

IR Information Alert

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Office of Institutional Research
Southern Polytechnic State University

Is the “traditional” part of the SPSU student body changing?

Some researchers make the case that for an institution that serves many types of students, (including a large portion of part-time, adult learners) an examination of full-time, undergraduate students, regardless of age, is the best way to describe “traditional” students. Below is a comparison of “traditional” students at SPSU in *Fall 1998 and Fall 2002*.

Proportion of “traditional” students to the entire student population:

There was a 1 percentage point increase in the proportion of the student body that can be termed “traditional” by this definition (from 50% to 51% of the total enrollment.)

Demographics:

The proportion of:

- dorm residents remained the same
- students paying in-state tuition declined by 1 percentage point
- females declined by 1 percentage point
- Asian Americans grew by 1 percentage point
- African Americans grew by 1 percentage point
- Hispanic Americans grew by 1 percentage point
- White Americans declined by 7 percentage points
- Multi-cultural Americans grew by 1 percentage point
- International students grew by 3 percentage points

The average age increased from 20 to 22

Change in proportion of enrollment by declared major:

- Apparel ET decreased by 2 percentage points
- Arch increased by 3 percentage points
- Civil ET decreased by 4 percentage points
- Computer ET stayed the same
- CS stayed the same

- Construction increased by 1 percentage point
- Electrical ET decreased by 4 percentage points
- General Studies stayed the same
- Industrial Dist stayed the same
- Industrial ET stayed the same
- Management increased by 1 percentage point
- Math stayed the same
- Mechanical ET decreased by 1 percentage point
- Physics stayed the same
- Survey & Map increased by 1 percentage point
- TCom stayed the same
- Telecom ET increased by 1 percentage point

Departments whose majors made up 10 or more percent of the traditional group:

	Fall 98	Fall 02
Architecture	10%	13%
CET/S&M	11%	8%
Construction	6%	10%
CS/IT/SE	18%	19%
EET/CpET/TET	24%	20%
MET	12%	11%

“Traditional” students as graduates:

	Fall 98	Fall 02
% of All grads	28%	19%
Avg age	26	26
Avg Transfer Hrs	48	43
Avg GPA.....	2.91	3.02
Most Majors.....	CS	EET
% White-American.....	66%	66%
% International	20%	29%
% African American...	13%	13%
% Female	23%	13%

