

STUDENT AFFAIRS Research CENTER

Research Report / January 1999

Profile of CSUF Students: Fall 1998

In Brief

Each semester the Office of Analytical Studies publishes a wealth of data on students at Cal State Fullerton. This report will highlight some of these data, and provide a profile of the students who attend the University. It is our hope that this will be beneficial to researchers and staff at all levels.

Overview: Fall 1998 Headcount Sets a Record

During the Fall 1998 semester, there was a total of 25,675 students enrolled at Cal State Fullerton, the largest headcount of record. The average unit load per undergraduate student was 11.4, and for graduate students it was 8.0 units. The average age was 25.1 years, and women constitute nearly 59% of the Cal State Fullerton student population.

Age of Students at CSUF

For this same semester at CSUF, the mean ages of students by class level are as follows: 18.0 years for first-time

freshmen (FTF), 18.5 years for other freshmen, 20.3 years for sophomores, 24.7 years for juniors, 27.1 years for seniors, 32.6 years for graduate students, and 25.0 years for all transfer students.

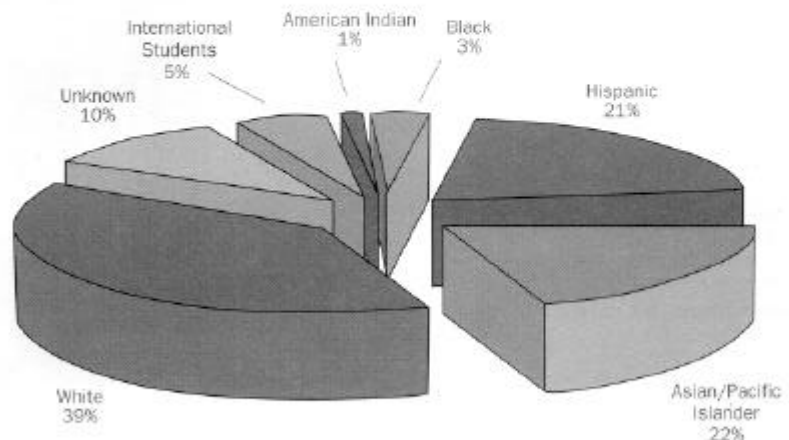
Ethnicity

Percentages of students by self-reported ethnic category for Fall 1998 are presented in Figure 1. White students represent 39% of the ethnic population and the combination of the Latino Asian/Pacific Islander (API) population

totals 43% of the student population.

The interesting analysis of ethnic composition is by class level. For example, the percentage of White students at the first time freshman level is 29%. At the Senior level it is 40%, and at the graduate level it is 53%. This may be due in part to the change in the ethnic categories of high school students who entered in 1998 compared to those who entered in 1994, which in turn may be due to the changing demographics of Orange County.

Figure 1
Ethnicity of Students: Fall 1998



STUDENT AFFAIRS Research C E N T E R

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Student Affairs research is a major priority. This research report reflects the Student Affairs commitment to a continual focus on research relating to student affairs.

The mission of the Student Affairs Research Center is to administer and support research on students, including campus climate assessment.

Upcoming Reports:

- Census of Computer Skills Among Student Affairs Staff Before and After Roll Out.
- How Many Hours Do Our Students Study?: Climate Survey.
- Sense of Community at CSU Fullerton: A Test of Competing Causal Models.
- How Many Hours Do our Students Work?: Climate Survey.
- Profile of CSU Fullerton Students: Campus Climate Survey

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Class Level Stats

The percentages of students in each class level for the Fall 1998 semester are as follows: Freshmen 20.1%, Sophomores 8.3%, Juniors 25%, Seniors 29.3%, and graduates represent 17.1%. The sophomore class has a lower percentage of students due to the fact that freshmen often take three semesters to change status to sophomore (sophomore status is classified by having earned 30 units). As usual, the junior and senior classes are larger due to the number of new students who transfer in each semester at the junior level, combining with the native freshmen as they move up in status over time.

