

Calvin College 2013 Fall Day 10 Report Highlights

Overall Enrollment Trends (Table 1)

The total number of students enrolled at Calvin for the fall of 2013 is 4,034, an increase of 26 students from last fall and 67 from the year before. The Traditional Undergraduate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment stands at 3,852, up 59 from last year, but below the optimal enrollment range of 3,900-4,100 Traditional Undergraduate FTE as established in the college's strategic plan. (Traditional undergraduates are students working on their first bachelor's degree and are not enrolled in a degree program at another institution.) Close to ninety-five percent (95.4%) of Calvin students are enrolled full time, while the number of part-time students stands at 185 (4.6%), down slightly from last years' 216 (5.4%).

Table 1 also shows that the male/female ratio of Calvin students is tilting slightly more toward female students than in prior years, coming in this year at 55.1% female and 44.9% male. Calvin's gender composition is somewhat more balanced than at comparable four-year private (not-for-profit) institutions nationwide, where the undergraduate female percentage is generally around 57 percent.

The number of AHANA, or U.S. ethnic/racial minority, students at Calvin increased for the fifth year in a row, from 474 in 2012 to 523 in 2013. The 523 AHANA students represent 13% of our student body, which is more than double the 223 AHANA students (5.6%) enrolled nine years ago, in 2004.

Slightly more than one-half of our students are from the state of Michigan (51.5%), with another 17% coming from the neighboring Great Lakes states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The number and percentage of International students has increased slightly this year to 407, comprising just over 10% of the student body.

The percentage of students from the Christian Reformed Church decreased from last year, down from 40.1% to 37.5%. The percentage of students with at least one parent being a Calvin alum also decreased, from 37.6% to 36.2%.

Student Majors (Table 3)

The top four programs of study this fall, as measured by overall student enrollment in specific majors or programs are Engineering (9.1%), Business (7.3%), and Nursing (6.3%). Other top choices include Elementary Education (5.4%), Secondary Education (5.1%), Biology (5.0%) and Psychology (4.6%). Over 5% of students are also pursuing Pre-Med.

The departments with the largest number of students in majors/programs are Education (11.5%), Business (11.1%), Engineering (9.1%), Communication Arts & Sciences (8.7%), Nursing (6.3%), Biology (5.6%), Kinesiology (5.2%), and Psychology (4.6%). Departments showing increases over the past few years, including this year, are Chemistry and Biochemistry, Communication Arts and Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, and Kinesiology. In addition, substantial one-year increases from 2012 to 2013 can be seen in the number of majors in Biochemistry, Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Kinesiology, Music Education, and Nursing.

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Merit Scholarships (Table 4)

The overall percentage of our incoming FTIAC class (First Time In Any College) awarded one of our merit scholarships comes in at 85.3%, slightly below last years' 86.5%. The number of National Merit scholars in the class is 12, down from 23 last year but roughly equal to the 11 two years ago. Of the 3,887 traditional degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled, 2,729 (70.2%) are receiving one of these merit scholarships. Our National Merit Scholars, at 63 overall, represent 1.6% of our degree-seeking undergraduates.

Demographic Characteristics of Students (Tables 5, 6 & 7)

Both students' place of residence and their citizenship provide insight into the regional distribution and international flavor of our student body. For detailed counts of students by residence see Table 5. This table shows that Calvin students come from 44 different states plus the District of Columbia, 6 Canadian provinces and 52 other foreign countries. After Michigan (51.5% of all students), the top five states/provinces represented are Illinois (9.5%), California (3.6%), Indiana (3.0%), Ohio (2.6%), and Ontario (2.1%). South Korea is the country outside of North America sending us the most students (81), with Ghana next at 39 students, China with 38, Indonesia with 37, and Nigeria with 28.

The 81 Canadian citizens reported in Table 6 represent 2.0% of our student body, a percentage that has decreased substantially from 3.5% (142 students) just four years ago. The top five non-North American countries represented by our International students based on their citizenship are South Korea (141 students), Ghana (35 students), Indonesia (28 students), Nigeria (27 students), and China (26 students). The international flavor of Calvin's student body also benefits from the presence of over 100 U.S. students who come to Calvin with recent experience living abroad, as well as 60 U.S. students with dual citizenship.

The distributions of U.S. students by race/ethnicity are also shown in Table 6. The number of AHANA students (Ethnic and Racial minorities) at the college is 523, up from 474 last year, and up from 11.8% to 13.0% of the student body. Three years ago, the college implemented some changes in the way we collect and report this information, based on new federally mandated standards. These changes are part of the reason the overall AHANA numbers increased substantially from 2009 to 2010, owing to students of two or more races now being included in these counts. Increases in this multi-racial (two or more races) group, jumping from 64 to 101 students, along with increases in Hispanics, up from 119 to 137, are driving the AHANA increase from 2012 to 2013.

