

## **Cal Poly Retention and Graduation of Full-time Undergraduates Cohorts Entering Summer/Fall 1990 to 2002**

The following data is an update of information initially presented in the Institutional Planning and Analysis (IP&A) report, "Retention and Graduation of Full-time Undergraduates, Cal Poly Cohorts Entering Summer/Fall 1990 to 2002." As in the previous reports, the data are derived from a comprehensive cohort study developed by IP&A.

The cohort database developed by IP&A uses a set of criteria to define the consistent "Cal Poly Way" to measure retention and graduation rates. Data is derived from files that have been validated and reported quarterly to the Chancellor's Office. Criteria mirror the indicators used by NCAA, Student Right to Know federal legislation, and the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), with the addition of separate calculations for four and five year degree programs.

This report presents ongoing analysis of university wide and college data. Additional data at the university, college, and program level is available on an ad hoc basis with project priority determined by available resources.

### **The report consists of seven sections:**

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### **Study Scope and Criteria**

- The study currently includes cohorts entering Cal Poly in Summer/Fall 1990 through Summer/Fall 2002.
- Cohorts are determined by a student's entering class level and enrollment status.
- First-time freshmen cohort: first-time college students entering Cal Poly during the Summer or Fall quarter and enrolled in 12 or more units during the student's first Fall quarter at Cal Poly.
- Lower and Upper division transfer cohorts: students entering Cal Poly with college transfer units during the Summer or Fall quarter and enrolled in 12 or more units during the student's first Fall quarter at Cal Poly. Lower and upper division transfers are defined by their status at time of admission.
- Retention rate is calculated for each subsequent Fall only. Students who "stop out" then return are counted in the Fall they return as being retained in their initial cohort.
- Graduation rate is calculated on degrees awarded through Summer quarter.

(An expanded list of criteria is available in the Appendix.)

## **Executive Summary**

As most national interest in retention and graduation rates focuses on students who enter universities as freshmen, this summary concentrates on the Cal Poly entering freshman cohorts. (Table numbers refer to data in the full report.)

### **Overall Graduation and Retention Patterns and Trends**

1. For the most recent cohorts, six-year graduation rates have stabilized at about 65%. About 31% of the freshmen in the cohorts entering between 1993 and 1997 are no longer enrolled at six years. University of California campuses with which Cal Poly competes for freshmen show six-year graduation rates ranging from 73% at UCSB to 86% at UCLA. (Tables A-1, A-5, A-6)
2. Five-year graduation rates have shown some improvement, increasing by 9 percentage points to 54% since the entering class of 1993. Four-year graduation rates have increased as well, from under 10% for the entering class of 1993 to over 21% for the entering class of 1999. Thus, we can infer that student success initiatives are contributing to earlier graduation for entering freshmen. (Tables A-3 and A-4)
3. The highest attrition occurs between the first and second fall, at about 11% for entering freshmen. While this is a small percentage compared with other CSU campuses, it is consistent with UC Santa Barbara and about twice that of UC San Diego and UC Berkeley. Attrition between the second and third fall has been decreasing, from an additional 9.2 percentage points for the 1997 entering cohort to 7.9 for the 2001 entering cohort. Similarly, the attrition between the third and fourth falls has decreased from an additional 6.2 percentage points for the 1997 entering cohort to 3.3 for the 2000 entering cohort. If these trends continue, supported by student success initiatives, then the attrition after six years should decline as well, and Cal Poly may be able to achieve a six-year graduation rate above 70%. (Table B-2)
4. Cal Poly both retains and graduates women students at a significantly higher rate than men. For the most recent freshman cohorts, 91% of the frosh women continued from the first to second fall, compared with 87% of the entering freshmen. The most recent six-year graduation rate for women is 73%, compared with 59% for men. (Section F)
5. Retention and graduation rates vary significantly by ethnic group as well. White and Asian-American students have the highest first to second year retention and six-year graduation rates. Also, women in each ethnic group show higher graduation rates than men in the same ethnic group. (Section F)

### **College Graduation and Retention Patterns and Trends**

College patterns and trends are affected by program characteristics within the colleges as well as by changes of major between colleges. *Note that graduation rates by college are calculated based on a student's major at the end of six years, or at the time the student left Cal Poly (if not retained). In other words, a college cohort includes those students (1) who started and graduated in that particular college, (2) who changed major into that college and graduated, (3) who are still enrolled after six years, and (4) who were last enrolled in that college when they left Cal Poly.*

1. The College of Agriculture experiences a net reduction in its freshmen cohorts due to changes of major out of the college. After six years the graduation rate has been stable, but under 60% (except for the entering class of 1995). (Table D-1 and Section E)
2. The College of Architecture and Environmental Design has two five-year programs, which complicates graduation rates. CAED also experiences a net loss of students due to changes of major. Nevertheless, the six-year graduation rate (for all programs in the college) has increased to 65% for the entering class of 1997. (Tables D-2 and D-13)
3. The Orfalea College of Business has achieved the highest six-year graduation rate at Cal Poly – over 80% for the entering class of 1997. Business enrollments increase as a result of students changing

major from other colleges. For example, the 1997 freshman cohort in Business increased by 36% over six years. (Table D-3 and Section E)

4. The College of Engineering has seen a reduction in its six-year graduation rate, from 59% for the entering class of 1993 to just under 54% for the 1997 entering cohort. The size of recent Engineering cohorts has decreased by over 15% due to changes of major to other colleges. (Table D-4 and Section E)
5. The College of Liberal Arts has increased its six-year graduation rate to over 77% for the 1997 entering cohort. Like Business, Liberal Arts accepts many students who change major from other colleges, which increased its 1997 freshman cohort by 39% over six years. (Tables D-5 and D-13 and Section E)
6. The College of Science and Mathematics sees the most variation from one cohort to another. Some years more students change major into Science and Math, and other years more students transfer out. Six-year graduation rates are similarly variable, ranging from about 60% for the 1994 and 1995 entering classes to nearly 70% for the 1993 entering cohort. (Tables D-6 and D-13 and Section E)
7. In all colleges, women graduate at higher rates in six years than men, even when the proportion of female students is much smaller than the proportion of men (as in the colleges of Architecture and Environmental Design, Business, and Engineering). (Table F-5)

## A. Overview: First-time Freshmen and Transfer Student Cohorts

### Freshmen Cohort after Sixth Year

The following table displays the status of the first-time freshmen (FTF) cohort after the sixth year. The six-year graduation rate steadily increased from 58% for the 1990 FTF cohort to 66% for the 1995 group. The 6-year graduation rate dropped slightly to 64% for 1997 but improved to 65% for the 1997 FTF cohort. The number of students still enrolled after six years has decreased by over 3 percentage points from the 1990 to the 1997 FTF cohort. The percentage "Not Currently Retained" after the sixth year has but has not changed significantly since the 1993 cohort.

The freshmen cohort graduation rate percentages displayed in this table are for six years, cumulative. The six-year observation interval is the rate most often used by federal (e.g., the National Center for Educational Statistics) and other reporting bodies. This six-year observation interval represents 150 percent of "assumed normal time" to completion for incoming freshmen in a four-year or five-year baccalaureate program.

Table A-1

<b><u>Freshmen Cohort</u></b>						
<b>Of those who started at Cal Poly Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>2,291</b>
<b>After the Sixth Year</b>						
Enrolled Same Program	3.1%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	2.0%	1.8%
Enrolled Other Program (same College)	1.9%	1.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%
Enrolled Other College	1.9%	1.2%	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%	1.1%
Graduated Same 4 Year Program	32.9%	39.2%	37.8%	40.6%	39.8%	40.0%
Graduated Other Program (same College)	10.0%	10.6%	11.3%	9.7%	9.9%	8.3%
Graduated Other College	13.4%	13.2%	14.2%	14.1%	12.7%	14.1%
Graduated Same College 5 Year Program	1.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.6%	2.0%	2.9%
Not Currently Retained	34.9%	31.5%	32.1%	30.5%	31.9%	31.2%
<b>Total Six Year Grad Rate</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>64.4%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>

*Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.*

*Note: "Not currently retained" reflects status at seventh Fall census.*

*Note: Six-year graduation rate reflects graduation through sixth year including Summer.*

*Source: IP&A Retention and Graduation data, updated 3/9/04.*

## Upper Division Transfer Cohort after the Third Year

The following table displays the status of the upper division transfer (UDT) cohort after the third year. The detail of the 1990 to 2000 UDT cohorts shows an overall increase in the number of students graduating in three years. The percentage "Not Currently Retained" has decreased to an all time low of 19.5% for the 2000 cohort. (As with the first-time freshmen cohort, "Not Currently Retained" reflects that a student is not enrolled in that particular Fall quarter and does not preclude enrollment in subsequent quarters).

