

Pre-Academic Program For Senacyt Scholars (PAPSS)
Annual Report FY 2012-2013

Graduate School and International Education



Memorandum

TO: Lynn Mosesso, Director of International Recruitment and Admissions

FROM: Patricia Gamboa, Associate Director of Special Programs

SUBJECT: Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS)
Annual Report FY 2012-13

DATE: June 19, 2013

Introduction

This report describes the work accomplished under the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS) during project period June 2012-June 2013. The mission of PAPSS is to prepare participating scholars for college success at the University of Arkansas. Under this mission PAPSS focused on the following areas:

- (1) Enrollment management;
- (2) Partnership and budget management;
- (3) Scholar orientation and academic adjustment;
- (4) Campus and community programming;
- (5) Scholar progress and recognition; and,
- (6) Program evaluation.

1) Enrollment management

- Fall 2012- 36 scholars applied for admission- 32 enrolled, 2 denied, 2 deferred admission.
- Group 1 and Group 2 enroll spring 2013- 32 scholars enrolled at the University of Arkansas and Spring International Language Center (SILC), 19 enrolled in Phase II and 13 enrolled in Phase I. Sixteen male and sixteen female students. (Please view program demographics, final page.)
- Patricia Gamboa, International Recruitment, and College of Engineering conducted Skype meetings with PAPSS Group 1 & 2 on August 2, 2012 and September 28, 2012. Patricia Gamboa and current PAPSS Scholars coordinated a SENACYT Group 3 Skype meeting on May 31, 2013.
- Patricia Gamboa provided assistance with the undergraduate admissions packet, 8 semester plans, communication via SKYPE, email in Spanish/English, budgets, customized orientation and travel guides for Group 1, Group 2, & Group 3 prior to arrival.
- Lynn Mosesso, Director of International Admissions, delivered admission letters to scholars in a formal ceremony held in Panama City, Panama with Dr. Ruben Berrocal, the Secretary of Science and National Secretary of Science Technology.
- Patricia Gamboa coordinated a Parent Orientation November 17, 2012 in David, Chiriqui Panama and welcomed parents and scholars to the program.

2) Partnership and budget management

- Patricia Gamboa and Lynn Mosesso visited Panama on November 12-17, 2012 and met with SENACYT, EducationUSA Panama, University of Arkansas Alumni Association, and PAPSS parents and scholars in David, Chiriqui.
- PAPSS staff maintained liaison relationship with SENACYT/IFARHU and assisted in visits to the University of Arkansas from President Ricardo Martinelli and Dr. Ruben Berrocal, National Secretary of SENACYT on September 15, 2012 and May 10, 2013.
- Patricia Gamboa submitted 36 individual student budgets for Phase I, II and III to SENACYT representatives.
- Melissa Jean Erwin, financial manager, designed the program budget and established cost centers.

3) Scholar orientation and academic adjustment

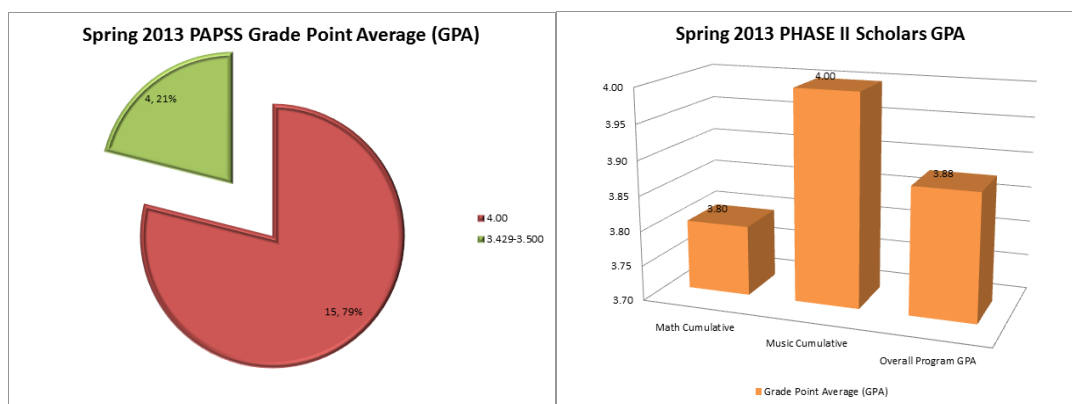
- Spring 2013-PAPSS staff worked with SILC and International Students and Scholars (ISS) to coordinate student arrival, airport pick up, temporary housing, dorm move-in, and orientation for 32 scholars. Nineteen scholars attended ISS and SILC orientation. Thirteen scholars attended SILC Orientation.
- Nineteen scholars completed the Compass Exam.
- Thirty-two scholars resided in UA housing and had American roommates during the spring term, 2013.
- PAPSS distributed six temporary cell phones which permitted students to text and make phone calls to university offices and each other.
- Michael Rau established the University of Arkansas PAPSS Program Facebook. The program used Blackboard Learn Announcements, [University of Arkansas PAPSS Program Facebook](#), and UARK email to disseminate information to scholars, parents, and partners.
- PAPSS partnered with the Enhanced Learning Center to hire a music tutor, two math tutors, and one supplemental instructor for Spring, 2013. Scholars attended one mandatory session per week.
- Patricia Gamboa hired, trained and matched 14 Panamanian student mentors through the PAPSS Pathway Mentoring Program. Mentors' had one contact per week with their student mentee and submitted monthly summary sheets.
- Incoming Group 3 scholars were matched with currently enrolled Group 1 and 2 scholars through a Peer Ambassador Program.

