

Calvin College

2007 Fall Day 10 Report Highlights

Overall Enrollment Trends (Table 1)

The total number of students enrolled at Calvin this fall is 4,224, an increase of 25 students from last fall and 35 from the year before. The Traditional Undergraduate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment stands at 4,045, still within the optimal enrollment range of 3,900-4,100 Traditional Undergraduate FTE as established in the college's strategic plan and enrollment plan. (Traditional undergraduates are students working on their first bachelor's degree and are not enrolled in a degree program at another institution.) Over 95 percent of Calvin students are enrolled full time, while the number of part-time students stands at 189 (4.5%), the smallest percentage in any of the past ten years.

Table 1 also shows that the male/female ratio of Calvin students has remained relatively steady compared with last year, at 46 percent males and 54 percent females. Calvin's gender composition is more balanced than at comparable four-year private (not-for-profit) institutions nationwide, where the undergraduate female percentage is roughly 58 percent.

The number of AHANA (African-, Hispanic-, Asian-, and Native-American) students increased substantially from last year, from 235 to 268, now representing 6.3 percent of our student body. This compares with only 155 AHANA students enrolled nine years ago. Roughly one-half our students are from outside the state of Michigan (48%), with a substantial percentage (upwards of 8%) from outside the United States. The percentage with Canadian Citizenship, however, continues to slowly decline, presently accounting for only 4 percent of the overall student body. As recently as 1993, Canadian representation, at 8 percent of the student body, was double what it now is.

The percentage of students from the Christian Reformed Church dipped slightly from last year, from 48.1 percent to 47.0 percent, while the percentage of students with at least one parent being a Calvin alum increased slightly from 39.5 percent in 2006 to 39.7 percent in 2007.

Student Majors (Table 3)

The top four **programs** of study this fall, as measured by overall student enrollment in specific majors, programs, or concentrations, are Business (6.4%), Nursing (6.4%), Elementary Education (6.3%), and Secondary Education (6.1%). Other top choices include English (4.1%), Biology (4.0%), and Psychology (3.7%).

The **departments** with the largest number of majors/programs are Education (12.3%), Business (11.4%), Communication Arts & Sciences (8.6%), Engineering (7.4%), Nursing (6.4%), Biology (4.5%), English (4.1%), Psychology (3.7%), and Sociology & Social Work (3.2%).

Departments showing steady increases over the past few years, including this year, are Business, Economics, French, Music, and Nursing. In addition, substantial one-year increases from 2006 to 2007 can be seen in the number of majors in Art, Asian Studies, Business/CAS Group, Classical Studies, Economics, Engineering (Gen), French, International Development Studies, International Relations, Media Production, Music, Philosophy, Physics, and Religion. Recent increases in pre-professional programs are primarily evident in Pre-Architecture and Pre-Seminary.

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Merit Scholarships (Table 4)

The overall percentage of our incoming FTIAC (First Time in any College) class awarded top merit scholarships dropped slightly from 62 percent in 2006 to 58 percent in 2007. The number and percentage awarded the Trustee, the Presidential, and the Dean's scholarships dropped while those awarded the Faculty Honors and Honors increased or remained steady. In addition, over 200 FTIACs were awarded the newer Knollcrest award, over twice as many as last year, primarily due to changes in the qualifications for the award. Of the 4,075 traditional undergraduates enrolled, 1,918 (47.1%) are receiving one of the top six merit scholarships (Honors and above).

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

Calvin students come from 48 different states plus the District of Columbia, 7 Canadian provinces and 51 other foreign countries. After Michigan (52.2% of all students), the top three states/provinces represented are Illinois (9.2%), Indiana (3.4%), Ontario (3.1%), and Ohio (3.1%). South Korea is the country outside of North America sending us the most students (39), with Hong Kong, Ghana, China, and Japan each contributing a dozen or more students. 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 at the college is 268 (6.3%), up from 235 (5.6%) last fall and up from 201 (4.6%) in 2003. Substantial increases in the number of African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Hispanics in the FTIAC class fueled the growth in AHANA students this year. The largest group of U.S. ethnic minorities enrolled at Calvin is Asian-American, with 133 students. In addition, 60 African-American, 69 Hispanic-American, and 6 Native-American students are enrolled. Students of other ethnicity have also increased, from 64 last year to 81 this year.

The 152 Canadian citizens reported in Table 6 represent 3.6 percent of our student body, a percentage that has decreased fairly steadily since four years ago when Canadian citizens represented 4.5 percent of the student body. The top four non-North American countries represented by our International students based on their citizenship are South Korea (61 students), Ghana (12 students), India (9 students), and Indonesia (7 students). The total number with citizenship from an African country is down by over one-half from four years earlier (dropping from 49 to 23 students), while the number from Asia has risen from 90 to 105 students. The international flavor of Calvin's student body also benefits from the presence of over 100 U.S. students who come to Calvin with experience living abroad, as well as an additional 42 students with dual citizenship (U.S. and another country)—mostly Canadians.

