

El Camino College

Degrees and Certificates Awarded

Recent Trends

This report examines a five-year trend in degrees and certificates awarded at El Camino College and El Camino College Compton Center.

TABLE 1. Degrees and Certificates Awarded (Five Years)

Campus	Award Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	1-yr change (%)
Main/Torrance	Degrees	1,106	1,133	1,140	1,304	1,399	7%
	Certificates	347	370	445	403	414	3%
Compton Center	Degrees	124	106	150	157	211	34%
	Certificates	16	29	27	78	51	-35%

*Awards reported as of MIS Data Submission in Summer/Fall. Actual campus figures may be slightly higher.

DEGREES

At ECC, students were awarded in 52 different majors in nine different divisions. At the Compton Center, 21 different majors within six divisions awarded degrees. Since 2006-07, ECC and the Compton Center have awarded an increasing number of degrees to students (Table 1). From 2009-10 to 2010-11, degree counts at ECC and the Compton Center increased by 7% and 34%, respectively. Trends in award counts may be attributed to recent enrollment trends. Taking into account that the average time to completion is four years, award counts increased during the last five years as enrollment counts decreased between 2002-03 and 2006-07. A possible explanation may be that with fewer students enrolled, classes are less impacted and more students are consequently able to earn their degree/certificate in a timely manner.¹ Another contributing factor may be the concurrent efforts by counselors as well as various programs aimed at increasing graduation rates.

In 2010-11, the increase in one particular major was evident at both ECC and the Compton Center. A rising number of students were awarded degrees in General, Transfer or Liberal Studies, producing a one-year growth of 15% and 53% at ECC and the Compton Center, respectively (Tables 9 and 11). Beginning in 2008-09, however, Transfer Studies was no longer offered to students. Despite the inactivation of this program, students continued to obtain degrees in General and Liberal Studies at an increasing rate.

¹ The Office of Institutional Research plans to research this theory in a future study.

One program that experienced a noticeable decrease in degree counts at both El Camino College locations was Nursing. Several years ago, the Nursing program supported two additional sites, but the department was no longer able to maintain these sites. The program was consequently reduced to offer only two different types of programs (generic and LVN-to-RN) at ECC and the Compton Center. As a result, the number of degree counts reduced by 45% and 36% respectively from the previous year (Tables 9 and 11).

Main Campus Degrees

At ECC, the counts of degrees awarded have consistently increased throughout the years, peaking at 1,399 in 2010-11 (Chart 1). An outline of degrees awarded by type (Table 2) reveals an increasing number of students obtaining an A.A. versus an A.S. degree. Counts for A.S. degrees have remained consistent. The 5-year trend for A.A. and A.S. counts indicate a 55% and -6% growth, respectively. All divisions experienced a growth in degrees awarded last year, with the exception of Health Sciences and Athletics (Table 9). Compared to other majors, mathematics and pre-dentistry/pre-medicine grew considerably, with degree counts double or triple the previous year's counts. The programs' success may be a result of numerous factors, such as the efforts of the faculty, counselors, and project directors. Overall, degree growth appears to be outpacing enrollment growth. Degree counts increased by 27% during the 5-year period, while enrollments between 2003 and 2007 declined by 6% (not presented in Table 1).

TABLE 2. El Camino College (Main Torrance Campus) Degree Awards by Type

Degree Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Associate of Arts (A.A.)	582	595	643	797	903
Associate of Science (A.S.)	524	538	497	507	496
Total Associate Degrees	1,106	1,133	1,140	1,304	1,399

Compton Center Degrees

Following a brief decline in 2007-08, the count of degrees awarded to Compton Center students have steadily increased in recent years. Similar to the trend seen at the Main Torrance Campus, A.A. counts have increased at a higher rate than A.S. counts over the last five years (Table 3). From 2006-07 to 2010-11, the count of A.A. and A.S recipients grew by 78% and 51%, respectively. Degree counts increased dramatically between 2009-10 and 2010-11, resulting in the highest count since 2006-07 (Chart 3). The Business division experienced the most growth. Business Management degree counts in particular nearly tripled in 2010-11 (Table 11). One contributing factor may be the efforts of counselors, who provided students with an outline of Business classes to be offered in the future (Business Matrix). Overall, degrees awarded increased during the 5-year period by 70%.

