STEM and Allied Health Majors at Chabot: Representation and Equity

STEM majors represented 12 percent of all Chabot students in Fall 2017; Allied Health (AH) majors were another 15 percent. Both of these majors increased in the past 17 years – STEM majors from 9 to 12 percent, and AH majors from 4 to 15 percent. These percentages and increases were similar for new students. 27 percent of new students are now in one of these majors.

STEM majors, which include Science, Engineering, and Math; and Allied Health majors, which include Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Medical Assisting, are recognized as leading to high demand and/or high salary occupations. Ensuring that students have information, access, and support to pursue these majors is a goal of several Chabot grants and initiatives.

Women have long been a minority in STEM majors, and their representation in STEM majors among incoming new students decreased from 34 percent in Fall 2000 to 26 percent in Fall 2017. In Allied Health Majors, women have always been the majority, but they dropped from 89 percent to 71 percent among new student AH majors as more men entered these fields.

The major race-ethnicity groups among new Chabot students vary in their representation in these majors compared to their representation on campus. The percentages of new African Americans, Filipinos, and Latinos in STEM majors closely reflect their representation at Chabot. As the percentage of Latino students grew to 40 percent of all students, their percentage among incoming STEM majors also increased to 39 percent. Asian Americans are over-represented in STEM majors, and white students are under-represented. In Allied Health majors, Latino students are over-represented, comprising half of the students in these majors, while most other groups more closely reflect their representation on campus.

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Chabot College Office of Institutional Research
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