ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I - WEST O‘AHU

FALL 2015 TO FALL 2020

Institutional Research and Analysis Office
University of Hawai‘i System
March 2015
ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I - WEST O‘AHU
FALL 2015 TO FALL 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Narrative

Graphs

Figure 1  Recent and Projected Headcount Enrollment
Figure 2  Headcount Enrollment Index
Figure 3  Historical Headcount Enrollment with Trend Line
Figure 4  Projected Enrollment with High and Low Series
Figure 5  First-Time Freshmen by High School of Origin
Figure 6  Classified Transfer Enrollment by Previous College
Figure 7  Classified Returning Enrollment
Figure 8  Classified Continuing Enrollment by Education Level
Figure 9  Unclassified Enrollment
Figure 10 Distance Education Enrollment

Tables

Table 1  Headcount Enrollment by Student Type and Academic Level, Fall 2009 to Fall 2020
Table 2  Headcount Enrollment by Program, Fall 2014 to Fall 2020
Table 3  Student Semester Hours Offered by Program, Fall 2014 to Fall 2020
TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)

Table 4  Full-Time Equivalent Course Enrollment Served by Program, Fall 2014 to Fall 2020

Table 5  Headcount Enrollment by Attendance Status, Fall 2014 to Fall 2020

Appendices

Appendix A  Hawai‘i Public High School Seniors by School District, Academic Years 2008-09 to 2019-20

Appendix B  Hawai‘i High School Graduates, WICHE Historical and Projected – 2012 Series
INTRODUCTION

This report presents information on historical and projected headcount enrollment for the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu. The projections are statistical extrapolations of current trends in enrollment. In general, they neither set enrollment targets nor take into consideration changes in University policies or procedures. They should be considered as an extension into the future of current enrollment trends and may be used as a foundation for further work in the planning and budgeting processes. However, the addition of lower division enrollment in fall 2007 and the opening of new campus facilities in fall 2012 have created extraordinary circumstances. Consequently, discussions with campus administrators have contributed to the forecast.

The projection reports also make use of a time series analysis conducted by UH IRAO staff which incorporates a variety of economic and demographic factors. This model has been used to guide and validate the standard model projection methodology. (Detailed information on the time series analysis is available as a separate publication.)

The projections present unduplicated headcounts of students enrolled in credit programs and include both classified and unclassified students. Historical data shown in the charts and tables were extracted from student enrollment, academic crossover and course registration files. Distance education data were taken from the course registration files and are defined by mode of delivery. Information on Hawai‘i public high school seniors was provided by the Hawai‘i Department of Education. Information on Hawai‘i public and private high school graduates was obtained from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

METHODOLOGY

Enrollment data are first divided between classified and unclassified. Classified enrollment is further divided by student type: first-time, transfer, returning and continuing. Unclassified enrollment is divided into three groups: regular unclassified, home-based at other UH campuses and early admits. Each of these areas is treated separately and the results summed to yield the total campus enrollment forecast. The methods used to forecast each group of students vary and include linear and logarithmic trends, continuation rates, participation ratios and constants.
**First-time freshmen** enrollment is sub-divided based upon the geographic location of high school of origin: direct entrants from Hawai’i public high schools, direct entrants from Hawai’i private high schools, freshmen from the U.S. mainland, freshmen from foreign countries and other first-time freshmen. Direct entrants are students from Hawai’i public and private high schools who enter UH West O’ahu in the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school.

The enrollment projections of **direct public entrants** are based upon the forecast of public high school seniors provided by the Hawai’i Department of Education (see Appendix A). This forecast was most recently updated in June 2014. Historical ratios of direct public entrants to public high school senior enrollment are calculated by school district. Enrollment for each year is projected by applying an average of this ratio (by district) to the annual DOE senior enrollment forecast.

The projection of **direct private entrants** relies upon the private high school graduate forecast for Hawai’i published by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), most recently updated in December 2012 (see Appendix B). Historical ratios of direct private entrants to Hawai’i private high school graduates are first calculated. An average ratio is then applied to the WICHE annual private high school graduate forecast to yield the projected number of first-time freshmen from Hawai’i private high schools.

