



Engineering and Computer Sciences Initiative Exceeds Goals

The enrollment of engineering and computer science students is at an all time high at the University of California, exceeding UC goals ahead of schedule.

Responding to a strong need for high tech graduates, UC President Richard C. Atkinson launched the Initiative in Engineering and Computer and Information Sciences in 1997-98. The initiative has since considerably expanded enrollment in engineering disciplines for California's students.

Forecasts call for continued demand for new engineers and computer scientists, with US Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting the number of jobs for computer scientists will double nationally between 1998 and 2008.

- **Total Enrollment Growth***: Enrollment for graduate and undergraduate students in computer science and engineering has exceeded goals set when the President's initiative was launched. UC created an eight-year plan to boost student enrollment in computer science and engineering to 24,300 by 2005-06, an increase of 50 percent over 1997 levels. In 2001-02, UC met the enrollment goals, fulfilling its commitment four years ahead of schedule. Currently, 25,058 undergraduate and graduate students in computer science and engineering attend UC, up from 15,889 in 1998. This is already 103 percent of the goals set for 2006.

Undergraduate enrollment growth surpassed the original objective of 17,500, with 19,632 students enrolled in computer science and engineering this year. That is up from 11,580 in 1997-98 and 112 percent of the 2006 objectives.

Graduate students in computer science and engineering also increased, with 5,426 students currently enrolled, up from 4,309 students in 1997-98. Present levels are 80 percent of the UC goal of enrolling 6,810 graduate students by 2006.

- **Campus by Campus***: All eight campuses in the UC system have experienced substantial levels of growth in computer science and engineering. Enrollment at UC Riverside grew from 264 undergraduates in 1997-98 to 1,472 currently enrolled, exceeding its goal by 139 percent. The number of computer science and engineering students at UC Irvine went from 1,469 to 3,530; at UC San Diego from 2,449 to 3,621 and at UC Santa Cruz from 292 to 1,180, all exceeding the goals set in the initial plan by considerable margins. The other UC campuses showed similar growth.

Graduate enrollment in computer science and engineering also grew. UC San Diego boosted its graduate student enrollment from 423 to 818, UC Berkeley from 1,325 to 1,397 and UC Santa Barbara from 455 to 568. UC Berkeley saw 95 percent of its initial 2006 goal reached by this year.

- **Enrollment by Engineering Discipline:** UC is committed to strong engineering and computer science majors across all fields of study. UC expanded existing engineering disciplines, started new programs such as UC Santa Cruz's College of Engineering and saw enrollment grow as these efforts took root. For example, undergraduate Computer Engineering majors at UC have more than doubled, from 5,763 in 1995 to 12,427 in 2001, an increase of 116 percent. On the graduate level, Computer Engineers have jumped by 48 percent to 3,068 students, up from 2,074 in 1995.

Additionally, 2001 undergraduates in Engineering Science were up 232 percent to 405 students, Mechanical and Aerospace engineers were up 36 percent to 3,000 students and Bioengineering and Agricultural majors were up 75 percent to 1,137 students when compared to 1995 levels.

Graduate enrollment experienced similar growth, with Bioengineering and Agricultural majors up 248 percent to 348 students, Chemical Engineers up 19 percent to 710 students, Structural Engineers up 93 percent to 58 students and Mechanical and Aerospace majors up 5 percent to 814 students.

- **What's Next:** Although the high-tech sector has suffered financial setbacks, the U.S. Labor Department expects the demand for engineers and computer scientists will rise sharply as the economy rebounds.

* Statistics reflect FTE (full-time equivalent) students.