INTRODUCTION

This report examines the ethnicity of San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) students transferring to the University of California (UC) during the past nine academic years—1994/95 – 2002/03. In addition, Statewide transfer figures are also presented. These data are the most recently available information available from the University of California and the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

FINDINGS

- Figure 1 displays the ethnic composition of the 2,275 SMCCCD students who transferred to UC. The ethnic composition of these UC transfers is as follows:
  - African American – 1.3%
  - Asian – 40.7%
  - Hispanic – 10.2%
  - Filipino – 7.7%
  - Other/Unknown – 11.7%
  - White – 28.4%
Figures 2 – 4 present UC transfer data for each of the three colleges comprising the SMCCCD.

As a point of comparison, Figure 5 displays the Fall 2003 ethnic composition of the SMCCCD as a whole and each of the colleges.

Figure 6 displays the Statewide total for UC transfers from the entire California Community College system:
- African American – 1.9%
- Asian – 24.8%
- Hispanic – 14.0%
- Filipino – 3.1%
- Other/Unknown – 13.5%
- White – 42.8%

Statewide, the ethnic composition of all students enrolled in the California Community College system is shown in Figure 7:
- African American – 7.2%
- Asian – 13.1%
- Hispanic – 27.8%
- Filipino – 3.5%
- Other/Unknown – 9.9%
- White – 38.5%

CONCLUSION

The transfer function remains at the core of California’s Master Plan promise of access to higher education for all of its citizens. This is evident insofar as the California Community Colleges enroll three-fourths of the State’s college students and an even larger share of college-going minority students. However, the State’s current fiscal crisis and budget-related enrollment restrictions will likely increase the disproportional college enrollment of various ethnic groups. In order to avoid an additional narrowing of the transfer function, the State’s policy-makers must continue to seek ways to address the rising barriers to transfer, particularly for African American and Hispanic students.

The data presented in this report indicate ethnic differences in the proportion of UC transfers as compared to the ethnic composition of the total enrolled student population. These differences vary by individual SMCCCD College. Generally speaking, these local differences reflect the Statewide “dis-proportion” found between the total student population and the UC transfer population.