The upper division transfer cohort graduation rate percentages displayed in this table are for three years, cumulative. A three-year observation interval would represent one and one-half times the "assumed normal time" to graduation for transfer students.

Table A-2

<b><u>Upper Division Transfer Cohort</u></b>						
<b>Of those who started at Cal Poly Summer/Fall Upper Division Transfer Cohort</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>931</b>
<b>After the Third Year</b>						
Enrolled Same Program	27.8%	20.3%	19.4%	17.7%	17.9%	16.1%
Enrolled Other Program (same College)	4.0%	2.9%	2.0%	0.9%	1.5%	2.5%
Enrolled Other College	4.7%	2.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%
Graduated Same 4 Year Program	29.3%	41.0%	44.3%	50.6%	48.7%	56.4%
Graduated Other Program (same College)	2.3%	3.8%	5.0%	4.4%	3.2%	2.7%
Graduated Other College	1.6%	2.1%	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%
Graduated Same College 5 Year Program	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%
Not Currently Retained	30.2%	27.3%	25.7%	22.4%	25.2%	19.5%
<b>Total Three Year Graduation Rate</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>

*Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.*

*Note: "Not currently retained" reflects status at fourth Fall census.*

*Note: Three-year graduation rate reflects graduation through third year including Summer.*

*Source: IP&A Retention and Graduation data, updated 3/9/04.*

## Cal Poly Cohort Studies

### First-time Freshmen Graduation Rates – Four, Five, and Six Years

Although the six-year graduation rate is most often used by federal and other reporting bodies, it is also useful to look at the four and five year graduation rates. The four-year rate for Cal Poly first-time freshmen has almost tripled over the past nine years. In 1990, only 7.5% of that cohort graduated in four years. By 1999, that percentage was up to 21.3%. While this shows an improvement, it should be noted that other institutions with which Cal Poly competes for new students (UC campuses such as Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Berkeley), report four-year graduation rates of about 40%.

**Graduation in Four Years**

Table A-3

Entering Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<i>Headcount</i>	1,817	1,676	2,098	2,507	2,869	2,291	2,466	2,850
% Graduated Same Program	5.1	6.5	8.5	10.4	12.0	10.3	12.7	15.7
% Graduated Other Program (Same College)	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.3
% Graduated Other College	1.4	1.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	3.8	2.4	3.3
% Graduated 5 Year Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Four-Year Grad Rate	7.5%	9.7%	12.7%	14.9%	16.5%	16.0%	16.8%	21.3%

**Graduation in Five Years (Cumulative)**

Table A-4

Entering Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<i>Headcount</i>	1,817	1,676	2,098	2,507	2,869	2,291	2,466
% Graduated Same Program	24.1	29.1	30.1	33.6	32.4	32.0	35.5
% Graduated Other Program (Same College)	6.2	7.3	8.2	7.2	7.1	5.9	8.1
% Graduated Other College	8.7	9.0	11.0	11.4	9.4	11.1	9.2
% Graduated 5 Year Program	0.9	0.5	80.0	80.0	1.1	1.7	1.6
Total Five-Year Grad Rate	39.9%	45.9%	50.1%	53.0%	50.0%	50.7%	54.4%

**Graduation in Six Years (Cumulative)**

Table A-5

Entering Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<i>Headcount</i>	1,817	1,676	2,098	2,507	2,869	2,291
% Graduated Same Program	32.9	39.2	37.8	40.6	39.8	40.0
% Graduated Other Program (Same College)	10.0	10.6	11.3	9.7	9.9	8.3
% Graduated Other College	13.4	13.2	14.2	14.1	12.7	14.1
% Graduated 5 Year Program	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.9
Total Six-Year Grad Rate	58.2%	64.5%	64.6%	66.0%	64.4%	65.3%

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

## **Graduation Rates: Cal Poly and Other Institutions**

The following table shows cumulative six-year graduation rates using the federal Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) methodology. This methodology produces results that vary slightly from the "Cal Poly" method of calculating graduation rates, but provides the only consistent method for comparing rates across the CSU.

While Cal Poly may rank well when compared to other universities in the CSU system, when compared to other institutions with which Cal Poly competes for new students, Cal Poly's six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen is lower.

Table A-6

<b>Cal Poly and Comparable Institutions 1997 Cohort Six-Year Graduation Rates</b>	
<b>Campus</b>	<b>Six-Year Grad Rate</b>
UCLA	86%
UC Berkeley	85%
UC San Diego	83%
UC Davis	81%
UC Santa Barbara	73%
Cal Poly	65%
CSU Average	43.7%

*Sources: Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange, 2003-04 CSRDE Retention Report, May 2004. CRSDE data is for internal use only.  
Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.*

**B. Retention Rates: First to Second Fall**  
**Freshman, Lower Division Transfers, and Upper Division Transfers**

The following table displays Cal Poly cohort retention and attrition from the first to second Fall. "Percent not retained second Fall" refers to students not reenrolling in that particular Fall. It does not preclude subsequent Cal Poly enrollment. If a student reenrolls s/he is included in the original cohort count for subsequent Fall terms.

Analysis of the cohort data shows that 10.9% of the first-time freshmen in the 2002 cohort were not enrolled at Cal Poly at the second Fall census (Fall 2003). This is lower than recent cohorts' retention rates, with over 11.0% attrition from first to second Fall.

The percentage of upper division transfer students in the 2002 cohort not enrolled the second Fall was lower than for all previous cohorts.

Table B-1

<b>Summer/Fall Cohort</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Past 3</b>
<b>Retained from first to second Fall</b>	90 to 91	97 to 98	98 to 99	99 to 00	00 to 01	01 to 02	02 to 03	<b>Year Avg.</b>
<b>Cohort Headcount</b>								
<b>First-Time Freshmen</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>3,319</b>
% Enrolled Second Fall	85.4	87.1	89.0	88.6	88.6	88.3	89.1	88.7
% Not Retained Second Fall	14.6	12.9	11.0	11.4	11.4	11.8	10.9	11.4
<b>Cohort Headcount</b>								
<b>Lower Division Transfers</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>
% Enrolled Second Fall	83.9	92.9	96.0	81.8	78.6	92.5	86.2	85.8
% Not Retained Second Fall	16.1	7.1	4.0	18.2	21.4	7.5	13.8	14.2
<b>Cohort Headcount</b>								
<b>Upper Division Transfers</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,015</b>
% Enrolled Second Fall	85.4	88.1	90.5	90.4	92.4	91.8	93.0	92.4
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3
% Not Retained Second Fall	14.6	11.7	9.2	9.4	7.5	8.1	6.4	7.3

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

**Not Retained/Not Graduated**  
**Freshmen, Lower Division Transfers, and Upper Division Transfers**  
**Second Through Seventh Fall**

The highest attrition rate for all groups occurs between the first and second Fall (for the past three year-to-year groups averaging 11%). For first-time freshmen and upper division transfer students, the second highest university-wide attrition rate appears between years two and three at 7 to 10%. Subsequent Falls show variation from year to year ranging from under 2% to over 6%, but no clear trends emerge.

