

# RESEARCH BRIEF

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AT FULLERTON COLLEGE

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October 2021

## Interdisciplinary Studies Degrees (IDS)

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### PURPOSE:

This report seeks to address the following questions:

1. How many overall IDS Degrees were awarded since 2015?<sup>1</sup>
2. How many students only received an IDS degree(s)?
  - a. How many students earned an IDS degree(s) and other non-IDS degree(s) in the same term?
3. What proportion of students who earn an IDS degree transfer to a four-year institution upon earning the IDS degree?

### SUMMARY:

#### How many degrees are awarded?

- 4,294 students received an IDS degree(s) since 2015.
- 2,234 students (52%) only received an IDS degree or degrees.
  - 2,060 students (48%) earned an IDS degree and a non-IDS degree.
    - 1,806 students received an IDS degree(s) and a non-IDS degrees(s) in the same term.
- 71.1% of students who earned an IDS degree have enrolled at a four-year institution as of October 2021.

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<sup>1</sup>For this project, since 2015 was defined as the Summer 2015 term through the Spring 2021 term.

**ANALYSIS:**

Since 2015, 4,294 students have earned at least one of the IDS degrees offered by Fullerton College (see Table 1). For context, there were 10,964 students who earned at least one associate degree from Fullerton College during this same timeframe. This means about 40.0% of students, or 2 in 5 students, who earned a degree from Fullerton College since 2015 earned at least one IDS degree.

*Table 1. Students Earning an IDS Degree(s) by Race / Ethnicity Identity*

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	13	0.3%
Asian	417	9.7%
Black/African American	146	3.4%
Filipino	126	2.9%
Latinx	2,422	56.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	11	0.3%
Two or More	143	3.3%
Unknown/Not Stated	102	2.4%
White Non-Hispanic	914	21.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Unduplicated student count*

In examining the 4,294 students who earned an IDS degree, approximately 8% of students were identified as student athletes or received services through Disability Support Services (8.1%). Approximately 1 in 6 students who earned an IDS degree participated in EOPS (17.7%) and a smaller percentage of students were certified veterans at 2.3%. In total, nearly one-third of students who earned an IDS degree were from students who participated in one of these four service areas and/or activities (see Table 2).

*Table 2. Students Earning an IDS Degree(s) by Program / Activity / Service Participation*

Groups	Students	Percentage
Athletes	345	8.0%
DSS	347	8.1%
EOPS	760	17.7%
Certified Veterans	99	2.3%
Unduplicated Count of the Four Populations Combined (Athletes, DSS, EOPS, Certified Veterans)	1,378	32.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,294</b>	

*Unduplicated student count*

Among the 4,294 students, there were 2,234 who only earned an IDS degree (see Table 3). In other words, more than half of the students who earned an IDS degree (52%) earned only an interdisciplinary studies degree or degrees. These 2,234 students did not earn a non-IDS associate degree. Based on the total number of degree earners since 2015, 1 in 5 (20.4%) only earned an IDS degree.

Table 3. IDS Degrees by Race / Ethnicity Identity for Students Earning Only IDS Degree

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	7	0.3%
Asian	201	9.0%
Black/African American	121	5.4%
Filipino	65	2.9%
Latinx	1,189	53.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9	0.4%
Two or More	79	3.5%
Unknown/Not Stated	55	2.5%
White Non-Hispanic	508	22.7%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Unduplicated student count*

Among the students who earned only the IDS degree, a similar proportion of students participated in and/or received services in one of four areas on campus (see Table 4). Among the 2,234 students who earned only the IDS degree, a greater proportion of students identified as student athletes and EOPS (12.6%), indicating that student athletes and EOPS were more likely to earn only an IDS degree.

Table 4. Students who Earned Only an IDS Degree(s) by Program / Activity / Service Participation

Groups	Students	Percentage
Athletes	281	12.6%
DSS	179	8.0%
EOPS	282	12.6%
Certified Veterans	42	1.9%
Unduplicated Count of the Four Populations Combined (Athletes, DSS, EOPS, Certified Veterans)	698	31.2%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>2,234</b>	

*Unduplicated student count*

Table 5 shows that the total number and types of IDS degrees earned by the 4,294 students. The IDS: Social Sciences degree was the most popular, with 1,853 degrees awarded. The IDS: Arts & Human Express degree (1,489 awards) and IDS: Social Behavior and Self-Development (1,491) had similar totals, while the IDS: Science & Math degrees had the least number of degree earners at 1,261.