TABLE 3. ECC Compton Center Degree Awards by Type

Degree Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Associate of Arts (A.A.)	89	66	102	99	158
Associate of Science (A.S.)	35	40	48	58	53
Total Associate Degrees	124	106	150	157	211

CERTIFICATES

There were a variety of changes made to community college certificates beginning in 2008-09 due to changes in Title 5 regulations. For ECC, regulation changes involved renaming certificates from *competence* and *completion*² to *achievement* and *accomplishment*. Generally, certificates of achievement are those of 18 units or more, appear on a student's transcript and are approved by the Chancellor's Office. In addition, the new regulations provided for the creation of lower-unit (12-17.5) certificates of achievement with approval of the Chancellor's Office. Certificates of Accomplishment are those that are less than 18 units, not Chancellor's Office approved and will not appear on a student's transcript.

One major impact of the new certificate scheme is that students are permitted to receive multiple certificates in one program with different areas of emphasis. With some programs electing this option, the number of certificates offered at ECC grew from 78 to 95 in 2008-09. In the last 3 years, however, 11 programs have been inactivated. A grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 is required for all certificates, with Honors and High Honors certificates of achievement awarded for minimum GPAs of 3.0 and 3.5, respectively. For the purposes of this report, all certificates are treated equally.

Main Campus Certificates

As depicted in Chart 2, the number of certificates awarded has steadily increased since 2006-07, peaking in 2008-09 and plateauing thereafter. The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences experienced the most growth in 2010-11, with Childhood Education awarding the most certificates compared to all other majors (Table 10). Childhood Education's previous increase in 2009-10 was likely due to the implementation of a certificate awareness campaign, which encouraged Childhood Education students to complete the program and file for a certificate. Though the initiative did not continue, efforts by the department did not abate. Higher than average awards in 2010-11 may be showing the effects of these continued efforts. Overall, the number of certificates awarded between 2006-07 and 2010-11 has increased by 22%.

² *Competence* and *completion* are now reserved for special noncredit certificates (not awarded at ECC).

Compton Center Certificates

Following the 5-year period's peak in 2009-10, certificates awarded at Compton Center decreased by 35% in 2010-11 (Table 12). This decrease may be attributed to the reduction in certificate programs offered, particularly in Child Development. Despite this recent program contraction, certificates overall have increased by more than twofold since 2006-07. Of the divisions, Industry and Technology grew the most, with Air Conditioning and Refrigeration being the most awarded certificate in this division.

INITIATIVES

There are several initiatives currently active at ECC that focus on students' success in specific majors. These initiatives include Career and Technical Education (CTE); Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); and Science, Engineering and Mathematics (SEM). CTE programs are technical or career oriented in nature, ranging from Administration of Justice to Welding. Some CTE programs, mostly in the technical area, are also part of the STEM initiative. STEM includes three divisions— Industry and Technology, Mathematical Sciences, and Natural Sciences. SEM includes only Mathematical and Natural Sciences. The primary difference between STEM and SEM is the latter's focus on transfer programs as opposed to technical ones that include options for certificates. With the exception of two majors (Computer Science and Environmental Horticulture), SEM and CTE majors are mutually exclusive. Currently, the Compton Center has only CTE initiatives. Tables 4 and 5 outline the number of degrees and certificates awarded in CTE, STEM and SEM majors at ECC and the Compton Center.

At the two El Camino College locations, awarded counts have increased over the last five years. Within the last year, the percentage growth of CTE counts was more moderate, while STEM and SEM experienced a greater increase. Despite the varied percentage changes among the three initiatives at ECC, the increase in award counts are approximately the same.

TABLE 4. El Camino College (Main Torrance Campus) – Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Initiative

Initiative	Award Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	1-yr change (%)
CTE	Degrees	462	450	446	463	480	4%
	Certificates	336	356	442	401	412	3%
STEM	Degrees	71	63	54	73	100	37%
	Certificates	18	31	21	15	20	33%
SEM	Degrees	60	46	48	63	91	44%
	Certificates	2	1	2	2	0	-100%

TABLE 5. ECC Compton Center Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Initiative

Initiative	Award Type	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	1-yr change (%)
CTE	Degrees	48	42	62	81	88	9%
	Certificates	16	29	27	77	50	-35%
STEM	Degrees	2	0	1	2	2	0%
	Certificates	1	0	0	1	1	0%
SEM	Degrees	0	0	1	2	2	0%
	Certificates	0	0	0	0	0	0%

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following section provides a demographic profile of students who were awarded degrees and certificates in 2010-11.

