

# San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education Research & Policy Report #4, July 2022

## The Status of San Diego Chicanos/Latinos in Public Higher Education: Decolonizing Local Colleges and Universities


### **Campus Enrollment**

This research and policy report is the fourth of a series of such papers by the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education (hereafter the SD Concilio) that analyzes data and information gathered from eleven public colleges and universities in San Diego to provide a profile of the status of local Chicanos/Latinos in higher education. The SD Concilio is a local coalition of faculty and staff, including emeriti, that has monitored and conducted advocacy for the access and success of Chicano/Latino students in higher education for over thirty years.

As seen in our request, the SD Concilio asked each local, public institution to provide detailed disaggregation of their data on enrollment. Such detail is important to capture the degree to which Chicanos/Latinos have access to each institution and the degree to which more needy segments of our community, e.g., students from low-income or working-class socioeconomic backgrounds, access those institutions. Our SD Concilio also asked each institution to describe their strategies for developing and maintaining a representative enrollment of Chicano/Latino students as well as their assessment of the effectiveness of those institutional strategies. The responses from the eleven local, public institutions of higher education were uneven in terms of the degree to which they provided all our requested data and information.

In this report, we provide basic enrollment data gathered from each local, public college and university. In most cases, we report the responses we received directly from these institutions. In other cases, we report data extracted from an institutional website. In addition to the enrollment data, we also compiled institutional responses that identify and describe the strategies used to develop and maintain a representative enrollment of Chicano/Latino students. We will report this more detailed data and information, including data on first-generation college student status and Pell Grant recipients, in the near future.


With notable exceptions such as UC San Diego, almost all the local, public colleges and universities have achieved “Hispanic Serving Institution” status, i.e., at least 25 percent of their enrollment is Chicano/Latino students. Likewise, both CSU San Marcos and SDSU and all five community college districts have achieved parity in their Chicano/Latino enrollment with the ethnic composition of San Diego County, which is 34 percent Chicano/Latino. The 2021 enrollment of Chicano/Latino students is provided in Tables 1-4 below.

**Table 1 San Diego State University Student Enrollment for 2021 by Ethnicity**


**SDSU Main Campus Enrollment by Ethnicity Fall 2021**

Ethnicity	Undergrad	%	Graduate	%	Grand Total	%
African-American	1,274	4.0	191	4.0	1,465	4.0
Asian	4,134	13.0	458	9.0	4,592	13.0
<b>Hispanic-Latinx</b>	<b>10,288</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>11,878</b>	<b>33.0</b>
Filipino	Not provided (Np)	Np	Np	Np	Np	Np
Native American	82	0.0	13	0.3	95	0.3
Pa..Isl. Native Hawaiian	80	0.3	7	0.0	87	0.3
White	10,519	34.0	1,724	35.0	12,243	34.0
Multiple Ethnicities	2,118	7.0	247	5.0	2,365	7.0
Other/Not Stated	872	3.0	273	5.0	1,326	3.9
International	1,497	5.0	455	9.0	1,952	5.0
<b>Total *SDSU Campus</b>	<b>30,864</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4,868</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35,732</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Source: California Department of Education, 2017; National Center for Statistics, 2017


**Table 2 CSU San Marcos Student Enrollment for 2006 to 2021 by Ethnicity**


**CSU San Marcos Enrollment by Ethnicity Fall 2006 to 2021**

15 Yr. Diff	2006		2012		2016		2017		2021	
African-American	285	3%	390	3%	434	3%	417	3%	455	3.0%
Asian American	985	11%	1,094	10%	1,484	11%	1,498	11%	1,295	9.0%
<b>Hispanic-Latinx</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>3,363</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>5,688</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>6,444</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>50%</b>
Filipino	NR*		NR*		NR*		NR*		NR*	
Native American Indian	84	1%	52	0%	44	0%	45	0%	40	0.03%
Pa..Isl. Native Hawaiian	64	1%	40	0%	42	0%	37	0%	30	0.02%
White non Latinx	4,389	50%	4,243	40%	3,965	30%	3,865	25%	3,525	25%
Two or more races	NR*		488	5%	694	5%	772	6%	710	5.0%
Unknown	979	11%	1,040	10%	793	6%	815	6%	422	3.0%
<b>Graduate &amp; Post Bac</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Total 100%</b>	<b>8,734</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,610</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,893</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,503</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* NR=not reported      \*Source: CSU Chancellor, asd.calstate.edu

