
DATE: September 22, 2025

TO: Kristina Whalen, President

FROM: Matt Weisinger, Senior Research Analyst
Elaine Kuo, Director

RE: Characteristics of Fall 2025 students in each Career and Academic Pathway
(CAP): Preliminary Analysis

In 2022, Foothill College launched eight Career and Academic Pathways (CAPs) as part of the state's Guided Pathways initiative. The CAPs aim to clarify possible academic journeys for the students, by grouping similar programs (majors, degrees, and certificates) and providing useful information about them. Moreover, the college envisions each CAP as a community of students, faculty, and staff sharing experiences, resources, and spaces that are relevant to their related interests and goals.

Since each program is assigned to a single CAP, each student can be viewed as a member of a single CAP community based on their declared goal. This report looks at demographic and registration data for Fall 2025 students associated with each CAP community.

When this report was produced (Sep 17, 2025), there were 12,639 students registered in at least one course (credit or noncredit) at Foothill College for Fall 2025. Based on a student's declared program goal (as of Fall 2025), each student was assigned to one of the eight CAPs, a "High School" group, or a "De Anza" group.

This report disaggregates the student counts by CAP along with:

- Declared award
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Age group
- Unit load
- Student type
- Educational goal
- Highest education level
- Income status

CAP community size

Table 1 below shows the number of Fall 2025 students associated with each CAP community.

- The four largest CAPs by number of students (Health Sciences & Wellness, STEM, Business, and Society, Culture, & Development) account for 57% of Fall 2025 students.
- The four smallest CAPs (Industrial Technology & Building Trades, Arts & Media, Education, and Explorer) make up 19% of Fall 2025 students.
- The remaining 24% of Fall 2025 students belong to two large groups that are currently not assigned to one of the eight CAPs.
 - 15% of the students are in “De Anza” group, which consists of students that declared a (possibly outdated) De Anza program as their goal while they were enrolled at De Anza College prior to their Fall 2025 enrollment at Foothill.
 - 9% of the students are dual enrolled as High School students.

Table 1. Foothill College Count and Share of Students by CAP, Fall 2025.

CAP	Fall '25 students	Share of students
Arts & Media	708	6%
Business	1,543	12%
Education	354	3%
Explorer	297	2%
Health Sciences & Wellness	2,391	19%
Industrial Technology & Building Trades	1,065	8%
Society, Culture, & Human Development	1,372	11%
STEM	1,930	15%
High School	1,125	9%
De Anza	1,854	15%
TOTAL	12,639	100%

Declared award

Table 2 below shows the number of Fall 2025 students by CAP and declared award type.

- Overall, 54% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students have declared an AA/AS degree as their goal. Explorer (71%), Business (70%), and Arts & Media (68%) have larger shares of students pursuing an AA/AS degree.
- Society, Culture, & Human Development (37%) and STEM (31%) have the larger shares of students declaring ADT.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades has a higher percentage (66%) declaring a certificate.
- High School students have not declared a degree or certificate by definition.
- Table 1 above showed that Health Sciences & Wellness is the largest CAP with 19% of the Fall 2025 students. The most declared program under this CAP is “Associate in Science in Radiologic Technology” with 809 students. This finding indicates strong interest but are not acceptances into this program (or other allied health programs), and includes students who are still completing the prerequisite requirements prior to submitting their application.

Table 2. Foothill College Count of Students by CAP and Degree/Certificate, Fall 2025.

CAP	BS	ADT	AA/AS	Certificate	Other
Arts & Media	0	132	483	93	0
Business	0	351	1,082	110	0
Education	0	62	195	97	0
Explorer	0	45	211	41	0
Health Sciences & Wellness	345	319	1,589	138	0
Industrial Technology & Building Trades	0	0	367	698	0
Society, Culture, & Human Development	0	503	845	23	1
STEM	0	601	1,163	166	0
High School	0	0	0	0	1,125
De Anza	0	495	842	228	289
TOTAL	345	2,508	6,777	1,594	1,415

Gender

Table 3 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by gender for each CAP.