Gender

TABLE 6. Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Gender, 2010-2011

	Main/Torrance				Compton Center			
	Degrees		Certificates		Degrees		Certificates	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Males	548	39.2	205	49.5	58	27.5	17	33.3
Females	850	60.8	209	50.5	153	72.5	34	66.7
Unknown	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	1,399		414		211		51	

Note: The count for Unknown is included for completeness.

Table 6 reveals that approximately 40% of degree earners at ECC were male, while 60% were female. The gender disparity was less apparent among certificate earners, where approximately 50% of males and females received awards. The difference among degree earners is greater compared to the overall ECC student population of 48% males and 52% females.

The gender profile of degree earners at the Compton Center was 28% male and 73% female. Similar to ECC, the gender difference among certificate students was smaller. Males comprised 33% while females constituted 67%. At the Compton Center, males and females comprised 36% and 64%, respectively. Compared to what their population suggests, males received degrees and certificates at a slightly lower rate.

Age

TABLE 7. Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Age Group, 2010-2011

	Main/Torrance				Compton Center			
	Degrees		Certificates		Degrees		Certificates	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
19 or less	198	14.2	19	4.6	-	-	-	-
20 to 24	723	51.7	133	32.1	-	-	-	-
19 to 24	921	65.8	152	36.7	87	41.2	7	13.7
25 to 49	449	32.1	227	54.8	111	52.6	-	-
Over 49	29	2.1	35	8.5	13	6.2	-	-
25+	478	34.2	262	63.3	124	58.8	44	86.3
Total	1,399		414		211		51	

Note: Low student counts are suppressed to protect student privacy.

At ECC, two thirds of students who earned degrees (66%) fell in the younger age group (19 to 24), while students in the older age group (25+) comprised 35%. This age distribution is reversed among certificate earners, where older students (63%) were the majority. Compared to the campus population where the younger and older age groups comprise approximately 63% and 37%, respectively, 19 to 24 year olds are receiving certificates at a lower rate.

In contrast, among both degree and certificate earners at the Compton Center, the majority were 25 years and older. Approximately 41% of degree students were between the ages of 19 and 24, while 59% were 25 years old or older. The age gap is more apparent among certificate earners, with 14% falling in the younger age group and 86% in the older age group. At the Compton Center, there is a more even divide between the younger (56%) and older (44%) age groups. This indicates that younger students are earning degrees and certificates at a lower rate compared to what is suggested by their population.

Ethnicity

TABLE 8. Degrees and Certificates Awarded by Ethnicity, 2010-2011

	Main/Torrance				Compton Center			
	Degrees		Certificates		Degrees		Certificates	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Asian	328	23.4	62	15.0	-	-	0	0.0
African American	162	11.6	72	17.4	117	55.5	35	68.6
Latinos	469	33.5	159	38.4	67	31.8	13	25.5
American Indian	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0
Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0
White	265	18.9	79	19.1	-	-	-	-
Two or More	17	1.2	-	-	-	-	0	0.0
Unknown	139	9.9	39	9.4	-	-	-	-
Total	1,399		414		211		51	

Note: Low student counts are suppressed to protect student privacy.

As outlined in Table 8, students self-identify by race and ethnicity. At ECC in 2010-11, the ethnic composition of students was fairly similar between those who received degrees and those who received certificates. Latinos were the most prominent group, receiving 33% of degrees and 38% of certificates. These awarding rates are similar to what their population suggests, which is approximately 31%. African Americans, however, received degrees (12%) at a lower rate than suggested by their population (approximately 18%). At the Compton Center, there were also small differences in the ethnic composition of degree and certificate earners. The two predominant groups were African American and Latino. Over the last several years, African Americans and Latinos comprised approximately 49% and 36% of the student population. Compared to the rates intimated by their population, African Americans earned degrees and certificates at a higher rate while Latinos received awards at a lower rate compared to their respective enrollment rates.

CONCLUSION

Recent patterns in degrees and certificates awarded provide insight regarding students' interests at the two ECC locations. Regarding the demographic characteristics of these students, a higher percentage of degree and certificate recipients are older and female at both locations.

Despite lower enrollments between 2006 and 2008, degrees and certificates awarded at ECC and the Compton Center have increased markedly during the last 5 years. The growth in enrollment starting in 2007-08 may influence an upswing in future award counts as these past cohorts approach the median time to completion. Additionally, the efforts of faculty and staff members through college initiatives have recently expanded. Such continuing and new initiatives include the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program; the Title V Graduation Initiative (GI); and the previously mentioned STEM and SEM programs. The intent of these initiatives is to increase graduation and transfer rates, particularly among Latino students. The recently-awarded Title V (Hispanic Serving Institutions) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant, for instance, focuses on Latino students' academic success in STEM majors.

