This is the twenty-second report in the series of Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) Fall Student Profiles. These annual summaries provide the district and its colleges -- American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC), Folsom Lake College (FLC) and Sacramento City College (SCC) -- with data on student demographics and enrollment trends, important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our diverse student clientele. This report presents student enrollment data and Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) based on official Fall First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. It is also based upon demographic data generated from the official Fall Fourth Week Census research data warehouse. Analysis of demographic data includes all students enrolled as of the fourth week of classes, including those enrolled in sessions that begin later in the semester. Analysis of student demography is based upon data that excludes those students who have dropped all of their courses by first census.

**District Enrollment**

Chart 1 presents fall district enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. The enrollment pattern tends to reflect variations in state funding and population trends. After several years of subtle enrollment declines due to fee increases, enrollment increased an average of 5.0% from Fall 2000 through Fall 2002. Enrollment reached its highest point, 71,866 in Fall 2002, however, enrollment decreased by 1.1% to 71,058 in Fall 2003, followed by a 1.2% enrollment decrease in Fall 2004, to 70,230. The Fall 2003 and 2004 enrollment decreases are reflective of the impact of statewide fee increase that occurred in both of these years, increasing from $11 to $18 per unit in Fall 2003 and from $18 to $26 per unit in Fall 2004.

Enrollment in Los Rios colleges continued to increase from Fall 2005 through Fall 2009; a time period which included a statewide enrollment fee decrease to $20 per unit. In Fall 2009 community college students in California faced enrollment fee increases implemented retroactively, increasing from $20 to $26 per unit, yet even with the fee increase, Los Rios colleges saw a 5.6% increase in enrollment, to 89,706 students in Fall 2009. Fall 2010 enrollment decreased by 5.2%, to 85,035 students, reflective of statewide budget constraints impacting all California community colleges as well as reductions in course sections at each of the Los Rios colleges.

Effective in Fall 2011 California community college students once again faced fee increases, from $26 to $36; fee increases mandated by the state at a time when students are struggling with high unemployment and strained economic conditions. The impact of the fee increase combined with a reduction in 180 class sections district-wide resulted in a 3.6% decline in Fall 2011 enrollment at Los Rios colleges to 81,983 students. Enrollment decreases occurred across each of the Los Rios colleges in Fall 2011: by 4.2% at ARC (to 33,210), by 2.2% at CRC (to 15,120), by 3.0% at FLC (to 8,761) and by 3.8% at SCC (to 24,892).
The greater Sacramento area population the Los Rios colleges serve continues to increase but more importantly this is a population that tends to enroll in the Los Rios Community College District at a higher rate than comparable statewide data; 73 out of every 1,000 adults enroll in a community college statewide but a higher 89 out of every 1,000 adults from the greater Sacramento area enroll in one of the Los Rios colleges.

**District Weekly Student Contact Hours**

Weekly Student Contact Hours (WSCH) for Fall 2011, based on data extracted from the PeopleSoft SA system, were 754,939 across the district as illustrated in Chart 2. The fourth week WSCH to enrollment ratio was 9.21 for Fall 2011, decreasing from the 9.39 last Fall.

**District Enrollment by Gender**

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges, fluctuating only slightly between fall semesters. However, beginning in Fall 2008 there has been a slight shift in the proportions of male and female enrollment district-wide which continues in Fall 2011 as the proportions of male students enrolled at a Los Rios college increased from 41.7% in Fall 2007 to 43.7% in Fall 2011.
The enrollment pattern by gender among the Los Rios colleges generally mirrors that of the District. However, there continues to be slightly higher proportions of females enrolled at Folsom Lake College (58.9%) when compared to the district overall. It is important to note that the gender distribution at FLC is changing, as the proportion of females enrolled at FLC in Fall 2011 is lower than the 62.9% who were female in Fall 2007.

**District Enrollment by Age Group**

Chart 4 illustrates that LRCCD enrollment proportions by age group remained relatively unchanged from Fall 2007 to Fall 2011. The largest proportion of LRCCD enrollment continues to be the 28.7% of students ages 18-20, followed by the 24.1% who are between the ages of 21-24. Students taking courses at a Los Rios college who are 40 and over continues to decrease, from 18.3% in Fall 2007 to 15.8% in Fall 2011.

