

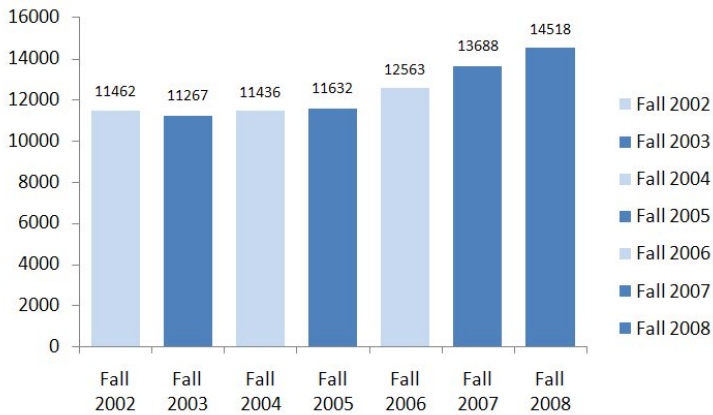
# Research Brief

Fall 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1

## CRC continues to grow at a rapid pace

**CRC Enrollment**



Over the past 11 years, the enrollment at CRC has increased 70% from 8,563 students in fall 1996 to

14,518 students in fall 2008. During the past three fall terms, CRC has experienced a 24.8% increase in enrollment.

CRC comprises approximately 17% of the overall Los Rios District enrollment. Interestingly, approximately 4,500 LRCCD students attend more than one college.

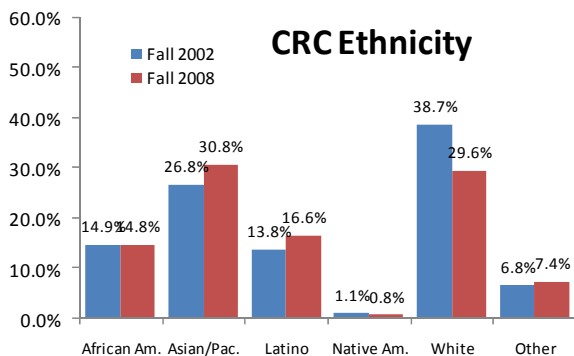
The College is positioning itself to meet the demands of growth through facilities projects that will expand capacity on the campus, through continuing to expand our online offerings, and through the development of the Elk Grove Center. The College is exploring scheduling classes off-site as early as fall 2009.

### What the Research Office is working on this fall:

- SUPPORTING THE RESEARCH NEEDS OF THE ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY TEAMS SUCH AS THE ADMINISTRATION AND ANALYSES OF THE WASC SURVEYS
- ADMINISTERING THE STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR PERCEPTION SURVEYS AS PART OF THE WHOLE-DEPARTMENT MATH ASSESSMENT TEST VALIDATION STUDY
- CONTINUING TO REVAMP THE CASSL AND RESEARCH OFFICE WEB SITES
- IMPLEMENTING THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SYSTEM, WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE NEW PROF PROCESS

## CRC is an increasingly diverse college

**CRC Ethnicity**



CRC is one of the most ethnically diverse colleges within the Los Rios district. Serving the communities of South Sacramento, Laguna, Elk Grove, Meadowview, as well as a five-county area from the greater Sacramento region, CRC serves students from communities that are struggling economi-

cally as well as communities that are relatively new and growing at a rapid pace.

Fifteen years ago, 50% of the students identified themselves as ethnic minority students. The ethnic minority student population represents over 70% of the total student population.

During the past five years,

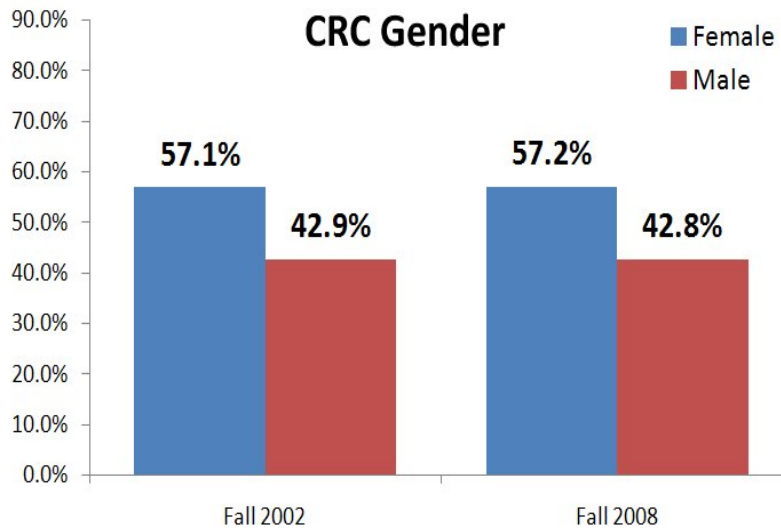
CRC has experienced significant growth in the Asian/Pacific Islander and Latino student populations. Currently, CRC enrolls the highest proportion of Asian students in the District.