The total number of first-time freshmen from **the U.S. mainland, foreign countries and other** areas is small and has been set constant at the fall 2014 level. Other first-time freshmen include those who completed high school via the GED examination, those who graduated from Hawai’i high schools prior to the 2013-14 school year, home schooled students and students whose high school is unknown.

**Classified transfer** enrollment is displayed by education level and by previous college. The forecast is based upon the data by previous college. Transfers from other UH campuses and from the U.S. mainland have been forecast using trends measured from fall 2004 to fall 2014. Transfers from Hawai’i private colleges as well as other transfers have been set constant at the fall 2014 level. Other transfers would include those from foreign countries and transfers whose previous college is unknown. Distribution across education levels has been made using the two year average ratios.

**Returning** students are previously enrolled students who have been absent for at least one semester (excluding summer session) without having attended another institution in the interim. Returning enrollment has been forecast using the long-term linear trend, adjusted so that the trend line crosses the fall 2014 value. This forecast method results in a very modest annual increase.
**Continuing** student enrollment has been forecast using continuation rates. In general, a continuation rate is the ratio of continuing enrollment at a given education level to the previous fall semester's total enrollment at the next lower level. In this report, freshmen are projected using the previous year's first-time freshmen, sophomores using the previous year's total freshmen, juniors using the sum of the previous year's sophomores and juniors, and seniors using the previous year's total upper division (juniors plus seniors). Average continuation rates are applied to the actual or projected total enrollment by education level to forecast continuing enrollment at the next higher level. The continuation rates measured for fall 2014 were used for all education levels.

**Unclassified** enrollment increased substantially in fall 2013 and 2014 due to the addition of early admits, high school students taking college courses (these students are unclassified by definition). Although there is not yet sufficient data to establish a trend, the forecast has allowed for a small annual numerical increase.

Table 1 presents six years of historical data and detailed forecasts by student type and education level. Table 2 presents headcount enrollment by program. Student semester hours (SSH) offered are shown in Table 3 and full-time equivalent (FTE) course enrollments are given in Table 4. Headcount enrollment by attendance status is provided in Table 5. Distribution between full-time and part-time is based upon the fall 2014 proportions. Appendix A shows historical and DOE projected enrollments of Hawai‘i public high school seniors by geographic district. Appendix B gives WICHE forecasts of Hawai‘i public and private high school graduates through academic year 2027-28.

**ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

- Headcount enrollment at the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu measured 2,661 in fall 2014, a 12.7% increase over fall 2013 (Table 1 and Figure 1). This total marked the eleventh consecutive fall semester of enrollment growth and set a new all-time high in headcount enrollment for the campus (Figures 1 & 3).

- The forecast calls for enrollment to increase another 6.5% in fall 2015 to reach 2,835. Subsequent growth will gradually taper off to 1.9% by fall 2020, when enrollment should surpass 3,300 students.

- First-time freshmen enrollment began in fall 2007. After growing rapidly through fall 2012, first-time freshmen enrollment has declined the last two years (Figure 5). However, the Hawai‘i DOE forecast of high school seniors calls for growth in the Leeward district (Appendix A). Based upon this information, first-time freshmen have been forecast to increase somewhat through the projection period. Most of this growth is expected to occur among the direct public entrants.
Despite the addition first-time freshmen, transfer enrollment still comprises the majority of entering students. The vast majority of transfers (79% in fall 2014) come from other UH campuses, with Leeward CC contributing the most (44%) of any single UH campus. Transfers from the U.S. mainland made up 16% of all transfers in fall 2014. These two series (UH campuses and U.S. mainland) show distinct upward trends which have been used in the forecast (Figure 6). On the strength of these trends, transfer enrollment is forecast to increase at an average annual rate of 2.1% through fall 2020.

Returning enrollment has been small in absolute terms and has fluctuated considerably in recent years (Figure 7). Though no distinct trend is apparent in the data, some recent growth has occurred. The forecast calls for very modest increase.

