

Biological Sciences Department

Status of the Graduate Program

a report to the Faculty

David J. Moriarty
Graduate Coordinator
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The Graduate Program is critical to the educational efforts of the faculty, and hopefully you will find this brief report informative. Previous reports were issued in Fall 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Enrollment

As of August 23, 2005, the program has 103 classified graduate students (list appended). Not all students enroll in classes (supervisory or traditional) every quarter. Some take formal leaves of absence, and many are adept at “stopping out” or “waiving residency” without losing their enrollment.

Enrollment in the graduate program, as measured by the number of students taking classes in Fall Quarter, is strong (Fig. 1). Enrollment in Fall 2004 was 64 students. Although this was down from 74 in Fall 2003, there are several considerations: (1) as fees have increased substantially, students attempt to avoid them by not enrolling in units every quarter; (2) some random fluctuation in the number enrolled in Fall Quarter is to be expected (see Fig.1); and (3) accuracy of these data during the transition from BANNER to PeopleSoft is unknown. The two systems may or may not have identical definitions of “enrolled.”

Over the past 13 years, enrollment has grown at an average of 5% per year, which yields a doubling time of 15 years. This growth rate can not be maintained, and must decline as the department reaches “carrying capacity” in terms of graduate students.

Admissions

The table below shows Admissions activity over the past 10 academic years. Data for 1995-96 are approximate because the database to track activity was not implemented until midway through the period.

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Admitted Classified	~14	11	16	35	26	23	26	31	24	37
Admitted Conditional	~6	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	~4	9	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incomplete/ No Action	~26	25	15	15	11	14	13	13	9	25
Total	~50	51	48	51	38	37	39	44	33	62

Although the total number of applications for 2004-05 seems substantially higher than previous years, this is biased by the fact that the University did not accept graduate applications for some quarters in 2003-04, and closed early in other quarters. These closures may have resulted in some students being forced to delay their application until the 2004-05 academic year.

Information Requests

Paper informational packets are no longer sent to prospective students. When requests for information are received, students are referred to the grad program web site (below), which has extensive information on application processes, policies, and procedures. The department is listed at the "gradschools.com" web site:

<http://schools.gradschools.com/graduate-schools/CA-Polytech-Pomona.html>

World Wide Web Site (<http://www.csupomona.edu/~biology/gradprog/>)

The Graduate Program web site serves as a recruitment medium and for the dissemination of information in an efficient manner. The site contains substantial information for current students, including thesis and thesis defense. Comments on the web site would be appreciated.

Faculty Membership on Thesis Committees

Appended (not available in web version) is a list of thesis committee membership for each faculty member. Students for whom the faculty member is the major professor are indicated. *Please inform the graduate coordinator of changes that should be made to this information.*

Students Who Have Not Filed a Program of Courses (GS-101)

Appended (not available in web version) is list of students who have been classified graduate students for at least one year, but have not yet filed their Program of Courses. Please have students file the program as soon as reasonably possible. When funds are available to support research for graduate students, one of the usual eligibility requirements is to have the program on file.

Graduate Faculty Information

Please visit the graduate program web site: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~biology/gradprog/> and click "Faculty" to view the listing of graduate faculty with research interests. This web page is the principal method of informing both graduate and undergraduate students about faculty research. *Please inform the Graduate Coordinator of any changes to your information.* If you have a personal web page that is not linked from the graduate page, please send your URL to the graduate coordinator.

Graduate Student Research Funds

In the 1998-99, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 years, the department was able to allocate funds to support graduate research. A total of \$36,057.52 has been awarded (attached list) (not available in web version) over the seven years. Continuation of funding is always uncertain.

Graduates by Quarter and Year

A listing (not available in web version) of graduates is appended. Information for this listing was obtained from the university BANNER and BroncoDirect systems, so dates reflect the quarter in which the degree was actually awarded. This may not be the quarter in which the student completed or defended the thesis.

Acknowledgment

I thank the faculty for their strong support of the Graduate Program. The faculty receive minimal credit for the WTU they generate through graduate supervisory courses, and no credit for serving as major professors, or for service on thesis committees. I know you do this work because you recognize the value of a strong graduate program to our students (both graduate and undergraduate) and to our faculty. Thank you for your sacrifices. It is a privilege to work for you.