**Cal Poly**  
**Students Not Retained Second to Sixth Fall**

Table B-2

<b>First-Time Freshmen % Not Retained/Not Graduated (Cumulative Attrition)</b>							
Fall Cohort	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Second Fall	14.6	12.9	11.0	11.4	11.4	11.8	10.9
Third Fall	25.2	22.1	20.4	21.3	20.5	19.7	n/a
Fourth Fall	29.2	28.3	23.7	23.5	23.8	n/a	n/a
Fifth Fall	30.4	28.3	25.8	25.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sixth Fall	36.2	33.1	30.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seventh Fall	34.9	31.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highest attrition occurs between year one and year two (11-15%). The next highest attrition is between years two and three (an additional 8-11%). Subsequent Falls show variation from year to year (ranging from under 2% to over 6%) with no clear trends displayed.							
<b>Lower-Division Transfers % Not Retained/Not Graduated (Cumulative Attrition)</b>							
Fall Cohort	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Second Fall	16.1	7.1	4.0	18.2	21.4	7.5	13.8
Third Fall	25.5	21.4	12.0	18.2	25.0	18.9	n/a
Fourth Fall	27.6	38.1	24.0	27.3	25.0	n/a	n/a
Fifth Fall	32.9	35.7	28.0	22.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sixth Fall	35.3	42.9	16.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seventh Fall	33.2	35.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highest attrition occurs between year one and year two (typically, 7-21%). Subsequent Falls do not display a consistent pattern. <b>The small numbers in these lower division transfer cohorts make trend analysis difficult.</b>							
<b>Upper-Division Transfers % Not Retained/Not Graduated (Cumulative Attrition)</b>							
Fall Cohort	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Second Fall	14.6	11.7	9.2	9.4	7.5	8.1	6.4
Third Fall	22.4	20.7	16.5	19.4	16.9	17.7	n/a
Fourth Fall	30.2	25.7	22.4	25.2	19.5	n/a	n/a
Fifth Fall	30.3	24.8	21.9	23.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sixth Fall	28.7	22.3	19.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seventh Fall	27.4	21.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highest attrition occurs between year one and year two (6-14%). The next highest attrition is between years two and three (7-10%).							

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

The next two tables display retention from the first to second Fall for the first-time freshmen and upper division transfer cohorts by college. **The last column in each table gives the average in each category for the past three years.**

### **First-time Freshmen: Retention and Not Retained/Not Graduated by College**

The first to second year attrition rate for first-time freshmen varies both year-to-year and by college. The three-year average shows the Colleges of Architecture & Environmental Design, Business, and Liberal Arts have lower attrition rates for first-time freshmen than the University as a whole; and the attrition rate for the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, and Science & Mathematics are higher than the three-year average.

Table B-3

<b>Summer/Fall Cohort Retained from first to second Fall</b>	<b>1998 98 to 99</b>	<b>1999 99 to 00</b>	<b>2000 00 to 01</b>	<b>2001 01 to 02</b>	<b>2002 02 to 03</b>	<b>Past 3 Year Avg.</b>
<b>College of Agriculture Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	86.4	87.0	82.5	83.4	85.8	83.9
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	2.5	3.3	4.7	3.5	2.8	3.7
% Not Retained Second Fall	11.1	9.8	12.8	13.1	11.4	12.4
<b>College of Architecture &amp; Environmental Design Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	82.6	82.3	84.8	86.7	88.0	86.5
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	6.1	3.6	4.5	3.2	3.0	3.6
% Not Retained Second Fall	11.3	14.1	10.6	10.1	9.0	9.9
<b>College of Business Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	91.2	91.0	93.1	89.1	89.8	90.7
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.0
% Not Retained Second Fall	8.1	8.1	6.3	9.5	8.9	8.2
<b>College of Engineering Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	85.7	84.8	84.4	82.9	85.3	84.2
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	3.3	2.3	2.3	3.2	2.9	2.8
% Not Retained Second Fall	11.0	12.9	13.3	13.9	11.7	13.0
<b>College of Liberal Arts Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	85.7	86.6	88.4	88.0	89.8	88.7
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	1.9	2.7	2.3	2.7	1.8	2.3
% Not Retained Second Fall	12.4	10.7	9.4	9.4	8.4	9.1
<b>College of Science &amp; Mathematics Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	83.6	81.5	85.1	84.6	81.1	83.6
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	4.1	5.0	3.9	4.2	4.7	4.3
% Not Retained Second Fall	12.3	13.5	11.0	11.2	14.2	12.1
<b>University Total</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	86.0	85.9	85.6	85.2	86.4	85.7
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.0
% Not Retained Second Fall	11.0	11.4	11.4	11.8	10.9	11.4

*Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.*

*Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.*

## Upper Division Transfer: Retention and Not Retained/Not Graduated by College

For upper division transfers, the attrition rates vary by college and cohort year with even less of an identifiable pattern emerging than for first-time freshmen cohorts. The past three-year averages show that the College of Architecture & Environmental Design has the lowest first to second year attrition rate for upper division transfer students (below the University average of 7.3%); while the Colleges of Business, Engineering, and Liberal Arts are very close to the University three-year average.

Table B-4

<b>Summer/Fall Cohort Retained from first to second Fall</b>	<b>1998 98 to 99</b>	<b>1999 99 to 00</b>	<b>2000 00 to 01</b>	<b>2001 01 to 02</b>	<b>2002 02 to 03</b>	<b>Past 3 Year Avg.</b>
<b>College of Agriculture Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	83.5	86.7	86.8	85.9	89.5	87.4
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	5.9	2.0	5.2	4.9	1.6	3.9
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.4	0.0	0	0.5	0.0	0.2
% Not Retained Second Fall	10.1	11.4	8.1	8.6	8.8	8.5
<b>College of Arch. &amp; Env. Design Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	89.2	95.8	94.4	94.3	96.6	95.1
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	2.7	1.7	1.1	0.0	1.7	0.9
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Not Retained Second Fall	8.1	2.5	4.4	5.8	1.7	4.0
<b>College of Business Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	89.6	92.8	91.4	91.7	89.2	90.8
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	1.7	0.0	0.6	1.6	0.7	1.0
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.8
% Not Retained Second Fall	7.8	6.6	7.5	6.3	8.8	7.5
<b>College of Engineering Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	92.5	92.3	92.6	88.6	93.6	91.6
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.0	0.9
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Not Retained Second Fall	7.5	7.7	7.4	9.6	5.4	7.5
<b>College of Liberal Arts Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	89.6	88.3	90.6	91.2	90.8	90.9
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.4	1.8	1.1
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.6
% Not Retained Second Fall	8.5	10.2	8.2	8.5	5.5	7.4
<b>College of Science &amp; Math Cohort</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	83.3	79.1	88.8	82.5	88.9	86.7
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	2.4	3.3	3.8	7.8	2.8	4.8
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Not Retained Second Fall	14.3	17.6	7.5	9.7	8.3	8.5
<b>University Total</b>						
% Enrolled Same College Second Fall	87.8	89.2	90.3	89.6	91.5	90.5
% Enrolled Different College Second Fall	2.7	1.4	2.0	2.2	1.5	1.9
% Graduated by Second Fall	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3
% Not Retained Second Fall	9.2	9.4	7.5	8.1	6.4	7.3

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

### **C. Change of Major**

Analysis of the university-wide cohort data, indicates that a significant proportion of Cal Poly's undergraduates change their major prior to graduation. By the Fall of 2003, 24.0% of the students in the 1997 first-time freshmen cohort had changed college (or changed major within the same college) at least once. This was lower than the percentage changing in previous cohorts when tracking those groups to the seventh Fall (either still enrolled or graduated).

Analysis of the data available for the five most recent upper division transfer student cohorts, tracking persistence or graduation in three years, shows that upper division transfer students change major and/or college at a much lower rate than do students in the first-time freshmen cohorts. Approximately 7 to 11% of upper division transfer students included in the 1996 to 2000 cohorts changed college or major in the same college at least once, with much lower percentages for the two most recent cohorts.

#### **First-Time Freshmen**

Data in table C-1 reflects cohort status after the sixth year. Students may have changed majors one or more times (or changed and then changed back to their original major) during their tenure at Cal Poly. Only their status after the sixth year is shown as a "change of major" in these tables.

Table C-1

<b>Of those who started at Cal Poly Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
<i>Cohort Headcount</i>	1,817	1,676	2,098	2,507	2,869	2,291
<b>At Seventh Fall Census</b>						
% Enrolled/Graduated Same Degree Program	37.9	42.4	40.7	43.7	43.7	44.7
% Enrolled/Graduated Different Degree Program	27.2	26.1	27.2	25.8	24.4	24.0
% Not Currently Retained	34.9	31.5	32.1	30.5	31.9	31.2

*Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.*

#### **Upper Division Transfers**

Data in Table C-2 reflects upper division cohort status after the third year. Students may have changed majors one or more times (or changed and then changed back to their original major) during their tenure at Cal Poly. Only their status after the third year is shown as a "change of major" in this table.