4) Campus and community programming

- Patricia Gamboa maintained office hours at SILC to foster effective relationships with scholars.
- Scholars attended social activities with SILC. These activities included: bowling, Leverett Elementary International Festival, Mardi Gras Party, Fat Saturday Parade, First Thursday, Friday Night Live, and other student activities.
- Scholars actively participated in programs coordinated through ISS including: The Conversation Club, Ifriend Program, Dance Around the World, Dominican Immersion Program and the Panama Geography Series.
- PAPSS staff held regular meetings through the Undergraduate University Success Series. The topics included: PAPSS Welcome meeting, University 101, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, budget management, housing, attendance, and program survey.
- Twenty five scholars attended a socio-cultural activity to Dallas March 21-23, 2013. The trip was coordinated by Michael Rau and included visits to the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington, El Fenix Restaurant and Fort Worth, Stockyards.

5) Scholar progress and recognition

- University of Arkansas (19 enrolled)
 - Scholar academic progress was monitored using the 6 week progress reports. An academic success plan was created for any scholar below a 2.75 GPA during early progress.
 - Spring term, 2013 mean GPA was a 3.88 with 15 of 19 obtaining a 4.00 GPA.



- Spring International Language Center (32 enrolled- 19 part-time; 13 full-time)
 - The PAPSS program recognized the accomplishments of several scholars that received certificates at SILC's Award Ceremony-Spring I 2013. Straight A recipients included: Jonathan Quiel Madrid, Edgar Escala Calame, Isaac Vargas Lopez, Sandra Amador Sanchez, Rolando Morales Ortega, Ruth Guerra Marin, Agustin Caceres Gonzalez, Anibal Castillo Miranda, and Laury Quiel Lopez. Perfect attendance award recipients included: Lourdes Mejia Acosta, Kimberly Alfaro, Susany Rincon Aguirre, and Stephanie Gibbs Pinzon. Layseen

Chen Torres, Bolivar Gonzalez Caballero, and David Carballo Rojas received straight A's and perfect attendance.

- Straight A recipients from SILC's Award Ceremony- Spring II included Jonathan Quiel, Isaac Vargas, Layseen Chen, David Carballo, and Kimberly Guerra. The following scholars obtained high scores in the Michigan English Test (MET) Mauricellis Diaz, Stephanie Gibbs & Jonathan Quiel. Mauricellis Diaz, David Carballo, and Sandra Amador graduated from SILC.
- PAPSS Scholar Isaac Argel Vargas Lopez, French horn player, auditioned and was accepted to the University of Arkansas Concert Band.
- PAPSS Scholar Sandra Amador participated and completed the Emerging Leaders program sponsored by New Student & Family Programs.
- PAPSS Scholars Mauricellis Diaz, Rolando Morales and Edson Caceres performed Panamanian Folkloric dances in traditional costumes and hair ornaments at the university.
- The PAPSS Mentor & Tutor Recognition Reception was held on May 9, 2013.

