Our First-Year Students: How Well Do You Know Them?

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Overview

- How many of our students are first-year students?
- What are their demographics?
- Are they prepared for college-level work?
- How do they perform when they get to college?
- Do they come back for their second year?
- Do they complete their studies?
Brief Description of Study

- Jointly devised a list of variables, mostly demographic.
- Each institution provided first-time entering student data for four cohorts (Fall 2000-2003).
- Data analyzed by cohort and across cohorts.
- In general, distribution of data describing cohorts from each institution remains consistent over time...
Size of First-Year Student Group

For any given term, how many of our students are first-year students?
Size of First-Year Groups

Distribution of Students by Level and NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 85% First Year, 15% Other
- Palomar: 87% First Year, 13% Other
- San Marcos: 75% First Year, 10% Transfer, 15% Other
Size of First-Year Groups

- Let’s break this down in numbers...
  - Average cohort size of MiraCosta = 1,484
  - Average cohort size of Palomar = 4,189
  - Average cohort size of San Marcos = 712
  - Taken together, our First-Year Student group is larger than some community colleges in California.
Demographics

What are their demographics?
Demographics

Percentage of Students Who Are 19 or Younger at Entry by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 64%
- Palomar: 57%
- SM Freshmen: 98%
- SM Transfer: 3%
Demographics

Percentage of Students Who Are 23 or Older at Entry by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 22%
- Palomar: 30%
- SM Freshmen: 1%
- SM Transfer: 57%
Demographics

Percentage of Students With and Without Transfer Plans Who are 19 or Younger at Entry by Community College (2000-03)

MiraCosta
- Plan to transfer: 75%
- No transfer plans: 39%

Palomar
- Plan to transfer: 74%
- No transfer plans: 31%

Legend:
- Blue: Plan to transfer
- Purple: No transfer plans
Percentage of Entering Students Who Are Men by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 48%
- Palomar: 58%
- SM Freshmen: 40%
- SM Transfer: 39%
Percentage of Entering Students Stemming From Racial and Ethnic Minority Backgrounds by NCHEA Institution (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 39%
- Palomar: 39%
- SM Freshmen: 38%
- All Transfer: 29%
- MiraC & Palomar only: 27%
Demographics

Percentage of Community College Students Planning to Transfer by Racial and Ethnic Background and College (2000-03 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: Minority background (66%), White (73%)
- Palomar: Minority background (65%), White (68%)

Legend:
- Minority background
- White
Demographics

One-Year Continuation Rates of Transfer Students Entering CSUSM During the 1990-2002 Period by Racial and Ethnic Background and Entry Period

Percentage enrolled at start of second year

- 1990-94: 77% (Minority), 76% (Whites)
- 1995-99: 75% (Minority), 76% (Whites)
- 2000-02: 79% (Minority), 79% (Whites)

Legend: Minority background, Whites
Preparation and Performance

Are they prepared for college-level work?
How do they perform when they get to college?
Preparation and Performance

- How prepared are students for college-level work?
  - High School GPA
  - Assessment/Placement Tests
High School GPA by College

First-time students: GPA of 2.5 or higher

San Marcos: 97%
Palomar*: 79%
MiraCosta*: 74%

* Self-reported High School GPA
Preparation and Performance

Assessment Tests

- First-time student participation rates:
  - San Marcos  100%
  - Palomar & MiraCosta  60%
- Prepared for college-level English  40-50%
- Prepared for college-level math
  - San Marcos  ~ 50%
  - Palomar and MiraCosta  <25%
First Semester Performance: Units Attempted

- San Marcos:
  - San Marcos first-time students 12.0 units
  - San Marcos transfer students 12.0 units
- Palomar 8.0 units
- MiraCosta 11.0 units
First Semester Performance: Median GPA

- San Marcos:
  - San Marcos first-time students 3.04
  - San Marcos transfer students 3.22
- Palomar 2.54
- MiraCosta 2.50
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

Do they come back for their second year...?
Do they complete their studies?
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

One Year Continuation Rates for First-Year Students by NCHEA Institution (2000-02 Entrants)

- MiraCosta: 44%
- Palomar: 43%
- SM Freshmen: 64%
- SM Transfer: 78%

Percent Returning After One Year
Persistence, Continuation, and Completion

One Year Continuation Rates for Community College First-Year Students by Transfer Intent (2000-02 Entrants)

Plan to transfer | No Transfer plans
---|---
MiraCosta | 46% | 33%
Palomar | 53% | 32%

Percent Returning After One Year
Number of Students Transferring to CSUSM from MiraCosta or Palomar by Year Since Entry at Community College (2000 CC Entrants)
What Happened to our Palomar Fall 2000 First-Year Students?

For those who attempted 12 or more units:

- 29% went to a university and/or received an AA/Certificate
- 21% are still attending Palomar
- 15% are no longer at Palomar, but have attended another two year college
- 35% no record
The number of first-year students on our campuses is large.

Approximately, two-fifths of our first-year students come from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, a proportion that sinks to less than three-tenths among entering transfer students.

A significant number of our first-year students need remediation (40-50% in English, and an even higher percentage in Math).
Summary

- More than half of our first-year community college students do not return to their original community college for their second year.
- The length of time it takes for most community college students to transfer or earn an AA or certificate is longer than “traditionally” assumed.