Orange County
PROFILES
CSU Fullerton
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Higher Education in Orange County

There are over 25 institutions of higher education in Orange County serving almost 200,000 students. With nine community colleges and three major universities, higher education is a major aspect of the County. In fact, Orange County ranked 11th in a national survey of higher education opportunities based on the number of colleges and the number of enrolled students (Table 1). Ten percent of the total California community college student population is in Orange County while Orange County represents only 8% of the total population of the state. These campuses provide a variety of opportunities for County residents (and non-residents as well) in addition to serving a cross-section of its ethnic groups.

Table 1
Education Ranking

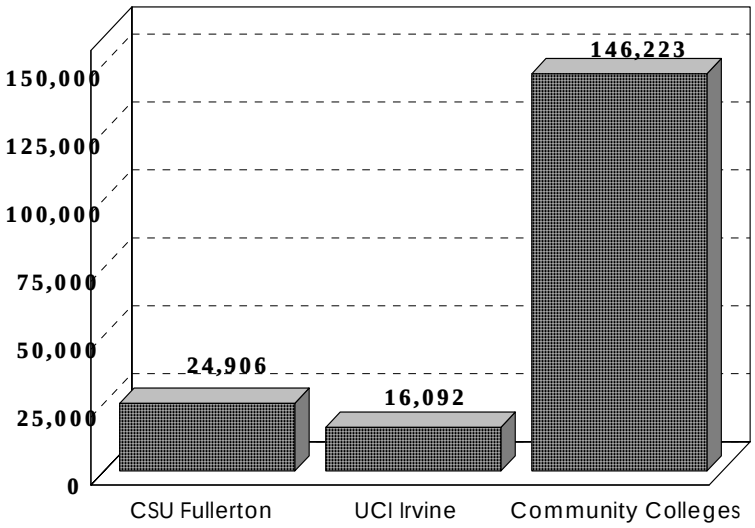
Rank	Region
1	LA/Long Beach, CA
2	NewYork, NY
3	Chicago, IL
4	Boston, MA
5	Montreal, PQ
6	Washington DC
7	Philadelphia, PA
8	Dallas, TX
9	Detroit, MI
10	Toronto, ON
11	Orange County, CA

These institutions have an economic impact as well. The campuses spend millions of dollars in the local economy and employ thousands at all levels, from doctors to janitors. California State University Fullerton spent four million dollars in fiscal year 1996/97 within ten miles of the campus (not including payroll). College graduates are also major economic contributors. A college graduate earns on average 73% more than a high school graduate, thus improving the economic strength of the region and adding additional tax revenues. Furthermore, college graduates have a much lower unemployment rate, crime rate and a decreased reliance on government assistance.

Graduates from the Orange County higher education institutions have had many individual impacts as well. CSUF graduates are as varied as actor Kevin Costner, Angel catcher Phil Nevin, US Congressman Ed Royce and Gareth Chang, President of Hughes International. UCI alumni include Olympic diver Greg Louganis, comedian/actor John Lovitz, and State Assembly Republican Leader Bill Leonard. Though a smaller campus, Chapman University alumni range from UCLA basketball coach Steve Lavin, to US Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

This *Profiles* focuses on the demographics of the students. What do we know about the 193 thousand college students? This study was based on the one University of California campus (UC Irvine), the California State University campus (CSUF), the nine community colleges and the largest private university (Chapman University). Not included in the study due to various issues are the satellite campuses of universities based outside of the County, such as USC & Pepperdine, and the small private colleges such as Hope College, Concordia University, and Southern California College. When available, total enrollment figures are shown.

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT



Enrollment

The two major universities, UCI and CSUF, are the most visible in the community in many respects. Yet, these two campuses account for only 21.1% off the total student population. The nine community colleges account for the majority of students at 75.4% of the total (Table 2). One college, Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, ranks number 12 in the entire nation for community college enrollment with its 25,175 students. The total student enrollment (193,835) in the major colleges and universities shown is greater than the population of Huntington Beach. This does not include the estimated 100,00 plus students in extended and continuing education classes.

