



# University Link Program 2008

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Institutional Research and Planning  
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# INTRODUCTION

The University Link Program is intended to facilitate transfer to the University of California, San Diego. It provides participants with a variety of services including assessment, counseling, and workshops. Students in local community colleges are guaranteed admission to UCSD upon successful completion of the University Link program. The program *requires* the following:

- 1 appointment per semester with a community college counselor
- Enroll in a College Success Skills course at the community college during the student's first semester

Additionally, the following elements are *optional* components of the program:

- 1 appointment per year with the UCSD representative for the community college
- Attend fall and spring semester University Link program meetings at the community college
- Attend a UC application workshop and participate in a UCSD campus visit

This report examines the student outcomes of participants in the University Link Program at Palomar College. The outcomes examined include transfer to two- and four-year institutions, degrees received, and meeting transfer requirements.

## *Participants*

Study participants are those students who took and successfully completed the University Link counseling course, Transfer Success (currently COUN 101). For the purposes of this study, *University Link students* shall refer to Palomar students who have successfully completed this counseling course. Since the fall of 2002, 320 students successfully completed the University Link Transfer Success counseling course. Table 1 below shows that this includes 37 students in Fall 2002, 33 students in Fall 2003, and 87 in Fall 2004. Since the outcomes of concern are longer-term outcomes such as transfer or receipt of degrees, participants are examined with a four-year window, and only these first three cohorts have had four years since starting in the program. Only these first three cohorts are included in the analysis of the student outcomes, since students from the more recent cohorts have not had sufficient time to allow for analyses of these longer-term outcomes. Analyses of demographics include all cohorts.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Cohort Size	37	33	87	55	47	61	320

## *Data*

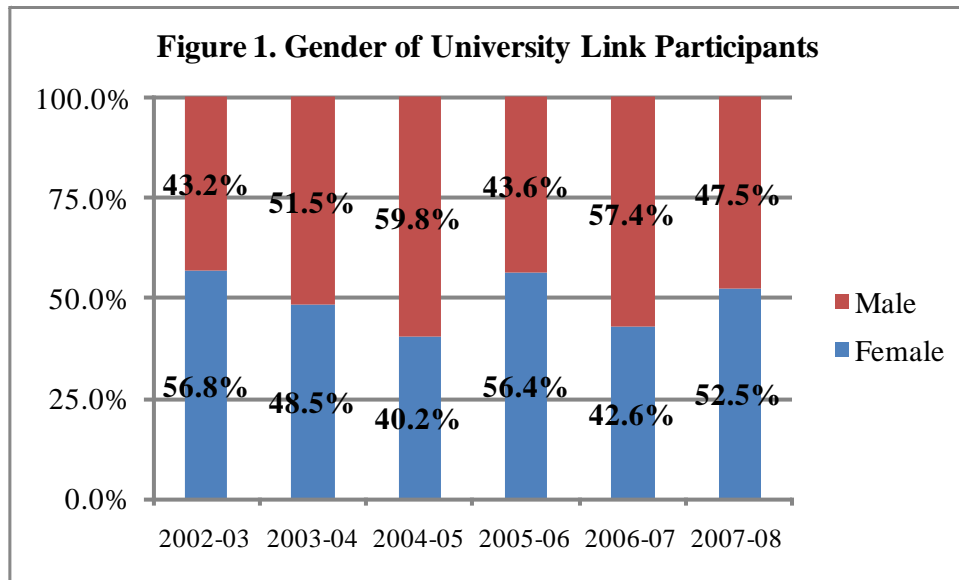
The data for this report come from three sources. Transfer data come from the National Student Clearinghouse, which is able to track almost all transfers in the country. The data for the other outcomes come from PeopleSoft transcript notes. The demographic data come from MIS submissions to the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

# RESULTS

## Demographics

Select demographics of the University Links participants were examined. The average age of the participants was 18 years old, as seen in Table 2. The gender of the participants fluctuated a little bit from year to year, as illustrated in Figure 1. Overall, though, the participants were evenly split by gender, with 51.6% males and 48.4% females. The race or ethnicity of the participants is summarized in Table 3.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Age	17.9	17.9	17.9	17.9	18.0	17.9	17.9



	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Asian	10.8%	18.2%	10.3%	14.5%	17.0%	8.2%	12.5%
Black	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	1.6%
Filipino	0.0%	9.1%	2.3%	0.0%	12.8%	3.3%	4.1%
Hispanic	16.2%	9.1%	11.5%	16.4%	12.8%	24.6%	15.3%
Native American	0.0%	3.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
White	70.3%	57.6%	63.2%	58.2%	53.2%	47.5%	58.1%
Unknown	2.7%	3.0%	9.2%	10.9%	4.3%	11.5%	7.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### *Transfers*

The primary purpose of the University Link Program is to facilitate transfer. Tables 4 and 5 show the percentage of University Link students who transferred to another college or university. Table 4 shows that 21.0% of the participants transferred to another two-year college by their fourth spring following entry into the University Link Program.

