Cal Poly's total headcount enrollment increased in fall 2016 to 21,306 students, a 1.7% increase from fall 2015.

Undergraduate headcount enrollment increased 1.9% from fall 2015.

Post-baccalaureate headcount, which is comprised mostly of credential students, increased 35.6% from fall 2015.

Graduate enrollment fell for the fifth year in a row to 697 students in fall 2016, a decrease of 8.3% from fall 2015.

Notes: Post-baccalaureate category consists of credential and non-degree-seeking students. Graduate category consists of students who are pursuing master's degrees.

The fall 2016 undergraduate average unit load of 14.59 is a 0.6% increase from last year's average of 14.50.

The fall 2016 graduate student average unit load of 11.10 is a 1.7% decrease from last year’s average of 11.29.

The fall 2016 total average unit load increase of 0.8% combined with the total headcount enrollment increase of 1.7% resulted in an FTES of 20,717.9, an increase of 2.3% over the fall 2015 FTES of 20,240.7.
Gender proportions do not change much from year to year. Of the fall 2016 total student population (undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate), 47.2% are women. This is an increase of 0.5 percentage points compared to fall 2015.

- 47.0% of fall 2016 undergraduate students are women
- 71.6% of fall 2016 post-baccalaureate students are women
- 46.3% of fall 2016 graduate students are women

Of the fall 2016 total student population, 16% identify themselves as Hispanic/Latino and 12.4% identify themselves as Asian American.

Note: As of Summer 2009, Cal Poly converted to the new federal standards for collecting and reporting ethnicity. Among the changes is a new option for students to identify themselves in multiple races. Because of the new “multi-racial” category, we no longer aggregate students into a “non-white” category.

The College of Engineering continues to enroll the largest number of Cal Poly majors, with 28.8% of all fall 2016 students. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences follows, with 18.7% of all fall 2016 students. The College of Engineering also has the most graduate (master’s) students (280). The College of Architecture and Environmental Design has the highest average undergraduate unit load. Conversely, Engineering has the lowest average undergraduate unit load.