

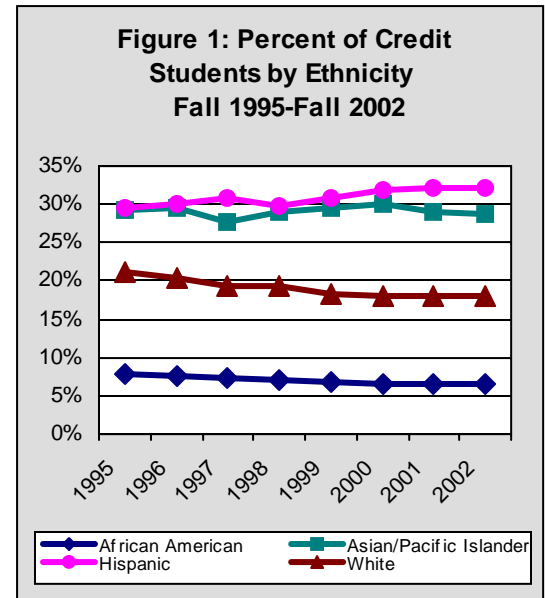
Changes in Ethnicity at PCC

In PCC’s accreditation *Institutional Self-Study 2002*, a concern was raised that the number of African American students enrolled at PCC was declining. To understand whether the number of students enrolled at PCC are changing, this issue examines the numbers and proportions of all ethnic groups, the changes that have occurred in the ethnic makeup of the entire Pasadena Area Community College District, and PCC’s participation rates by ethnicity.

Proportion of Credit Students by Ethnicity

The data presented in Figure 1 and Table 1 show that the:

- ♦ Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic students have been consistently the two largest ethnic groups among the credit student body population since 1995.
- ♦ Asian/Pacific Islander student proportion has slightly fluctuated between 1995 and 2002.
- ♦ Hispanic student proportion has steadily increased since 1998, and by 2002 it increased by 2.5 percentage points from 1995.
- ♦ African American student proportion has decreased by 1.2 percentage points by 2002, and it appears to have stabilized in the last three years.
- ♦ White student proportion has steadily decreased since 1995, and by 2002 it dropped by 3.2% percentage points.
- ♦ Native American and Filipino student proportions have remained relatively stable.
- ♦ The proportions of students of “Other” ethnic groups and of students whose ethnicity is “Unknown/Decline” have increased by 1.2 and 1.5 percentage points by 2002, respectively.



Note: Figure 1 presents data of the largest ethnic groups.

Table 1. Percent of Credit Students by Ethnicity from 1995-2002.

	Fall 95	Fall 96	Fall 97	Fall 98	Fall 99	Fall 00	Fall 01	Fall 02*
African American	7.8%	7.7%	7.2%	7.0%	6.7%	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	29.3%	28.6%	27.8%	29.1%	29.5%	30.0%	29.0%	28.8%
Filipino	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%	4.4%
Hispanic	29.6%	30.0%	30.7%	29.9%	30.9%	31.8%	32.0%	32.1%
Native American	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%
White	21.1%	20.5%	19.4%	19.4%	18.4%	18.0%	18.1%	17.9%
Other	4.2%	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%
Unknown/Decline	3.0%	3.8%	5.4%	4.8%	4.7%	3.9%	4.6%	4.5%

Note: 1995-2001 data were obtained from the 2001-02 edition of *Observations*.

* Fall 2002 data are as of 11/25/2002. The final numbers will not be confirmed until the end of Fall 2002. If there are differences, they will be minor.

The proportions of African American and White students have been heavily influenced by the fluctuation of the proportions of Asians/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, students of other ethnicities, and students whose ethnic group is unknown. When the entire population expands in raw numbers and only the numbers of certain groups increase while other groups remain stable, the stable groups will show a decline in their relative proportion of the population. This seems to be the case for African American and White students enrolled at PCC.

Number of Credit Students by Ethnicity

To examine the decreases of African American and White proportions, we compared the numbers of Fall 1995 students to Fall 2002. We found that the number of:

- ♦ African American and White students **increased** by 13 and 65, respectively.
- ♦ Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic students **increased** by 1,121 and 1,881, respectively.
- ♦ Filipino students **increased** by 245, while the number of Native American students remained the same.
- ♦ Students of other ethnicities and the number of students whose ethnicity is unknown **increased** by 1,288 and 1,157, respectively.