6) Program Evaluation

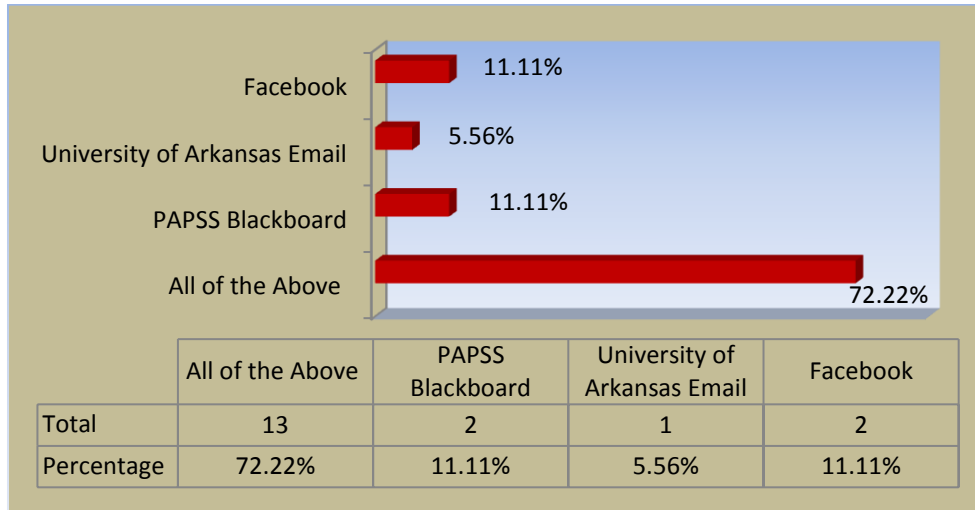
Scholars filled out a survey to determine overall satisfaction after the spring term, 2013. This evaluation will direct program expansion and continuous improvement for the 2013-14 academic year. Data was captured using Survey Monkey online via an email and web link sent directly to 32 scholars with a return rate is 56% (fourteen complete, four incomplete).

The findings inform us that scholars prefer all current communication methods and overall satisfaction for tutoring and mentoring was high. Scholars prefer monthly group meetings with topics that include academic conduct and standards, financial management, and leadership. Scholars prefer to visit St. Louis, Missouri and are interested in participating in an ambassador based program. The open ended questions inform the program of its strengths and areas for improvement. In an effort to improve communication, PAPSS will provide monthly student updates beginning in August, 2013 that will be posted on blackboard, email and announced at monthly meetings.

PAPSS Survey Results for Spring, 2013

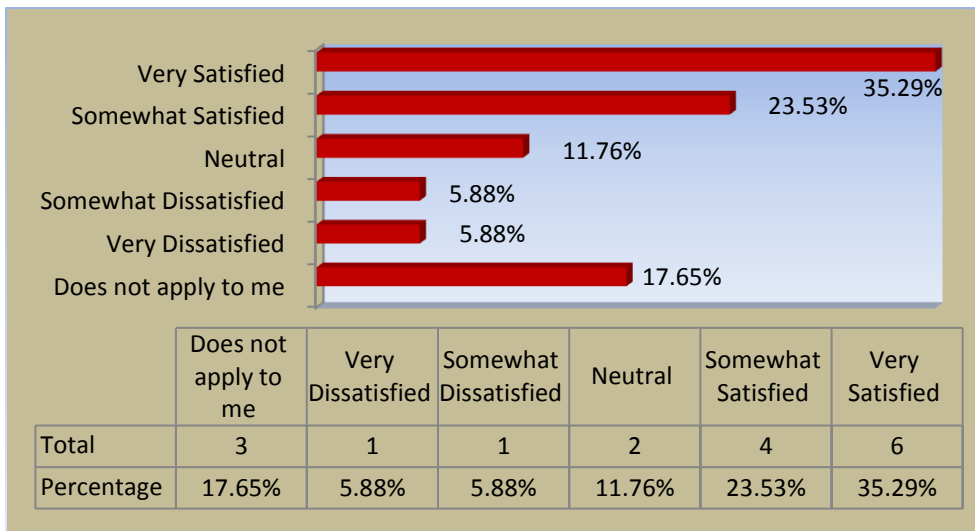
1) What communication method do you prefer for program information?