Table C-2

<b>Of those who started at Cal Poly Summer/Fall Upper Division Transfer Cohort</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<i>Cohort Headcount</i>	1,106	1,316	1,056	891	1,033	931
<b>At Third Fall Census</b>						
% Enrolled/Graduated Same Degree Program	57.2	61.3	63.8	68.4	67.1	72.6
% Enrolled/Graduated Different Degree Program	12.6	11.4	10.5	9.2	7.7	7.9
% Not Currently Retained	30.2	27.3	25.7	22.4	25.2	19.5

*Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.*

*Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.*

## **D. Summary Graduation Data by College**

### **First-time Freshmen Cohort – Graduation in Six Years (Cumulative)**

While the university-wide graduation rates based on the traditional calculation method are perfectly valid, using those same methods to analyze the college and department level graduation rates hides some very important variables, such as the migration of students between colleges. Major changes within a college generally indicate some fine-tuning of students' personal or professional goals. Changing from one college to another indicates a deeper dissatisfaction with the initial major choice or a bad "fit" within the university.

College-based graduation rate analysis revealed divergent trends. For instance, although the six-year graduation rate for the 1997 first-time freshmen cohort university wide is 65.3%, students in the College of Business graduate at 80.3% while students in the College of Engineering graduate at 53.9%. And while the university has seen a 7.1 percentage point increase in graduation rate since 1990, this has not been shared equally by all colleges. The College of Liberal Arts has risen by 9.4 percentage points, while the College of Science and Math has seen an increase of less than three percentage points.

The tables on the following pages display summary data for graduation by college. The first table for each college shows the percentage of first-time freshmen graduating in six years. The second table for each college shows the percentage of upper division transfers graduating in three years.

Each table indicates the number of students who entered the college in the given cohort; the number who transferred out (lost) to another college; the number who transferred in (gained) from another college; and the number of students in the revised cohort. The headcount who graduated with the same period is also listed, as well as the calculated graduation rate.

In other words, a college cohort includes those students (1) who started and graduated in that particular college, (2) who changed major into that college and graduated, (3) who are still enrolled after six years, and (4) who were last enrolled in that college when they left Cal Poly. The college cohort does not include students who changed major to another college because they are counted with their new college.

## Graduation in Six Years (Cumulative)

### College of Agriculture First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-1

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>509</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-116	-58	-84	-97	-109	-107
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	33	36	60	61	58	44
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>446</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	227	214	249	291	315	261
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	50.1%	58.0%	57.6%	64.5%	55.4%	58.5%

### College of Architecture & Environmental Design First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-2

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>237</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-24	-37	-35	-53	-50	-49
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	16	9	16	15	24	15
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>203</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	88	64	78	85	128	132
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	59.5%	52.9%	56.9%	57.4%	60.7%	65.0%

Note: College of Architecture & Environmental Design cohorts include 4 and 5 year programs.

### College of Business First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-3

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>310</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-20	-26	-32	-35	-27	-17
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	87	70	98	138	138	129
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>422</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	165	183	296	401	441	339
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	74.0%	76.3%	80.0%	78.6%	79.3%	80.3%

## Graduation in Six Years (Cumulative) (continued)

### College of Engineering First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-4

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>748</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-117	-96	-132	-168	-146	-140
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	16	20	13	23	17	10
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>618</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	261	274	292	369	365	333
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	51.7%	59.1%	55.7%	57.0%	53.5%	53.9%

### College of Liberal Arts First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-5

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>263</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-16	-32	-29	-26	-40	-27
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	109	92	129	137	143	130
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>366</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	184	232	305	314	385	283
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	67.9%	74.1%	73.5%	74.1%	72.5%	77.3%

### College of Science & Mathematics First-time Freshmen Cohort

Table D-6

Summer/Fall Freshmen Cohort	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>224</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-41	-31	-65	-65	-76	-58
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	73	53	61	70	68	70
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>236</b>
Graduated in this College (after 6 years)	131	113	134	195	213	149
% Graduated in this College (after 6 Years)	60.4%	66.9%	60.9%	59.6%	66.6%	63.1%

## Graduation in Three Years (Cumulative)

### College of Agriculture Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-7

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>211</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-22	-29	-19	-19	-13	-11
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	15	12	4	4	9	3
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 3 years)</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>203</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	50	104	134	118	119	127
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	24.3%	38.4%	48.4%	53.2%	49.2%	62.6%

### College of Architecture & Environmental Design Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-8

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>90</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-7	-12	-7	-5	-6	-5
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	7	6	1	1	2	2
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 3 years)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>87</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	17	15	17	16	13	10
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	13.4%	10.6%	13.2%	15.0%	11.3%	11.5%

Note: College of Architecture & Environmental Design cohorts include 4 and 5 year programs.

### College of Business Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-9

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>173</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-3	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	16	11	13	9	5	6
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 3 years)</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>178</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	77	155	116	103	128	154
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	52.4%	73.1%	74.8%	83.7%	82.6%	86.5%

## Graduation in Three Years (Cumulative) (continued)

### College of Engineering Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-10

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>122</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-15	-6	-2	-1	0	-1
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	5	8	2	4	0	3
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 3 years)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>124</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	64	97	76	74	65	60
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	24.6%	39.0%	50.0%	54.4%	45.5%	48.4%

### College of Liberal Arts Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-11

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>255</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-6	-9	-4	-6	-9	-6
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	22	20	16	7	11	9
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 6 years)</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>258</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	130	186	147	148	198	175
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	53.9%	62.4%	60.7%	69.8%	66.3%	67.8%

### College of Science & Mathematics Upper Division Transfer Cohort

Table D-12

Summer/Fall Upper Div. Transfer Cohort	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Initial Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>
Transferred Out to Other College (Loss)	-25	-12	-9	-6	-5	-6
Transferred In from Other College (Gain)	13	15	6	13	7	7
<b>Revised Cohort Headcount (after 3 years)</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>81</b>
Graduated in this College (after 3 years)	30	60	52	51	45	42
% Graduated in this College (after 3 Years)	24.0%	41.4%	51.5%	56.0%	48.4%	51.9%

## In- and Out-Migration and Graduation Rates by College 1997 Freshmen Cohort

The table below contains the graduation data for the 1997 first-time freshmen cohort by college. Column 1 shows the students who graduated from the same college where they started at Cal Poly. Column 2 shows the students who started in another college and graduated in the specified college. Column 3 shows the students who started in a specified college and graduated in another college.

Graduation data for this cohort indicates that, of those students who changed major within six years of starting at Cal Poly, 326 graduated in a college other than the one in which they started. For example, the College of Business had 16 students transfer out and subsequently graduate from another college. However, 116 students who graduated from the College of Business actually started at Cal Poly in some other college. In contrast, the College of Engineering had 107 students change major and receive a degree in some other college, while only 8 students transferred in and received a degree from the College of Engineering.

Table D-13

<b>1997 First-time Freshmen Cohort</b> <b>Six-Year Graduation of Students in the First-time Freshmen Cohort</b>	1. Started and Graduated in same College	2. Started in Other College, Changed Major, and Graduated in this College	3. Started in this College, Changed Major, and Graduated Other College
College of Agriculture	229	32	95
College of Architecture & Environmental Design	119	13	35
College of Business	223	116	16
College of Engineering	325	8	107
College of Liberal Arts	176	107	24
College of Science and Mathematics	99	50	49

*Note: Column 1 plus column 3 equals the total number of the first-time freshmen entering cohort who graduated in six years. Data in column 2 is not reflected elsewhere in this report and should not be added to columns 1 and 3 to calculate a graduation rate.*

*Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.*

## **E. Change of College – In and Out Migration**

### **First-time Freshmen Cohorts 1990 and 1993 through 1997**

The tables in this section expand the analysis of in-migration/out-migration data initially displayed in Section D of this report. The following tables detail the movement between colleges for the 1990 and 1993 through 1997 first-time freshmen cohorts and reflect the student's status after the sixth year. Tables E-1 and E-2 show the college of entry into the university and, if the student had changed colleges by the end of their sixth year, the "destination" college where the student was enrolled at that point in time, was last enrolled, or received his/her degree.

Seventeen percent of the first-time freshmen in the 1997 cohort (398 students) had changed major by the end of their sixth year. The following two tables illustrate the pattern of movement. The main "destination" college(s) for students in the 1997 FTF cohort years are described below.

- College of Agriculture students' main destination colleges were the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Business.
- College of Architecture and Environmental Design students most often moved to the College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts.
- College of Business students' main destination college was the College of Liberal Arts.
- College of Engineering students most often moved to the College of Business and the College of Science and Mathematics.
- College of Liberal Arts students changed to the College of Business, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Agriculture.
- College of Science and Mathematics students most often changed to the College of Liberal Arts.

*Note:* Students in the upper-division transfer cohorts do not change major in significant numbers. Longitudinal study of these small groups would yield no meaningful analysis.

