

PC Draft EVP – Handout #2
Section: Enrollment Growth Projections

Projecting enrollment growth at a college is a difficult process. There are many variables (internal and external) that contribute to changes in enrollment levels. Some economic trends that used to correlate closely with enrollment levels at community college no longer seem to do so. Additionally, the COVID-19 Pandemic, with its massive shift to distance education, has both changed the way many students attend college and further complicated the process of projecting future enrollments.

Utilizing all available data from the Data portfolio, an analysis of past and prospective future enrollments and attendance patterns was conducted. The resulting growth projections, disaggregated across the College’s campus and Centers, is presented in the below table. Palomar’s FTES goal is to return to pre-pandemic FTES by 2029-2030. FTES reflected in the chart include both residents and non-residents, and both credit and non-credit instruction. Two planning assumptions underlie the projections:

1. While demographics are evolving, the service area of the district has not changed significantly in terms of adults and education level of residents. Over the next ten years, high school graduates will increase slightly and then decrease but not significantly. Districts residents attend Palomar, Mira Costa, and San Diego Community College District. Palomar seeks to return to its pre-pandemic enrollment in a measured way eventually returning to the participation rates observed in 2019-20.
2. To strengthen the District's infrastructure and meet the needs of its service area, Palomar seeks to increase enrollment at the San Marcos campus, its Centers, and distance education. It seeks to grow its Centers so that they generate 1000 FTES to be eligible for center funding.

The table below provides a growth scenario for the District. The College acknowledges that actual enrollment may not follow exactly as laid out, and that enrollment (and FTES) may shift over time. Therefore, the growth projections provided are intended to serve as a guide for planning purposes. The enrollment scenario and strategy will be reviewed and adjusted annually.

Enrollment Growth Projections: FTES Goals and Distribution							
	DISTRICT		San Marcos (incl. nonprogram specific DE) ¹	Escondido	Rancho Bernardo	Fallbrook	Camp Pendleton
Year	FTES	% Change	FTES	FTES	FTES	FTES	FTES
2022-23	13,000		11,479	749	464	238	70
2023-24	13,500	3.8%	11,508	919	644	344	85
2024-25	14,000	3.7%	11,570	1,073	799	447	110
2025-26	14,750	5.4%	11,874	1,234	933	559	150
2026-27 ²	15,750	6.8%	12,384	1,358	1,026	783	200
2027-28	16,668	5.8%	12,969	1,363	1,118	1,017	200
2028-29	17,361	4.2%	13,504	1,369	1,213	1,075	200
2029-30³	18,054	4.0%	14,075	1,374	1,304	1,100	200
2030-31	18,325	1.5%	14,323	1,380	1,311	1,111	200
2031-32	18,508	1.0%	14,483	1,385	1,317	1,122	200
2032-33	18,693	1.0%	14,645	1,391	1,324	1,133	200
2033-34	18,880	1.0%	14,808	1,396	1,331	1,145	200
2034-35	19,069	1.0%	14,974	1,402	1,337	1,156	200
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dual Enrollment and program specific FTES are assigned to appropriate Center 2. 2026-27 represents year that Fallbrook 40 opens. 3. 2029-2030 is the year Palomar’s FTES goal is to return to pre-pandemic FTES levels. 							