- Answered: 18
- Skipped: 0



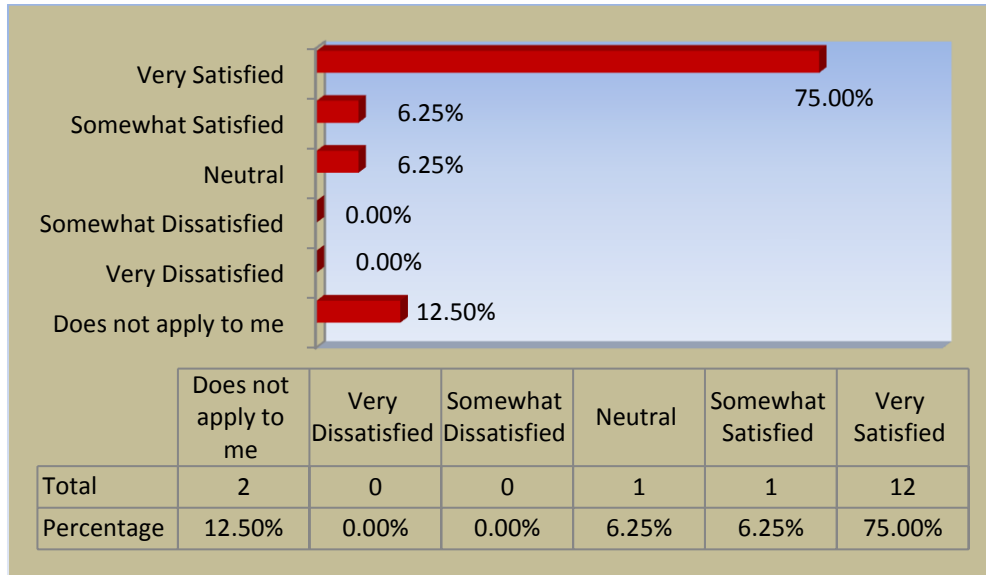
2) (Phase II students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with your Mentor from the PAPSS Pathway Mentoring Program.

- Answered: 17
- Skipped: 1



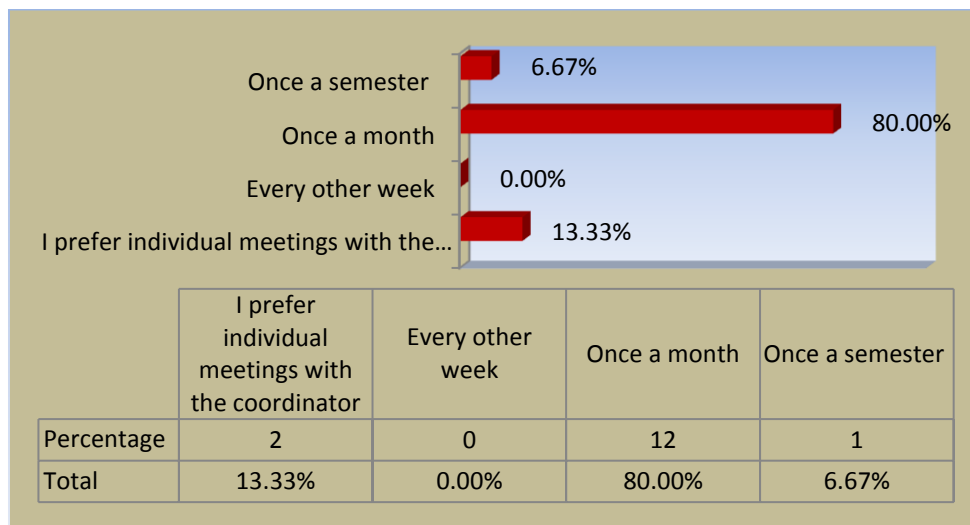
3. **(Phase II students) Please rate your level of satisfaction with Supplemental Instruction and Tutoring.**

- Answered: 16
- Skipped: 2



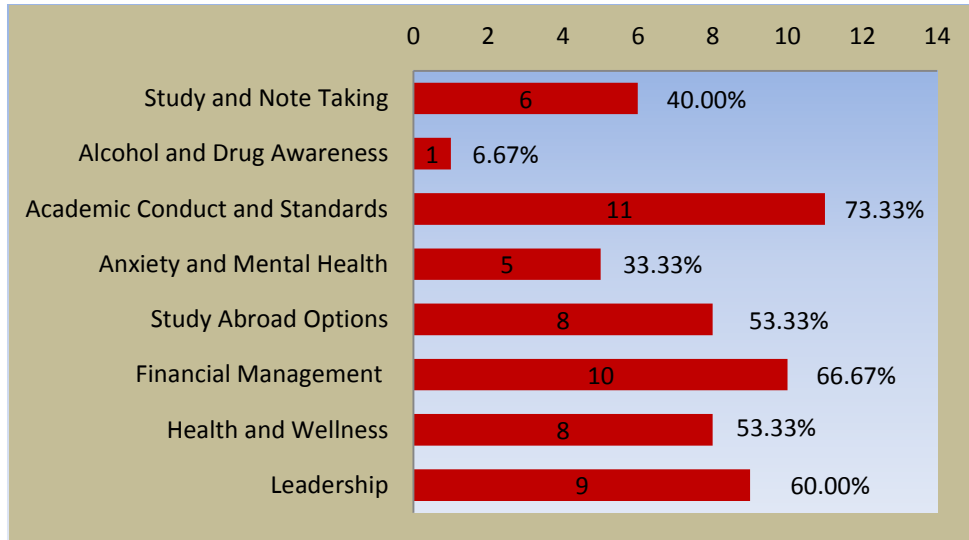
4. **Group meetings are required. Please indicate your preference for frequency of PAPSS group meetings.**