Continuing student enrollment is forecast to increase from 1,544 in fall 2014 to 2,050 by fall 2020 (Figure 8). These numbers could vary considerably depending upon student retention and completion patterns going forward. In fall 2014, seniors made up 59% of all continuing enrollment. Using continuation rates based upon the fall 2014 enrollment, the percentage of seniors will increase to 65% by 2020. However, campus initiatives to accelerate completion may affect that percentage. Similarly, lower division enrollment made up only 18% of all continuing enrollment in fall 2014. Campus initiatives to improve retention could affect those numbers as well.

Unclassified enrollment grew in fall 2013 and fall 2014, primarily due to the addition of Early Admits (high school students enrolled in college courses). Some additional growth is anticipated.

Enrollment of students via distance education technology has been an important component of the enrollment mix at UH-West O'ahu (Figure 10). In fall 2014, enrollment of students taking their courses completely off-campus accounted for 25% of the headcount, while 59% had at least some courses taken off-campus.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Since the founding of the campus in 1976, enrollment at UH-West O'ahu has had a strong upward growth trend. The addition of lower division enrollment in fall 2007 put enrollment growth on a much steeper trajectory (Figure 3). Whether or not the pace of enrollment growth seen since fall 2007 can be maintained is uncertain. However, given the population increases expected in the leeward and central areas of O'ahu, the ongoing distance education programs at the campus and the appeal of a new facility, enrollment demand at UH-West O'ahu will remain strong.
University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu
Headcount Enrollment Projections

Figure 1
Recent and Projected Headcount Enrollment

Figure 2
Headcount Enrollment Index

Fall 2014 = 100
University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu
Headcount Enrollment Projections

Figure 3
Historical Headcount Enrollment with Trend Line

Figure 4
Projected Enrollment with High and Low Series
University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu
Headcount Enrollment Projections

Figure 5
First-Time Freshmen by High School of Origin

Figure 6
Classified Transfer Enrollment by Previous College
University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu
Headcount Enrollment Projections

Figure 9
Unclassified Enrollment

Figure 10
Distance Education Enrollment
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<th>PROJECTED</th>
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TABLE 1
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY STUDENT TYPE AND EDUCATION LEVEL
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I-WEST O'AHU
FALL 2009 TO FALL 2020
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<td>Junior</td>
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<td>15 15 15 16 16 16</td>
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<td>Freshman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>36 68 97 100 156 212</td>
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<td>Junior</td>
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</table>

1/ Breakouts by Student Type and by Education Level have been revised.
2/ High school students taking college level courses.
3/ Students whose primary (home) campus, as defined in Banner / ODS, is a UH campus other than UH-West O'ahu.
Note: Lower Division classified enrollment began in Fall 2007.
Source: UH Institutional Research and Analysis Office; March 2015.
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1/ Includes unclassified students for all years.
2/ Education division established by the Chancellor in February 2009.
3/ Business Administration and Public Administration reorganized as separate divisions, effective Fall 2011. Applied Science is included under Business Administration Division.
4/ High school students taking college level courses.
5/ Students whose primary (home) campus is a UH campus other than UH West O‘ahu.
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1/ Education division established by the Chancellor in February 2009.
2/ Business Administration and Public Administration reorganized as separate divisions, effective Fall 2011. Applied Science is included under Business Administration Division.

Note: Lower Division classified enrollment began in Fall 2007.
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1/ Education division established by the Chancellor in February 2009.
2/ Business Administration and Public Administration reorganized as separate divisions, effective Fall 2011. Applied Science is included under Business Administration Division.

Note: Lower Division classified enrollment began in Fall 2007.
TABLE 5
HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT BY ATTENDANCE STATUS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I-WEST O'AHU
FALL 2014 TO FALL 2020

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1/ Includes unclassified students for all years.
2/ Includes student records with invalid data on attendance status.
### APPENDIX A

**HAWAI'I PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ACADEMIC YEARS 2008-09 TO 2019-20**

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1/ Includes all districts. Charter School projection not provided by the DOE beginning 2014 (set constant at 2014 level)

Source: Department of Education for the State of Hawai'i; June 2014. Regular Education seniors only.
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Note: Horizontal line delimits actual from projected numbers.

Note: WICHE "Historical" data may differ from UH IRO compiled data shown in the MAPS reports on the High School Background of First-Time Students.

SOURCE: "Knocking at the Door, Projections of High School Graduates;" December 2012; WICHE.