Table 5. Specific IDS Degree Earned by Race / Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	IDS: Arts & Human Expression	IDS: Science & Math	IDS: Soc Behavior & Self Dev	IDS: Social Sciences	Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**	**	20
Asian	128	212	65	161	566
Black/African American	17	17	106	28	168
Filipino	35	67	35	40	177
Latinx	868	621	943	1,134	3,566
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	**	**	**	15
Two or More	64	45	43	60	212
Unknown/Not Stated	36	30	31	41	138
White Non-Hispanic	337	261	257	377	1,232
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>6,094</b>
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Duplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 10 students have been replaced with \*\*.

While there were differences in the number of students who earned each distinct IDS degree, there was also variability based upon students' racial / ethnic identities (see Table 6). For example, students who identified as Black comprised approximately 7.1% of the students who earned an IDS degree in Social Behavior and Self-Development, compared to 1% or 1.5% of the students who earned an IDS degree the other areas. For students who identified as Latinx, they comprised nearly 60% of students who earned the IDS degrees in Arts & Human Expression, Social Behavior and Self-Development, and Social Sciences, while students who identify as Latinx comprised less than 50% of students who earned an IDS Science and Math degree. Students who identified as Asian comprised approximately 8.7% of the students who earned an IDS degree in Social Behavior and Self-Development, compared about 17% of the students who earned an IDS degree in Science and Math, in addition students who identified as Filipino earn over 5% of an IDS degree in Science and Math higher than the other three IDS degrees.

Table 6. Proportion of Specific IDS Degree(s) Earned by Race / Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	IDS: Arts & Human Expression	IDS: Science & Math	IDS: Soc Behavior & Self Dev	IDS: Social Sciences	Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	8.6%	16.8%	4.4%	8.7%	9.3%
Black/African American	1.1%	1.3%	7.1%	1.5%	2.8%
Filipino	2.4%	5.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.9%
Latinx	58.3%	49.2%	63.2%	61.2%	58.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or More	4.3%	3.6%	2.9%	3.2%	3.5%
Unknown/Not Stated	2.4%	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%	2.3%
White Non-Hispanic	22.6%	20.7%	17.2%	20.3%	20.2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Duplicated student count*

The following two tables, Tables 7 and 8, replicate the information from Tables 5 and 6; however, the focus for Tables 7 and 8 is on the 2,234 students who only earned an IDS degree from Fullerton College.

Table 7. Specific IDS Degree Earned by Race / Ethnicity for Students Only Earning IDS Degree

Race/Ethnicity	IDS: Arts & Human Expression	IDS: Science & Math	IDS: Soc Behavior & Self Dev	IDS: Social Sciences	Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**	**	10
Asian	63	82	42	71	258
Black/African American	12	11	96	15	134
Filipino	16	30	22	19	87
Latinx	371	276	493	442	1,582
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	**	**	**	11
Two or More	34	18	22	27	101
Unknown/Not Stated	12	12	22	18	64
White Non-Hispanic	168	123	158	173	622
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>2,869</b>

*Duplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 10 students have been replaced with \*\*.*

Table 8. Specific IDS Degree Earned by Race / Ethnicity for Students Only Earning IDS Degree

Race/Ethnicity	IDS: Arts & Human Expression	IDS: Science & Math	IDS: Soc Behavior & Self Dev	IDS: Social Sciences	Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	9.3%	14.7%	4.9%	9.2%	9.0%
Black/African American	1.8%	2.0%	11.1%	1.9%	4.7%
Filipino	2.4%	5.4%	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%
Latinx	54.8%	49.6%	57.1%	57.2%	55.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Two or More	5.0%	3.2%	2.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Unknown/Not Stated	1.8%	2.2%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
White Non-Hispanic	24.8%	22.1%	18.3%	22.4%	21.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Duplicated student count*

There were 1,806 students who earned an IDS degree and a non-IDS degree in the same term (see Table 9). In other words, a little than half of students earning an IDS degree (48.0%) earned multiple degrees at the time of earning an IDS degree, with one of their degrees being in an area outside of the interdisciplinary studies fields. An additional 254 students had earned an IDS degree as well as a non-IDS though the awards were earned across different terms (see Table 11).