Table 3 UCSD Student Enrollment for 2008- 2021 by Ethnicity




### UCSD Undergraduate by Ethnicity: 2008-2021

Ethnicity	2008		2013		2018		2020-21	
African-American & Black	339	1.5%	478	2.0%	775	2.6%	<b>951</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Asian & Filipino	10,938	48.6%	10,506	44.1%	11,165	36.9%	<b>11,829</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
Chicano/Latinx	2,743	12.2%	3,717	15.6%	5,904	19.6%	<b>6,624</b>	<b>20.8%</b>
Native American/ Pacific Isl. & Hawaiian Alaskan	90	0.4%	106	0.4%	59	0.2%	<b>179</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
White	5,374	26.7%	5,546	22.9%	5,791	19.1%	<b>6,045</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
International	729	3.2%	2,809	11.8%	5,628	18.6%	<b>5,422</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
Other/ undeclared/ Unknown	1,709	3.2%	729	3.1%	841	2.8%	<b>792</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,518</b>		<b>23,805</b>		<b>30,165</b>		<b>31,607</b>	

Source: University of California, Undergraduate Dashboard & [ir.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/publications](http://ir.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/publications)

Table 4 San Diego County Community College Enrollment for 2021 by Ethnicity



### San Diego County Community Colleges by Ethnicity & Enrollment for Fall 2021

Ethnicity	Cuyamaca	Grossmont	Miracosta	Palomar	San Diego*	Southwestern
African-American	4.08%	5.68%	3.50%	2.74%	6.45%	4.12%
Asian	2.87%	3.49%	5.30%	4.30%	12.24%	1.86%
<b>Latinx-Hispanic</b>	<b>32.29%</b>	<b>38.22%</b>	<b>37.86%</b>	<b>46.02%</b>	<b>37.54%</b>	<b>70.97%</b>
Filipino	2.28%	3.43%	2.28%	2.28%	4.86%	9.01%
American Indian/Alas	0.48%	0.65%	0.45%	0.52%	0.27%	0.27%
Pacific Isl. Native Hawaiian	0.36%	0.24%	0.63%	0.43%	0.42%	0.26%
White	48.35%	38.28%	37.13%	3.22%	30.67%	6.90%
Multiple Ethnicities	4.54%	5.74%	7.04%	6.03%	6.33%	4.31%
Other/Not Stated	4.75%	4.26%	2.86%	2.14%	2.67%	1.63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,895</b>	<b>13,232</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>19,411</b>	<b>55,359</b>	<b>16,770</b>

Source: Community College Chancellor, [datamart.cccco.edu](http://datamart.cccco.edu) \*includes San Diego City 24,350, Mesa, 31,818 and Miramar 22,935

## Conclusions: Chicano/Latino Student Enrollment

The access of Chicanos/Latinos to local, public colleges and universities is one of the highest priorities for the SD Concilio. Access is reflected in the degree of representation of Chicano/Latino students in the enrollment of those institutions. Given the open access of California Community Colleges compared to public universities such as SDSU, CSUSM, and UCSD, one would expect a higher Chicano/Latino enrollment at our community colleges. As is the case for institutional leadership, the context for analyzing the enrollment of our students is census data showing that Chicanos/Latinos make up 34 percent of the San Diego County population (San Diego Union-Tribune, 2022), forty percent of the California population, and 55 percent of the K-12 enrollment of California public schools. Since Chicanos/Latinos are a relatively young population, their representation among the population that frequently attends colleges and universities is even higher.

The following highlights of local institutions' enrollment are illustrative:

- San Diego State University is one of the more selective CSU campuses. SDSU eliminated its guarantee of admission for local students in 2009 under the subterfuge of a budget crisis. From 2016 to 2020, SDSU increased its enrollment of Chicano/Latino students from 29 percent to 32 percent, close to parity with the county population. Although their most recent data shows that 37 percent of SDSU applicants are Chicano/Latino, only 24 percent of admitted students are Chicano/Latino.
- At California State University San Marcos, Chicano/Latino students have increased from 39 percent of enrollment in 2016 to 48 percent in 2021, far beyond parity with the county population and exceeding that of the state.
- Among the community college districts, SDCCCD, SW, GCCCD, Mira Costa, and Palomar, Chicano/Latino students represented from 32 percent to 70 percent of enrollment in 2021. All the districts experienced a small degree of Chicano/Latino enrollment growth since 2016.
- Only SDSU and CSUSM provided data on the percentage of Chicano/Latino enrollment that is first-generation college students. At SDSU, 39 percent were first generation while at CSUSM, 46% were first generation.

From additional data and information that we will share later, it appears that most of the universities and community college districts identified specific strategies to recruit and enroll Chicano/Latino students. Likewise, most had clear lines of responsibility to the campus entity(s) in charge of such enrollment strategies. Most of the institutions indicated that they regularly assess the effectiveness of their enrollment strategies, although none provided evidence of their assessment results. Thus, most of the local, public colleges and universities in San Diego are maintaining equitable access for Chicano/Latino students, although the details reveal some institutional shortcomings. The next step is to examine the degree to which these institutions are intentional in maximizing the success of Chicano/Latino students once they enter the college or university.

