

# *Biological Sciences Department*

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## Status of the Graduate Program

a report to the Faculty

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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, 2004, and 2005. Redacted versions of all reports may be downloaded as pdf files from the graduate program web site (see below.) Full versions are available by contacting the graduate coordinator.

### Enrollment

As of August 22, 2006, the program has 93 classified graduate students (list appended – not available in web version). 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 2005 was 75 students, the highest number in the history of the program.

Over the past 14 years, enrollment has grown at an average of 6% per year, which yields a doubling time of 13 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 11 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	2005-06
Admitted Classified	~14	11	16	35	26	23	26	31	24	37	22
Admitted Conditional	~6	6	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	~4	9	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incomplete/ No Action	~26	25	15	15	11	14	13	13	9	25	6
Total	~50	51	48	51	38	37	39	44	33	62	28

The total number of applications for 2004-05 is unusually high, and likely 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. Total applications for 2005-06 returned to a more normal number. Although total applications in 2005-06 was the lowest in 11 years, the number of Incomplete/No Action was also the lowest. The number admitted was the lowest in recent years, but not by a large amount. Nevertheless, growth may be slowing down, and the program may be reaching capacity.

### **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. A major revision to the site was completed in Summer 2006. The revision brought the site into compliance with university web site formats and styles. Comments on the web site would be appreciated.

### **Forms**

All forms used in the graduate program are now available online. Go to the grad program web site (url above), and click Forms in the left navigation panel. This includes the Program form (the "GS-101" or "Contract"), as well as the two forms necessary to report defense and acceptance of thesis.

### **Faculty Membership on Thesis Committees**

Appended is a list (not available in web version) 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.*

### **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, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 years, the department was able to allocate funds to support graduate research. A total of \$41,001.30 has been awarded (attached list - not available in web version) over the eight 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 BroncoDirect system, 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. David J. Moriarty August 22, 2006

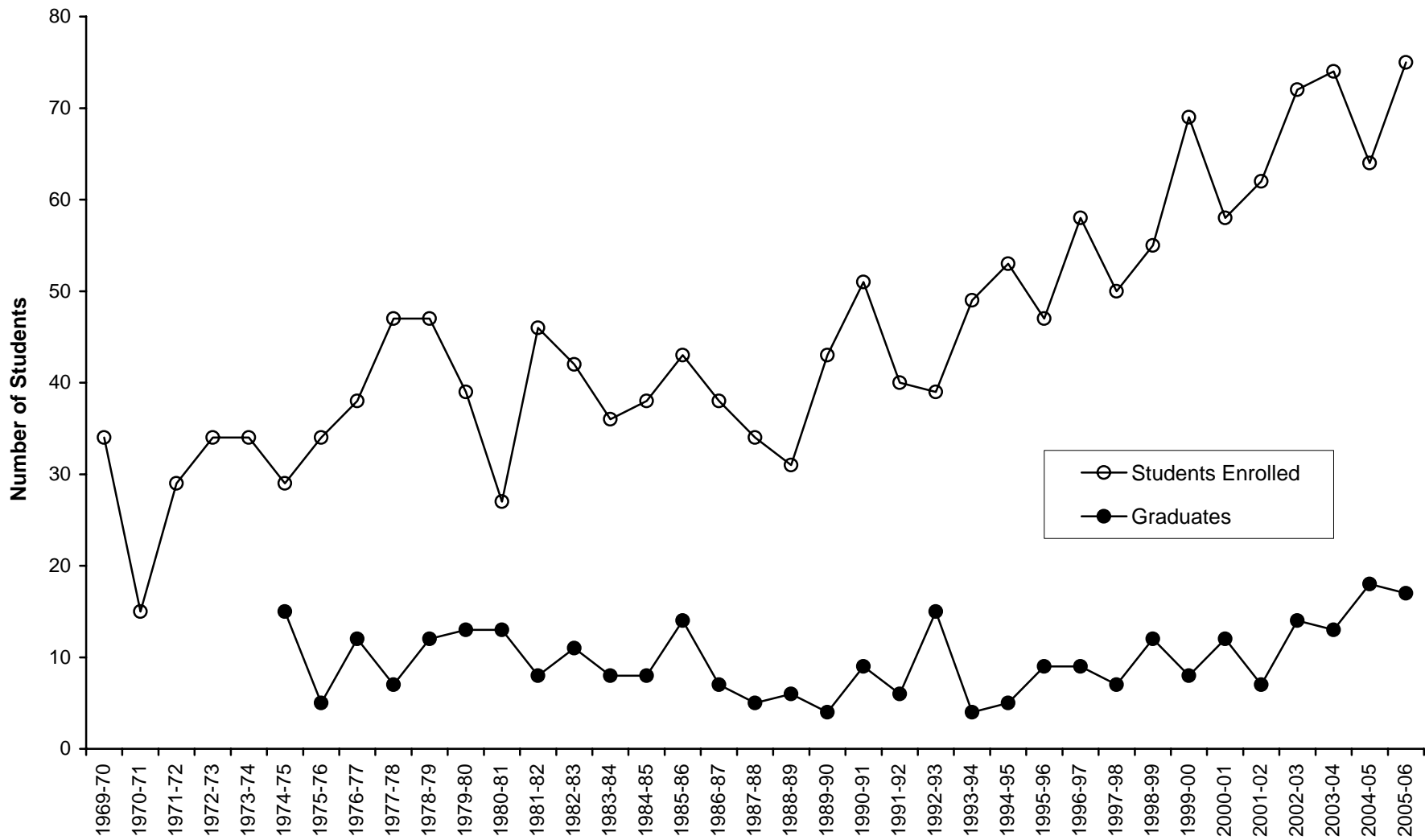


Fig. 1 Students enrolled in Fall Quarter 1969-1970 through 2005-2006, and students graduated from 1974-1975 through 2005-2006 (filled circles).