Calvin College  
2019 Fall Census (Day 10) Report Highlights

Overall Enrollment Trends (Table 1)

The total number of students enrolled at Calvin for the fall of 2019 is 3,570, a decrease of 162 students from last fall and down 270 from the year before. The Traditional Undergraduate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment stands at 3,251, down 192 from last year. (Traditional undergraduates are students working on their first bachelor’s degree and are not enrolled in a degree program at another institution. Calvin Prison Initiative students are also excluded.) Ninety-two percent of Calvin’s students are enrolled full time, while the number of part-time students stands at just under eight percent—slightly higher than last year. The addition of our Prison Initiative students and an increase in Dually Enrolled high School students have contributed to the increase in the overall part-time numbers since 2015.

Table 1 also shows that the male/female ratio of Calvin students tilts slightly more toward female students, however the trend over the past five years has been a slow growth in the percentage male, with the addition of our all-male prison student population contributing to this trend. Calvin’s gender composition is somewhat more balanced than at four-year private (not-for-profit) institutions nationwide, where the undergraduate female percentage is generally around 58 percent.

The number of AHANA, or U.S. ethnic/racial minority, students at Calvin declined from 629 in 2018 to 598 this year, with the percentage dropping only a tenth of a point, from 16.9% to 16.8%. The AHANA student population has grown more than 50% since 2010, from 388 to 598.

Over one-half of our students are from Michigan (55%), with another 16% coming from the neighboring Great Lakes states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The number of International student numbers have remained relatively stable compared with last year, decreasing by two, from 456 in 2018 to 454 in 2019, however, at nearly 13% this year, they represent a higher percentage of the student body than in any recent year.

The percentage of students from the Christian Reformed Church decreased from 29.1% in 2018 to 28.3% this year, continuing a trend where we have been declining around one to two percentage points per year. The percentage of students with at least one parent being a Calvin alum, at 33%, is relatively stable compared with last year, but down in raw numbers, from 1,134 to 1,083.

Student Majors (Table 3)

The top three programs of study this fall, as measured by overall student enrollment in specific undergraduate majors or programs are Engineering (9.4%), Nursing (7.3%), and Elementary Education (4.6%). Other top choices include Biology (4.4%), Psychology (4.2%), Kinesiology (3.9%), Business (3.7%), Biochemistry (3.6%), Computer Science (3.5%) and Secondary Education (3.4%). Roughly 14% of students are pursuing a Pre-Health track (e.g. Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, Pre-Physical Therapy, etc.).

The departments with the largest number of students in majors/programs are Business (12.8%), Engineering (9.4%), Education (9.2%), Nursing (7.3%), Chemistry and Biochemistry (4.8%), Biology (4.7%), Kinesiology (4.7%), Communication (4.5%), Psychology (4.2%) and Computer Science (4.1%). Some of the majors showing notable increases over the past 2-3 years, relative to
Calvin College
2019 Fall Census (Day 10) Report Highlights

other programs are Biochemistry, Computer Science, Film and Media, Kinesiology, Nursing, Physics and Political Science.

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 94.1%, somewhat higher than last year’s 92.5%. The number of National Merit scholars in the class is six, compared to five last year, and seven the year before. Of the 3,280 traditional degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled, 2,631 (80%) are receiving one of our merit scholarships. National Merit Scholars, numbering 32 overall, represent 1.0% 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, diversity and international flavor of our student body. For detailed counts of students by residence see Table 5, which shows that Calvin students come from 45 different states, 6 Canadian provinces and 63 other foreign countries. After Michigan (55% of all students), the top five states represented are Illinois (8.3%), California (3.2%), Indiana (3.2%), Wisconsin (2.0%), and Ohio (2.0%). South Korea is the country outside of North America sending us the most students (58), with Ghana close behind at 51 students, China with 46, Indonesia with 22, India with 21 and Nigeria with 20.

The 26 Canadian citizens reported in Table 6 represent less than 1% of our student body, a percentage that has decreased by more than half (67 students) compared with four years ago. The top seven non-North American countries represented by our International students based on their citizenship are South Korea (147 students), China (55 students), Ghana (51 students), India (25 students), Indonesia (20 students), Nigeria (19 students), and Honduras (12 students).

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 598, down 31 from last year, and down slightly in percentage from 16.9% to 16.8%. Traditional Undergraduate AHANA are also showing decreases, down from 562 to 527 students, and from 16.2% in 2018 to 16.1% in 2019.