- Overall, 50% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students self-identify as Female.
- Education (90%) and Health Sciences & Wellness (70%) report higher share of Females.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades report mostly as Male (93%).

Table 3. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Gender, Fall 2025.

Gender	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
Male	45%	52%	9%	47%	27%	93%	36%	54%	48%	48%	47%
Female	49%	46%	90%	47%	70%	5%	59%	42%	45%	51%	50%
B, N, Unreported	6%	3%	1%	6%	3%	2%	5%	4%	7%	1%	4%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Ethnicity

Table 4 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by ethnicity for each CAP.

- Overall, 34% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students self-identify as Latinx.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades (54%), Health Sciences & Wellness (51%), and Education (40%) report higher share of Latinx students.
- De Anza (46%) and High School (40%) report higher share of Asian students.

Table 4. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Ethnicity, Fall 2025.

Ethnicity	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
Asian	19%	32%	26%	19%	18%	6%	24%	32%	40%	46%	28%
Black	7%	6%	3%	7%	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Filipinx	3%	3%	1%	3%	8%	4%	4%	4%	2%	6%	5%
Latinx	29%	28%	40%	21%	51%	54%	32%	25%	25%	26%	34%
Native American	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pacific Islander	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
White	34%	24%	28%	32%	15%	29%	28%	26%	22%	18%	23%
Unreported	6%	5%	1%	17%	1%	2%	5%	8%	7%	1%	4%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Age Group

Table 5 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by age group for each CAP.

- Overall, 58% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students are 24 years old or younger.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades (24%) and Education (25%) report lower share of students that are 24 years old or younger, correlating with more certificate-seekers.

Table 5. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Age Group, Fall 2025.

Age Group	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
19 or less	21%	22%	9%	20%	31%	3%	25%	34%	95%	24%	31%
20-24	33%	42%	16%	26%	28%	21%	29%	32%	2%	29%	28%
25-29	12%	13%	13%	7%	18%	30%	11%	13%	1%	16%	14%
30-34	7%	8%	14%	6%	10%	23%	10%	8%	0%	12%	10%
35-39	5%	5%	14%	2%	5%	14%	7%	4%	0%	7%	6%
40-49	8%	6%	21%	4%	6%	8%	9%	4%	1%	7%	6%
50-59	9%	2%	8%	2%	2%	2%	6%	2%	0%	4%	3%
60+	5%	1%	3%	32%	0%	0%	4%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Unreported	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Unit load

Table 6 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by unit load for each CAP.

- Overall, 35% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students are attending full-time.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades (2%) and Education (31%) have fewer full-time students, correlating with more certificate-seekers.

Table 6. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Unit Load, Fall 2025.

Unit Load	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
Full-time 15+ units	20%	30%	14%	20%	28%	1%	26%	31%	3%	11%	20%
Full-time 12-14.5	24%	14%	17%	13%	24%	1%	17%	16%	3%	7%	14%
Part-time 6-11.5	22%	23%	26%	16%	24%	29%	18%	24%	21%	30%	24%
Part-time 0.5-5.5	34%	33%	44%	51%	24%	69%	38%	29%	74%	52%	41%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Student type

Table 7 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by student type for each CAP.

- Overall, 35% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students are attending Foothill for the first time.
- Industrial Technology & Building Trades (25%), Explorer (25%), and Arts & Media (33%) are more likely to be attending Foothill for the first time.

Table 7. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Student Type, Fall 2025.

Student Type	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
1st-time student	19%	18%	21%	16%	24%	11%	24%	25%	4%	8%	18%
1st-time transfer	14%	27%	19%	9%	14%	14%	16%	16%	1%	29%	17%
Continuing	50%	42%	40%	64%	49%	10%	45%	48%	1%	35%	38%
Returning	17%	12%	17%	11%	12%	65%	14%	11%	0%	21%	17%
High school concurrent	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	94%	7%	9%
Adult learner	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Educational goal

Table 8 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by educational goal for each CAP.