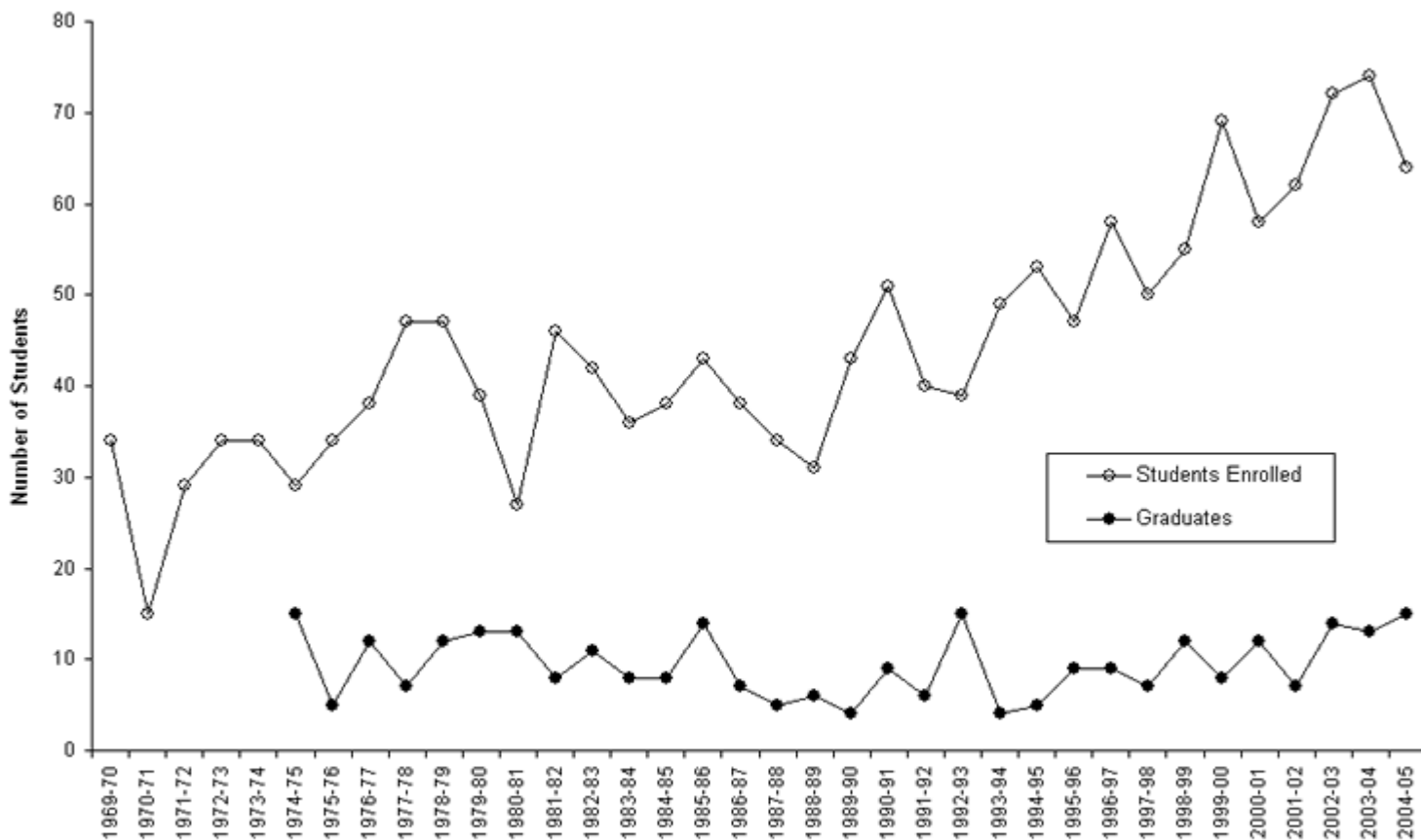


Fig 1 Students enrolled in Fall Quarter 1969-1970 through 2004-2005, and students graduated from 1974-1975 through 2004-2005 (filled circles).