Cal Poly

Table E-1

Initial and Revised Cohort Headcounts with Changes by College  
First-time Freshmen Cohorts, Summer/Fall 1990 and 1993 through 1997

1990 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	536	0	0	-5	2	-17	8	-6	15	-52	3	-36	5	-116	33	453	-21.6%	6.2%	-15.5%
CAED	156	-2	5	0	0	-5	1	-4	8	-8	0	-5	2	-24	16	148	-15.4%	10.3%	-5.1%
CBUS	156	-8	17	-1	5	0	0	0	46	-8	5	-3	14	-20	87	223	-12.8%	55.8%	42.9%
CENG	606	-15	6	-8	4	-46	0	0	0	-26	1	-22	5	-117	16	505	-19.3%	2.6%	-16.7%
CLA	178	-3	52	0	8	-5	8	-1	26	0	0	-7	15	-16	109	271	-9.0%	61.2%	52.2%
CSM	185	-5	36	-2	5	-14	3	-5	22	-15	7	0	0	-41	73	217	-22.2%	39.5%	17.3%
Total	1,817													334		1,817			18.4%

1993 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	391	0	0	-1	2	-9	6	-3	16	-26	6	-19	6	-58	36	369	-14.8%	9.2%	-5.6%
CAED	149	-2	1	0	0	-9	0	-6	7	-17	0	-3	1	-37	9	121	-24.8%	6.0%	-18.8%
CBUS	196	-6	9	0	9	0	0	-3	33	-14	9	-3	10	-26	70	240	-13.3%	35.7%	22.4%
CENG	540	-16	3	-7	6	-33	3	0	0	-24	5	-16	3	-96	20	464	-17.8%	3.7%	-14.1%
CLA	253	-6	26	0	17	-9	14	-5	24	0	0	-12	11	-32	92	313	-12.6%	36.4%	23.7%
CSM	147	-6	19	-1	3	-10	3	-3	16	-11	12	0	0	-31	53	169	-21.1%	36.1%	15.0%
Total	1,676													280		1,676			16.7%

1994 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	456	0	0	-3	7	-16	6	-2	24	-37	9	-26	14	-84	60	432	-18.4%	13.2%	-5.3%
CAED	156	-7	3	0	0	-9	1	-3	8	-12	3	-4	1	-35	16	137	-22.4%	10.3%	-12.2%
CBUS	304	-6	16	-1	9	0	0	-2	50	-19	8	-4	15	-32	98	370	-10.5%	32.2%	21.7%
CENG	643	-24	2	-8	3	-50	2	0	0	-31	1	-19	5	-132	13	524	-20.5%	2.0%	-18.5%
CLA	315	-9	37	-3	12	-8	19	-1	31	0	0	-8	30	-29	129	415	-9.2%	41.0%	31.7%
CSM	224	-14	26	-1	4	-15	4	-5	19	-30	8	0	0	-65	61	220	-29.0%	27.2%	-1.8%
Total	2,098													377		2,098			18.0%

Cal Poly

Table E-2

**Initial and Revised Cohort Headcounts with Changes by College**  
**First-time Freshmen Cohorts, Summer/Fall 1990 and 1995 through 1997** (continued from previous page)

1995 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	487	0	0	-1	9	-24	11	-4	22	-40	7	-28	12	-97	61	451	-19.9%	12.5%	-7.4%
CAED	186	-9	1	0	0	-13	1	-6	10	-20	1	-5	2	-53	15	148	-28.5%	8.1%	-20.4%
CBUS	407	-11	24	-1	13	0	0	-3	80	-17	7	-3	14	-35	138	510	-8.6%	33.9%	25.3%
CENG	792	-22	4	-10	6	-80	3	0	0	-32	1	-24	9	-168	23	647	-21.2%	2.9%	-18.3%
CLA	313	-7	40	-1	20	-7	17	-1	32	0	0	-10	28	-26	137	424	-8.3%	43.8%	35.5%
CSM	322	-12	28	-2	5	-14	3	-9	24	-28	10	0	0	-65	70	327	-20.2%	21.7%	1.6%
Total	2,507													444		2,507			17.7%

1996 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	620	0	0	-8	5	-24	3	-2	20	-52	11	-23	19	-109	58	569	-17.6%	9.4%	-8.2%
CAED	237	-5	8	0	0	-10	2	-4	12	-27	1	-4	1	-50	24	211	-21.1%	10.1%	-11.0%
CBUS	445	-3	24	-2	10	0	0	-4	67	-15	14	-3	23	-27	138	556	-6.1%	31.0%	24.9%
CENG	811	-20	2	-12	4	-67	4	0	0	-22	1	-25	6	-146	17	682	-18.0%	2.1%	-15.9%
CLA	428	-11	52	-1	27	-14	15	-1	22	0	0	-13	27	-40	143	531	-9.3%	33.4%	24.1%
CSM	328	-19	23	-1	4	-23	3	-6	25	-27	13	0	0	-76	68	320	-23.2%	20.7%	-2.4%
Total	2,869													448		2,869			15.6%

1997 First-time Freshmen Cohort

	Initial Cohort Headcount	Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Changed		Loss	Gain	Revised Cohort Headcount	Percent Loss	Percent Gain	Net Change
		Into CAGR	From CAGR	Into CAED	From CAED	Into CBUS	From CBUS	Into CENG	From CENG	Into CLA	From CLA	Into CSM	From CSM						
CAGR	509	0	0	-1	3	-31	2	-3	18	-49	7	-23	14	-107	44	446	-21.0%	8.6%	-12.4%
CAED	237	-3	1	0	0	-15	0	-3	8	-21	3	-7	3	-49	15	203	-20.7%	6.3%	-14.3%
CBUS	310	-2	31	0	15	0	0	-1	63	-12	10	-2	10	-17	129	422	-5.5%	41.6%	36.1%
CENG	748	-18	3	-8	3	-63	1	0	0	-20	0	-31	3	-140	10	618	-18.7%	1.3%	-17.4%
CLA	263	-7	49	-3	21	-10	12	0	20	0	0	-7	28	-27	130	366	-10.3%	49.4%	39.2%
CSM	224	-14	23	-3	7	-10	2	-3	31	-28	7	0	0	-58	70	236	-25.9%	31.3%	5.4%
Total	2,291													398		2,291			17.4%

## **F. Retention and Graduation by Ethnic Origin and Gender**

Using the established first-time freshmen (FTF) and upper division transfer (UDT) cohorts, this section focuses on retention and graduation rates by ethnic origin and gender at the University and college levels. Due to the very small numbers of students in some ethnic groups, which can vary greatly from year to year, we use the average for a three year period to minimize the influence of any outlying data.

### **First-time Freshmen First Fall to Second Fall Retention:**

When looking at the three-year average retention for the University, Cal Poly continued to show a high rate of students continuing from the first to the second Fall. For the 2000 through 2002 cohorts, first-to-second year retention rates were 89%, while the 2002 cohort (unchanged from the previous three year average) remained at 89%.

Cal Poly's first-to second-year retention rate for females (three-year average 2000-2002) was 91%, with 87% for males. The most recent three-year average retention rates for specific ethnic groups range from 83% to 90%. (See Table F-1.)

**First-to-Second Year Retention Rate by Ethnic Origin,  
1999-2001 and 2000-2002 Averages**

Table F-1

	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	White
Cal Poly Total 1999-2001 Average % Retained	83%	89%	81%	79%	89%
Cal Poly Total 2000-2002 Average % Retained	86%	89%	84%	83%	90%

Source: IP&A Retention and Graduation data, updated 3/9/04.

## **Graduation Rates by Ethnic Origin and Gender**

### **First-time Freshmen**

In the table that follows, the three-year average graduation rate for the 1994-96 and 1995-97 first-time freshmen cohorts are displayed by ethnic origin. Cal Poly's overall graduation rate was 65% for the same period (73% for females and 59% for males).

Graduation rates by ethnic origin show considerable variation among groups, with between 36% and 70% of students graduating before their seventh Fall at Cal Poly. This rate is comparable with the 1994-1996 average rates for Cal Poly for most ethnic groups.

Table F-2

**First-time Freshmen Six Year Cumulative Graduation Rates by Ethnic Origin,  
1994-96 and 1995-97 Averages**

	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	White
Cal Poly Total 1994-96 Average % Retained	39%	69%	51%	50%	70%
Cal Poly Total 1995-97 Average % Retained	36%	64%	51%	54%	70%

Source: IP&A Retention and Graduation data, 3/9/04.