CHART 1. El Camino College Growth Trends in Degrees

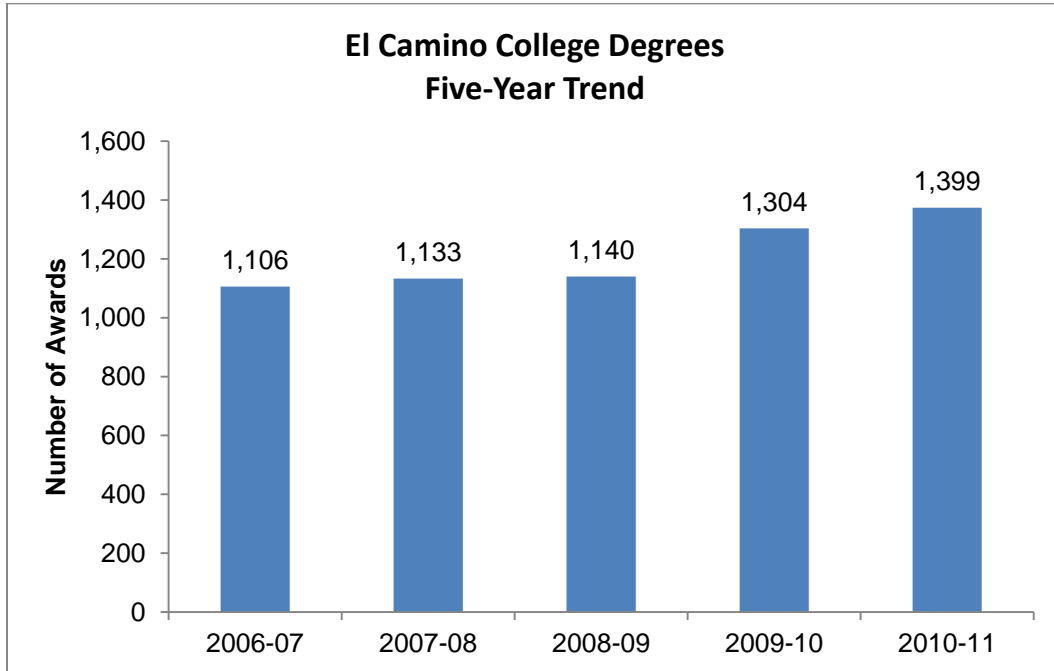


CHART 2. El Camino College Growth Trends in Certificates

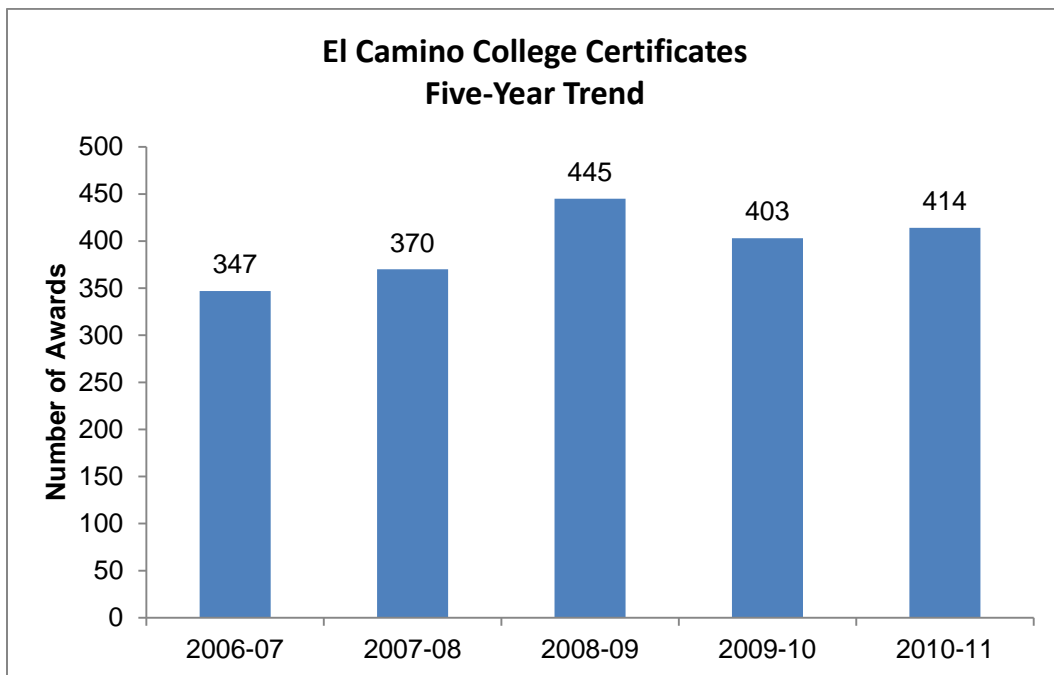


CHART 3. Compton Center Growth Trends in Degrees

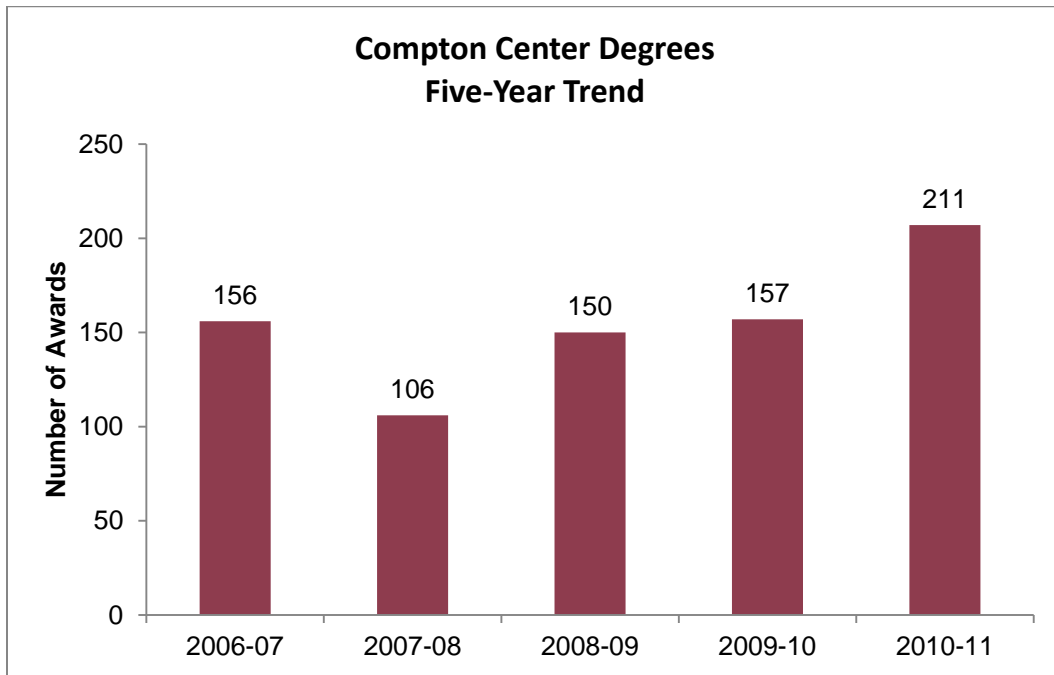


CHART 4. Compton Center Growth Trends in Certificates

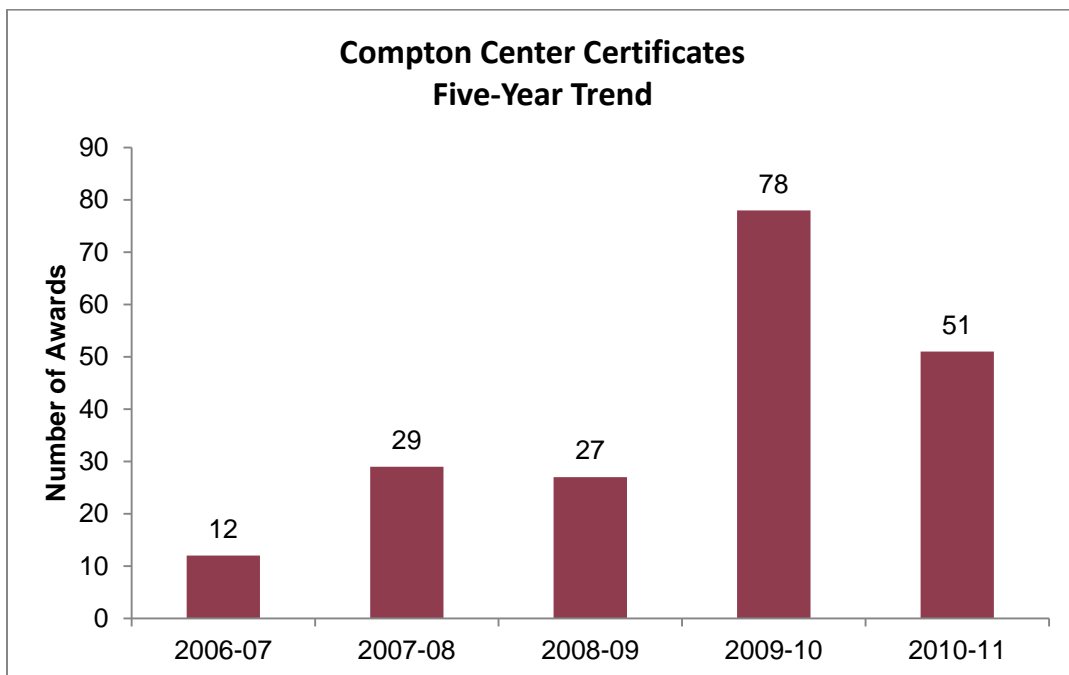


TABLE 9
El Camino College (Main Torrance Campus)
DEGREES Awarded by Major
Five-Year Trend

Division	Major	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-yr change
Behavioral and Social Sciences	Anthropology	1	1	5	3	5	
	Childhood Education	36	33	38	24	38	
	Economics	11	7	22	38	25	
	History	13	11	8	14	7	
	Philosophy	1	2	1	2		
	Political Science	5	6	8	2	7	
	Psychology	17	10	19	17	15	
	Sociology	27	22	26	38	34	
Total Behavioral and Social Sciences		111	92	127	138	131	18%
Business	Accounting	10	13	16	11	4	
	Business Management	113	119	113	141	166	
	Computer Information Systems	15	5	8	7	13	
