

Technical Notes

Students:

Students are those individuals enrolled in credit classes at Census (or the rough equivalent for positive-attendance classes. Except for the chapters on noncredit classes and veterans, all students referred to in this book are credit students. They may or may not have also been enrolled in noncredit courses. Students referred to in the noncredit chapter are noncredit students who may have been enrolled in credit courses. The chapter on veterans includes all students who are identified as veterans who enrolled in either credit or noncredit courses.

Data Source:

Most data in this issue of Observations are based on the California Community College Chancellor's Office Referential Files. These data are the official representation of PCC to the public. Prior issues of Observations were based on PCC's local student records database. As such, there are likely to be minor differences between the data reported here for prior years and the data for those years in prior issues of Observations. If you find data that appear unreasonable or inconsistent with your own reliable information, please contact the Institutional Planning and Research Office immediately.

Time of Data:

This book uses the Fall term as reported after the end of the term to the California Community College Chancellor's Office as the defining statistical moment for each academic year. Note that these data may not match the Enrollment Management report and other reports both because they were run during the term and because of differences between our local database and the data accepted by the Chancellor's Office after tests for data consistency.

Age:

The age groups used here are those used by the Chancellor's Office Research and Analysis Unit. Age is computed using students' birthdates, and reflects each student's age as of the beginning of each reported term. The calculation rounded non-whole values down to the next whole value in accord with common usage; for example, any student who was 19.6 or even 19.9 years old at the start of the term was coded as 19.

Non-credit students:

Some students taking particular credit classes also register for non-credit labs and/or tutoring sessions. Students whose only non-credit enrollment is for these specific labs and tutoring sessions are not counted as non-credit students when we report on them in Observations.

Percentages:

The percentages in the tables and figures may not add up to 100%, due to rounding.

Forward

Welcome to the 2011-2012 edition of Pasadena City College's (PCC) Observations! This edition reports on what PCC looked like in Fall 2011. We in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness wrote this book to answer many questions frequently asked about the College's programs and services, classes, students, and student outcomes. We hope it will tell you some things about PCC you might not yet know, and have no doubt that it will raise further questions. Beyond that, we hope it will supply a common foundation of information on which the College community can base discussions and decisions about the future of PCC. We welcome any ideas you might have for additions to the next edition of Observations or other research projects.

Because different readers seek and digest information in different ways, in most sections, we have presented information in tabular, graphic, and narrative form. The tables typically contain the most detailed data, the graphs show some trends over time or a snapshot of a particular term, and the narrative calls your attention to just a few of the highlights that we have found noteworthy. If you are aware of an interpretation for a particular trend or pattern that is more elegant than ours, or can draw more meaningful implications, we would like to hear from you.