### **Upper Division Transfer Students**

The three-year upper division transfer student graduation rate for the Cal Poly 2000 cohort was 57%. While this was an improvement in graduation rates compared to the 1993 through 1997 cohorts (ranging from 41% to 51%), it was a decrease from the 1998 cohort (57%). The three-year average for females improved from 51% for the 1994-96 group to 61% for the 1997-99 group. For males, the 3-year average for the same respective time periods also improved from 39% to 49%.

With the transfer cohort it is especially important to note that the small number of students in some of the groups may make it difficult to make year-to-year comparisons as the percentages can be dramatically affected by small changes in the number of graduating students. The table that follows compares specific groups using three-year averages.

Table F-3

#### **Upper Division Transfer Students Three-Year Cumulative Graduation Rates by Ethnic Origin, 1997-99 and 1998-2000 Averages**

	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	White
Cal Poly Total 1997-99 Average % Retained	51%	48%	46%	63%	56%
Cal Poly Total 1998-2000 Average % Retained	39%	51%	51%	54%	59%

Source: IP&A Retention and Graduation data, 3/9/04.

**Cal Poly**  
**First-Year Retention Rate of First-time Freshmen Cohort by Ethnic Origin and Gender**  
**Cohort Years 1994 through 2002**  
**University Totals**

**First-to-Second Year Retention Rate**

Table F-4

<b>Cohort Year</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Native American</b>	<b>Other Non-White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Inter-national</b>	<b>No Response</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994 Headcount	33	274	239	34	43	1,369	1	105	957	1,141	2,098
1994 # Retained	27	228	184	21	35	1,214	1	86	849	947	1,796
% Retained 2nd Fall	82%	83%	77%	62%	81%	89%	100%	82%	89%	83%	86%
1995 Headcount	42	303	335	49	78	1,556	7	137	1,135	1,372	2,507
1995 # Retained	33	256	269	40	66	1,379	5	118	1,019	1,147	2,166
% Retained 2nd Fall	79%	84%	80%	82%	85%	89%	71%	86%	90%	84%	86%
1996 Headcount	53	316	362	40	60	1,844	3	191	1,265	1,604	2,869
1996 # Retained	39	255	299	35	51	1,621	1	162	1,129	1,334	2,463
% Retained 2nd Fall	74%	81%	83%	88%	85%	88%	33%	85%	89%	83%	86%
1997 Headcount	49	240	365	46	60	1,378	6	147	1,039	1,252	2,291
1997 # Retained	36	208	297	36	55	1,226	6	132	930	1,066	1,996
% Retained 2nd Fall	73%	87%	81%	78%	92%	89%	100%	90%	90%	85%	87%
1998 Headcount	33	338	201	19	60	1,643	6	166	1,041	1,425	2,466
1998 # Retained	25	296	162	18	51	1,483	6	153	937	1,257	2,194
% Retained 2nd Fall	76%	88%	81%	95%	85%	90%	100%	92%	90%	88%	89%
1999 Headcount	19	306	237	25	66	1,299	7	891	1,370	1,480	2,850
1999 # Retained	16	272	176	18	57	1,150	5	812	1,238	1,288	2,526
% Retained 2nd Fall	84%	89%	74%	72%	86%	89%	71%	91%	90%	87%	89%
2000 Headcount	22	352	310	24	102	2,115	15	313	1,437	1,816	3,253
2000 # Retained	19	316	262	19	87	1,896	11	273	1,302	1,581	2,883
% Retained 2nd Fall	86%	90%	85%	79%	85%	90%	73%	87%	91%	87%	89%
2001 Headcount	29	451	366	23	92	2,435	7	226	1,685	1,944	3,629
2001 # Retained	23	402	307	20	74	2,174	5	196	1,518	1,683	3,201
% Retained 2nd Fall	79%	89%	84%	87%	80%	89%	71%	87%	90%	87%	88%
2002 Headcount	26	348	243	24	77	2,055	2	300	1,355	1,720	3,075
2002 # Retained	24	306	204	20	66	1,855	0	264	1,235	1,506	274
% Retained 2nd Fall	92%	88%	84%	83%	86%	90%	0%	88%	91%	88%	89%
2000-2002 Average % Retained 2nd Fall	86%	89%	84%	83%	84%	90%	48%	87%	91%	87%	89%

Note: Student ethnic origin is self-reported. The "Asian" classification includes Filipino and Pacific Islander.

Note: Groupings of five (5) or fewer students (for example, five or fewer students in a particular ethnic grouping), are considered "identifiable" and should be denoted with an asterisk (\*) when data are provided to anyone outside of your college and/or department.

Note: Small numbers in some groups may make it difficult to compare year-to-year as the percentages can be dramatically affected by changes in headcount.

Source: Institutional Planning & Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

**Cal Poly**  
**Six-Year Graduation Rate of First-time Freshmen Cohort by Ethnic Origin and Gender**  
**Cohort Years 1990 through 1997**  
**University Totals**

Table F-5

**Six-Year Graduation Rate**

<b>Cohort Year</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Native American</b>	<b>Other Non-White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Inter-national</b>	<b>No Response</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>1990 Headcount</i>	59	286	299	23	34	1,040	7	69	814	1,003	1,817
1990 # Graduated	20	182	126	11	21	655	6	36	507	550	1,057
1990 % Graduated	34%	64%	42%	48%	62%	63%	86%	52%	62%	55%	58%
<i>1991 Headcount</i>	55	206	296	19	32	940	3	75	785	841	1,626
1991 # Graduated	11	125	114	7	15	607	2	52	485	448	933
1991 % Graduated	20%	61%	39%	37%	47%	65%	67%	69%	62%	53%	57%
<i>1992 Headcount</i>	34	204	239	21	33	790	4	69	613	781	1,394
1992 # Graduated	13	127	98	9	20	520	1	44	395	437	832
1992 % Graduated	38%	62%	41%	43%	61%	66%	25%	64%	64%	56%	60%
<i>1993 Headcount</i>	25	233	254	24	40	1,002	1	97	745	931	1,676
1993 # Graduated	9	152	117	10	25	692	1	74	519	561	1,080
1993 % Graduated	36%	65%	46%	42%	63%	69%	100%	76%	70%	60%	64%
<i>1994 Headcount</i>	33	199	239	34	43	1,369	1	105	957	1,141	2,098
1994 # Graduated	16	166	124	12	32	942	1	61	685	669	1,354
1994 % Graduated	48%	83%	52%	35%	74%	69%	100%	58%	72%	59%	65%
<i>1995 Headcount</i>	42	303	335	49	78	1,556	7	137	1,135	1,372	2,507
1995 # Graduated	18	190	162	32	49	1,103	3	98	844	811	1,655
1995 % Graduated	43%	63%	48%	65%	63%	71%	43%	72%	74%	59%	66%
<i>1996 Headcount</i>	53	316	362	40	60	1,844	3	191	1,265	1,604	2,869
1996 # Graduated	14	194	193	20	35	1,268	1	122	925	922	1,847
1996 % Graduated	26%	61%	53%	50%	58%	69%	33%	64%	73%	57%	64%
<i>1997 Headcount</i>	49	240	365	46	60	1,378	6	147	1,039	1,252	2,291
1997 # Graduated	19	166	186	22	44	962	6	94	746	751	1,497
1997 % Graduated	39%	69%	51%	48%	73%	70%	100%	64%	72%	60%	65%
<b>1995-97 Average % Graduated</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>65%</b>

Note: Student ethnic origin is self-reported. The "Asian" classification includes Filipino and Pacific Islander.

Note: Groupings of five (5) or fewer students (for example, five or fewer students in a particular ethnic grouping), are considered "identifiable" and should be denoted with an asterisk (\*) when data are provided to anyone outside of your college and/or department.

Note: Small numbers in some groups may make it difficult to compare year-to-year as the percentages can be dramatically affected by changes in headcount.

Source: Institutional Planning & Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.