	Marketing	10	3	6	6		
	Office Administration	2	3	4	2		
	Paralegal Studies	12	20	6	12	15	
	Real Estate	4	7	5	4		
Total Business		166	170	158	183	198	19%
Fine Arts	Art (Various Majors)	32	25	30	37	26	
	Dance	2	1	3	2	2	
	Film/Video	2	1	9	8	8	
	Music	4	5		6	6	
	Photography	2	5	1	8	7	
	Communication Studies (Speech Communication)	4	5	7	8	5	
	Theatre	4	1	4	4	2	
Total Fine Arts		50	43	54	73	56	12%
Health Sciences and Athletics	Nursing	97	97	116	107	59	
	Physical Education	6	2	3	1	1	
	Radiologic Tech	20	18	15	15	9	
	Recreation		2	1			
	Respiratory Care	15	13	15	21	19	
	Sign Language/Interpreter Tng.	19	21	13	9	13	
Total Health Sciences and Athletics		157	153	163	153	101	-36%
Humanities	English	15	13	17	22	24	
	French	3	1	2	4	2	
	Japanese	6	1	3	5		
	Journalism		1	2		5	
	Spanish	4	2	5	2	6	
Total Humanities		28	18	29	33	37	32%
General Studies	General, Trans. or Liberal Studies	420	509	459	554	637	
Total General Studies		420	509	459	554	637	52%

Division	Major	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-yr change
