



Incoming Undergraduate Students at CSUF

INTRODUCTION

In 1957, California State University Fullerton became the 12th State College in California and is now one of several major universities in Orange County. The campus has grown in both facilities and programs and now enrolls over 35,000 students. These changes have an impact on surrounding communities as well as those it educates. Issues such as transportation, housing, and employment, can all be affected by the location of a university and the characteristics of the students it enrolls.

This Orange County Profiles focuses on the student enrollment of incoming undergraduate students at Cal State Fullerton. There are two distinct groups of incoming students profiled in the following report: first-time freshmen (students who are beginning at CSUF immediately following graduation from high school) and undergraduate transfer students (students who enter CSUF in either fall or spring from another institution where they have earned college credits). Both groups include only students who are accepted into degree-seeking

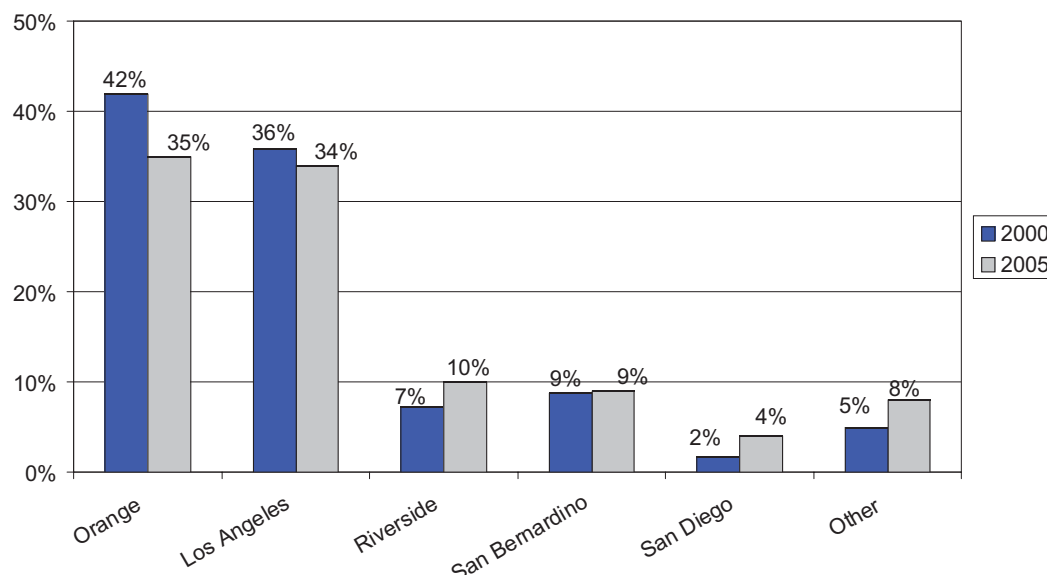
undergraduate programs. This *Profiles* will look at the institutes of origin and characteristics of these two groups.

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

First-time freshman accounted for 11.3% (2,772) of the total number of students enrolled in Fall 2000. According to the Fall 2005 enrollment figures, there were 35,040 students enrolled at CSUF and first-time freshmen accounted for 9.8% (3,943). Though the number of first-time freshman students increased between 2000 and 2005, their share of total enrollment dropped by 1.5 percentage points.

First-time freshman enter CSUF after their senior year in high school. With attractions such as central location and diverse course offerings, there are many high schools that feed into CSUF. Fall 2000 enrollment for first-time CSUF freshmen students from Orange County high schools was 1,130 (42%) followed by Los Angeles (36%), San Bernardino (9%), Riverside (7%), and San Diego (2%) (Figure 1). According to the Fall 2005

Figure 1
County of Origin for CSUF First-time Freshmen, Fall 2000 and 2005



Source: CSU Fullerton Institutional Research and Analytical Studies, Fall 2000 and 2005

enrollment figures, there were 1,394 (35%) students who enrolled at CSUF from Orange County high schools. Orange County was followed by Los Angeles (34%), Riverside (10%), San Bernardino (9%), and San Diego (4%). Though the raw numbers have changed, the distribution has remained similar from 2000 to 2005.

The top three Orange County high schools with students enrolling at CSUF in Fall 2000 were Esperanza (52), Diamond Bar (52), and El Dorado (47) (Table 1). In Fall 2005, Esperanza (50), Sunny Hills (48), and Troy (42) had the highest number of high school seniors entering CSUF as first-time freshmen.

