

# RESEARCH BRIEF

## INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM PLANNING

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### OPENING FALL CREDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The purpose of this *Research Brief* is to describe the student population (headcount and distribution by course type) enrolled in degree credit courses and attending classes at St. Petersburg Junior College at the end of the first week of classes (FTE date) during the Fall Session 1996. Table 1 describes the Fall '96 credit student profile by home campus and compares this year's Collegewide profile with the same timeframe in Fall '95. Recall that students are asked to identify one of three locations as a home campus when they apply for admission--St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus, Clearwater Campus, or Tarpon Springs Center--although they may take their courses at any site.

**TABLE 1**  
**PROFILE BY HOME CAMPUS OF CREDIT/AUDIT STUDENT ENROLLMENT**  
**FTE DATE FALL 1996-97 COMPARED TO FALL 1995-96**

	<u>CLEARWATER</u>		<u>ST. PETERSBURG</u>		<u>TARPON CNTR.</u>		<u>FTE Fall 1996-97 TOTAL</u>		<u>FTE Fall 1995-96 TOTAL</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>PROGRAM</b>										
Adv. & Prof.	4,790	71.57%	5,954	70.63%	1,813	77.18%	12,589	71.79%	13,570	70.65%
Post. Voc.	958	14.31%	1,378	16.35%	327	13.92%	2,668	15.22%	3,000	15.62%
Other Pers. Obj.	945	14.12%	1,098	13.02%	209	8.90%	2,278	12.99%	2,637	13.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,693</b>		<b>8,430</b>		<b>2,349</b>		<b>17,535</b>		<b>19,207</b>	
<b>TYPE OF ATTENDANCE</b>										
Full-time	1,596	23.85%	2,022	23.99%	564	24.01%	4,204	23.97%	5,070	26.40%
Part-time	5,097	76.15%	6,408	76.01%	1,785	75.99%	13,331	76.03%	14,137	73.60%
<b>GENDER</b>										
Male	2,711	40.51%	3,145	37.31%	852	36.27%	6,745	38.47%	7,609	39.62%
Female	3,982	59.49%	5,285	62.69%	1,497	63.73%	10,790	61.53%	11,598	60.38%
<b>RACE</b>										
White	5,795	86.58%	6,720	79.72%	2,177	92.67%	14,752	84.13%	16,190	84.29%
African-American	326	4.87%	946	11.22%	34	1.45%	1,306	7.45%	1,362	7.09%
American Indian	95	1.42%	155	1.84%	26	1.11%	276	1.57%	208	1.08%
Asian	225	3.36%	356	4.22%	47	2.00%	630	3.59%	668	3.48%
Hispanic	252	3.77%	253	3.00%	65	2.77%	571	3.26%	779	4.06%
Not Known	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<b>AGE</b>										
15-19	1,565	23.38%	1,845	21.89%	699	29.76%	4,131	23.56%	4,439	23.11%
20-24	1,867	27.89%	2,268	26.90%	663	28.23%	4,810	27.44%	5,356	27.89%
25-29	1,098	16.41%	1,428	16.94%	327	13.92%	2,861	16.32%	2,951	15.36%
30-34	785	11.73%	974	11.55%	216	9.20%	1,980	11.29%	2,308	12.02%
35-39	542	8.10%	797	9.45%	175	7.45%	1,517	8.65%	1,701	8.86%
40-44	387	5.78%	534	6.34%	111	4.73%	1,038	5.92%	1,161	6.04%
45-49	229	3.42%	320	3.80%	94	4.00%	646	3.68%	659	3.43%
50-54	110	1.64%	161	1.91%	38	1.62%	312	1.78%	312	1.62%
55-59	62	0.93%	64	0.76%	14	0.60%	141	0.80%	126	0.66%
60 and over	36	0.54%	33	0.39%	9	0.38%	78	0.44%	187	0.97%
Not known	12	0.18%	6	0.07%	3	0.13%	21	0.12%	7	0.12%

Significant details about the student headcount population are:

## 1. Program

The overall Fall '96 credit headcount enrollment decreased by 8.7% over Fall '95 at the end of the first week of classes. A review of the configuration of program types for Fall '96 showed there was a slight increase in the percentage of students enrolled in the college transfer A.A. degree program. This reverses a one year dip wherein enrollment in this program category exceeded the percentage of students enrolled in the A.S. degree program and continues the trend that occurred the previous four years. There were slight decreases in the percentage of students enrolled in both the A.S. degree/Vocational Certificate programs and those enrolled in credit courses, but not enrolled in degree programs. By September 20, 1996 the overall headcount enrollment when compared to the same day last year was only 5.1% less. This date was the last day to drop and receive a refund in other credit courses such as express, dual credit and telecourses.