This ethnic diversity is accompanied by first generation status, socio-economic diversity, and language diversity. More than 90 first languages are spoken by CRC students. 480 of our students indicate that Spanish is their first language, followed by 428 who indicate Vietnamese is their first language.

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**CRC proportion of students by gender holds steady**



Historically, more female than male students attend CRC, and this proportion has stayed relatively constant over time.

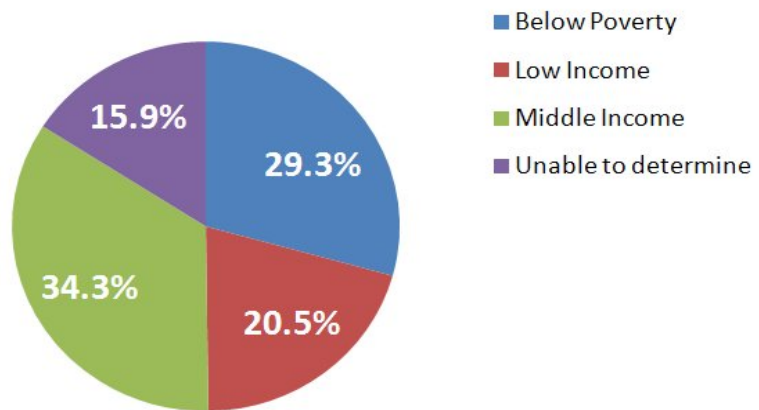
This pattern, however, is not reflected uniformly across all age groups. In particular, close to 50% of incoming students between 18 and 30 years of age are male.

- Low-income students often are not aware of support programs and services available on campus or do not understand how they can benefit from this assistance;
- Low-income students face difficulties with seeking and asking for help because they fear stigmatizing themselves; and
- Low-income students are most likely to “fall through the cracks” when services lack centralization, coordination or adequate resources.

Indiana Youth Institute

**CRC students have diverse socio-economic backgrounds**

**Students by Income Level**



In addition to serving a student population that is ethnically diverse, the college also serves a student population that is socio-economically diverse. It is interesting to note that approximately 50% of the CRC student population is classified below poverty or low-income and nearly 40%

is considered “middle income.”

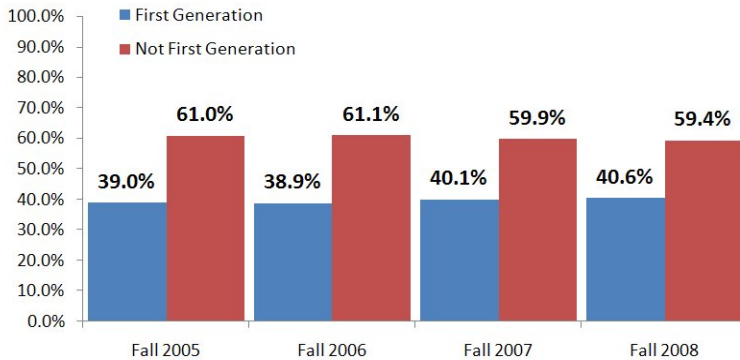
The Department of Health and Human Services defines poverty level thresholds of varying amounts depending on the size of the household. A household of one person with an income lower than \$10,210 is defined as

poverty level, which each additional person adding approximately \$3,500 to the poverty threshold.

Low income status thresholds are approximately twice the poverty level thresholds.

## CRC "First Generation" student population increases slightly

"First Generation" Students



In 2005, CRC had the ability to identify students who were "first generation" college

students. A student is determined to be "first generation" if neither of the student's parents have

earned college degrees.

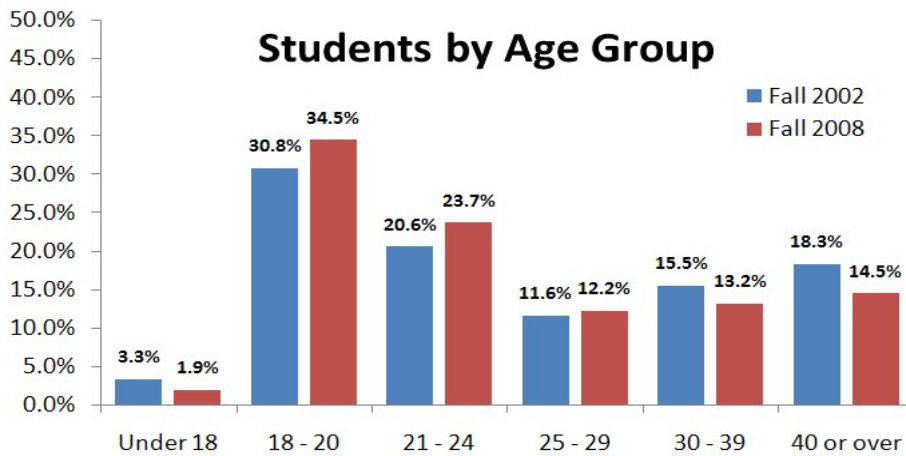
If these students are distributed evenly among the classes at the college, approximately 14 students out of a class of 35 would be "first generation" college students.