![Chart 4: LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Fall 2007 and Fall 2011](image)

There are some differences in college enrollment patterns by age. FLC continues to enroll higher proportions, 34.4%, of students 18-20 years of age when compared to district-wide enrollment. Higher proportions of CRC students, 32.4%, are also 18-20 years of age in Fall 2011 compared to the district overall. Conversely, ARC enrolls slightly lower proportions of younger students between the ages of 18-20, 24.8% when compared to Fall 2011 district-wide proportions. Enrollment proportions by age at SCC generally reflect district proportions. The average age of a Los Rios student is 28.1 in Fall 2011 which is slightly lower than the 28.7 in Fall 2007, illustrating the district-wide decrease in enrollment of older students.

**District Enrollment by Ethnicity**

Chart 5 depicts the ethnic composition of Los Rios students in Fall 2011 compared to 2010 population estimates of the three-county service area. This comparison shows that Los Rios enrolls slightly higher proportions of Asian, African American, Latino and Native American (noting the small numbers) students. Lower proportions of white students enroll in Los Rios colleges as compared to the service population. The proportion of Los Rios students who indentify as “multi-race” is 5.6% across the district which is slightly higher than the 4.1% who do so in the 3-county area our colleges serve. It is important to note that for both the Los Rios data as well as the county data, multi-race data excludes Latino/Hispanic students of all races.

![Chart 5: Ethnic Distribution: LRCCD Enrollment* and Service Area Population](image)

**Technical Notes:**
- LRCCD has a category called “other and decline to state”. Census data has no such classification. As such, this category has been eliminated from the analysis and calculations for the purposes of this report.
- ** Multi Race excludes all Latino/Hispanic.

**Source for Service Area Population:** California Department of Finance, California State Data Center Census 2010, Table DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (for selected geographic area).
The 22.1% of Latino/Hispanic students who take courses at a Los Rios college is the largest minority group enrolled district-wide in Fall 2011. The remaining ethnic composition of the district’s Fall 2011 enrollment is as follows: Asian students (which includes Filipinos and Pacific Islanders), 17.6%, African Americans, 11.9%; and Native Americans, 0.8%. The proportion of total enrollment by white students in Fall 2011 is 42.0% district-wide.

There are some interesting differences in Fall 2011 enrollment based on ethnicity at the college level. CRC continues to enroll the highest proportions of Asian students (29.8%) across the district. CRC also enrolls higher proportions of African Americans (14.5%) as well as slightly higher proportions of Latino/Hispanic students (23.0%) when compared to district enrollment proportions. SCC enrolled the highest proportions of Latino/Hispanic students (27.1%) while enrollment of African American (13.9%) students at SCC is also slightly higher than comparable district proportions. SCC also enrolls a higher proportion of Asians (21.9%) than comparable district enrollment proportions. ARC enrollment based on ethnicity when compared to district proportions shows a lower proportion in each of the ethnic categories, however ARC continues to enroll higher proportions of white students (50.8%) when compared to the district in Fall 2011.

Analysis of Folsom Lake College’s Fall 2011 ethnicity profile continues to show a unique enrollment pattern that is reflective of the population the college serves. There is a substantially higher proportion of white students, 67.2%, enrolled at Folsom Lake College in Fall 2011 and lower proportions in each of the other ethnic categories.

**Enrollment by Primary Language Spoken**

English is the primary language of 82.9% of LRCCD students in Fall 2011 which generally those who indicated English as their primary language in the previous term. Many students attending our colleges continue to indicate a diverse number of primary languages spoken other than English with 3.3% indicating Spanish as their primary language, which is reflective of the prior year. A slightly higher 4.4% of SCC students speak Spanish as their primary language. Likewise, 4.8% of students across the district speak a primary language from one of the former Eastern Bloc countries, with a higher proportion of ARC students, 7.9%, indicating this is so in Fall 2011 (students who indicated they speak Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian or Ukrainian). Of additional interest are the 4.5% of Folsom Lake College students, many who probably take courses at FLC’s Rancho Cordova Center, who indicated their primary language was from one of the former Eastern Bloc countries in Fall 2011. Smaller proportions of students district-wide (1.5%) indicated one of the Chinese dialects was their primary language in Fall 2011. However, 2.7% of students at SCC and 2.4% of CRC students indicated a primary language as one of the Chinese dialects. Worth noting are the 1.7% students district-wide who indicate Vietnamese as their primary language and the higher 3.7% of CRC students who indicate Vietnamese as their primary language in Fall 2011.