Religious affiliations of students (Table 7) show Christian Reformed students comprising 47 percent of the student body, with the second largest group of students affiliated with a Nondenominational church (12.2%). Other denominational families most frequently represented are Reformed and Presbyterian, each accounting for roughly 7-8 percent of the student body, while Baptists represent slightly more than 5 percent.

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Retention and Graduation Rates (Table 8)

This year's FTIAC retention rate of 88.6 percent is once again the highest ever for Calvin, inching up from last year's rate of 87.8 percent. The highest retention rates (based on four-year averages) can be found among the following subgroups: alumni children (92.3%), top scholarship recipients (92.0%), and students from Christian High Schools (91.4%). AHANA retention (at 78.0%) continues to lag about 10 percentage points behind the overall rate, and Access program participant retention is also relatively low (71.9%).

The six-year graduation rate of the 2001 FTIAC class, at 73.4 percent, dropped slightly from the previous cohort's (2000) stellar rate of 74.5 percent. Higher than average graduation rates among the 2001 cohort are found among International Students (87%) and Top Scholarship recipients (83%). Graduation rates for AHANA students reverted downward (55%) after an especially good rate last year (71%). Other groups showing lower rates this year are Michigan students (down from 75% to 71%), Christian High School grads (down from 78% to 75%), and Alumni Children (down from 82% to 78%). A perennial sticking point is the graduation rate among students from other denominations, which lags behind Christian Reformed students by 8-10 percentage points.

New Students: FTIAC and Transfer (Table 9)

This year's new student enrollment was managed throughout the summer months by using a wait list in order to achieve a class of FTIACs numbering 1,039, an increase of 12 students from last year's class of 1,027 and 32 higher than the 2005 class. Incoming transfers number 85, down from last year's 92 and down from 124 four years ago. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs who are Christian Reformed decreased slightly, from 46.6 percent last year to 45.6 percent this year; however, about the same number of CRC students are in this year's class as compared with the previous two years' classes. In terms of where the new class of FTIACs comes from geographically, about the same percentage as last year are from Michigan, but a lower percentage are from the nearby Great Lakes States of Illinois and Indiana.

The number of conditionally admitted Access Program students increased slightly, from 32 last year to 42 this year. The number of Canadian citizens in the FTIAC class increased by 2, from 37 last year to 39 this year, and other International Citizens also increased, from 39 to 52. AHANA students represent 7.0 percent of the incoming class compared with 4.9 percent last year.

Enrolled to Admitted Yields (Table 10)

Roughly 48 percent of admitted FTIACs this year chose to enroll, resulting in an incoming class of 1,039 students out of 2,169 admitted. Partially due to our use of a wait list, the number admitted this year is actually slightly below the number admitted last year (2,173), but a higher percentage decided to enroll. The highest enrollment yields among FTIACs this year are among West Michigan Christian High Schools (70%), Alumni children (69%), and Christian Reformed Church members (68%). Yields around 40 percent are more characteristic among admitted AHANA students, those from those outside the CRC, and among Public High School students.

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FTIAC GPAs and Test Scores (Table 11 & 12)

The academic strength of the entering first-year class has edged down very slightly compared with last year's class on nearly every measure. Mean GPA stands at 3.58, just below last year's 3.59, while mean ACT Composite scores decreased from 25.9 to 25.8. The mean combined SAT score also decreased, from 1,217 last year to 1,181 this year. The middle 50 percent of GPAs and test scores also dropped slightly compared with last year. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class decreased from 29 percent to 27 percent. One trend to keep in mind, however, is that class rank is being reported by fewer incoming students' high schools as compared with previous years.

Faculty Composition (Tables 13 & 14)

The number of full-time teaching faculty at Calvin in 2007 is 322, up 9 from last year. In addition, 85 part-time faculty this fall brings the total faculty number to 407. Faculty FTE (a rough measure of the full-time teaching equivalent which adjusts for part-timers and reduced loads) increased roughly 5 percent, from 302 last year to 316 this year.

The number of full-time female faculty increased from 98 last year to 104 this year. Females now represent nearly one-third of the full-time teaching faculty (32.3%). The number of AHANA (ethnic minority) faculty has remained steady at 23. The percentage of full-time faculty with a terminal degree decreased slightly from 83.4 percent last year to 82.6 percent this year, and the college-wide student to faculty ratio based on teaching duties is 14.2 to 1, a slight decrease from last year.