculation.

### *Transfer to the University of California*

Community college transfers usually account for about 89.3 percent of the entering transfer population at the University of California. As shown in Display 3, community college transfers to the university declined during the reporting period by 768 students or roughly 7.0 percent. Like the CSU, the largest proportional declines occurred among White students (-28.7%) and African Americans (-37.4%), although the UC declines were much more substantial than the rates reported for the CSU.

Also like the CSU, the overall decline in the enrollment of community college transfers to the University appears to be associated with a shrinking applicant pool and stricter enforcement of lower-division transfer requirements. Between Fall 1994 and Fall 1998, the enrollment of lower-division community college transfers plummeted by 1,208 students, or 62.6 percent. During the same period, the enrollment of upper-division community transfers increased by 8.0 percent, or 2.0 percent per year. As a result, the number of lower-division transfers, as a proportion of the total transfer population, dropped from 21 percent to 8.7 percent.

Analysis of the community college transfer applicant pool revealed a decline in both application and admission rates. Between 1996 and 1998, the overall number of community college applicants to UC decreased by 7.3 percent while the mean admission rate slipped by 7.6 percentage points. The declines were most dramatic for African Americans and White students. During the same three-year period, the number of African American transfer applicants fell by 27.5 percent, while the admission rate for this racial ethnic group edged downward from .59 percent to .56. Reflecting a similar trend, the number of White transfer applicants declined by 19 percent, although the admission rate for this group remained virtually unchanged.

It is encouraging that the overall UC enrollment rate of community college admits showed some improvement, increasing from .72 in 1996 to .74 in 1998. Also, preliminary Fall 1999 data suggest that the decline in the annual number of community college transfer applications to UC may be beginning to reverse. The University anticipates that its 1999-00 transfer applicant pool will be up 2.0 percent over the 1998-99 figures.

*DISPLAY 3 New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities, 1994-95 to 1998-99*

Group		California State University					University of California				
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Asian	No.	6,212	6,562	6,741	6,346	6,230	2,610	2,767	2,863	2,806	2,377
	%	15.5	15.9	16.7	16.7	16.8	23.9	27.7	29.4	30.1	28.6
Black	No.	2,654	2,836	2,799	2,442	2,105	364	386	333	293	228
	%	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.4	5.7	3.3	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.7
Filipino	No.	1,739	1,840	1,867	1,626	1,711	306	310	318	340	296
	%	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.6
Latino	No.	7,437	8,334	8,661	8,464	8,201	1,452	1,503	1,430	1,300	1,302
	%	18.6	20.3	21.5	22.8	22.1	13.3	15.0	14.7	13.9	15.7
Native American	No.	539	641	604	565	475	129	137	124	102	97
	%	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2
White	No.	21,402	20,931	19,623	18,341	18,375	5,614	4,888	4,664	4,487	4,000
	%	53.5	50.9	48.7	48.3	49.5	51.4	48.9	47.9	48.1	48.2
Total*		46,912	48,688	48,349	45,546	44,989	10,929	10,886	10,492	10,210	10,161

\*Total includes non-resident aliens and students who did not report their ethnicity.