CRC has the highest proportion of first generation students in the District.

Recent research has generated a large body of knowledge about students who are the first members of their families to attend college. The results show that such students are at a distinct disadvantage in gaining access to postsecondary education. Even those who overcome the barriers and do enroll have difficulty remaining enrolled and attaining a degree (Horn and Nuñez 2000; Nuñez and Cuccaro-Alamin 1998; Warburton, Bugarin, and Nuñez 2001).

## CRC students getting younger

Students by Age Group



CRC serves the younger, "traditional" student population as well as students who are older. During fall 2008, the "traditional" CRC student population of students under the age of 25 comprised over 60% of the total student population.

The relative number of younger students (under 25 years of age) this fall has increased by more than 5.5% as compared with fall 2002.

Conversely, students who are 30 years of age or older comprised more than 25% of the total student population.

The relative number of older students (over 30 years of age) this fall has decreased by more than 18% as compared with fall 2002.

The youngest student at the college this fall is 14 years old and the oldest student is 87 years old.



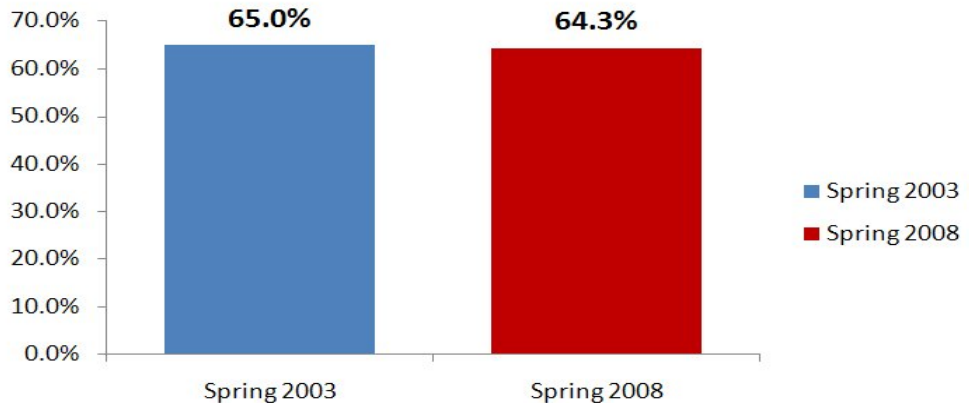
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### CRC student success rates relatively unchanged

#### Student Success Rate



For more information, please visit our Web Site at :  
[www.crc.losrios.edu/Faculty\\_&\\_Staff/Research\\_Office.htm](http://www.crc.losrios.edu/Faculty_&_Staff/Research_Office.htm)

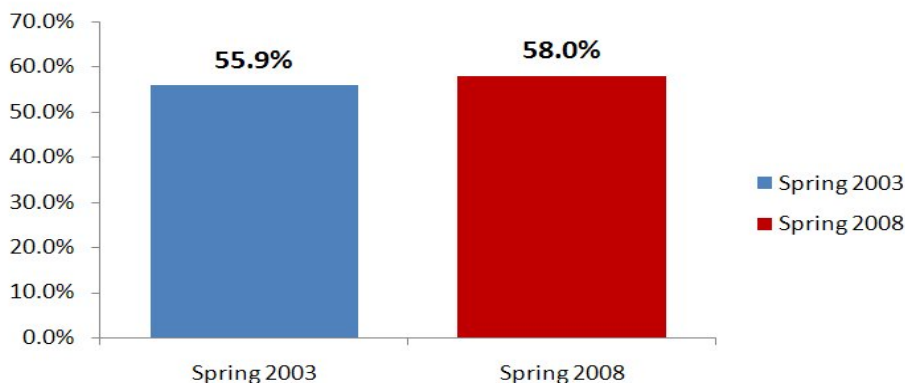
CRC student success rates have been fairly stable over time. Student success rates are calculated by taking the number of successfully completed courses and dividing them by the total

number of courses attempted (note: courses that were dropped before 4th week census are not counted in the numerator or the denominator). The average CRC student

course success rate of 64.3% is not significantly different than it was back in Spring 2003. The student success rates in the district have ranged from 66% to 68% during this time.

### CRC student persistence rates increase

#### Student Persistence Rate



The student persistence rate is defined as the percentage of students who attend CRC during a given fall term who enroll in a class the subsequent spring term. Numerous efforts by the college in the instructional and student

services areas have improved the overall CRC student persistence rate to 58.0% in spring 2008 as compared to 55.9% in spring 2003, an increase of 2.1%. If this persistence rate is reflected uniformly across the campus,

approximately 15 students in a fall class of 35 students will **not** return to the college in the spring. The persistence rates in the district have ranged from 58% to 61% during this time.

#### Research...

"is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought"

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

"is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

Zora Neale Hurston