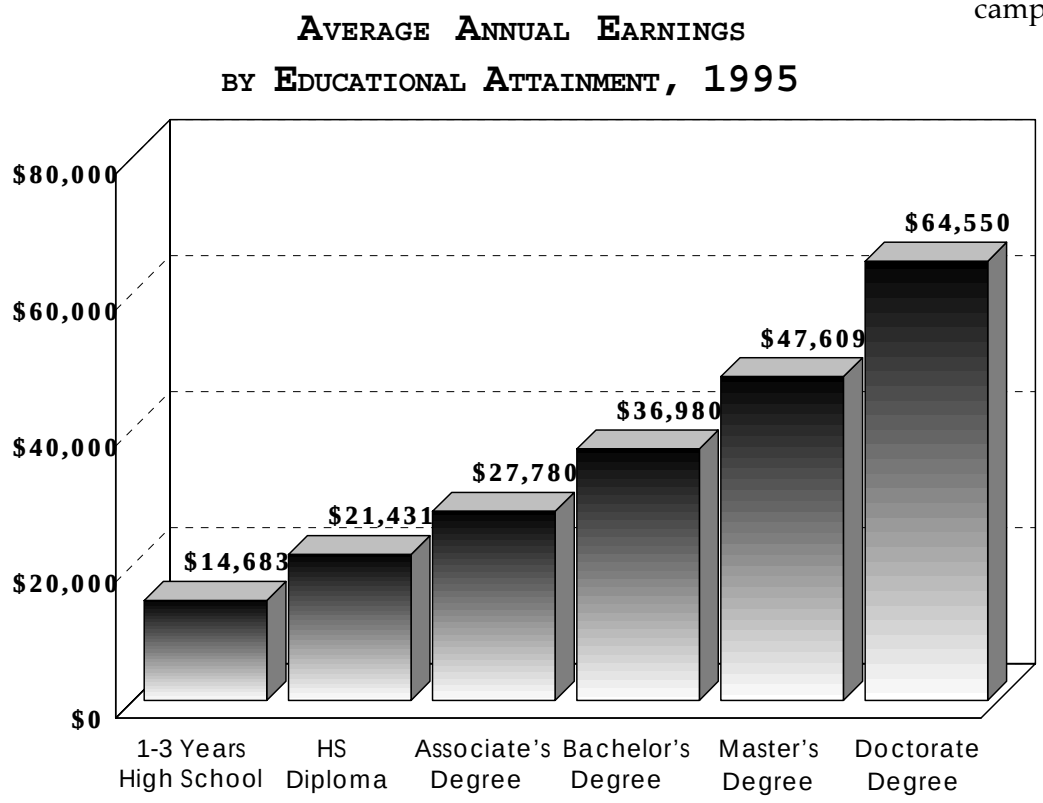
Table 2
College/University Enrollment

College	City	Enrollment
Southern California College of Optometry	Fullerton	381
Fullerton College	Fullerton	18,247
Western State College	Fullerton	1,191
CSU Fullerton	Fullerton	24,906
Hope College	Fullerton	338
Cypress College	Cypress	13,371
Chapman University	Orange	3,673
Santiago Canyon College	Orange	14,243
Santa Ana College	Santa Ana	10,864
Golden West College	Huntington Beach	14,972
Coastline College	Fountain Valley	15,843
Orange Coast College	Costa Mesa	25,175
UC Irvine	Irvine	16,092
Concordia College	Irvine	1,031
Irvine Valley College	Irvine	11,198
Saddleback College	Mission Viejo	22,310
		193,835

Note: Does not include continuing education adult students

Ethnicity

The entire population of Orange County is ethnically diverse and one would hope to see this diversity reflected in the student population. While, other factors contribute to the ethnic diversity of campuses such as students who may commute and temporarily live in or out of the County as well as the national and international draw of the major universities, the campuses too are ethnically diverse (Table 3). Non-Hispanic whites are the largest portion of the student population in all but the Rancho Santiago College District and at UCI. Rancho Santiago College District has the largest percentage of Hispanic students, as expected with one campus located in Santa Ana. UCI is over one-half Asian/ Pacific Islander and has the lowest percentage of non-Hispanic whites. This reflects UCI's regional draw and other social issues at work in attractiveness of UC campuses to various racial groups.



CSUF - Ethnicity/Sources of OC Students

Compared with the County as a whole, the ethnic mix of CSUF students shows a greater representation of minority students. Asians/PI constitute 12.1% of the general County population and 29.5% of the student population. The white population takes

almost a corresponding drop from 63% of the general County population to 49.4% of the student population. The Hispanic population is slightly under-represented with only 19.9% of the student population compared with 22.9% Hispanics of the total population in the County.