**Cal Poly**  
**Three-Year Graduation Rate of Upper Division Transfer Cohort by Ethnic Origin and Gender**  
**Cohort Years 1994 through 2000**  
**University Totals**

**Three-Year Graduation Rate**

Table F-6

<b>Cohort Year</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Native American</b>	<b>Other Non-White</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Inter-national</b>	<b>No Response</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>1994 Headcount</i>	19	185	191	23	44	744	8	122	526	810	1,336
1994 # Graduated	4	55	52	10	22	360	4	54	238	323	561
1994 % Graduated	21%	30%	27%	43%	50%	48%	50%	44%	45%	40%	42%
<i>1995 Headcount</i>	26	216	210	30	40	735	6	105	536	831	1,367
1995 # Graduated	9	73	81	9	17	341	5	43	263	315	578
1995 % Graduated	35%	34%	39%	30%	43%	46%	83%	41%	49%	38%	42%
<i>1996 Headcount</i>	20	153	239	33	41	712	6	112	553	763	1,316
1996 # Graduated	6	70	79	14	22	368	5	53	318	299	617
1996 % Graduated	30%	46%	33%	42%	54%	52%	83%	47%	58%	39%	47%
<i>1997 Headcount</i>	13	110	158	24	28	588	14	121	464	592	1,056
1997 # Graduated	7	52	60	14	17	325	7	60	278	264	542
1997 % Graduated	54%	47%	38%	58%	61%	55%	50%	50%	60%	45%	51%
<i>1998 Headcount</i>	4	86	103	8	40	564	9	77	378	513	891
1998 # Graduated	2	44	49	4	26	331	6	48	244	266	510
1998 % Graduated	50%	51%	48%	50%	65%	59%	67%	62%	65%	52%	57%
<i>1999 Headcount</i>	6	78	136	5	31	561	14	202	479	554	1033
1999 # Graduated	3	36	70	4	17	311	9	109	277	282	559
1999 % Graduated	50%	46%	51%	80%	55%	55%	64%	54%	58%	51%	54%
<i>2000 Headcount</i>	6	79	114	6	45	538	25	118	459	472	931
2000 # Graduated	1	45	61	2	34	346	14	65	301	267	568
2000 % Graduated	17%	57%	54%	33%	76%	64%	56%	55%	66%	57%	61%
1998-2000 Average % Graduated	39%	51%	51%	54%	65%	59%	62%	57%	63%	53%	57%

*Note: Student ethnic origin is self-reported. The "Asian" classification includes Filipino and Pacific Islander.*

*Note: Groupings of five (5) or fewer students (for example, five or fewer students in a particular ethnic grouping), are considered "identifiable" and should be denoted with an asterisk (\*) when data are provided to anyone outside of your college and/or department.*

*Note: Small numbers in some groups may make it difficult to compare year-to-year as the percentages can be dramatically affected by changes in headcount.*

*Source: Institutional Planning & Analysis Cohort Graduation/Retention Study, updated 3/9/04.*

## An In-Depth Look: First-Time Freshmen Graduation Rates by Gender and Ethnic Origin

Female students graduate at a significantly higher rate than male students at Cal Poly in all ethnic groups. Further, women at Cal Poly outperform female undergraduates nationally. However, Cal Poly's six-year graduation rates by ethnic group indicate that only students who identify themselves as Asian-American or White outperform their national counterparts.<sup>1</sup>

Table F-7

<b>Six-year graduation rate for 1997 entering freshmen cohort</b>					
		<b>Cal Poly</b>			<b>National Average</b>
	<b>Cohort Headcount</b>	Female	Male	Average	
African American	<b>49</b>	66.7%	26.5%	38.8%	53.1%
Asian American	<b>159</b>	78.1	70.5	73.6	68.8
Hispanic	<b>365</b>	60.4	43.7	51.0	58.3
Native American	<b>46</b>	55.6	36.8	47.8	50.5
White	<b>1,378</b>	75.1	65.1	69.8	68.0
<b>University Total</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	
<b>National Comparison</b>		<b>69.7%</b>	<b>62.9%</b>	<b>66.4%</b>	

*Note:* Students self-identified in other groups or as international students, or who declined to state their ethnic origin, are included in the totals but not the detail.

<sup>1</sup> The comparison is derived from Rosemary Hayes (ed.), 2003-04 STEM Retention Report prepared for the consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) by the Center for Institutional Data Exchange and Analysis at the University of Oklahoma, Table 1. Cal Poly's graduation rates are compared with the average data for "highly selective" institutions (those whose average SAT score for entering freshmen is greater than 1100.)

## Graduation Rates by College, Gender, and Ethnic Origin

Female students also graduate at significantly higher rates than males in all colleges. The number of females in most ethnic groups is typically smaller than the number of male students. The proportion of female students is smaller than the proportion of males overall (at 44.9%) and in three colleges (Architecture and Environmental Design at 34.7%; Business at 45%; and Engineering at 18.1%). In contrast, the colleges whose combined entering freshmen cohorts were comprised of a higher proportion of women were Agriculture (56.4%), Liberal Arts (67.4%), and Science and Math (57.2%). (All data based on a three-year average of the 1995, 1996, and 1997 first-time freshmen cohorts.)

Note that graduation rates by college are calculated based on a student's major at the end of six years, or at the time the student left Cal Poly (if not retained). In other words, a college cohort includes those students (1) who started and graduated in that particular college, (2) who changed major into that college and graduated, (3) who are still enrolled after six years, and (4) who were last enrolled in that college when they left Cal Poly.

Table F-8

<b>Three-year average of six-year graduation rate for entering freshmen cohorts (1995, 1996, and 1997)</b>				
	<b>Cohort Headcount</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Average</b>
College of Agriculture	<b>1,466</b>	65.9%	50.4%	59.1%
College of Architecture and Environmental Design	<b>562</b>	67.7	58.0	61.4
College of Business	<b>1,488</b>	83.3	76.2	79.4
College of Engineering	<b>1,947</b>	62.6	53.1	54.8
College of Liberal Arts	<b>1,321</b>	79.6	63.6	74.3
College of Science and Mathematics	<b>883</b>	69.7	54.2	63.1
<b>University Total</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>65.2%</b>

Note: Cohort number reflects the size of the combined cohorts including those not graduated after six years.

Regardless whether students in a particular ethnic group under- or outperform local or national standards, women students at Cal Poly graduate at significantly higher rates than men students in the same ethnic group in all colleges.

Table F-9

<b>Three-year average of six-year graduation rate for entering freshmen cohorts (1995, 1996, and 1997)</b>				
	<b>Hispanic</b>		<b>White</b>	
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
College of Agriculture	60.7%	46.6%	66.7%	53.7%
College of Architecture and Environmental Design	41.0	34.3	72.6	64.2
College of Business	71.9	66.0	85.7	79.9
College of Engineering	52.2	36.0	69.0	58.0
College of Liberal Arts	63.7	60.0	84.1	66.2
College of Science and Mathematics	43.9	32.1	76.8	62.4
<b>University Total</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>	<b>76.8%</b>	<b>63.6%</b>

Note: Due to small numbers of students enrolled in some colleges from certain ethnic groups, this table shows only those students who have identified themselves as Hispanic (Latino) or White.

## **G. Retention and Graduation Rates by Avenue of Admissions**

The tables that follow present an additional view of retention and graduation patterns for Cal Poly students. Table G-1 displays the first-to-second year retention rates for the 2000, 2001, and 2002 first-time freshmen cohorts, categorized by the Multi Criteria Admissions (MCA) Avenue of Admissions. Table G-2 displays the six-year graduation rates for the 1995, 1996, and 1997 cohorts, also by MCA Avenue of Admissions. A definition page showing the IP&A groupings of MCA categories follows. Admitted students in all categories, including "Other Non-MCA," meet CSU minimum requirements for admissions.

When analyzing cohorts by Avenue of Admissions, it should be noted that key changes took place in how the MCA was administered during 1992 and 1993, with the revised process continuing through the current round of admissions. In 1992, Cal Poly started moving away from the admission of significant numbers of students outside of the MCA process (commonly referred to as "university interest" admissions). In 1993, a minimum academic cut based on objective criteria was adopted as part of the MCA process.

It is important to note that for some categories, it can be difficult to track changes as the number of students in these groups tends to be small. A slight change in retention or graduation patterns can result in a noticeable percentage change.

First-to-second year attrition decreased overall for the 2002 first-time freshmen cohort and in nearly every MCA category. The one category with an increase in attrition, "High Achiever," as up almost 2 percentage points from the previous cohort. (See Table G-1.)

In addition to attrition rates, Table G-1 also displays the range of GPAs for enrolled students. For the 2002 cohort, the "High Achiever," "Early Decision," and "MCA 1st Run" categories exhibit the largest percentage of students in the "3.00 or higher" GPA category when those students entered their second Fall. The "Other Non-MCA" and "MCA 2nd Run" categories displayed the lowest percentage of students in the "3.00 or higher" GPA category. It should also be noted that 5.0% of the enrolled students in the 2002 cohort had below a 2.00 GPA when enrolling for their second Fall.

