



Office of Institutional Research Institutional Research Bulletin

The Institutional Research Bulletin will provide brief research reports on a variety of topics to the Fullerton College community. Your suggestions for topics and questions about reports are welcome. Please contact Dr. Kenneth Meehan at 992-7064.

Fullerton College Students - 2008

At the Fall 2008 first census date, Fullerton College enrolled 22,157 students. This represents a 4.7% headcount increase over Fall 2007 and is the highest enrollment at first census in Fullerton College's long history.

- The majority of students enrolled at Fullerton College are female (51.1%) and the "gender gap" has been closing over the past several years.

- About 76% of the students are 25 years old or younger, with more than half (57%) 21 years old or younger. About 70% of students are between 18 and 24 years of age and the mean age of students is 24.2 years, a slight decline from the previous fall. The youngest student at Fullerton College is 10 years old and the oldest is 87.

* For the first time in the history of Fullerton College, Hispanic students have become a plurality. The percentage of Hispanic students now slightly exceeds the percentage of white students. Over the past ten years, the percentage of Hispanic students has increased by about 1% per year, while the percentage of white students has declined by about 1% per year.

* About 2 of every 3 students at Fullerton College students are from traditionally under-represented ethnic groups. The percentage of African-Americans and Hispanics at Fullerton College exceeds the percentages in the population of Orange County, while the percentage of Asians is below and the percentage of whites is significantly below the Orange County totals.

Student Ethnicity

African American	3.5%
American Indian	0.7%
Asian	13.9%
Filipino	3.0%
Hispanic	35.4%
Pacific Islanders	0.7%
White	33.8%
Other	1.8%
Unknown	7.2%

- Most students are U.S. citizens (89.2%) or permanent residents (5.9%).

- About 50% of students graduated from Orange County high schools, with the majority from high schools in the North Orange County Community College District. Approximately one-third of current students graduated from one of the top feeder high schools, each with over 500 students at Fullerton College: Fullerton, El Dorado, Brea-Olinda, Anaheim, Sonora, Sunny Hills, La Habra, Troy, Katella, Valencia and Esperanza. Another 20% of students graduated from high schools in Los Angeles County. Fullerton students represent over 500 California high schools and many high schools nationally. Over 750 students graduated from local private high schools.

- Nearly 3% of students graduated from a foreign high school and approximately 5% are not high schools graduates or have high school equivalency or proficiency certificates. Slightly over half of all students graduated from high school within the last 5 years. About 4% of students hold an associate's degree and 7% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

- About 45% of students are continuing. About 33% are first-time Fullerton College students, including transfers from other colleges. And approximately 21% are returning Fullerton College students, including those who have attended another college in the interim. Special-admit students account for less than 1% of enrollment.

- Fullerton College students enroll with a variety of goals. Nearly two-thirds express the desire to transfer, with or without an associate's degree. Many attend to learn or upgrade skills for a career. A significant percentage enrolls without expressing a clear goal. The following table represents the goals expressed by students.

Degree Objective

Transfer with degree	46.3%
Transfer without degree	18.9%
Degree without transfer	4.8%
Vocational degree	0.6%
Vocational certificate	1.8%
Discover goals	1.7%
Prepare for new career	3.0%
Advance in current career	2.2%
Maintain license	1.1%
Educational development	3.5%
Improve basic skills	1.8%
Undecided	10.2%

* The majority (60%) of students attend Fullerton College part-time, though the percentage of full-time students has been increasing over the past several years. The average number of units for which students enrolled is 9.1. This represents a slight increase over Fall 2007 and a significant increase over the average of 10 years ago.

- The Fall 2008 Fullerton College students represent over 200 programs, Over 5,000 students indicate their major is Liberal Studies. Other popular programs include: Business Administration (1,317), Business Management (906), Psychology (831), Art (610), Pre-Nursing (564), Biology (544), Accounting (536), Music (522), Administration of Justice (463), Child Development (448), Engineering (421) and

English (413). University Transfer Studies is also growing in popularity. Over 7,000 students are enrolled in 29 A.S. and 110 certificate programs.

- Current Fullerton College students also have a wide range of educational backgrounds. Nearly 300 colleges and universities are identified as the last college of attendance for Fullerton College students. Students with previous college experience represent transfers to Fullerton College, students concurrently enrolled at several community colleges in order to find the courses they require, degree holders who are seeking retraining for new careers, upgrading of skills, and continuing learning in a wide range of courses. The colleges and universities include 87 of the 109 California community colleges, with almost 3,000 students from neighboring community colleges. Over 1,600 students have previously attended a California State University campus, the majority at CSU Fullerton, with 17 campuses represented. Most University of California campus are represented, with nearly 400 students having previously attended a UC campus, including over 100 from UC Irvine.

- For the first time Fullerton College has begun to systematically collect information about parents' educational level. More than one-third of our students are the first in their families to attend college. For another 33%, one or both parents have some college, including those with associate degrees. And one or both parents of about 30% of students hold a bachelor's degree or graduate degree.

- Fullerton College is clearly marked by diversity in its students and their interests. The College is meeting its goal of providing student access, enrolling significant numbers of women, traditionally under-represented ethnic minorities, older students, part-time students, local high school graduates and returning and transfer students. And those students are engaged in myriad academic pursuits, from improvement of basic skills to preparation for careers and transfer. The challenge for Fullerton College is to assist students in meeting their goals.