Table 1 highlights the top three feeder schools each year and their average number of first-time freshmen enrolled at CSUF between 2000 and 2005. The first-time freshmen who enrolled at CSUF primarily came from the four southland counties surrounding CSUF. Two of CSUF's top three feeder high schools are not located in Orange County. Diamond Bar High School averaged the most first-time freshmen enrolled at CSUF, 64, and is located in Los Angeles County. Esperanza High School in Orange County averaged 58 first-time freshmen students, followed by Ayala High School from San Bernardino County with an average of 55 students.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFERS

Of the 35,040 students enrolled at CSUF in Fall 2005, new undergraduate transfers accounted for 10.4% (3,659) of the student body at CSUF. That number was higher than the 2,932 new transfer students enrolled in Fall 2000. While the share of first-time freshmen enrollment saw a decline from Fall 2000 to 2005, the undergraduate transfers remained at about 10% of the student body.

Undergraduate transfer students reflect a similar distribution as their first-time freshmen counterparts (Figure 2). In Fall 2000, a majority (60%) of all incoming transfer students were from Orange County institutions, followed by Los Angeles (24%), San Bernardino (6%), Riverside (4%) and San Diego (2%). According to Fall 2005 enrollment figures, there were 2,126 (56%) students who transferred to CSUF from Orange County institutions. Orange County was followed by Los Angeles (22%), Riverside (6%), San Bernardino (6%), and San Diego (2%) Counties.

Table 2 shows that seven of the top 10 community colleges with undergraduate transfer students to CSUF are in Orange County. Fullerton College averaged the largest number of students enrolled at CSUF annually over the 6-year period (852), followed by Orange Coast College (520) and Santa Ana College (448). The 2005 annual enrollment numbers show Fullerton College (849), Orange Coast (565), and Saddleback (426) as the top three community colleges transferring students to CSUF. The distribution differed slightly in 2000 when Santa Ana (460) had the third highest number of transfer students, above Saddleback (363).

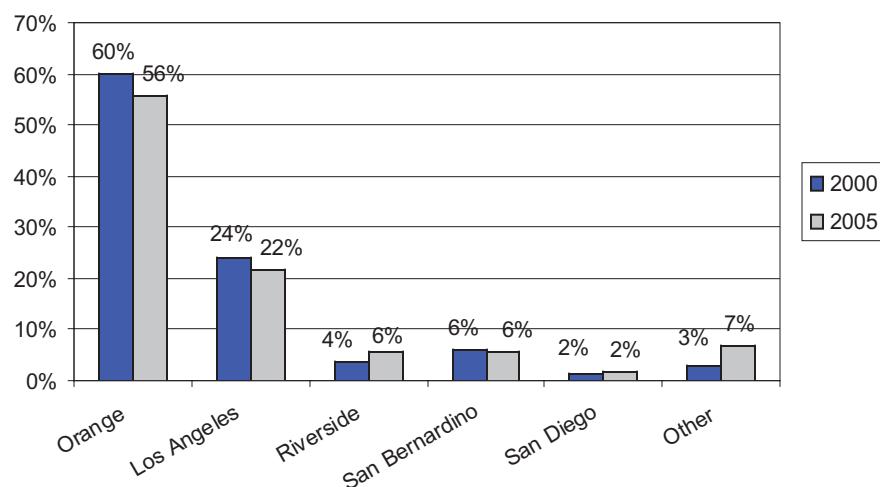
In addition to students transferring from community colleges, there were also students who transferred to CSUF from another educational institution. Only 193 students transferred from another CSU campus in 2005, a decrease of twelve students from the 2000 figure of 205. There were also 233 students who enrolled at the campus in 2005 that did not fall into any one of the previous categories, a decrease of six students from the 239 reported in 2000.