Using additional student information from CSUF, the homes of students can be mapped and compared with the underlying general population demographics. If the expected ratios of student ethnicity based on the ethnic mix of each source area is compared with the actual ethnic ratios of students from these areas, we can establish a system of measuring the representation rate of students for small areas. Using these small area demographics allows patterns to emerge in student sources areas and corresponding representation rates. For example, in central Garden Grove, areas of high Asian percentage have a ratio of Asian students higher than the ratio for the general population. In areas of lower Asian percentages, the student ratio is closer to the actual population rates, though still slightly above. The higher the percentage of Asians, the more likely that the percent Asian CSUF students from that area will be higher than the local ratio. Though much less pronounced, the reverse is true for the Hispanic population (see maps, page 4).

As described above, large proportions of CSUF students are designated "Asian or Pacific Islander". Yet this does not sufficiently describe the diversity of the Asian population in Orange County. There exists a large Korean population in the Fullerton/Buena Park foothills that is represented by a high percentage of Korean students from this region. The same holds true for Vietnamese in Garden Grove/Westminster as well. The student household data also shows that students of Mexican decent are concentrated in the Santa Ana area while Hispanic students of Central and South American decent are dispersed (along with Mexican decent Hispanics) throughout the County.

Conclusion

With the children of baby-boomers entering college over the next few years the size and role of the higher education system in Orange County will continue to increase. Yet it is not just this cohort that makes up the student body, but the children of many ethnic groups. The ethnic diversity of the students should be taken into account in curriculum development and hiring practices. Some campuses are currently using this information in recruiting prospective students and tailoring outreach programs. Those groups not well represented in higher education may miss out on the social and economic benefits of a college degree in the long term.

- CDR Summer 1998

Sources:
CSU Foundation
web sites for campuses
Center for Demographic Research
various campus/alumni contacts
research by author
Orange County Business Council
Places Rated Almanac
CA Postsecondary Education Comm.

Profiles is produced by the Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton. *Profiles* focuses on demographic issues in Orange County. We welcome your comments and suggestions and can be reached at (714) CSU-4669.
www.cdr1.fullerton.edu

Table 2
Ethnic Mix - Selected Campuses

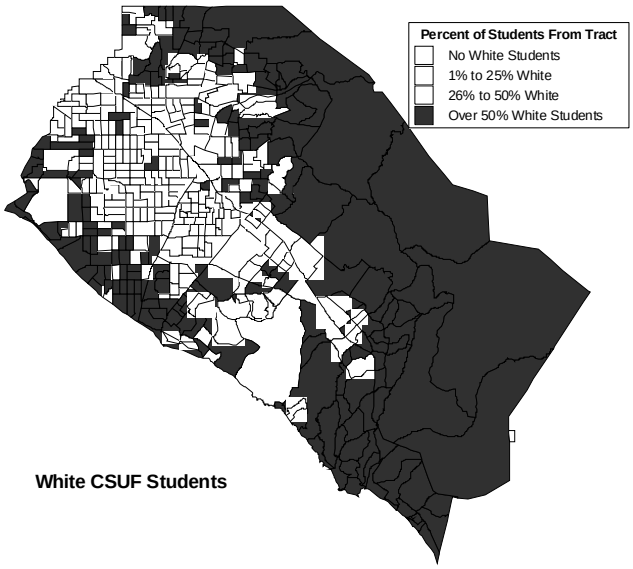
College	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI	Other	Total
Orange Coast College	54.2%	1.7%	13.3%	25.8%	5.0%	100.0%
Golden West College	45.6%	2.0%	11.0%	34.0%	7.3%	99.9%
Coastline College	50.8%	2.4%	8.2%	21.8%	16.9%	100.1%
Fullerton College	47.5%	3.1%	26.6%	17.5%	5.3%	100.0%
Cypress College	43.8%	4.9%	20.5%	26.6%	4.2%	100.0%
Irvine Valley	50.8%	2.7%	10.6%	27.8%	8.1%	100.0%
Saddleback College	70.0%	1.4%	10.6%	10.1%	7.8%	99.9%
Rancho Santiago CC District*	31.7%	3.0%	36.7%	21.2%	7.4%	100.0%
CSU Fullerton	49.4%	2.1%	16.1%	29.5%	3.0%	100.0%
UC Irvine	26.6%	2.0%	10.6%	51.0%	9.8%	100.0%

