

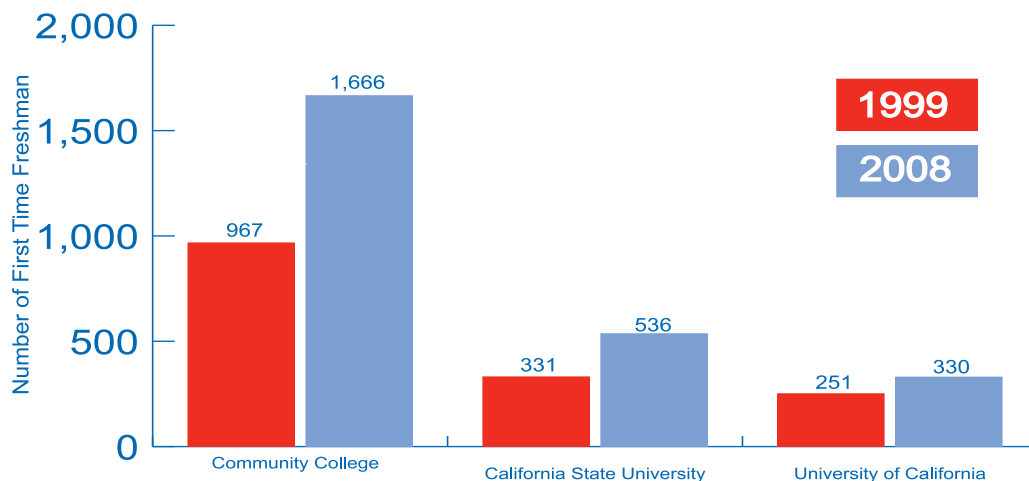
Definition of Indicator

The California Post Secondary Education Commission (CPEC) collects information from each public college and university in California on first-year entering students, including their high school of origin. These data are combined at the county level to present an accurate picture of students who enroll in an institution of higher education.

Findings

In 2008, 21,101 students from Orange County school districts were enrolled as first time freshmen in community colleges, California State Universities, or University of California school systems, according to the Post Secondary Education Commission. This is a 22.6% increase from 1999 first-time freshmen enrollments. Of the 21,101, 13,931 enrolled in Community Colleges, 4,151 entered California State Universities, and 3,019 entered the University of California system.

Number of High School Graduates Entering College as First-Time Freshmen for 1999 and 2008



Why is this Important?

The completion of a bachelor's or an advanced degree generally provides more employment opportunities and increases one's earning potential.¹ In addition to personal achievement, a higher degree has an impact on the economics of the community and the diversity of the labor pool.

In today's job market, higher education is necessary for the majority of the high technology jobs available. At a time when a college degree is becoming more important, higher education costs have grown at a higher rate than inflation, which creates a greater barrier to educational attainment for many students from lower income families.²

✓ See page 168 in Supplemental Tables for additional data

STATEWIDE:

In 2007/08, 32.8% of graduates met the course requirements for admission to the UC or CSU systems.³

RELATED INDICATORS:

- High School Dropout and Graduation Rates
- High School Exit Exam
- SAT I Scores

DATA SOURCE:

California Department of Education, DataQuest

NOTES:

- ¹America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2002
- ²Children's Defense Fund, The State of America's Children Yearbook, 1999
- ³California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Office, 2009