

Calvin College

2005 Fall Day 10 Report Highlights

Overall Enrollment Trends (Table 1)

The total number of students enrolled at Calvin this fall is 4,189, an increase of 3 students from last fall. The Traditional Undergraduate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment stands at 3,986, still within the optimal enrollment range of 3,900-4,100 Traditional Undergraduate FTE as established in the college's strategic plan. Traditional undergraduates are students working on their first bachelor's degree and not enrolled in a degree program at another institution.

The number of part-time students has slowly been decreasing over the past ten years, from 8.7% in 1996 to 5.2% this year. While some of the factors contributing to this are the discontinuation of CAP, our degree completion program, there are also declines in the number of Post Bacs (those already with a Bachelor's degree pursuing a second degree) and dually enrolled (high school) students. In addition, there has also been a steady decrease in part-time traditional undergraduate students over the years, from 105 in 2000 to 69 this year.

Table 1 also shows a slightly lower percentage of female students, 54.3% in 2005 compared to 54.6% in 2004 and 56% in 2003. Nearly 39% of all students have at least one parent who is a Calvin alum, a slight increase from last year.

Student Majors (Table 3)

The top four programs of study this fall, as measured by overall student enrollment in specific majors or programs are Elementary Education (7.6%), Secondary Education (7.5%), Business (6.2%), and Nursing (5.7%). Other top choices include Psychology (4.5%) and Biology (4.2%).

The **departments** with the largest number of majors/programs are Education (15.1%), Economics and Business (11.1%), Communication Arts & Sciences (7.4%, including Business/CAS group majors), Engineering (7.0%), Nursing (5.7%), Biology (4.6%), Psychology (4.5%), Sociology & Social Work (4.1%) and English (3.7%). Over one-fifth (21.3%) of all declared majors are enrolled in one of the programs in Education.

Programs or majors showing steady increases over the past few years, including this year, are Communication Arts & Sciences, German, HPERDS, and Political Science, including International Relations. In addition, substantial one-year increases from 2004 to 2005 can be seen in the number of Accountancy, Asian Studies, Biochemistry, Classical Studies, Digital Communication, and Psychology majors. Increases in pre-professional programs are also evident this year, most notably in Pre-Medicine, Pre-Physical Therapy and Pre-Law.

Merit Scholarships (Table 4)

While there is a fairly substantial increase in the overall number of merit scholarships awarded to FTIACS (First Time in any College) this year, the lion's share of the increases are at the Dean's, Faculty Honors and Honors levels. The percentage awarded either a Presidential or Trustee scholarship declined from 22% in 2004 to 19% this year. Twenty-one National Merit Scholars are part of the new entering class. In addition, 56 FTIACS were awarded the new Knollcrest award. Of the 4,012 total traditional undergraduates enrolled, 1,930 (48%) are receiving one of these seven merit scholarships.

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Demographic Characteristics of Students (Tables 5, 6 & 7)

Calvin students come from 49 different states, 6 Canadian provinces and 44 other foreign countries. After Michigan (53.8% of all students), the top three states/provinces represented are Illinois (8.2%), Ontario (3.7%), and California (2.8%). Indiana and Ohio are not far behind, each with 2.7% of the student population. For detailed counts of students by residence see Table 5.

The distributions of students by race/ethnicity and citizenship are shown in Table 6. The number of AHANA students (African-, Hispanic-, Asian- and Native-American) at the college is 227 (5.4%), up from 223 (5.3%) last fall. The largest group of U.S. ethnic minorities enrolled at Calvin is Asian-American, at 114 students (the same percentage as last year at 2.7%). Fifty-five African-American, 46 Hispanic-American, and 12 Native-American students are enrolled. Compared with last year, the African-American number is up by 7, the Hispanic-American number is fairly steady and the Native-American number is down by 4. The number and percentage of AHANA FTIACs decreased slightly from last year, from 62 (6.9%) to 57 (5.7%), however the numbers of African-American and Hispanic-American students dropped significantly, while Asian-American FTIACs increased from 25 in 2004 to 33 this year.