- Answered: 15
- Skipped: 3



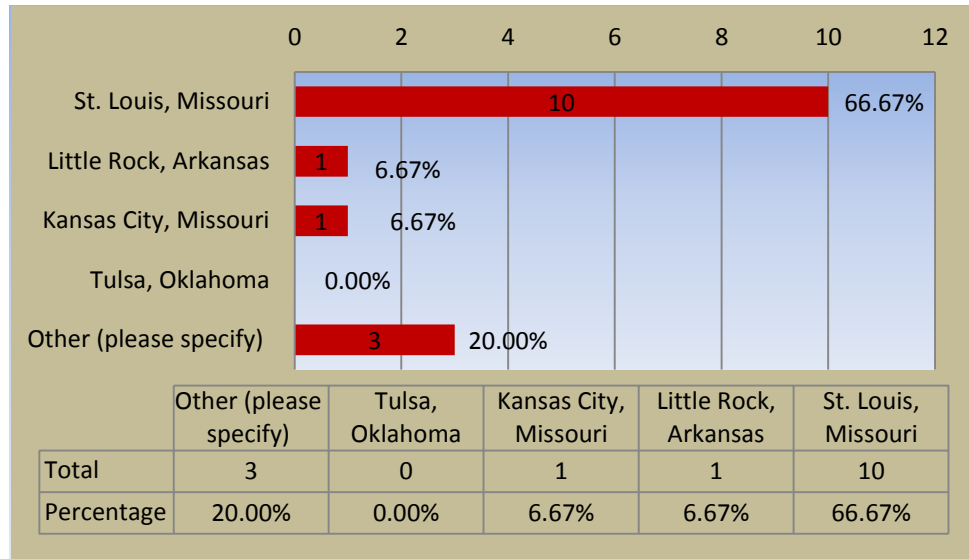
5. Please indicate the workshops you would like to have scheduled during PAPSS group meetings.

- Answered: 15
- Skipped: 3



6. Please let us know what social and recreational field trip you prefer.

- Answered: 15
- Skipped: 3



Other (please specify): 1) California 2) New York, California 3) Chicago, Illinois

7. What has been your biggest challenge this semester?

- Answered: 14
- Skipped: 4

Managing time
My biggest challenge will be to get straight A.
A new level in my English courses which required more concentration and dedication to my studies.
Passing with straight's A
Learn how to speak English.
The weather was my biggest challenges... But Everything was great for me... Thanks for all..
I couldn't understand some people
Getting used to be far away from my family and in a different place than Panama.
My biggest challenge this semester was being part time at the university and SILC
I think that the biggest challenge was to be organize between SILC and the University, yet it is not impossible to be successful. If everyone were aware about what we really have to do here, all could be really succeeded. I have to say thanks to all the people who have been helping us with everything.
To write a research argumentative essay.
Estar lejos de mi familia y adaptarme a la cultura aqui. (Being away from family and adapting to the culture)
Understand the lectures
NA

8. What do you like best about the Pre-Academic Program for SENACYT Scholars (PAPSS) and/or the University of Arkansas?

- Answered: 14
- Skipped: 4

Organization and helpfulness
I like most of the things that this program and the University have offered us.
The kindness of the coordinators and assistants. They are always able to help you.
How the program is going
Patience
They encourage us to have a great success
We can share our experience
How calm and secure it is to be here. Also, the help Patricia has given me.

