

Biological Sciences Department

Status of the Graduate Program

a report to the Faculty

David J. Moriarty
Graduate Coordinator
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This brief report on the Graduate Program is provided in an attempt to keep the faculty fully informed. The Graduate Program is critical to the faculty's efforts as educators and scientists, and it is hoped that this information is helpful in those efforts. Your comments on this report (especially with respect to how it can be improved) are welcome, and should be directed to Dave Moriarty. A previous report was provided in Fall 1996.

Enrollment

As of October 3, 1997, the program has 58 classified graduate students and four conditional students (Table 1). These numbers fluctuate continually as students enter and leave the program.

It is important to realize that not all of these students enroll in classes (supervisory or traditional) every quarter. Some students take formal leaves of absence, and many graduate students are adept at "stopping out" for a quarter 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). Indeed, the enrollment in Fall 96 was the highest ever. The number of graduates in 1995 and 1996 (nine each year) was also fairly high, especially in comparison to the last ten years (Fig. 1).

Admissions

During the 1996-97 academic year, the program received 51 applications. The Graduate Admissions Committee (Baskin, Campbell, Moriarty) examined and reached a decision on 26 applications with the following results:

Denied:	9
Admitted Conditionally:	6
Admitted Classified:	11

Twenty-five applications were never completed and therefore never examined by the committee.

Information Requests

Requests for information are received by mail (electronic and traditional) and the telephone. Informational packets were sent to 111 domestic addresses and 22 foreign addresses during the past year. Of the 22 foreign addresses, 19 were in the Peoples Republic of China, two in Canada, and one in Brazil. The total of 133 requests is an increase over the total of 94 in 1995-96.

By the summer of 1997, it became apparent that the Graduate Coordinator was receiving "form" email messages sent by students from the Peoples Republic of China to many universities in the United States requesting application materials. As many as 5 to 10 requests per week were being received. Because the application packet is large and fairly expensive to mail (especially outside of the USA), the graduate coordinator stopped sending a packet in response to these requests. Instead, a response containing all application information is sent via email. This does not provide the prospective applicant with the Admissions booklet, but they are invited to request a booklet by traditional mail from the Cal Poly Admissions Office (they are told that email requests will not be honored). *If you object to this procedure, please discuss with Dave Moriarty. If necessary, the matter could be discussed at a Department Meeting.*

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

The Graduate Program home page is effective as a recruitment medium and for the dissemination of information in an efficient manner. A graduate policies page has been implemented, so that policies and procedures adopted by the faculty can be permanently accessible.

Faculty Membership on Thesis Committees

Table 2 (*not available in web version*) lists 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 GS-101

Table 3 (*not available in web version*) lists students who have been classified graduate students for at least one year, but have not yet filed their GS-101 (program of courses). The major professor for each student is also listed. Faculty are urged to have their students file the program as soon as reasonably possible.

Graduate Faculty Information

Included (*not available in web version*) with this report (not as a numbered table) is a listing of graduate faculty and research interests and/or other pertinent information. This information is included in the informational packets sent to prospective applicants (remember, 133 were sent out last year alone), as well as on the Graduate Program world wide web page (see above).

Please inform the Graduate Coordinator of any changes to your information. Informational packets are printed "on demand", so your changes become effective as soon as they are received. The web page will also be updated as information is received. If you have a personal web page that is not currently linked from the graduate page, please send your URL to the graduate coordinator.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the faculty for their work in, and strong support of, the Graduate Program. The faculty are not credited in any manner for the WTU they generate through graduate supervisory courses, nor for serving as major professors or on thesis committees. I know you do this work because you recognize the critical importance to our students (both graduate and undergraduate) and to our faculty of a strong graduate program. Thank you for your sacrifices. You are a credit to the profession, and I am proud to be your colleague.

Special thanks to Jon Baskin and Dave Campbell for working with me on admissions. Your willingness to work quickly and efficiently (even in the summer when you don't have to be reviewing files) makes my job much easier.

sDavid J. Moriarty

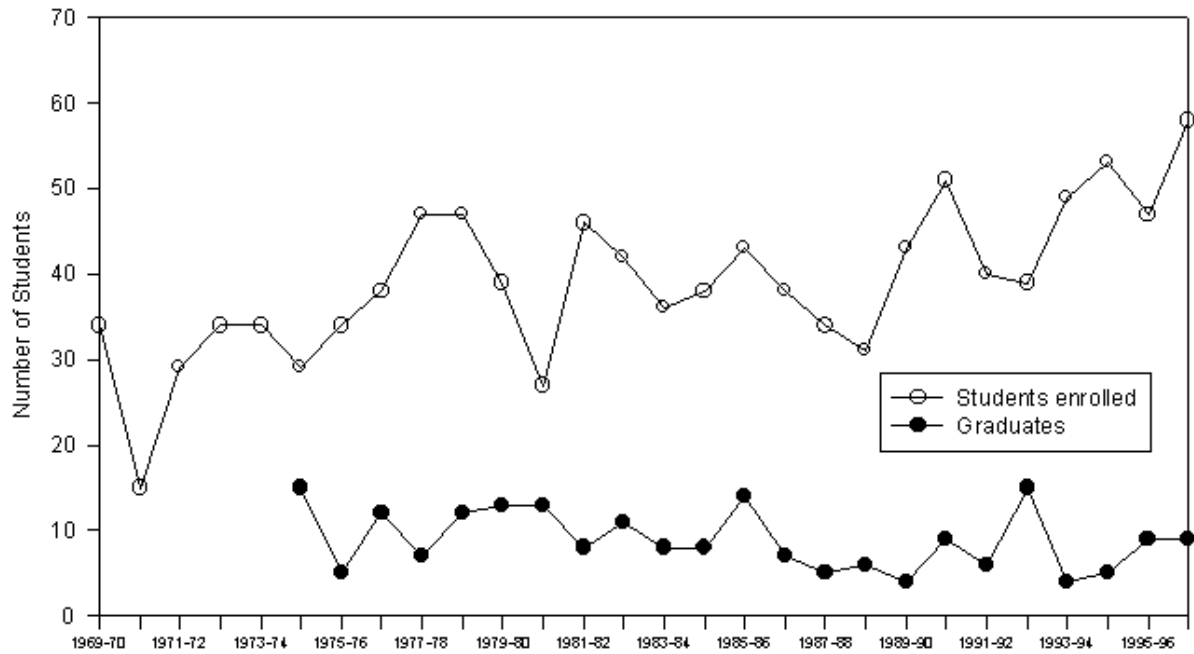


Fig. 1 Students enrolled in Fall Quarter from 1969-70 through 1996-97 (open circles), and students graduated from 1974-75 through 1996-97 (filled circles).