	Cohort Size	Transferred to 2-year College by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	5.4%	10.8%	24.3%
2003-04	33	6.1%	18.2%	24.2%
2004-05	87	6.9%	13.8%	18.4%
Combined	157	6.4%	14.0%	21.0%

The best indicators of the success of the program are transfers to four-year institutions and transfers to UCSD in particular. Table 5 shows that by the fourth spring, half (49.7% of program participants had transferred to a four-year institution. As a point of reference, Table 6 contains the transfer percentages for the Palomar College cohorts tracked for the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. These cohorts comprise Palomar students who have shown *behavioral intent* to transfer, that is, they are first-time students who have earned a minimum of 12 units and have attempted transfer-level math or English. In six years, of those that showed intent to transfer, 42% achieved this goal.

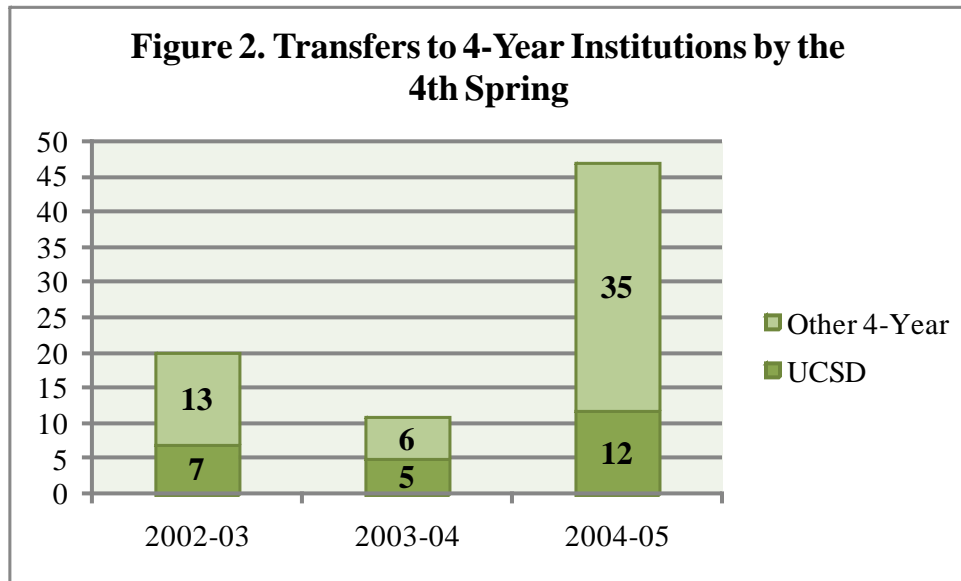
**Table 5. Percent of Students Transferring to a Four-year Institution by Their Second, Third, and Fourth Springs**

	Cohort Size	Transferred to 4-year College by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	2.7%	27.0%	54.1%
2003-04	33	3.0%	18.2%	33.3%
2004-05	87	0.0%	25.3%	54.0%
Combined	157	1.3%	24.2%	49.7%

**Table 6. Percent of Palomar Students Who Showed Intent to Transfer That Transferred to a Four-year Institution by Their Sixth Year**

	Head Count	% Transferred
1999-00	952	44%
2000-01	1,016	44%
2001-02	824	39%
Combined	2,792	42%

Figure 2 shows that of the transfers of University Link students to four-year schools, seven (35.0%) went to UCSD from the 2002-03 cohort, five (45.5%) went to UCSD from the 2003-04 cohort and twelve (25.5%) went to UCSD from the 2004-05 cohort. As Table 7 reveals, the absolute number of transfers to UCSD doubled in 2004-05 over the previous two years. However, the big growth, proportionally, came in transfers to CSU San Marcos, with 16 transfers to CSU San Marcos in 2004-05.