The increases of African American, White, and Filipino students are not reflected in their proportion of the student population because the number of Asians/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and students of other ethnicities increased at a much faster rate.

PCC and the District Census Population

To further understand the changes in ethnic proportions of students at PCC, we examined how they compared to the changes that have occurred in the entire ethnic makeup of the district population. Figure 2 compares PCC's ethnic group proportions to the proportions of individuals who were 18 years or older and who lived in the district according to the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census data. The figure shows that both PCC and the district population experienced:

- ♦ Similar ethnic group proportion changes.
- ♦ The highest **increases** for Asians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics, while the largest **decrease** was for Whites.

Participation Rates

We also examined the college's ethnicity changes by looking at participation rates. Participation rates are the percents of the ethnic populations of the district that are enrolled at PCC. The data presented in the 2001-02 edition of *Observations* show that:

- ⇒ The participation rates for the district were 6.3% for African Americans, followed by Hispanics at 4.7% and Asians/Pacific Islanders at 4.6%, while Whites had the lowest rate at 2.3%.

Note: Fall 2002 participation rates are yet not available.

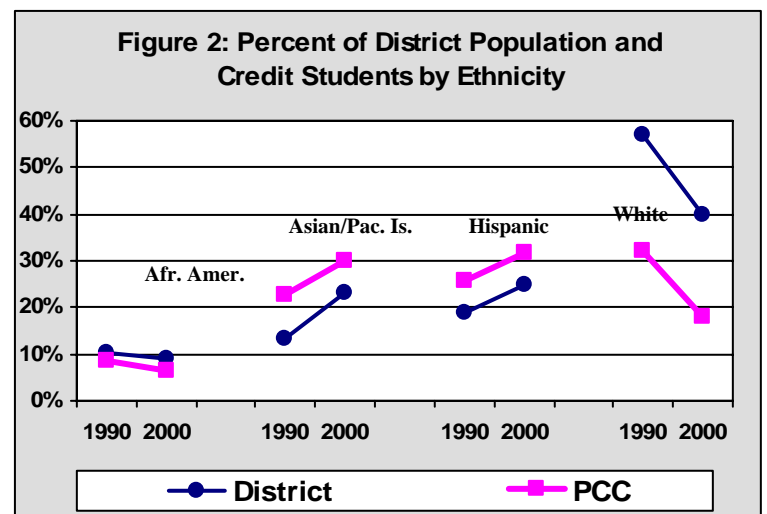
Given that two-thirds of PCC's students live outside the district, we further examined the number of African American students who lived in the district and who enrolled at PCC in 2001. We found that a disproportionate number of African American students who were enrolled at PCC lived within the district, compared to students of other ethnic groups. Specifically, of the 1,653 African American students enrolled at PCC, 68% (1,130) lived in the district and 32% (523) did not. Thus, the number of African American students is very closely tied to the district population, and any changes in the district will have significant impact on the number of African American students enrolling at PCC.

In conclusion, we found that the number of Hispanic students has consistently grown while the already large Asian/Pacific Islander population has fluctuated. The African American and White proportions decreased as a result of the large increase of Hispanic students. PCC's ethnic group changes are also similar to the changes that have occurred in the district population. Therefore, the findings presented in this issue do not support the concern raised in the college's accreditation self-study that the number of African American students was declining.

Table 2. Number of Credit Students by Ethnicity.

	Fall 95	Fall 02*	# Increase 95-02*
African American	1,682	1,695	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	6,320	7,441	1,121
Filipino	902	1,147	245
Hispanic	6,399	8,280	1,881
Native American	182	182	0
White	4,552	4,617	65
Other	906	1,288	382
Unknown/Decline	657	1,157	500
Total	21,600	25,807	4,207

* Fall 2002 data are as of 11/25/2002. The final numbers will not be confirmed until the end of Fall 2002. If there are differences, they will be minor.



Note: Because PCC combines Asians and Pacific Islanders under same ethnic category the proportions according to the U.S. Census data were also combined. Figure 1 presents data of the largest ethnic groups.

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