**Table 1
Top 10 Feeder High Schools to CSUF for First-time Freshmen, Fall 2000-2005**

| High Schools | City | County | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 6-year Avg |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Diamond Bar | Diamond Bar | LA | 52 | 62 | 88 | 55 | 61 | 63 | 64 |
| Esperanza | Anaheim | Orange | 71 | 53 | 62 | 51 | 61 | 50 | 58 |
| Ayala | Chino Hills | San Bern | 45 | 48 | 65 | 58 | 57 | 56 | 55 |
| Mater Dei | Santa Ana | Orange | 38 | 40 | 40 | 32 | 50 | 38 | 40 |
| El Dorado | Placentia | Orange | 47 | 34 | 33 | 40 | 45 | 39 | 40 |
| Sunny Hills | Fullerton | Orange | 29 | 27 | 46 | 24 | 39 | 48 | 36 |
| Troy | Fullerton | Orange | 39 | 31 | 31 | 25 | 41 | 42 | 35 |
| Walnut | Walnut | LA | 17 | 31 | 34 | 27 | 43 | 44 | 33 |
| Santiago | Corona | Riverside | 19 | 29 | 20 | 38 | 33 | 51 | 32 |
| Tustin | Tustin | Orange | 21 | 21 | 39 | 29 | 38 | 32 | 30 |

Source: CSU Fullerton Institutional Research and Analytical Studies, Fall 2000-2005

Figure 2
County of Origin of CSUF Undergraduate Transfer Students, Fall 2000 and 2005



Source: CSU Fullerton Institutional Research and Analytical Studies, Fall 2000 and 2005

Table 2
Top 10 Community Colleges for Annual Enrollment of Undergraduate Transfers to CSUF, 2000-2005

| Community Colleges | City | County | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 6-year Avg |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Fullerton | Fullerton | Orange | 737 | 794 | 875 | 748 | 997 | 845 | 833 |
| Orange Coast | Costa Mesa | Orange | 481 | 472 | 466 | 454 | 644 | 565 | 514 |
| Santa Ana | Santa Ana | Orange | 453 | 413 | 458 | 411 | 517 | 411 | 444 |
| Saddleback | Mission Viejo | Orange | 346 | 332 | 407 | 399 | 481 | 424 | 398 |
| Mt SAC | Walnut | LA | 344 | 400 | 425 | 367 | 451 | 370 | 393 |
| Cypress | Cypress | Orange | 282 | 256 | 281 | 180 | 308 | 266 | 262 |
| Irvine Valley | Irvine | Orange | 235 | 251 | 244 | 229 | 302 | 240 | 250 |
| Golden West | Huntington Beach | Orange | 183 | 170 | 213 | 186 | 249 | 201 | 200 |
| Cerritos | Cerritos | Orange | 166 | 190 | 173 | 139 | 232 | 188 | 181 |
| Riverside City | Riverside | Riverside | 94 | 151 | 142 | 114 | 221 | 201 | 154 |

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission, 2000-2005

DISTRIBUTION IN CSU SYSTEM

There are 23 CSU campuses in the State of California. Table 3 shows CSUF accounted for 2,772 (7.5%) of all of the incoming first-time freshmen in Fall 2000, the fifth largest group of incoming freshmen for that year in all of the CSU campuses. That number increased by 42.2% to 3,943, or 8.6% of all first-time freshmen in 2005. CSUF is currently ranked third in the number of first-time freshmen enrolled at CSU campuses. Only CSU Long Beach and CSU San Diego had more first-time freshmen enrolled in 2005.

Community College transfer patterns at CSUF are somewhat unique to the campus. CSUF has a large number of new transfer students enrolling in both Fall and Spring, where the majority of campuses have much lower

Spring enrollment numbers. In 2000, CSUF had the highest number of students who transferred to CSUF from another institution (4,436), followed by CSU Northridge (4,299) and CSU San Diego (4,150). In Fall 2005, the number of community college transfers to CSUF was 5,113, or 9.7% of all CSU transfer students. CSUF was followed by CSU Northridge (4,750) and San Diego State (4648). CSUF had a 15.3% increase from 2000 to 2005 in community college enrollments while four of the 23 campuses experienced decreases in community college transfers. According to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, CSUF has had more undergraduate transfer students from California community colleges in each of the last eight years than any other public university in California.

CONCLUSION

This issue of *Profiles* is a snapshot of student enrollment at one of Orange County’s major universities. It touches upon the enrollment patterns of CSUF, attracting students from a wide geographic area though still remaining a largely commuter campus. Though CSUF has its own unique characteristics, the impact of the university on the surrounding community is not limited to CSUF alone. Universities in general can have major impacts on their communities in areas such as student and staff housing, transportation infrastructure, and nearby employment services. While many changes have occurred at the CSUF campus, other local institutions have their own enrollment patterns that may be unique and of interest to investigate as well.