**Enrollment by First Generation College Students**

The Fall 2011 Student Profile includes information on those students enrolling in Los Rios colleges who are first generation students, those who are the first in their families to pursue a college education. The proportion of students who have enrolled in Los Rios colleges that are first generation students is 41.4% district-wide in Fall 2011, which is slightly higher than the 37.8% in Fall 2007.

**Chart 6: LRCCD Enrollment by First Generation* Students: Fall 2007 and Fall 2011**

CRC has the highest proportion of first generation students with 42.3% of all students enrolled, followed by the 41.6% of SCC students and 41.3% of ARC students in Fall 2011. FLC enrolls the lowest proportion, 36.4%, of first generation students of all the Los Rios colleges. With the proportions of Los Rios students who are first generation increasing at each of the colleges, it is important the Los Rios colleges provide this student population the student services they need to ensure they succeed.
Enrollment by Income Level

Chart 7 illustrates the changing dynamic of enrollment by income level from Fall 2007 and Fall 2011. Students reporting income levels below poverty level have increased from 24.4% in Fall 2007 to 40.1% in Fall 2011. Conversely, the proportions of students with middle and above income levels has decreased, from 34.4% in Fall 2007 to 28.1% in Fall 2011 illustrating not only a shift in income levels of students attending Los Rios colleges during the challenging economic climate but also the impact the economy and fee increases is having on middle income students.

Chart 7: LRCCD Enrollment by Income Level: Fall 2007 and Fall 2011

Technical Note: Income data are self reported. Income level categories are based on HHS poverty criteria guidelines established each calendar year that are used to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs: low income at or below 200% of poverty, middle income or higher is $60,000 or above beginning in Fall 2002.

Higher proportions of FLC students, 41.2%, report income levels of middle and above in Fall 2011 which tends to reflect the community Folsom Lake College serves. Conversely, lower proportions, 26.0% of FLC students report income levels below poverty in Fall 2011, however, it is important to note that this is higher than the 15.1% of FLC students who did so in Fall 2007. Reported income levels of ARC and CRC and SCC students in Fall 2011 generally reflect district proportions.

District Enrollment by Employment Status

As illustrated in Chart 8, the employment status of Los Rios students is reflective of current economic conditions in the greater Sacramento area. District-wide, the 32.1% of students who are unemployed in Fall 2011 reflects an increase from the 15.0% who reported they were unemployed in Fall 2007. Conversely, the 13.4% of Los Rios who worked full-time in Fall 2011 is lower than the 25.0% who did so in Fall 2007. The 23.9% of students who report they are working half-time or more is lower than the 31.9% in Fall 2007, while the 16.7% of Fall 2011 students working less than half-time is slightly higher than the 14.9% who did so in Fall 2007.

Chart 8: LRCCD Enrollment by Hours of Employment: Fall 2007 and Fall 2011

During economic uncertainty, those who are unemployed seek to upgrade their education goals and/or employment skills by taking courses at their local community college. Chart 9 serves to illustrate the increase in proportions of unemployed students taking courses at each of the Los Rios colleges from Fall 2007 to Fall 2011. CRC has the highest proportion of unemployed students in Fall 2011 (34.3%), followed by SCC (33.5%), ARC (31.4%) and by FLC (24.9%). The chart also serves to show the increase in the proportions of unemployed students taking courses at each of the Los Rios colleges from Fall 2007 to Fall 2011.
District Enrollment by Educational Goal

In an effort to understand why students attend Los Rios colleges, Chart 10 depicts the educational goals of Los Rios students for Fall 2011. Over one half, 61.5%, of Los Rios students taking courses in Fall 2011 enroll with the goal to transfer to a 4-year college or university which is slightly higher than the 58.3% with a goal to transfer in Fall 2010. The proportion of students enrolled at Los Rios colleges with a goal to obtain an associate’s degree or certificate is 23.7% in Fall 2011. With more students indicating an educational goal of transfer the Los Rios Community College district has initiated various outreach efforts to target students who meet the transfer ready or degree milestones to ensure students remain on track to transfer or to receive their award.

