

# RESEARCH MEMO

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AT FULLERTON COLLEGE



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## Overview of Certificate Earners 2019-2024

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The following memo provides additional information for two reports published by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness; [OIE Memo – Associate Degree FAQ](#) and [OIE Memo – IDS Degrees Fall 2024 Update](#)

The data in this report includes all students who have earned a certificate from summer 2019 through the summer 2024 term. Over that time, 9,979 certificates have been awarded to students (Table 1 below). The most common type of certificate awarded were those that required at least 30 units, but less than 60 units. As a note, some certificate types are no longer being offered at the college and are marked with an asterisk.

**Table 1. Total Certificates 2019-2024**

Certificate Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*	Total
60 or more units	1	1	*	*	*	*	2
30 to 59.5 units	1,808	2,132	1,943	1,728	1,646	60	9,317
16 to 29.5 Units	66	106	71	126	111	0	480
8 to 15.5 Units	4	19	18	46	83	0	170
6 to 17.5 Units	10	*	*	*	*	*	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9,979</b>

\*Summer 2024 only

Table 2 includes the unduplicated count of certificates in any given year. Since the summer of 2019, 9,930 individual students have earned a certificate in that time.

**Table 2. Unduplicated Count of Certificate Earners 2019-2024**

Certificate Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*	Unduplicated Total
60 or more units	1	1	*	*	*	*	2
30 to 59.5 units	1,780	2,091	1,890	1,677	1,598	60	9,000
16 to 29.5 Units	60	99	65	107	95	0	416
8 to 15.5 Units	4	19	18	46	80	0	165
6 to 17.5 Units	8	*	*	*	*	*	8
<b>Unduplicated Total</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9,390</b>

\*Summer 2024 only

Of the 9,390 students who earned a certificate during the time period, about 58% were Latina/o/x, about 18% were White, and 13% Asian (Table 3 on the next page). For reference, in the 2023-2024 academic year, Latina/o/x students made up about 58% of the collegewide population.

**Table 3. 2019-2024 Certificate Earners by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	Unduplicated Count	Percent	2023-2024 Collegewide Headcount (N = 26,904)
American Indian or Alaska Native	14	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	1,225	13.0%	12.9%
Black or African American	154	1.6%	3.2%
Filipino	135	1.4%	0.2%
Latina/o/x	5,429	57.8%	58.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	0.1%	0.2%
Race/ethnicity unknown	192	2.0%	1.7%
Two or more races	572	6.1%	8.8%
White	1,656	17.6%	14.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Certificates by Program

During the time period, 9,979 certificates were awarded from 134 different programs. The top 10 most awarded programs are listed in Table 4 on the next page. About 61% of all certificates were for Cal State University (CSU GE) General Education Breadth Requirement completion, and another 22% were for Intersegmental General Education (IGETC) completion.

Per the Fullerton College catalog,

*The CSU GE Breadth Certification is a 39 unit pattern which fulfills the lower division general education requirements for the Bachelor Degree at the California State University. The IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) is a 37-39 unit pattern which fulfills the lower division general education requirements for the Bachelor Degree at either the University of California or the California State University.*

*Certification means Fullerton College has determined these requirements have been met and a notation is made on the transcript. If the student transfers without certification, the university may require the student to complete additional lower division general education.*

These two general education certificates were followed by several Career Technical Education (CTE) certificates, including Cosmetology and Paralegal studies.

**Table 4. Total Certificates by Program Name 2019-2024 (Top 10 Only)**

Program Name	Count	Percent of All Certificates Awarded
CSU General Education Certificate	6,102	61.1%
IGETC General Education Certificate	2,191	22.0%
Cosmetology	545	5.5%
Paralegal Studies	158	1.6%
Biotechnology Lab Asst Skills	59	0.6%
Welding Technology	30	0.3%
Accounting	28	0.3%
Music Recording/Production	26	0.3%
Interior Design Assistant	25	0.3%
Television and Film Production	24	0.2%
All Other Programs	579	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,979</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Unduplicated Counts by Type of Certificates

Over the last few years, the College has made significant efforts to increase the number of students earning awards. These efforts include the introduction of new certificates and degrees, and intentional outreach to students who apply for graduation. As noted in [OIE Memo – Associate Degree FAQ](#), about 35% of students during the time period earned more than one degree.

For certificate earners, duplication is much less common; less than 4% of students earned multiple certificates between 2019-2024 (Table 5).

**Table 5. Certificate Completers by Type of Certificates Earned 2019-2024**

Certificate Categories	Unduplicated Count	Percent
CSU GE Only	5,783	61.6%
IGETC Only	1,933	20.6%
CTE Only	1,315	14.0%
CSU GE/IGETC	216	2.3%
CSU GE/CTE	101	1.1%
CTE/IGETC	40	0.4%
All Three Categories	2	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 6 on the next page disaggregates the students who earned a certificate by race/ethnicity. Of note, while Latina/o/x students made up about 63% of all CSU GE Only earners, they made up only 45% of IGETC earners and 54% of CTE only earners.

**Table 6. Certificate Completers by Type of Certificates Earned and Ethnicity 2019-2024**

Ethnicity	CSU GE Only		IGETC Only		CTE Only	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	0.2%	3	0.2%	1	0.1%
Asian	493	8.5%	541	28.0%	137	10.4%
Black or African American	96	1.7%	29	1.5%	23	1.7%
Filipino	86	1.5%	31	1.6%	10	0.8%
Latina/o/x	3,638	62.9%	862	44.6%	713	54.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	11	0.2%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Race/ethnicity unknown	115	2.0%	32	1.7%	39	3.0%
Two or more races	323	5.6%	152	7.9%	78	5.9%
White	1,012	17.5%	282	14.6%	314	23.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Certificates and Degrees

While there were few students who earned multiple certificates, a significant number of certificate earners also received an associate degree (Table 7). About 94% of CSU GE certificate earners and 79% of IGETC earners also received an associate degree. In contrast, about 3/4<sup>th</sup>s of students who earned a CTE certificate did not earn a degree.

**Table 7. Certificate Completers by 2019-2024**

Category	CSU GE		IGETC		CTE	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Certificate Only	359	5.9%	461	21.0%	1,068	73.3%
Certificate and Degree	5,743	94.1%	1,730	79.0%	390	26.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,102</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 8 breaks out the counts of degrees by type: Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), Interdisciplinary Associate Degrees (IDS), and Associate Degrees (AA). About 99% of students that earned an ADT also earned a certificate, with 80% specifically earning a CSU certificate. About 70% of IDS earners also earned a certificate, with a slight majority earning a CSU certificate.

**Table 8. Counts of Degree and Certificate Earners by Categories 2019-2024**

Certificate Earned	Earned ADT (N = 5,674)		Earned IDS (N = 4,118)		Earned AA (N = 3,555)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<b>CTE</b>	84	1%	89	2%	332	9%
<b>CSU GE</b>	4,566	80%	2,137	52%	1,216	34%
<b>IGETC</b>	1,212	21%	781	19%	532	15%
<b>No Certificate</b>	43	1%	1,273	31%	1,628	46%