Table 3
Fall First-time Freshmen and Annual Community College Transfer Enrollment for 23 CSU Campuses, 2000 and 2005

| CSU Campus | Fall 2000 | | 2000-2001 | | Fall 2005 | | 2005-2006 | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | First-Time Freshmen | | Community College Transfers | | First-Time Freshmen | | Community College Transfers | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Bakersfield | 563 | 1.5% | 1,023 | 2.1% | 782 | 1.7% | 1,056 | 2.0% |
| Channel Islands | # | # | # | # | 388 | 0.8% | 669 | 1.3% |
| Chico | 1,981 | 5.3% | 2,223 | 4.6% | 2,335 | 5.1% | 1,709 | 3.2% |
| Dominguez Hills | 528 | 1.4% | 1,697 | 3.5% | 786 | 1.7% | 1,752 | 3.3% |
| Fresno | 1,941 | 5.2% | 2,139 | 4.5% | 2,447 | 5.3% | 2,367 | 4.5% |
| Fullerton | 2,772 | 7.5% | 4,436 | 9.3% | 3,943 | 8.6% | 5,113 | 9.7% |
| East Bay ¹ | 710 | 1.9% | 1,949 | 4.1% | 696 | 1.5% | 1,955 | 3.7% |
| Humboldt | 779 | 2.1% | 858 | 1.8% | 826 | 1.8% | 853 | 1.6% |
| Long Beach | 3,368 | 9.1% | 3,438 | 7.2% | 4,383 | 9.6% | 3,529 | 6.7% |
| Los Angeles | 1,237 | 3.3% | 2,115 | 4.4% | 1,458 | 3.2% | 3,015 | 5.7% |
| Maritime Academy | 99 | 0.3% | # | # | 149 | 0.3% | 53 | 0.1% |
| Monterey Bay | 445 | 1.2% | 477 | 1.0% | 547 | 1.2% | 498 | 0.9% |
| Northridge | 2,842 | 7.7% | 4,299 | 9.0% | 3,720 | 8.1% | 4,750 | 9.0% |
| Pomona | 2,769 | 7.5% | 1,905 | 4.0% | 3,252 | 7.1% | 2,355 | 4.5% |
| Sacramento | 2,159 | 5.8% | 3,970 | 8.3% | 2,518 | 5.5% | 3,986 | 7.6% |
| San Bernardino | 1,198 | 3.2% | 1,999 | 4.2% | 1,707 | 3.7% | 2,085 | 4.0% |
| San Diego | 3,650 | 9.8% | 4,150 | 8.7% | 4,105 | 9.0% | 4,648 | 8.8% |
| San Francisco | 2,042 | 5.5% | 3,212 | 6.7% | 3,150 | 6.9% | 3,901 | 7.4% |
| San Jose | 2,583 | 7.0% | 3,243 | 6.8% | 2,554 | 5.6% | 3,525 | 6.7% |
| San Luis Obispo | 3,111 | 8.4% | 1,280 | 2.7% | 3,372 | 7.4% | 1,295 | 2.5% |
| San Marcos | 576 | 1.6% | 1,187 | 2.5% | 804 | 1.8% | 1,467 | 2.8% |
| Sonoma | 1,093 | 2.9% | 1,025 | 2.1% | 1,054 | 2.3% | 931 | 1.8% |
| Stanislaus | 625 | 1.7% | 1,233 | 2.6% | 870 | 1.9% | 1,128 | 2.1% |
| All CSU Campuses | 37,071 | 100% | 47,858 | 100% | 45,846 | 100% | 52,640 | 100% |

CSU Channel Islands opened in 2002.

¹ CSU Hayward was renamed East Bay

² First-time Freshmen enrollment numbers reflect Fall enrollment for 2000 and 2005.

Source: CSU Fullerton Institutional Research and Analytical Studies and California Postsecondary Education Commission, 2000 and 2005

PROFILES IS PRODUCED BY THE CENTER FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON.

PROFILES IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION THAT FOCUSES ON DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES IN ORANGE COUNTY.

THIS ISSUE WAS AUTHORED BY SCOTT MARTIN.

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