- Overall, 40% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students are seeking to transfer as their goal.
- STEM (65%), Society, Culture, & Human Development (54%), and Arts & Media (51%) are more likely to be seeking to transfer.

Table 8. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Educational Goal, Fall 2025.

Educational Goal	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
Transfer	51%	40%	30%	41%	34%	4%	54%	65%	20%	42%	40%
Degree	14%	6%	15%	10%	33%	7%	10%	6%	1%	12%	13%
Certificate	5%	6%	7%	2%	11%	53%	2%	4%	0%	11%	10%
All Other	31%	48%	48%	47%	22%	36%	34%	25%	79%	35%	37%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Highest education level

Table 9 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by highest education level for each CAP.

Table 9. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Highest Education Level, Fall 2025.

Highest Education Level	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
HS/Equivalent	92%	94%	90%	65%	96%	92%	90%	89%	1%	89%	83%
Associate	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Bachelor or higher	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
All Other	3%	1%	8%	3%	2%	2%	6%	2%	94%	8%	11%
Unreported	4%	3%	1%	31%	1%	0%	3%	8%	5%	0%	4%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Income status

Table 10 below shows the distribution of Fall 2025 students by income status for each CAP.

- Overall, 31% of the 12,639 Fall 2025 students qualify as having low-income status.
- Health Sciences & Wellness (42%), Education (41%), and Society, Culture, & Human Development (36%) report higher rates of low-income students.

Table 10. Foothill College Share of Students by CAP and Income Status, Fall 2025.

Income Status	Arts & Media	Business	Education	Explorer	Health Sciences & Wellness	Industrial Technology & Building Trades	Society, Culture, & Human Development	STEM	High School	De Anza	TOTAL
Low income	31%	30%	41%	24%	42%	31%	36%	27%	11%	27%	31%
Not low income	69%	70%	59%	76%	58%	69%	64%	73%	89%	73%	69%
Total	708	1,543	354	297	2,391	1,065	1,372	1,930	1,125	1,854	12,639

Methodology Notes

Students are included in the analysis if they registered (RE, RW) in a course (credit or noncredit) at Foothill College for Fall 2025.

- SFRSTCR_RSTS_CODE, SFRSTCR_TERM_CODE

Demographics are based on self-reported data.

- Gender: SPBPERS_SEX, SPBPERS_GNDR_CODE
- Ethnicity: GORPRAC_RACE_CDE, SPBPERS_ETHN_CODE
- Age Group: SPBPERS_BIRTH_DATE
- Educational Goal: SGBSTDN_EGOL_CODE
- Highest Education Level: SGBSTDN_EDLV_CODE
- Income Status: SZRCCAP_FAMILY_INCOME

Unit Load and Student Type are based on registration data.

- Unit Load: SCBCRSE_CREDIT_HR_LOW (not GPA units)

Each student is assigned to a CAP based on their declared program:

1. A student's declared program defined as SGBSTDN_PROGRAM_1 value "effective" during Fall 2025.
2. Each program code is mapped to a TOPS code value according to its major (via STVMAJR_TOPS_CODE).
3. Each TOPS code value is assigned to a Foothill College CAP.
 - a. A TOPS-to-CAP crosswalk is currently not stored in the Banner database.
 - b. A few programs are not assigned to a CAP based on their TOPS code value (in order to match the Foothill College website).
4. The TOPS-to-CAP and Program-to-CAP crosswalks are based on the information on the Foothill College website (as of Sept 2025), but these mappings still need to be confirmed by the Office of Instruction (so these data and their distributions can change).

This preliminary report is designed to stimulate college-level discussions about student demographic characteristics by the CAPs, and is not intended to be a precise representation of the programs mapped to each CAP.