What I like the best is all the support that everybody has received from the program and the university. I think we are lucky in having such a nice people helping us.
I like the organization of everything. Thanks to Patricia, Lynn, and Michael that are always with the Panamanian students. The University has been pretty good. I loved it. It is totally different from Panama, but the professors, advisers, and all the people have been very helpful.
That we have someone to ask for information.
The program is really helpful.
The opportunities you have as a student
Me encanta este programa porque tenemos personas que estan dispuestas a guiarnos y apoyarnos. Somos muy afortunados, porque tenemos ese respaldo de personas como Patty and Mike para ayudarnos en cualquier momento (I love this program because we have individuals who are available to guide and help us. We are very fortunate because we have the support of Patty and Mike who will help us at any time.)

9. What can we do to improve the program or your experience at the University of Arkansas?

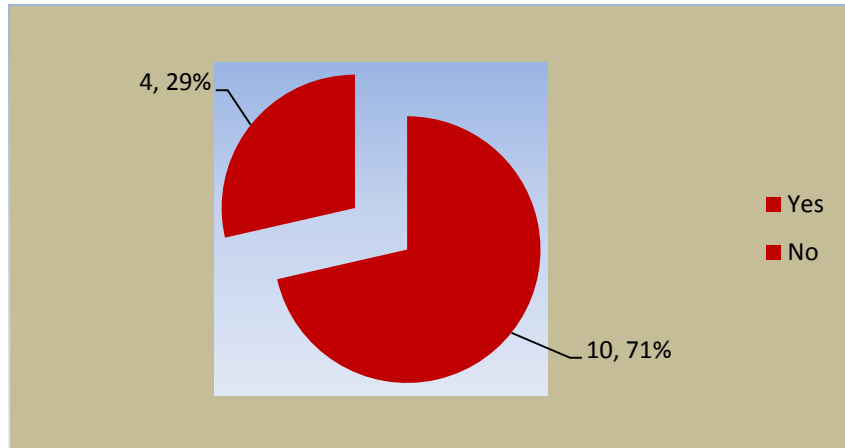
- Answered: 14
- Skipped: 4

Probably be more clear and specific when conveying information
One option can be to get enroll in more activities at the U of A. I mean social activities.
I think the PAPSS program brings an excellent support to all the students.
Talk to the students
Everything is ok.
You have to explain more clearly because sometimes you told us something but it isn't clear...
Making trip
Everything is good.
Nothing, it is excellent
I think that sometime should we have more communication. Making more meetings with all the PAPSS could be solution, in this way all are going to know the same. Maybe some time there are misunderstanding.
That if information is given to a student, it should be said for all of the other PAPSS students. Everybody should know the same and not just a group of them.
To improve communication between scholars and the people who manage PAPSS

Try to keep in constant touch with us and have clear information
Seguir en con los mismos metodos! (Follow the same methods!)

10. Would you like to be a member of a PAPSS Student Ambassador Program? (serve as student representative for program and assist with planning of social events)

- Answered: 14
- Skipped: 4



PAPSS Demographics

PAPSS Enrollment 1133-1139		Group 1			Group 2			Group 3		
University of Arkansas	Term	Total	Credit Hours		Total	Credit Hours		Total	Credit Hours	
	1133	19	7 Hours		0	—		0	—	
	1136	13	3-6 Hours		0	—		0	—	
	1139	*20	12-18 Hours		*2	12-18 Hours		0	—	
*5		7 Hours		*4	7 Hours		0	—		
SILC Enrollment	Term	Total	Term 1	Term 2	Total	Term 1	Term 2	Total	Term 1	Term 2
	1133	19	Part Time		6	Full-Time		0	—	
		7	—	Full-Time		—				
	1136	13	Full-Time		6	Full-Time		0	—	
	1139	*5	Part Time		*4	Part-Time		*22	—	
*1		Full-Time		Full-Time		—	Full-Time			
Major		Group 1 Total	Male	Female	Group 2 Total	Male	Female	*Group 3 Total	Male	Female
	Animal Science	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
	Biological Engineering	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
	Biomedical Engineering	4	1	3	—	—	—	2	2	—
	Chemical Engineering	5	4	1	1	—	1	3	3	—
	Civil Engineering	2	—	2	1	1	—	6	3	3
	Community Health Promotion	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Computer Engineering	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
	Computer Science	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	Electrical Engineering	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
	Food Science, Food Technology	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Industrial Engineering	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	2	1
	Mechanical Engineering	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
	Psychology	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Supply Chain Management	7	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Total		26	13	13	6	3	3	*22	*15	*7

*Tentative Numbers