Religious affiliations of students (Table 7) show Christian Reformed students comprising 37.5% of the student body, down over two percentage points from last years' 40.1%. The second largest group of students is affiliated with a nondenominational church (14.8%). Other denominational families most frequently represented are Reformed and Presbyterian, each accounting for roughly 7-8% of the student body, while Baptists represent roughly 6%.

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Retention and Graduation Rates (Table 8)

This year's FTIAC retention rate of 87.4% is nearly two percentage points higher than last year's rate of 85.5%. The highest retention rates (based on four-year averages) can be found among the following subgroups: alumni children (92.2%), students who are Christian Reformed (90.7%), top scholarship recipients (90.2%), International Students (90.2%), and students from Christian High Schools (89.8%). AHANA retention, at 80.0%, is about even with last year, and continues to lag about five to seven percentage points behind the overall student body. Access program participant retention came in below 70% for the third year in a row, after having made some steady gains in previous years.

The six-year graduation rate of the 2007 FTIAC class, at 72.5%, is down substantially compared with last year's 76.8%, and is the lowest rate in eight years for Calvin. This class began with relatively low first to second fall retention rates back in 2008, which has carried forward into their graduation rate five years later. Higher than average graduation rates among the 2007 cohort are found among Top Scholarship recipients (83.0%), Alumni children (81.6%), and Christian Reformed students (79.3%). Graduation rates for AHANA students came in at 58.3%, down from 64.0% last year. Access program participants struggle to graduate, with only 43% of the 2007 cohort graduating within six years. Males exhibited a rather low showing this year compared with females, with the male rate coming in at 67.4% compared with 76.8% for females.

New Students: FTIAC and Transfer (Table 9)

The class of 2013 FTIACs numbers 1,006, an increase of 29 students from last year's class of 977 and 45 more than the 2011 class of 961. Incoming transfers number 101, down seven from last year and down five from 2011. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs that are Christian Reformed is down 54 compared with last year (32.2% this year vs. 38.7% in 2012). The raw number and the percentage of the class having one or more parents that are alumni has dropped from 341 in 2012 to 321 in 2013 (34.9% to 31.9%). In terms of where the new class of FTIACs comes from geographically, a slightly higher percentage are from Michigan than last year (48.5% in 2013 vs. 48.2% in 2012). Also, a slightly higher percentage of the class comes from nearby Great Lakes States (20.2% this year vs. 18.9% in 2012).

The number of International students in the FTIAC class dropped off somewhat from last year, decreasing from 110 to 85. AHANA students, at 158 in this year's class, represent nearly 16% of the class compared with 12% last year and 16% the year before. The number of Access Program students in the FTIAC class increased from 73 last year to 98 this year.

Enrolled to Admitted Yields (Table 10)

Our yield of FTIACs this year decreased from 39.4% last year to 36.0% this year. Much of this drop in yield was expected, mainly due to the introduction of the Common Application, which affected the composition of our Admit pool. The highest enrollment yields among FTIACs this year are among West Michigan Christian High School students (63%), Alumni children (59%), Christian Reformed Church members (58%) and International citizens (57%).

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FTIAC GPAs and Test Scores (Table 11 & 12)

The academic strength of this fall's entering first-year class, in terms of HS GPA, has remained fairly steady, however test scores have dropped slightly compared with last years' record highs. Mean GPA came in at 3.66 compared with last years' 3.67, while mean ACT score decreased from 26.6 to 26.1. Mean combined SAT score decreased from 1,204 to 1,176. The 25th and 75th percentile of HS GPAs remained relatively constant at 3.43 and 3.97, while the 25th and 75th percentiles of ACT test scores inched downward a full point, to 23 and 29, where they had been in years prior. The 25th and 75th percentiles of SAT scores also decreased slightly. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs graduating in the top 10% of their high school class, at 30%, edged down from 32% last year.

Faculty Composition (Tables 13 & 14)

The number of full-time teaching faculty at Calvin in 2013 is 291, down 11 from 302 last year. An additional 76 part-time faculty this fall brings the total faculty number to 367, down from 394 last year.

The number of male faculty dropped nine from last year while the number of female faculty dropped two, for a male percentage of 64.6% and a female percentage of 35.4%. This represents a slight increase in the female percentage over last year (34.8%) and the highest percentage in the past ten years, just eclipsing the female percentage in 2011 of 35.3%.

The number of AHANA (ethnic minority) faculty dropped by six from last year, from 30 to 24. They represent 8.4% of the total number of full-time faculty compared with 9.9% last year. This is the lowest percentage since 2007.

The percentage of full-time faculty with a terminal degree inched upward from 83.1% last year to 84.5% in 2013. This is the highest in the past ten years. The college-wide student to faculty ratio based on teaching duties edged upward from 13.9 to 1 to 14.6 to 1, a ratio similar to those seen in the years 2004-2006.