* Includes Santa Ana College & Santiago Canyon College

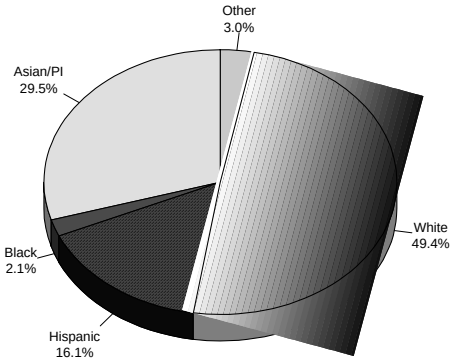
CSU Fullerton Regional Distribution of Students by Ethnicity

Table 3
Top 15 Census Tracts for Each Major Student Ethnic Group
CSUF Students

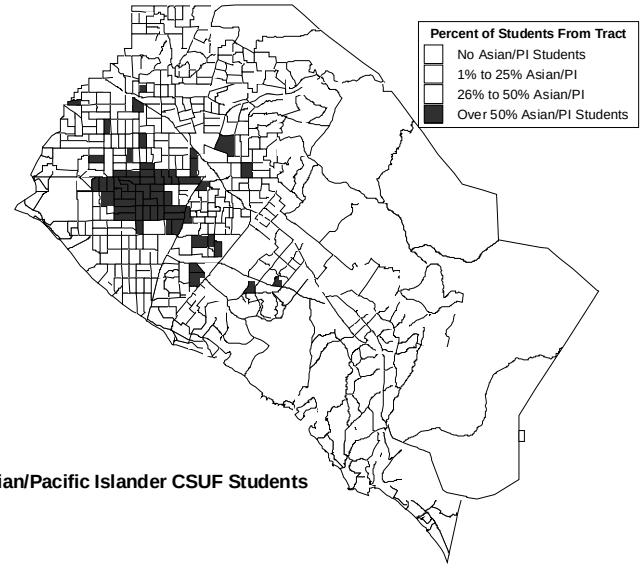
Tract	% White	Tract	% Asian/PI	Tract	% Hispanic
218.13	100.0%	889.05	92.9%	638.08	100.0%
421.06	100.0%	999.03	92.3%	740.03	100.0%
626.20	100.0%	999.04	89.5%	743.00	100.0%
626.31	100.0%	889.04	87.2%	748.06	100.0%
631.03	100.0%	997.01	83.3%	749.02	100.0%
992.17	100.0%	998.03	82.9%	752.02	100.0%
995.04	100.0%	996.01	79.2%	741.03	94.7%
995.06	100.0%	998.02	78.9%	749.01	93.8%
995.10	100.0%	889.03	78.9%	746.02	88.2%
636.01	90.9%	888.01	78.6%	748.01	85.0%
320.12	88.2%	998.01	77.8%	744.06	83.3%
994.04	87.5%	889.01	77.1%	745.01	83.3%
995.05	87.5%	881.06	75.0%	747.02	81.3%
423.21	86.7%	891.01	75.0%	745.02	81.0%



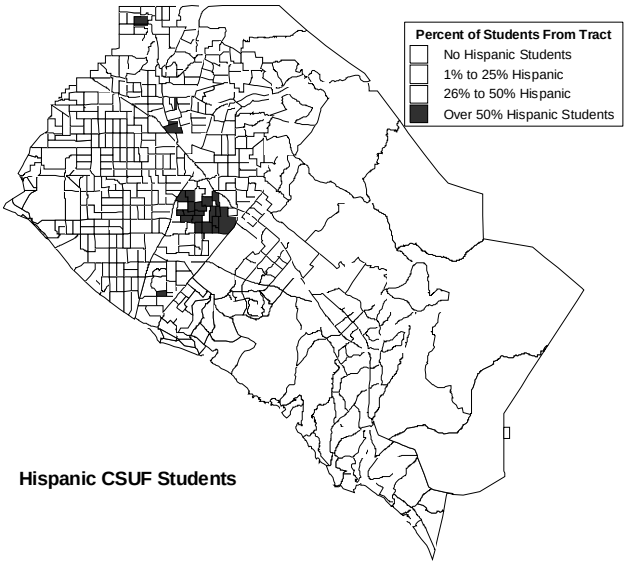
White CSUF Students



CSUF Students



Asian/Pacific Islander CSUF Students



Hispanic CSUF Students