



Institutional Research Bulletin

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Fullerton College Students - 2004

At the Fall 2004 census date, Fullerton College enrolled 19,777 students. This represents an increase of 2.3% over Fall 2003 and is the level of enrollment during the period 1997 – 1999.

* The majority of students enrolled at Fullerton College are female (53%).

* About 73% of the students are 25 years or younger. The average age of students is 25 years and has decreased over the past 5 years, even with fewer special admit high school students, reflecting the continued impact of Tidal Wave II.

* More than 50% of Fullerton College students are from traditionally under-represented ethnic groups. And the percentage of Asians and Hispanics at Fullerton College closely matches the percentages in the population of Orange County.

Student Ethnicity

African American	3.3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.7%
Asian	14.7%
Filipino	3.4%
Hispanic	31.7%
Pacific Islanders	0.5%
White	39.9%
Other	1.8%
Unknown	4.8%

* Most students are U.S. citizens (86.6%) or permanent residents (8.3%).

* Almost all students (96.1%) pay resident tuition.

* Most students (54%) 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: Anaheim, Brea Olinda, El Dorado, Esperanza, Fullerton, Katella, La Habra, Sonora, Sunny Hills, Troy and Valencia.

* Nearly 4% of students graduated from a foreign high school and approximately 6% 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.

* Over 47% are continuing students. About 34% are first-time Fullerton College students, including transfers from other colleges. And approximately 18% are returning Fullerton College students, including those who have attended another college in the interim.

* Fullerton College students enroll with a variety of goals. Over half 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	41.2%
Transfer without degree	7.8%
Degree without transfer	3.3%
Vocational degree	0.5%
Vocational certificate	1.8%
Discover goals	2.4%
Prepare for new career	4.0%
Advance in current career	2.7%
Maintain license	0.9%
Educational development	4.0%
Improve basic skills	1.7%
Undecided	19.9%

* The majority (60%) of students attend Fullerton College part-time. The average number of units for which students enrolled is 9.18, a significant increase over the past 5 years.

Units Enrolled

1 - 3	15.9%
4 - 6	18.6%
7 - 9	15.6%
10 - 12	9.5%
13 - 15	32.8%
16 or More	7.6%

* The fall 2004 Fullerton College students represent 219 majors, with Liberal Studies (11,998), Business Administration (1,097), Child Development (482), Psychology (472), Biology (392), Administration of Justice (380), Art (370), Accounting (360), Business Management (339), and Music (290) having the most majors. Over 6,000 students are enrolled in 29 A.S. and 110 certificate programs.

* Current Fullerton College students also have a wide range of educational backgrounds. Nearly 400 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 96 of the 109 California community colleges, with Cypress, Mt. San Antonio, Santa Ana, Cerritos, and Orange

Coast accounting for over 2,000 students. Over 1,700 students have previously attended a California State University campus, the majority at CSU Fullerton (1,167), with 22 campuses represented. Every University of California campus is represented, with 375 having previously attended a UC campus, including 137 from UC Irvine. And the growing international student program has brought students to Fullerton College with experience in colleges and universities representing 44 foreign countries.

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 and Orange County 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 growth projected to occur at Fullerton College will take place through the attraction of an increased number of local high school graduates, so the demographics of Fullerton College will likely continue in the current direction. Data indicate that the “baby boom echo” will continue in north Orange County for several more years. First-time students have increased. More students are enrolled in day classes and the average number of units for which students are enrolled has increased slightly.

Providing access is the first step in meeting the mission of the college. Achieving student success, meeting individual student goals, improving basic skills, increasing the number of certificates and degrees awarded, increasing the number of transfers to four-year institutions, and meeting emerging workforce needs remain the challenges in achieving institutional effectiveness and staff and student satisfaction.

The Institutional Research Bulletin provides 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 992-7040.