The overall six-year graduation rate has steadily increased during the cohort study period. The 1990 and 1991 cohorts were 58% and 57%, respectively; the 1992 cohort increased to 60%; the 1993 through 1997 cohorts ranged between 64% and 66%. (See Table G-2.) The graduation rate within the MCA categories also varied. The "MCA 1st Run" category consistently shows the highest graduation rates (73-74%) for the last few cohorts. The "MCA 2nd Run" rate decreased from just over 59% in the 1994 and 1995 cohorts to 57.5% for the 1997 cohort.

**Cal Poly**  
**Retention Rates by Avenue of Admissions**  
**First-time Freshmen Cohorts, Summer/Fall 2000, 2001, and 2002**

Table G-1

	Total FTF Cohort			Early Decision			MCA 1st Run			Other 1st Run		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Number in FTF Cohort</b>	3,253	3,629	3,075	437	659	635	1,382	1,360	1,210	179	393	186
<b>Retention First to Second Fall</b>												
% Enrolled, CP GPA 3.00 or higher	32.4	33.5	35.6	47.1	40.4	41.8	38.6	43.4	41.8	31.3	25.7	41.4
% Enrolled, CP GPA 2.00 to 2.99	50.0	50.1	48.6	43.5	48.1	46.8	47.3	43.5	44.9	51.9	54.7	42.0
% Enrolled, CP GPA <2.00	6.2	4.5	5.0	2.1	2.7	3.5	5.1	3.4	3.8	3.4	4.6	4.8
% Not Currently Retained	11.4	11.8	10.9	7.3	8.8	8.0	9.0	9.8	9.5	13.4	15.0	11.8
Total	100.0	99.9	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	High Achiever			MCA 2nd Run			Other Non-MCA		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
<b>Number in FTF Cohort</b>	130	176	120	978	904	712	147	137	212
<b>Retention First to Second Fall</b>									
% Enrolled, CP GPA 3.00 or higher	42.3	35.8	45.0	19.3	18.9	21.3	10.2	18.2	18.0
% Enrolled, CP GPA 2.00 to 2.99	41.5	48.8	39.1	55.1	58.5	55.5	66.7	59.1	63.7
% Enrolled, CP GPA <2.00	6.9	4.0	2.5	10.0	7.6	8.5	6.1	5.8	6.1
% Not Currently Retained	9.2	11.4	13.3	15.5	14.9	14.6	17.0	16.8	12.3
Total	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.1

Note: See page 45 for definitions of Avenue of Admissions categories.

Note: Column totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Retention and Graduation data reflects status at each Fall quarter census.

Note: Early Decision started in Fall 1999.

Note: 1993 was the first year Cal Poly utilized a minimum academic cut with the MCA.

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Database, updated 3/9/04.

**Cal Poly**  
**Six-Year Graduation Rates by Avenue of Admissions**  
**First-time Freshmen Cohorts, Summer/Fall 1995, 1996, and 1997**

Table G-2

	Total FTF Cohort			Early Decision			MCA 1st Run			Other 1st Run		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
<b>Number in FTF Cohort</b>	2,507	2,869	2,291	0	0	0	1,229	1,287	1,057	104	165	91
<b>Six-Year Graduation Rates</b>												
% Enrolled	3.5	3.7	3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.8	2.4	3.3	1.0	3.0	4.4
% Graduated	66.0	64.4	65.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	73.9	73.1	73.7	53.8	60.6	69.2
% Not Currently Retained	30.5	31.9	31.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.3	24.6	23.0	45.2	36.4	26.4
Total	100.0	100.0	99.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	High Achiever			MCA 2nd Run			Other Non-MCA		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
<b>Number in FTF Cohort</b>	155	240	75	907	1,059	933	112	118	135
<b>Six-Year Graduation Rates</b>									
% Enrolled	3.9	4.6	1.3	4.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	5.0	0.7
% Graduated	60.0	59.7	65.3	59.3	55.7	57.5	53.6	62.7	51.0
% Not Currently Retained	36.1	35.8	33.3	36.7	39.2	38.4	38.4	32.2	48.1
Total	100.0	100.1	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.8

Note: See page 45 for definitions of Avenue of Admissions categories.

Note: Column totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Retention and Graduation data reflects status at each Fall quarter census.

Note: Early Decision started in Fall 1999.

Note: 1993 was the first year Cal Poly utilized a minimum academic cut with the MCA.

Source: Institutional Planning and Analysis Cohort Database, updated 3/9/04.

**Cal Poly**  
**Retention and Graduation Rates by Avenue of Admissions**  
**First-time Freshmen Cohorts, Beginning in Summer/Fall 1993 (except where noted)**

**Avenue of Admissions — Definitions of Categories**

Early Decision (started in Fall 1999)

MCA First Run

    MCA Academic Run

Other First Run

    Alternate Major

    Regular (other) Accommodated

    Regular Accommodated/Approved Term Change

High Achiever

    Admission Prerogative

    National Merit

    Scholarship Prospects

    Valedictorians

MCA Second Run

    MCA Mandated Run

Other Non-MCA

    Hardship

    Recalcs/Late Calcs

    Athletes

    EOP

    Faculty/Staff

    Faculty/Staff Relative

    Mandatory

    School (College) Special

    Rodeo

*Source: MCA categories Id.doc, Admissions Office*

**Cal Poly**  
**Undergraduate Retention & Graduation Rates**  
**Selection Criteria and Assumptions**

**General Cohort Criteria**

Data for cohort studies are derived from a corrected extract of the Enrollment Reporting System-Students (ERSS), files that have been validated against SIS+. The ERSS file contains the enrollment data that is reported quarterly to the Chancellor's Office.

Enrollment status for the student categories listed below is established at the time of admission processing.

- First-time freshmen: defined by the data elements "student level code" = 1 and "enrollment status" = 5.
- Lower division transfer students: defined by the data elements "student level code" = 1 or 2, and "enrollment status" = 4.
- Upper division transfer students: defined by the data elements "student level code" = 3 or 4, and "enrollment status" = 4. Upper division students are students transferring with 56 semester (84 quarter) units, self-reported status at time accommodated.
- First enrolled for Summer or Fall quarter.
- Full time: defined as enrolled in 12 or more units (at least some of which must be undergraduate units) during the student's first Fall quarter at Cal Poly.

*Note: Students seeking a second baccalaureate degree are not included in the cohort.*

**Graduation Rate Study**

Graduation rate is calculated on degrees awarded through Summer.

Separate categories will be reported for 4 and 5-year programs:

Degree-seeking 4 years only: Four-year programs will use degree awarded in 6 years for first time freshmen and degree awarded in 3 years for upper division transfers.

Degree-seeking 5 years only: Five-year programs will use degree awarded in 7 years for first time freshmen and degree in 4 years for upper division transfers.

The first cohort for graduation rate study (FTF, lower division and upper division transfer students) will consist of quarters Summer 1990 and Fall 1990 inclusively. The six-year graduation rate will include students who graduated through Summer 1996.

Starting in Fall 1997, Enrollment Reporting System-Degrees (ERSD) is reported to the Chancellor's Office annually in August with an additional report in November that includes Summer degrees. For subsequent cohorts, IP&A will use ERSD November data as the "frozen" data for graduation rates.

The six-year graduation rate will be derived from the "frozen" data. Therefore, published graduation rates will remain consistent even though additional degrees may be posted for any particular academic year.

Additional criteria for initial study (when study is expanded to include retention/graduation by major):

- Students will be tracked in entering major and graduating major (no tracking of major changes).
- Use organizational structure at graduation (if there was/is re-organization of Colleges).
- If a student's entering major has a name change, the graduation rate will reflect the current major name at time of graduation.

**Retention Rate Study**

- The first cohort for retention rate study (FTF, lower and upper division transfer students) will consist of quarters Summer 1990 and Fall 1990 inclusively.
- Full time: defined as enrolled in 12 or more units (at least some of which must be undergraduate units) during the student's first Fall quarter at Cal Poly.
- After initial Summer and Fall cohort is established, retention rate calculated on subsequent Falls only.
- If a student "stops out" then returns, they will be counted in the Fall they return as being retained in their initial cohort.