

Research In Brief

<http://www.palomar.edu/irp/>

Spring 2001 Enrollment Search

Introduction: The Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IR&P) subscribed to The National Student Clearinghouse Enrollment Search (NSC_ES) in 2001. The NSC_ES provides data on college enrollment of prospective, current, and former students. The subscription allows for electronic access to a database containing current and historical enrollment records of 40 million post-secondary students. IR&P used this service to track subsequent enrollments in post-secondary institutions of our students attending Palomar during the Spring 2001 semester.

Methodology: IR&P prepared a data file of 23,939 students who attended Palomar during the Spring 2001 semester and submitted it to the NSC_ES. NSC_ES used a matching methodology to identify Palomar students in their database. For purposes of the matching methodology NSC_ES defines a transfer record as the record of a Palomar student who is currently attending another institution during the term under investigation. Thus, the word transfer takes on a meaning that is different than normally used in community college research.

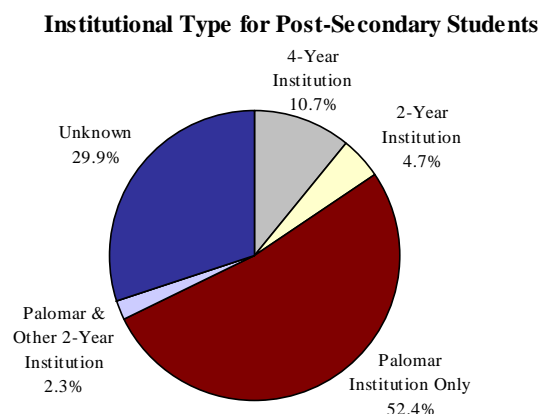
After the file was returned from the NSC_ES we ran a frequency on the number of students broken down by transfer record—that is, students who were found in the clearinghouse database with no transfer record, students found in the database with a transfer record, and students who were not found in the database. Then we deleted out those students who were not found in the NSC_ES database and we ran

analyses on different factors; post-secondary institution attendance, returning Palomar students, and top 10 schools our students attended.

Results:

- The NSC_ES found 21,918 students in their database for a 92% match.
- Figure 1 below list the types of institutions Spring 2001 Palomar college students attended during Fall 2001. We summarized student attendance at post-secondary institutions by placing them into one of the following categories: (1) four-year, (2) two-year, (3) Palomar only, (4) Palomar and other two-year, and (5) unknown.

Figure 1



- We also looked at specific post-secondary institutions of choice for Spring 2001 Palomar College students.

Table 1 below shows a list of the top 10 institutions of attendance (not including Palomar) and the median age of the students:

**Table 1
Top 10 Institutions**

School Name	Count	Median Age
California State University – San Marcos	976	23.25
San Diego State University	334	22.62
San Diego Miramar College	331	25.60
Mira Costa College	266	21.34
San Diego Mesa College	250	22.89
Mount San Jacinto College	147	21.06
University of California – San Diego	132	21.48
University of Phoenix	126	29.53
Grossmont College	120	22.48
National University	95	30.00

- We were interested in the enrollment patterns of the students still attending Palomar College the following semester (Fall 2001). Table 2 shows the Palomar College students still attending Palomar split by their concurrent enrollment status at another institution or if they were attending Palomar only:

**Table 2
Students Attending Palomar College in the Fall of 2001**

School Name	Frequency	Percent
Palomar & Four-Year Institution	800	6%
Palomar Institution Only	11,475	90%
Palomar & Other Two-Year Institution	495	4%
Total	12,770	100%

- In addition, we looked at the students who were concurrently enrolled at Palomar and at other post-secondary institutions during Fall 2001. Table 3 shows the number of students attending other institutions and the number of

those students concurrently enrolled at Palomar:

**Table 3
Concurrent Enrollment at the Top 10 Institutions**

School Name	Count	Palomar Count	Percent
Cal State University – San Marcos	976	416	43%
San Diego State University	334	105	31%
San Diego Miramar College	331	100	30%
Mira Costa College	266	84	32%
San Diego Mesa College	250	67	27%
Mount San Jacinto College	147	47	32%
University of Cal – San Diego	132	32	24%
University of Phoenix	126	40	32%
Grossmont College	120	41	34%
National University	95	22	23%

Summary and Conclusions: Of the 23,939 students submitted to the NSC, 21,918 or 92% were found in their database—this is an acceptable return rate. The results from the enrollment search provides a brief description of the post-secondary institutions that Spring 2001 Palomar students chose to attend.

We recommend using caution when interpreting and generalizing the results obtained from the enrollment search data presented in this Research and Brief. The enrollment search may not represent all students who chose to go to a post-secondary institution—that is, only colleges and universities who report their enrollment to the NSC are represented in this report.

Complete quantitative results of the enrollment search can be obtained in the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

More information? Please contact the Office of Institutional Research and Planning if you have any questions about this or other research and planning issues (Ext. 2360)