Of interest are the slightly higher proportions of FLC (65.8%), SCC (64.9%) and CRC (63.7%) students with a goal to transfer to a 4-year college compared to district-wide proportions. Conversely, slightly lower proportions of students enrolled at ARC have a goal to transfer to a 4-year college, 58.1%, however this represents a slight increase in the 55.4% of ARC students with a goal to transfer in the previous Fall 2010 term. The shift in enrollment by educational goal at ARC is partially attributed to reductions in courses offered through the Public Safety Center, a program housed at ARC, which provides courses for students with goals aligned with job skills. Slightly higher proportions of ARC students enroll with an educational goal to earn an associate’s degree or certificate (27.6%) than do students district-wide, while lower proportions of FLC students, 16.9%, have a goal to earn an associate’s degree or certificate.

Enrollment by Zip Code

The four Los Rios colleges serve the 3-county area of Sacramento and enrollment by zip code illustrates the enrollment patterns of our students by zip code area. District-wide Fall 2011 enrollment by the top five zip codes follows: Parkway (95823), 4.8%; Elk Grove (95758), 4.0%; Elk Grove (95624), 3.8%; Florin (95828), 3.8% and Carmichael (95608), 3.2%. Almost twenty percent (19.7%) of Fall 2011 enrollment district-wide is from these top five zip codes.
A more complete profile related to enrollment patterns by zip code looks at enrollment by the top five zip codes for each of the four Los Rios colleges. Table 1 shows not only the percent of enrollment by the top five zip codes but also cumulative totals for each of the colleges to help understand the scope of enrollment by zip code area. The top feeder zip code for ARC is from the Carmichael area (6.9%) followed by Antelope (5.2%) and the Town and Country area (4.3%); almost twenty-five percent (24.7%) of ARC enrollment is from within the top five zip codes.

The top zip code for enrollment for CRC is from Elk Grove (95758) zip code (13.8%) followed by Parkway (13.7%), and the Elk Grove (95624) zip code (13.2%). Of additional interest is that enrollment from the top five zip codes account for 59.6% of all CRC enrollment in Fall 2011.

The top zip code for enrollment for FLC is from Folsom (20.0%), followed by El Dorado Hills (10.8%) and Placerville (100%). Folsom Lake College also enrolls a high proportion of students from these top five zip codes, 58.1% of all enrollment in Fall 2011.

The top five zip codes account for 27.2% of all SCC enrollment in Fall 2011. Land Park (95822) is the top ranked zip code for SCC with 6.8% of all students enrolled from this area, followed by the Land Park (95831) zip code area with 5.8% of enrollment as well as 5.5% of enrollment from the Parkway zip code. Interestingly, one zip code falls within the top five of enrollments for both CRC and SCC, which is the Parkway (95823) zip code area.

**District Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance**

Chart 12 compares the district proportions of day and evening attendance for Fall 2007 and Fall 2011. The 45.7% of Fall 2011 students taking courses offered only during the day is slightly higher than the 43.9% who did so in Fall 2007. Students taking courses offered both during day and evening also increased from 25.6% in Fall 2007 to 29.3% in Fall 2011. Conversely, the proportions of students taking classes offered only during the evening decreased from 22.9% in Fall 2007 to 17.4% in Fall 2011 across the district.
Table 2 summarizes day and evening attendance patterns by college for Fall 2011. The proportion of students attending classes only during the day is higher at both SCC and CRC, while the proportion of ARC and FLC students attending classes only during the day are slightly lower. Slightly higher proportions of ARC and FLC students attend courses offered only during the evening, while slightly lower proportions attend courses offered both during the day and evening than comparable students district-wide. Fall 2011 students at CRC and SCC enrolled in courses offered in both day and evening in slightly lower proportions than students who attend ARC or FLC.

Table 2: Day and Evening Attendance: Fall 2011

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Technical Note: LRCCD proportions vary because they reflect unduplicate students across the district, which account for the higher proportions of day/evening students compared to the colleges.

The proportion of students taking courses that have class times that are considered “other” remained relatively unchanged district-wide in Fall 2011, but as evident by Table 2, this varies by college. Classes categorized as “other” include courses in areas such as distance education or those courses that have no regular class meeting times. Worth noting are the higher proportions of students at both ARC and CRC who enroll in courses in which the class time is “other” than is the case for students district-wide. This is indicative of more classes being offered via distance education as well as apprenticeship course offerings at these two Los Rios colleges.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit load are illustrated in Chart 13 to demonstrate trends in students’ course loads in Fall 2007 and Fall 2011. “Light-load” students are those taking fewer than six units; “mid-load” students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and “full-time” students are those with 12 or more units. It remains clear that all of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions, with 70.1% of students taking 11.9 units or less in Fall 2011. The proportions of students taking “full” course loads remained relatively unchanged from Fall 2007 to Fall 2011.