Graduate Student Headcount Highest in Four Years

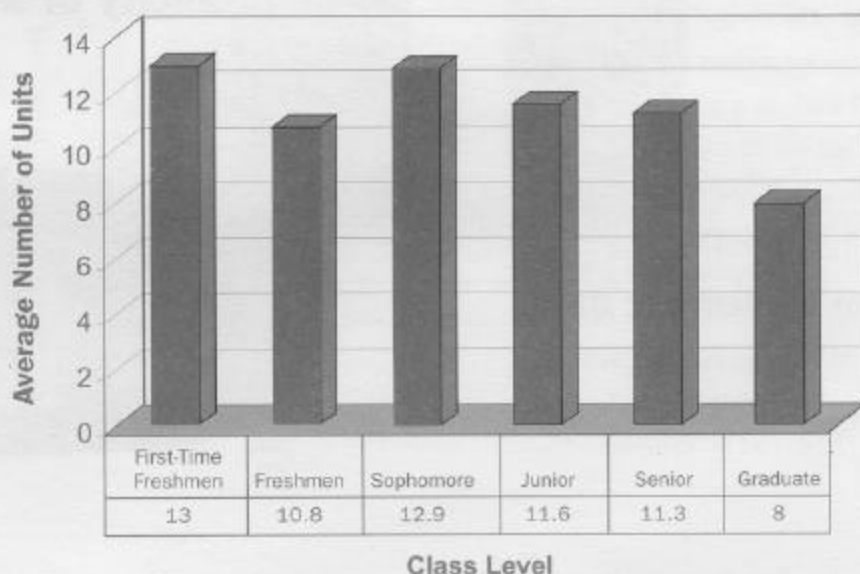
Graduate student headcount (all postbaccalaureate students are included in this count) for the Fall 1998 semester

was 4,396, also the highest in the past four years. For comparison, the graduate student headcount was 4,163 in Fall 1997, 3,950 in Fall 1996, 3,735 in Fall 1995, and 3,751 for the Fall 1994 semester.

Average Unit Loads

During the Fall 1998 semester, first-time freshmen averaged the highest number of units and graduate students averaged the fewest number of units. Of the entire Fall 1998 student population, 15.1% took 6 units, 9.1% took 9 units, 27.5% took 12 units, and 15.2% took 15 units. The average unit load by class level is presented in Figure 2, and is as follows: First-Time Freshmen averaged 13.0 units, Other Freshmen averaged 10.8 units, Sophomores averaged 12.9 units, Juniors averaged 11.6 units, Seniors averaged 11.3 units, and Graduates averaged 8.0 units during the Fall 1998 semester. In order to be a full-

Figure 2
**Average Unit Load by Class Level:
Fall 1998**



time graduate student, students must take either 12 units or 9 units with 6 units of 500-level courses.

Full-Time and Part-Time Students

The largest single group of full-time students is seniors. The group with the largest percent of part-time students is graduate students. See Figure 3 for the numbers of full and part-time students by class level.

Where Do CSUF Students Come From?

Forty-three percent of first-time freshmen reported their county of origin as Orange County. Figure 4 shows the percentages of CSUF first-time freshmen for each residential area. In addition, 95% of the total student population for the Fall 1998 semester reported their residence a California county, 1% reported their residence to be from another state or U.S. territory outside of California, and 4% reported their residence to be from another country.

What Do Our Students Major In?

Figure 5 (on the back page) shows the number of students by class level for each school at CSUF. As indicated in the chart, the largest number of seniors and sophomores have majors in the School of Business Administration and Economics. The highest number of Juniors, however, is equally divided between the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School of Business Administration and

