

**FSU Fall Statistical Comparisons
Student Data Files**

Fall 2006-Fall 2009

Fall 2009 headcount enrollment has increased from fall 2008 by 1.06 percent, from 6,217 to 6,285 total students. Although the headcount is still not where it peaked in fall 2007 enrollment is close to what it was in fall 2006. First-time freshmen increased by 30.83% for fall 2008 where the headcount enrollment was 582, to the fall 2009 enrollment of 762. At the same time there is almost an equal per cent decline in the category of “other freshmen” where there is a decline from 657 students in fall 2008 to 463 students in fall 2009. Hopefully this decline continues at a rate consistent with the increase in students with declared majors. If that is the trend over time we may assume that interventions such as advising and early major declarations are succeeding.

The latter point which indicates a 13.25 percent increase in students with declared majors, 2,822 in fall 2008 to 3,196 in fall 2009 has increased steadily from fall 2006 to fall 2009. This number is even more significant when one considers that the number of declared majors in fall 2009 (3,196) exceeds the number of declared majors in the fall of FSU’s largest enrollment, fall 2007 when the number of declared majors was 2,512.

An additional significant number to consider is that of the number of seniors and fifth year students. This number increased by 11.77 percent from fall 2008, at 1,750 students compared to fall 2009 where there are 1,956 students. While the increase is good as it signifies student progression, it also is cause for caution should most of these students graduate in that these numbers will need to be replaced in the upcoming year to keep the enrollment numbers at the fall 2009 enrollment. This presents an even greater case for increased retention of students from freshmen to sophomore years and beyond.

The trend of transfer student enroll has fluctuated over the past four years from 669 in fall 2006, to 708 in fall 2007 , to 567 in fall 2007 to 599 in fall 2009. The fluctuation is consistent with the program changes that have occurred to support this student population.

While the overall graduate headcount has increased from 615 in fall 2008 to 697 students in fall 2009, the number is still below 2006 and 2007 where the fall enrollments were 902 and 624 respectively. Master degree seeking student numbers declined by 11.17 percent from 385 in fall 2008 to 342 in fall 2009, and increased in doctoral student enrollees by 9.09 percent from 44 to 48 students. The largest increase in this population is in the “special/unclassified” area which may reflect the change in the way the University classifies these students.

The number and percent increase of male students at FSU is demonstrating a steady increase in the percent of the population from 29.2 percent in fall 2006, to 30.6 percent in fall 2007, to 31.4 percent in fall 2008 to 31.9 percent in fall 2009. Headcount has changed from 1,872 in fall 2006 to 2009 in fall 2009.

Students over the age of 25 continue to represent a significant percent of the population at FSU. In fall 2009 they represent 42.8 percent of the total student body. In 2008 they represented 41.5% of the total population, and in 2006 and 2007 they represented 41.1 percent and 40.1 percent respectively. This percent of the student population represents a “specialized” group as teaching strategies differ for adult learners from the traditional population. Additionally campus activities, and support programs require differing strategies and resources. As we have researched the retention of this population at FSU we have found their retention rates to be lower than those of the traditional students. This information suggests further research into reasons for non-persistence beyond family responsibilities and military obligations to ensure that the University is providing appropriate programmatic support to ensure the retention of this population as the size of the population has the capability of affecting the overall retention rate of the University.

Although the headcount enrollment has increased from last year the applied, accepted and enrolled numbers show a somewhat declining yield from application to enrollment, which is consistent with new requirements. The numbers of applicants overall have shown increase from 2,155 in fall 2006, to 2,454 in fall 2007 to 2,361 in fall 2008, to 3,107 in fall 2009. These numbers resulted in 77.2 percent being accepted in 2006, 77.9 being accepted in 2007, 64.5 being accepted in 2008, and 69.1 percent being accepted in fall 2009. The yield, those actually enrolling of those accepted represented 50.4 percent in fall 2006, 49.2 percent in fall 2007, 38.1 percent in fall 2008, and 35.5 percent enrolled of those accepted in fall 2009. Factors that affected this year’s yield include the discontinuation of the nursing program where 150 students expressing interest in nursing were admitted, 86 declined, and 61 of the 86 did so after being informed that the program was discontinued.

Average SAT scores declined by 2.59 percent from 865 in fall of 2008, to 843 in fall 2009, but remain in the overall 840-850 range. Average High School GPA reflected a similar change from 2.87 in fall 2008 to 2.76 in fall 2009, although the range has not varied significantly over the four year period. In 2006 the average was 2.80, in fall 2007 it was 2.77. Where the report indicates “no action” Enrollment Management has indicated that the reference indicates that applications were received after the deadline and applicants were advised they were too late and requested to resubmit for the next semester.

Student course load information indicates a slight increase in the numbers of students taking 15 credit hours from fall 2008 to fall 2009. 808 students were enrolled in 15 credit hours in fall 2009 compared to 728 students in fall 2008. This represents 12.86 percent of the student body compared to 11.70 percent of the student body enrolled in fall 2008.

Off-site credit hour delivery has increased by 18.20 percent from fall 2008 to fall 2009. Off campus hours include those courses/classes delivered at any site other than main campus. Distance education courses including those delivered at Ft. Bragg are included in the number. Ft. Sam Houston student credit hours are not included in the count as their classes begin and end on a schedule that differs from the main campus. They are not captured in the file for reporting since the credit hours for this program are not paid through state funding. The Ft. Sam Students are also not included in the fall 2009 headcount.

Cross Creek early High School credit hours are now being tracked separate, and reflect 1,394 credit hours of courses taken at FSU by the high school students. Cross Creek High School students taking courses at FSU and non-degree seeking students are classified as “Special/Unclassified.” Both thesis and dissertation course hours increased from fall 2008 to fall 2009, from 30 to 57 and 81 to 93 respectively. The most significant decline in student credit hours is reflected in the nursing program where student credit hours declined by 58.83 percent, from 1,387 credit hours to 571 credit hours in fall 2009. The number reflects the changes made to the program that decreased the numbers of students admitted to the program.

Although there was a slight decline in student credit hours Social Sciences continues to contribute the largest number of student credit hours to the total, 14,437 in fall 2008 and 14,205 in fall 2009. The category of other includes the programs not listed on the report. The increase of overall student credit hours from 73,175 in fall 2008 to 73,733 represents a difference of 558 student credit hours or .76 percent increase.

The statistics for the fall 2009 student data file present many data that inform the general health of the institution. More in depth study of the trends is always suggested to support decision making at the University.