The 165 Canadian citizens reported in Table 6 represent 3.9% of our student body, a decline of roughly 15% compared with the 193 Canadian citizens enrolled two years ago. The top four non-North American countries represented by our International student citizens are South Korea (51 students), Nigeria (16 students), India (13 students) and Ghana (10 students).

Religious affiliations of students (Table 7) show Christian Reformed students comprising roughly 49% of the student body, with the second largest group of students affiliated with a Nondenominational church (11%). Other denominational families most frequently represented are Reformed, Presbyterian, and Baptist, each accounting for roughly 6-8% of the student body.

Retention and Graduation Rates (Table 8)

This year's FTIAC retention rate of 87.7% is the highest ever for Calvin, up from last year's rate of 86.1% and our previous high of 87.2% in 2002. The highest retention rates (based on four-year averages) can be found among the following subgroups: top scholarship recipients (91%), alumni children (90%), and CRC students (90%) and International students (91%). The high level of persistence of AHANA FTIACs from last year to this year (85.5%) is also positive news, especially since it is a reflection of high retention rates across all four ethnic minority groups.

The five-year graduation rate of the 2000 FTIAC class, at 73.4%, is also one of our highest ever. It is second only to the rate of 73.6% among the 1998 FTIAC cohort. Higher than average graduation rates among the 2000 cohort are found among Top Scholarship recipients (82%) and Alumni children (79%). Graduation rates for AHANA students increased from a disappointing 55% last year to 71% this year, the highest ever. Particularly large increases in the graduation rate from last year to this year are also seen among Males (up from 64% to 72%), Michigan students (up from 68% to 74%), Christian High School grads (up from 71% to 77%), Christian Reformed students (up from 73% to 80%) and Conditionally Admitted FTIACs (up from 27% to 39%).

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New Students: FTIAC and Transfer (Table 9)

The class of new FTIACs in 2005 numbers 1,007, an increase of 105 students from last years' class of 902. Incoming transfers number 101, almost identical to last years' 102. Both of these are down somewhat from our incoming class sizes two, three, and four years back. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs that are Christian Reformed decreased slightly, from 48.0% last year to 47.1% this year, although more CRC students, in raw numbers, are a part of the class than last year. Thirty-nine percent of the class has at least one parent that is a Calvin alum.

While the number of conditionally admitted students went up by two from last year, this group continues a nearly decade-long decline, dropping as a percentage of the class from 5.9% last year to 5.5% this year. The number of Canadian citizens in the FTIAC class increased slightly, from 26 last year to 31 this year. A slight increase in the number and percent of AHANA transfers is also an encouraging trend.

Enrolled to Admitted Yields (Table 10)

Roughly 48% of admitted FTIACs this year chose to enroll, resulting in an incoming class of 1007 students out of 2104 admitted. The number admitted this year is the highest ever for the college. The highest enrollment yields among FTIACs this year are among West Michigan Christian High Schools (69%), Alumni children (69%) and Christian Reformed Church members (65%). The yield for transfers dropped slightly from 64% last year to 61% this year.

FTIAC GPAs and Test Scores (Table 11 & 12)

The academic strength of the entering first-year class is very similar to last years' class on nearly all measures. Mean GPA stands at 3.57, only slightly higher than last year's 3.56, while mean ACT Composite scores remained constant at 25.8. The mean combined SAT score showed the largest gain, rising from 1204 last year to 1213 this year. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs graduating in the top 10% of their high school class decreased slightly, from 28% to 26%.

Faculty Composition (Tables 13 & 14)

The number of full-time teaching faculty at Calvin in 2005 is 309, up 2 from last year. An additional 89 part-time faculty this fall brings the total faculty number to 398. Faculty FTE (a rough measure of the full-time teaching equivalent which adjusts for part-timers and reduced loads) increased slightly, from 299 last year to 307 this year.

The number of full-time female faculty dropped slightly for the second year in a row, from 91 to 89, contributing to another slight decrease in the percentage of female full-time faculty. This percentage dropped from a high of 31.7% in 2001 to 28.8% in 2005). The number of AHANA (ethnic minority) faculty has increased by two, from 20 to 22. The percentage of full-time faculty with a terminal degree remained constant, at around 82%, and the college-wide student to faculty ratio based on teaching duties is 14.5 to 1, also roughly equal to last year.