Figure 3
Number of Full-Time and Part-Time Students by Class Level: Fall 1998

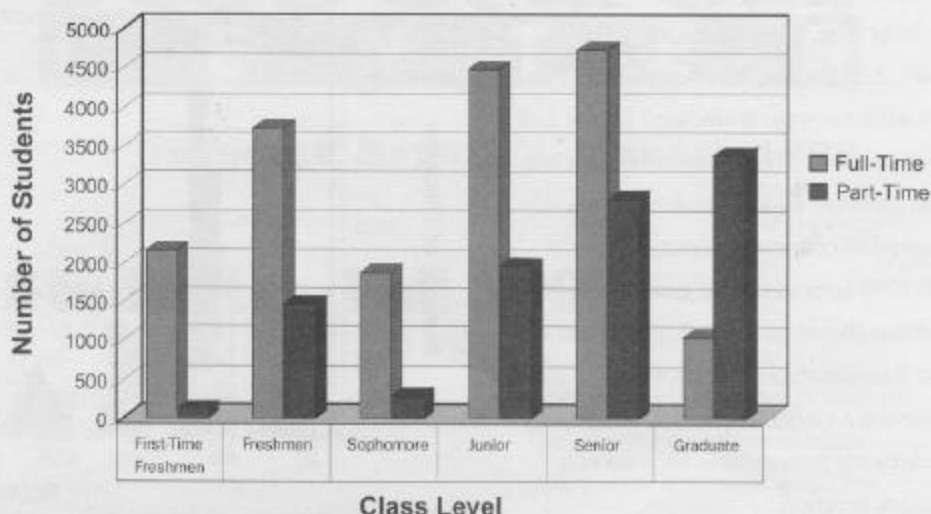
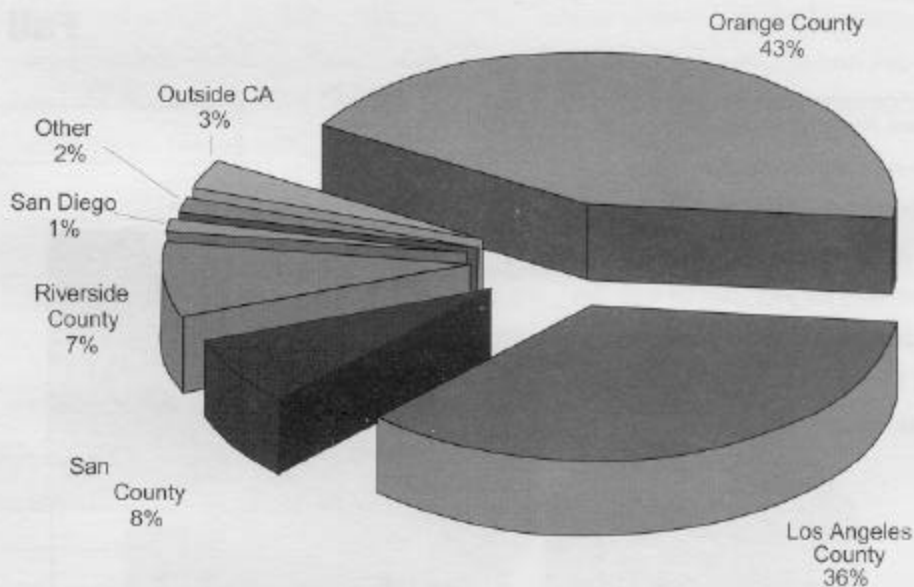


Figure 4
Where Do CSUF First-Time Freshmen Come From?



Economics. The highest number of Freshmen fall into the "other" category, as many are undecided about their major.

Most Graduate/Post Baccalaureate students were majoring in "other," of which 1,058 were in credential only and 344 students were undeclared for the Fall 1998 semester. The smallest number of Graduate/Post Baccalaureate students majored in communications during the Fall 1998 semester. The graduate students shown in the "other" column are Post Baccalaureate students either achieving a credential in their 5th year or working on prerequisites for a specific Master's program.

Gender

As shown in Figure 6, during the Fall 1998 semester there were 58.5% females and 41.5% males attending Cal State Fullerton.

Data are reported in Headcounts. All data were obtained from the Statistical Handbook for Fall, 1998 from the Office of Analytical Studies. We thank Dolores Vura for providing us with this handbook and Dr. James Blackburn, Maria Elenbaas and Roland Madrid for their assistance.

Figure 5
Number of Students in Each School by Class Level: Fall 1998

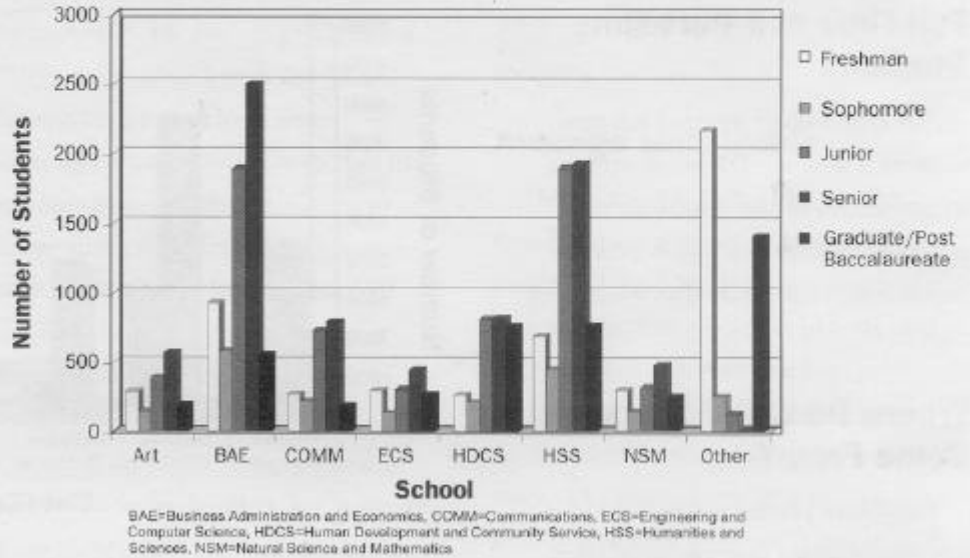


Figure 6
Percent of Students by Gender: Fall 1998