**Table 7. Destinations of Students Who Transferred to a 4- Year Institution by their Fourth Spring**

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
BIOLA UNIVERSITY	1	0	0
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY -IDAHO WINTER/S	0	0	1
CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY	0	0	1
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY	0	0	1
CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC	0	0	1
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - CHICO	1	0	0
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - DOMINGUEZ	0	0	0
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - FULLERTON	1	0	1
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - LONG BEACH	0	0	1
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS	3	1	16
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY-ORANGE	0	0	0
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - IRVINE	1	0	0
ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY	0	0	0
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY	3	2	5
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY	0	0	0
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - RIVERSIDE	0	0	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY	1	1	3
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS	0	0	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-IRVINE	0	0	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES	0	2	1
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-SAN DIEGO	7	5	11
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-SANTA CRUZ	0	0	1
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA	1	0	0
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS	1	0	0
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH	0	0	1
Total	20	11	47

## *Degrees*

The degrees that University Link students have received are summarized in Tables 8 and 9. The percentages of the 2004-05 cohort receiving degrees by their fourth spring may be underestimated if there are any institutions that had not yet reported all awards to the National Student Clearinghouse at the time the data was retrieved for this report. Many (19.1%) of the University Link students ended up with a two-year degree by their fourth spring. This is seen in Table 8. Table 9 shows that only 4.5% of the University Link students had earned a four-year degree by the end of their fourth spring. While this may be the ultimate goal of most University Link students, four years is too short a span to expect many students to have already graduated from a four-year institution.

**Table 8. Percent of Students Receiving a Two-year Degree by Their Second, Third, and Fourth Springs**

	Cohort Size	Received Degree from 2-year College by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	5.4%	29.7%	32.4%
2003-04	33	9.1%	15.2%	18.2%
2004-05	87	1.1%	11.5%	13.8%
Combined	157	3.8%	16.6%	19.1%

**Table 9. Percent of Students Receiving a Four-year Degree by Their Second, Third, and Fourth Springs**

	Cohort Size	Received Degree from 4-year Institution by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%
2003-04	33	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
2004-05	87	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%
Combined	157	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%

## ***General Education and Transfer Requirements***

Tables 10 through 12 show the percentages of students meeting different general education (GE) and transfer requirements. By their fourth year, 8.3% had met the GE requirements for the California State University (CSU) system at Palomar. Similarly, 9.6% had met the CSU Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) requirements by their fourth spring. Table 12 shows that a fifth (19.1%) had completed the IGETC requirements for the University of California (UC) system. As the focus of the University Link program is transfer to UCSD, it makes sense that the percentage completing the UC IGETC was higher than those completing the CSU GE or CSU IGETC. It should be noted that while the 2004-05 cohort had a lower percentage of students achieving the UC IGETC requirements, it had a higher percentage of students achieving the CSU IGETC requirements. This pattern coheres with the transfer destination outcomes displayed in Table 6 that show a large increase in the number of transfers to CSU San Marcos.

		Met CSU GE Requirements by:		
	Cohort Size	2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	2.7%	10.8%	10.8%
2003-04	33	3.0%	3.0%	6.1%
2004-05	87	1.1%	6.9%	8.0%
Combined	157	1.9%	7.0%	8.3%

		Met CSU IGETC Requirements by:		
	Cohort Size	2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	2.7%	8.1%	8.1%
2003-04	33	0.0%	6.1%	6.1%
2004-05	87	3.4%	10.3%	11.5%
Combined	157	2.5%	8.9%	9.6%

**Table 12. Percent of Students Meeting UC IGETC Requirements by Their Second, Third, and Fourth Springs**

	Cohort Size	Met UC IGETC Requirements by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	2.7%	18.9%	21.6%
2003-04	33	15.2%	27.3%	27.3%
2004-05	87	5.7%	13.8%	14.9%
Combined	157	7.0%	17.8%	19.1%

***Milestones***

It may be useful to examine whether or not students are meeting at least one of these milestones. Table 13 shows that more than half (56.1%) of the University Link students have met at least one of these milestones by their fourth spring, and 40.1% had reached a milestone by their third spring.

**Table 13. Percent of Students Meeting Any Milestone by Their Second, Third, and Fourth Springs**

	Cohort Size	Met Milestone by:		
		2nd Spring	3rd Spring	4th Spring
2002-03	37	8.1%	51.4%	59.5%
2003-04	33	18.2%	30.3%	36.4%
2004-05	87	6.9%	39.1%	62.1%
Combined	157	9.6%	40.1%	56.1%

## SUMMARY

The University Link program has seen 320 students successfully complete the Transfer Success counseling course at Palomar College, with 157 of these students coming from cohorts old enough to track for four years. More than half of these students have achieved success with respect to the set of outcomes examined. Some key findings are noted below.

- By their fourth spring, 49.7% had transferred to a four-year institution.
- 56.1% of the students met at least one milestone by their fourth spring.
- By the end of their fourth spring, a fifth of the students received a two-year degree, and 4.5% earned a four-year degree.
- For those achieving IGETC requirements or receiving a two-year degree, this was typically done by the third spring, with little increase by the fourth spring.