Chart 13: LRCCD Enrollment by Course Load*: Fall 2007 and Fall 2011

* Students in those courses for 0 units have been excluded.

CRC, FLC and SCC each enroll similar proportions of full-time students, approximately 32.0%, while the 29.0% of full-time students at ARC is slightly lower. The biggest change at each of the colleges and district-wide is the decrease in students taking light course loads most likely a result in fewer “special admit” and older students who often enroll in one or two courses; courses most impacted by reductions in offerings at the colleges due to budget issues.
Fall 2011 Student Profile: Summary Remarks

The data presented in the Fall 2011 Student Profile illustrates student demographics and enrollment trends of the Los Rios Community College District. In Fall 2011 statewide budget constraints continue to affect all California community colleges and the students they serve. Although student demand remains high the Los Rios colleges are faced with challenging decisions related to enrollment management and course offerings while balancing the need to meet the educational needs of a diverse student population. These challenges are illustrated by the 81,983 students who enrolled in a Los Rios college in Fall 2011 which represents a 3.6% decrease over the 85,035 students who took classes at one of the Los Rios colleges in Fall 2010. As the Sacramento area population the Los Rios colleges serve continues to grow, it is important to note that this is a population that tends to enroll in our colleges at a higher rate than comparable statewide data.

Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled in Los Rios colleges, however in Fall 2011 the increase in the proportions of male students enrolled continued, increasing from 41.7% in Fall 2007 to 43.7% of enrollment in Fall 2011. Los Rios colleges continue to enroll higher proportions of Asian, African American and slightly higher proportions of Latino students than each groups’ population proportion in the LRCCD 3-county area which it serves. The Fall 2011 Student Profile reports that 5.6% of all students district-wide indicate they are “multi-race” compared to the 4.1% who do so in the 3-county area. Illustrative of the diversity of Los Rios students, 17.1% of Fall 2011 students indicate they speak a primary language other than English. District-wide, 3.3% of students indicated they speak Spanish as their primary language while 4.8% indicate they speak a primary language from one of the Eastern Bloc countries.

There were some subtle changes in enrollment by age group from Fall 2007 to Fall 2011, perhaps reflective of the specific course section reductions that occurred, as the proportion of students enrolled at Los Rios colleges who are 40 and over decreased from 18.3% in Fall 2007 to 15.8% in Fall 2011. The proportion of students enrolled at Los Rios colleges who are between the ages of 18 and 24 continue to make up over half, 52.8%, of the student population. The average age of the Los Rios student is 28.1 this Fall; slightly younger than the average 28.7 in Fall 2007, illustrative of the slight decrease district-wide the enrollment of older students. The Fall 2011 Student Profile includes information on those students enrolling in Los Rios colleges, who are first generation students, the first in their family to pursue higher education. District-wide, 41.4% of all students who enrolled in Fall 2011 are first generation students, an increase from the 37.8% in Fall 2007.

Two enrollment shifts continued in Fall 2011; higher proportions of students enrolled who report income at or below poverty level and of those who are currently unemployed. The 40.1% of Fall 2011 students who report income below poverty levels is substantially higher than the 24.4% of students who did so in Fall 2007. Conversely, the 28.1% of students who report middle and above incomes who take courses at a Los Rios college is lower than the 34.4% who did so in Fall 2007. In addition to shifts in enrollment by income level, the 32.1% of Los Rios students who report they are unemployed is a significant increase over the 15.0% who did so in Fall 2007 and this holds true at each of the colleges.

The Fall 2011 Student Profile is based on unduplicate student demography generated from the Fall First Census reports that are issued at the beginning of the fourth week of classes. Of additional interest related to enrollment management and shifting demographic trends is the number of duplicate students -- those students attending more than one Los Rios college. Approximately 5,958 students are enrolled in more than one Los Rios college in Fall 2011, up by about 4.5% from the approximately 5,700 students who attended more than one Los Rios college in Fall 2010. However, Fall 2011 reflects a 48.7% increase over the approximate 4,000 students who attended more than one Los Rios college in Fall 2007. The increase in students taking courses at more than one Los Rios college is in response to the impacts from the reductions in course sections in Fall 2011 but also that Los Rios students continue to be mobile and are willing to travel to take the courses they need to meet their educational goals.

This report was written by Betty Glyer-Culver, Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, IT Analyst II for Research.

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October 2011