Table 9. Students who Earned an IDS degree(s) and Non-IDS Degree(s) in the Same Term

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	<1%
Asian	198	11.0%
Black/African American	24	1.3%
Filipino	54	3.0%
Latinx	1,089	60.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	<1%
Two or More	54	3.0%
Unknown/Not Stated	38	2.1%
White Non-Hispanic	344	19.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Unduplicated student count*

Among the students who earned an IDS degree(s) and a non-IDS degree in the same term (n=1,806), about one-fourth were students who had participated in EOPS (23.6%), yet only 3.2% participated in athletics (see Table 10). These proportions are notably different than for students who only earned an IDS degree (see Table 4).

Table 10. Student who Earned an IDS degree(s) and Non-IDS Degree(s) in the Same Term by Program / Activity / Service Participation

Groups	Students	Percentage
Athletes	57	3.2%
DSS	146	8.1%
EOPS	426	23.6%
Certified Veterans	49	2.7%
Unduplicated Count of the Four Populations Combined (Athletes, DSS, EOPS, Certified Veterans)	601	33.3%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,806</b>	

*Unduplicated student count*

Table 11 highlights the small proportion of students who earned an IDS degree(s) and a non-IDS degree in a different term.

Table 11. Students who Earned an IDS Degree(s) and Non-IDS Degree(s) in Different Terms

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**
Asian	18	7.1%
Black/African American	**	**
Filipino	7	2.8%
Latinx	144	56.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	**
Two or More	10	3.9%
Unknown/Not Stated	9	3.5%
White Non-Hispanic	62	24.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 6 students have been replaced with \*\*.*

Among students who earned only an IDS degree or degrees (n=2,234), over seventy percent have subsequently enrolled at a four-year institution (see Table 12). Among students who identify as Latinx, 70.1% of students who only earned an IDS degree subsequently enrolled at a four-year institution, whereas 82.6% of Black students who earned only an IDS degree enrolled at a four-year after earning their degree. This table suggests that students who earn an IDS degree are likely to be heading to a four-year college or university.

Table 12. Students Earning Only an IDS Degree(s) and Subsequent Enrollment at 4-Year Institution by Race / Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Did Not Enroll at 4-Year		Enrolled at 4-Year		Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**	**	**
Asian	54	26.9%	147	73.1%	201
Black/African American	21	17.4%	100	82.6%	121
Filipino	20	30.8%	45	69.2%	65
Latinx	355	29.9%	834	70.1%	1,189
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	**	**	**	**
Two or More	23	29.1%	56	70.9%	79
Unknown/Not Stated	15	27.3%	40	72.7%	55
White Non-Hispanic	148	29.1%	360	70.9%	508
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>2,234</b>

Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 10 students have been replaced with \*\*.

In a similar way, among students who earned an IDS degree and another degree in the same term (n=1,806), most subsequently enrolled at a four-year institution (see Table 13). The proportions of students enrolling in a four-year institution who identify as Asian, Latinx, Filipino and White were stable when comparing against the previous table. Whereas the proportion of Unknown/Not Stated students who transferred as well as the overall number of students—among those earning an IDS degree and another degree in the same term—were slightly lower.

Table 13. Students Earning an IDS Degree(s) and a Non-IDS Degree in the Same Term and Subsequent Enrollment at 4-Year Institution by Race / Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Did Not Enroll at 4-Year		Enrolled at 4-Year		Grand Total
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	**	**	**	**
Asian	56	28.3%	142	71.7%	198
Black/African American	**	**	**	**	24
Filipino	17	31.5%	37	68.5%	54
Latinx	318	29.2%	771	70.8%	1,089
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	**	**	**	**
Two or More	**	**	**	**	54
Unknown/Not Stated	14	36.8%	24	63.2%	38
White Non-Hispanic	106	30.8%	238	69.2%	344
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>29.1%</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>69.2%</b>	<b>1,806</b>

Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 9 students have been replaced with \*\*.



