

Fall Enrollments: A New Look

This fall the Office of Research revised our enrollment report to more accurately reflect enrollment patterns and demographics of students. In the past, we assigned students to a campus based on credit hours; for example, a student who took the majority of his credits at Des Plaines was assigned to Des Plaines, a student who took an equal number of credits at Des Plaines and Skokie was assigned to Des Plaines, and a student's distance learning credits were assigned as if they were taken at Des Plaines. This year, we have assigned students to campus differently, calculating the number of students who take courses in a variety of patterns. As a comparison, Table 1 depicts what Fall 2007 data look like using both the old and the new ways of calculating; all counts are based on enrollments as of the College's official census date of the Fall 2007 term, and do not include late start or dual credit courses.

Table 1: Enrollment Patterns by Campus – All Students

Old Way			New Way		
Campus	N	Pct.	Campus	N	Pct.
Des Plaines	6,964	74%	Des Plaines only	5,087	54%
Skokie	2,291	24%	Skokie only	1,929	21%
Off-Campus*	122	1%	Both Des Plaines and Skokie (no Off-Campus/Online courses)	1,158	12%
			Online/Off-Campus only	391	4%
			Des Plaines and/or Skokie + Online and/or Off-Campus	812	9%
Total	9,377			9,377	

* Most online students are included in either the Des Plaines or Skokie count, depending on other credit courses taken.

We also looked at student demographic characteristics by campus in a new way because we often hear comments about the distribution of minority and non-minority students by campus. Table 2 depicts race/ethnicity for all students and then for students taking one or more courses at Des Plaines and one or more courses at Skokie. Students taking courses at both campuses are counted at each campus.

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity by Campus

Race/Ethnicity	Total		One or more courses at DP		One or more courses at Skokie	
	N	Pct.	N	Pct.	N	Pct.
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	23	0%	19	0%	6	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,656	18%	1,231	18%	686	20%
Black Non-Hispanic	489	5%	310	4%	234	7%
Hispanic	765	8%	547	8%	289	9%
White Non-Hispanic	4,252	45%	3,249	47%	1,295	39%
No Response	1,317	14%	963	14%	457	14%
Other	875	9%	600	9%	381	11%
Total	9,377		6,919		3,348	

What have we learned? Two key findings are:

- Enrollment patterns are complex, and 25 percent of our students take courses online only or at multiple sites, including online.
- The percentage of students by race/ethnicity is not very different between Des Plaines and Skokie, except that at Des Plaines a larger percent of students are White Non-Hispanic than at Skokie. Recall again that students taking courses at both campuses are counted in the data for each campus.

More data will be available in the Fall Enrollment Report, soon to be available on the Office of Research website at <http://www.oakton.edu/resource/oir/research.htm>.