## 2. Type of Attendance

The distribution of students based on matriculated credit hours, with full-time enrollment equal to 12 or more hours, showed that the percentage of students enrolled full-time has decreased since Fall '94 from 26.7%, to 26.4% in Fall '95, to 24.0% in Fall '96.

## 3. Gender

There is a slight decrease in the percentage of males attending in Fall '96 over Fall '95. Collegewide there are more females (61.5%) than males (38.5%). This same pattern is followed on each of the campuses and is consistent with the Fall '95 profile.

## 4. Age

Collegewide slightly more than one-half of our students continue to be between 15 and 24 years of age (51.0%). This percentage is the same as in Fall '95. There is, however, an emerging pattern wherein the percentage of students in this age bracket has been decreasing (Fall '94, 51.1%, Fall '93, 51.7%, Fall '92, 52.9%). The average age of all SPJC students enrolled in credit courses is 27.2 years (A.A., 25.1; A.S., 32.1; Other Personal Objectives, 32.8).

## 5. Ethnicity

On a Collegewide basis, 84.1% of the students are white; 7.5% are African-American; 3.3% are Hispanic; 3.6% are Asian; 1.6% are American Indian. As has been the trend for the past few years, the percentage of ethnic minorities continues to increase, with African-American enrollment the fastest growing minority (Fall '95, 7.1%; Fall '94, 6.7%; Fall '93, 6.3%; Fall '92, 5.7%).

Although the number and profile of the student body is important to the faculty and administration, the distribution of students across the various types of courses has equal importance, especially for college program planning. Table 2 shows the distribution of opening (FTE date) Fall '96 enrollment by credit/audit students collegewide compared to the previous four years. It is important to remember that SPJC receives the major portion of its funds from the state based on its FTE count, although additional incentive programs exist also. Collegewide, 62.0% of generated FTE's were in Advanced and Professional courses, 25.0% were in Postsecondary Vocational courses, and 13.0% were in College Preparatory courses. Other Fall enrollments taken at the end of the drop/add period are shown for comparison. There has been a decrease overall in the number of FTE. By type of course, there has been a large increase in Fall '96 in the percentage of college preparatory classes. This is most likely due to the increased scores required for the course placement in various placement tests.

**TABLE 2**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF FTE ENROLLMENT ACROSS COURSES TAKEN**  
**BY CREDIT/AUDIT STUDENTS**  
**FALL 1996 COMPARED TO FALL 1995 THROUGH FALL 1992**

	<u>Collegewide</u>		<u>Collegewide</u>		<u>Collegewide</u>		<u>Collegewide</u>		<u>Collegewide</u>	
	<u>'96 FTE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>'95 FTE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>'94 FTE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>'93 FTE</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>'92 FTE</u>	<u>%</u>
Advanced & Professional	2,421.6	61.98%	2,621.5	64.35%	2,730.3	63.73%	2,813.8	62.89%	2,783.6	64.65%
Postsecondary Vocational	978.4	25.04%	1,087.9	26.70%	1,129.5	26.37%	1,227.4	27.44%	1,149.3	26.69%
College Preparatory	507.0	12.98%	364.4	8.95%	424.3	9.90%	432.6	9.67%	372.7	8.66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,907.0</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,073.8</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,284.1</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,473.8</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,305.6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Percent of Increase (Decrease)	(4.09%)		(4.91%)		(4.24%)		3.91%			

In summary, there have been some slight changes in the headcount enrollment pattern. More minority and older students are enrolling. While the changes are small, trends are becoming apparent. At the same time, overall FTE have decreased in the last three years. In Fall '96, the enrollment in college preparatory classes increased sharply due to the higher scores put into place for the placement tests.