Table 14. shows the total number of IDS degrees earned by 4,294 students and the number of CSU, CSU and UC IGETC certification(s) earned by students who earned an IDS degree.

Status	Students	Percentage
Earned an IDS Degree(s)	4,294	
Earned CSU Gen Ed Certification	2,493	58.1%
Earned CSU IGETC Certification	570	13.3%
Earned UC IGETC Certification	578	13.5%
<i>Earned UC or CSU IGETC Certification</i>	718	16.7%
No Certifications at Fullerton College	1,142	26.6%

Unique Combinations	Students	Percentage
No Certifications at Fullerton College	1,142	
CSU Gen Ed Only	2,434	56.7%
CSU IGETC Certification Only	119	2.8%
UC IGETC Certification Only	136	3.2%
CSU Gen Ed + CSU IGETC	20	0.5%
CSU Gen Ed + UC IGETC	13	0.3%
CSU Gen Ed + CSU IGETC + UC IGETC	26	0.6%
CSU IGETC + UC IGETC	404	9.4%

Table 15. shows the total number of only earned IDS degrees earned by 2,234 students and the number of CSU, CSU and UC IGETC certification(s) earned by students who earned an IDS degree.

Status	Students	Percentage
Earned an IDS Degree(s)	2,234	
Earned CSU Gen Ed Certification	1,117	50.0%
Earned CSU IGETC Certification	217	9.7%
Earned UC IGETC Certification	215	9.6%
<i>Earned UC or CSU IGETC Certification</i>	277	12.4%
No Certifications at Fullerton College	850	38.0%

Unique Combinations	Students	Percentage
No Certifications at Fullerton College	850	
CSU Gen Ed Only	1,107	49.6%
CSU IGETC Certification Only	59	2.5%
UC IGETC Certification Only	59	2.5%
CSU Gen Ed + CSU IGETC	**	*
CSU Gen Ed + UC IGETC	**	**
CSU Gen Ed + CSU IGETC + UC IGETC	6	0.2%
CSU IGETC + UC IGETC	149	6.7%

*Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 5 students have been replaced with \*\*.*

Table 16. shows the total number of only earned IDS degrees earned by 850 student and did not earn GE certification(s).

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	0.5%
Asian	59	6.9%
Black/African American	95	11.2%
Filipino	20	2.4%
Latinx	389	45.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	0.4%
Two or More	29	3.4%
Unknown/Not Stated	21	2.5%
White Non-Hispanic	230	27.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 6 students have been replaced with \*\*.*

Table 17. shows the total number of only earned IDS degrees earned by 850 student and did not earn GE certification(s).

Groups	Students	Percentage
Athletes	208	24.5%
DSS	79	9.3%
EOPS	76	8.9%
Certified Veterans	19	2.2%
Unduplicated Count of the Four Populations Combined (Athletes, DSS, EOPS, Certified Veterans)	333	39.2%

Table 18. shows the total number of only earned IDS degrees earned by 1,384 student and earn at least one GE certification(s).

Race/Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Am. Indian or Alaskan Native	**	0.2%
Asian	142	10.3%
Black/African American	26	1.9%
Filipino	45	3.3%
Latinx	800	57.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	**	0.4%
Two or More	50	3.6%
Unknown/Not Stated	34	2.5%
White Non-Hispanic	278	27.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Unduplicated student count. Boxes with fewer than 6 students have been replaced with \*\*.

Table 19. shows the total number of only earned IDS degrees earned by 1,384 student and earn at least one GE certification(s).

Groups	Students	Percentage
Athletes	73	5.3%
DSS	100	7.2%
EOPS	206	14.9%
Certified Veterans	23	1.7%
Unduplicated Count of the Four Populations Combined (Athletes, DSS, EOPS, Certified Veterans)	365	26.4%