Religious affiliations of students (Table 7) show Christian Reformed students comprising 28.3% of the student body, down slightly less than one percentage points from 29.1% last year. The second largest group of students is affiliated with a nondenominational church (16.6%). Other denominational families frequently represented are Reformed and Presbyterian, accounting for 6.2% and 8.5% of the student body, respectively, while Baptists and Other represent another six to seven percent each. Roman Catholics are the next largest group, at just under four percent.
Calvin College
2019 Fall Census (Day 10) Report Highlights

Retention and Graduation Rates (Table 8)

This year’s FTIAC first to second year retention rate of 84.6% is slightly lower than last years’ 86.5%. The highest retention rates (based on four-year averages) can be found among the following subgroups: Alumni children (92.3%), students who are Christian Reformed (90.2%), students from Christian High Schools (87.4%), Top Scholarship recipients (86.2%), and International students (88.3%). AHANA retention, at 77.4%, shows a slight drop after two more positive years in 2018 and 2017, while Access program participant retention, at 74.6%, came in somewhat higher than last years’ rate of 70.1%.

The six-year graduation rate of the 2013 FTIAC class, at 75.7%, is down slightly from last year’s reported rate of 76.9%, but higher than the markedly lower rate of 72.1% reported for the 2011 class. Higher graduation rates among the 2013 cohort (using four-year averages) are evident among Alumni children (88%), Christian Reformed students (85%), Top Scholarship recipients (82%), Christian High School students (80%) and International Students (79%). Graduation rates for AHANA students this year, at 54%, came in slightly lower than last year’s 58%, while Access program participants improved slightly, from 44% in 2018 to 47% this year.

New Students: FTIAC and Transfer (Table 9)

The incoming class of 2019 FTIACs numbers 779, a decrease of 46 students (-5.6%) from last year’s class of 825. Incoming transfers number 64, down eleven from last years’ 75 transfers. The number of enrolled FTIACs that are Christian Reformed (218) is down compared with last year (258), representing 28% of the class. The number of the class having one or more parents that are alumni has declined slightly, from 270 in 2018 to 252 in 2019. In terms of where the new class of FTIACS comes from geographically, slightly fewer are from Michigan this year (51.9% in 2019 vs. 53.2% in 2018). A slightly larger percentage of the class comes from nearby Great Lakes States (19.1% this year vs. 17.2% in 2018).

In terms of the types of High Schools FTIACs attended, the overarching trend over the past ten years had been one of increasing numbers from public high schools and fewer from Christian high schools. While in 2018 that trend was interrupted, it has resumed in 2019, with 70 fewer FTIACS enrolling from Christian high schools in 2019 than in 2018. The numbers from our Key West Michigan Christian schools are also down (from 211 in 2018 to 167 in 2019).

The number of International students in the FTIAC class declined substantially from 112 last year to 91 this year (-19%). AHANA students, at 114 in this years’ class, represent 14.6% of the class compared with 137 students (16.6%) in 2018 and 145 students (16.3%) in 2017. The number of Knight Scholars (formerly the Access Program) in the FTIAC class, at 89 is up compared to 63 the prior year, but expanded criteria for enrollment in this program has affected these numbers.
Calvin College
2019 Fall Census (Day 10) Report Highlights

Enrolled to Admitted Yields (Table 10)

Our yield of FTIACs this year (percentage of admitted students that enrolled) increased from 27.2% last year to 29.8% this year. The highest enrollment yields among FTIACs this year are among Key West Michigan Christian High School students (58%), Christian Reformed Church members (58%), and Alumni children (56%). Yields of subgroups that were either flat or declining in comparison to the overall increase were Christian High School and Key West Michigan Christian students as well as AHANA students.

FTIAC GPAs and Test Scores (Table 11 & 12)

The academic strength of this fall’s entering first-year class, in terms of HS GPA and test scores, is strong and consistent with recent classes. Mean GPA came in slightly higher at 3.83 compared with last years’ 3.79. Test scores were relatively flat, with the mean ACT score holding steady at 26.8 and the mean combined SAT score coming in at 1240 compared to 1244 last year. The 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles of high school GPAs are all up slightly while the ACT and SAT quartile scores are unchanged. The percentage of enrolled FTIACs graduating in the top 10% of their high school class edged up from 30% to 35%.

Faculty Composition (Tables 13 & 14)

The number of full-time teaching faculty at Calvin this fall is 224, down 8 from last fall. An additional 104 part-time faculty brings the total faculty number to 328. The percentage of faculty that are full-time stands at 68% compared to over 80% as recently as 2011.

The number of full-time male faculty decreased by 7 from last year while the number of full-time female faculty declined by one, resulting in a one percentage point increase in the percent female, moving from 36.2% to 37.1%.

The number of AHANA (ethnic minority) full-time faculty, at 21, dropped by one from last year. They represent 9.4% of the total number of full-time faculty—roughly the same percentage as last year (9.5%).

The percentage of full-time faculty with a terminal degree has increased slightly from last year to 90.6%, which is the highest percentage in ten years.