



Research Brief # 170

June 2018

LGBT Demographics of COC Applicants and Students

Vida M. Manzo, Ph.D., Preeta Saxena, Ph.D., Daylene M. Meuschke, Ed.D., and Barry C. Gribbons, Ph.D.

The office of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness conducted an analysis of student demographic information specifically, transgender status and sexual orientation was assessed. The purpose of this analysis is to help inform the College of the Canyon's (COC) compliance and support of bill AB 1018 ensuring equity for LGBT students. The student equity plan's mission is to identify and if necessary reduce disproportionate impact among the following disaggregated subgroups (AB 1018 Section 78221) of the student population; lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

Given that the numbers of transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and "other" sexual orientation may be small across California Community Colleges this population was recently identified as largely "neglected" (AB 1018). Thus, research and analyses examining the disproportionate impact with regards to access and success will assist in providing evidence-based recommendations for these "new in-need" student populations to be included and utilized in future student equity plans (AB 1018 Section 78220).

Specifically, this research is intended to address the following research questions:

- How many applicants and students at College of the Canyons identify as transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual or other?
- What is the proportion of each of these disaggregated subgroups who apply to College of the Canyons and that then go on to enroll?

Method

Applicant data were obtained from Informer and CCC Apply. All terms where the LGBT questions were asked were included; 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and Fall 2017 (N=46,727). In addition, these applicant responses were merged with the 320 Enrollment file and there were a subsequent 45,191 COC Datatel matches. Of those a total of 24,884 enrolled at COC, yielding a 55% overall total enrollment rate.

To conduct the disaggregated LGBT analyses, any given student may have answered these transgender and sexual orientation questions multiple times and as literature has shown transgender and sexual orientation can and often does change over time (Rosario, Scrimshaw, Hunter, & Braun, 2011) thus, we limited responses to two formats a) if a student *ever* identified as transgender, homosexual, bisexual, or other, throughout their multiple application responses and b) each student's *most recent* response to both the transgender and sexual orientation questions.

Results

Demographics Based On If Student Ever Identified As A Member Of An "LGBT" Subgroup

Of the self-identified transgender applicants (Table 1) a slightly lower proportion (50.54%) enroll at College of the Canyons compared to 53.88% of applicants who answer "NO", and compared to the 55.06% overall total enrollment rate.

Table 1. Application versus enrollment based on ever identifying as transgender

	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %
Transgender Yes	95	93	47	50.54%
Transgender No	24305	23394	12605	53.88%
Transgender Decline	899	864	485	56.13%

*Prop. % = Enrolled/COC Match (Datatel matches)

When assessing sexual orientation based on an applicant ever identifying as homosexual, bisexual, or other (Table 2) we find that these applicants enroll at similar or higher rates (57.72%, 59.3%, and 57.92%, respectively) compared to applicants who are heterosexual (53.99%) and compared to the overall enrollment rate (55.06%).

Table 2. Application versus enrollment based on ever identifying as bisexual, homosexual, or other

	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %
Heterosexual	26615	25614	13829	53.99%
Homosexual	671	648	374	57.72%
Bisexual	659	635	377	59.37%
Other	245	240	139	57.92%
Decline	2253	2167	1204	55.56%

*Prop. % = Enrolled/COC Match (Datatel matches)

LGBT Demographics According to Student's Most Recent Response

Across the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years 45.59% of self-identified Transgender applicants (Table 3) go on to enroll at College of the Canyons. This enrollment rate is lower than applicants who answer “NO” (52.14%), applicants who “Decline” to answer at all (51.38%), and compared to the 55.06% total enrollment rate.

Table 3. Application versus enrollment based on most recent transgender status

Transgender YES				
Academic Year	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %
2015-2016	33	33	14	42.42%
2016-2017	35	35	17	48.57%
Total	68	68	31	45.59%
Transgender NO				
2015-2016	7420	7355	3759	51.11%
2016-2017	10008	9950	5263	52.89%
Total	17428	17305	9022	52.14%
Transgender Decline				
2015-2016	321	317	152	47.95%
2016-2017	267	263	146	55.51%
Total	588	580	298	51.38%

*Prop. % = Enrolled/COC Match (Datatel matches)

Across the two complete academic years students who identify their sexual orientation (Table 4) as Homosexual, enroll in lower proportions (41.22%) as compared to Heterosexual students (53.05%).

Table 4. Application versus enrollment based on most recent sexual orientation

*Prop. % = Enrolled/COC Match (Datatel matches)

Recommendations

Upon review of the LGBT demographic responses for applicants and enrolled students, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

Academic Year	Heterosexual				Homosexual				Decline			
	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %
2015-2016	7785	7716	3954	51.24%	184	183	101	55.19%	603	601	302	50.25%
2016-2017	11906	11829	6415	54.23%	326	324	108	33.33%	910	902	476	52.77%
Total	19691	19545	10369	53.05%	510	507	209	41.22%	1513	1503	778	51.76%
Academic Year	Bisexual				Other							
	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %	CCCID	COC Match	Enrolled	Prop. %
2015-2016	157	155	86	55.48%	72	72	36	50.00%				
2016-2017	309	308	172	55.84%	96	95	55	57.89%				
Total	466	463	258	55.72%	168	167	91	54.49%				

- Further investigation into the best method of counting/tracking of LGBT responses (*ever vs. recent*) should be assessed as results can differ drastically depending on the method.
- Transgender students enroll at lower rates than both those who respond “No” to the Transgender question (52.14%) and the overall student enrollment rate of 55.06% thus, further exploration into understanding the reasons for these patterns should be explored.
- A possible focus group or meeting with the College of the Canyons’ Gay Straight Alliance may provide further insight into the best ways to capture the fluidity of sexual orientation and gender identity.

References

Assem. Bill 1018, 2016-2017 Amend Sections 78220 and 78221 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2017).

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1018

Rosario, M., Schrimshaw, E. W., & Hunter, J. (2011). Different Patterns of Sexual Identity Development over Time: Implications for the Psychological Adjustment of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youths. *Journal of Sex Research*, 48(1), 3–15. <http://doi.org/10.1080/00224490903331067>.

For more detailed information on this research brief, stop by the Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness office located in BONH-224, or contact Vida M. Manzo, Senior Research Analyst at 661.362.5871, or Daylene Meuschke, Dean of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at 661.362.5329.