Industry and Technology	Administration of Justice	31	20	23	22	34	
	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	3	9	3	9	4	
	Architecture	8	7	11	4	22	
	Auto. Collision Repair/Paint.	1		2		2	
	Automotive Technology	6	4	4	8	8	
	Computer Aided Design/Drafting	3	5		5	2	
	Construction Technology	4	1	8	4	7	
	Cosmetology	1	4	1	6	1	
	Electronics/Comp Hardware Tech	7	7	3	4	5	
	Fashion					4	
	Fire & Emergency Technology	28	21	17	17	26	
	Industrial Technology				1	1	
	Machine Tool Technology	1	5	3	1	1	
	Manufacturing Technology					1	
Welding	4	3	2	4	2		
Total Industry and Technology		97	86	77	85	120	24%
Mathematics	Computer Science	6	3	1	1	5	
	Mathematics	12	9	12	9	31	
	Pre-Engineering	15	8	11	11	12	
Total Mathematics		33	20	24	21	48	45%
Natural Sciences	Biology	14	10	6	8	13	
	Chemistry	3	1	5	4	4	
	Environmental Horticulture	2	2	1	3		
	General Science	5	7	7	20	20	
	Geography		1		1		
	Physical Science	1	2	3	1	3	
	Physics	2	3	2	5	3	
Pre-Dentistry or Medicine	10	9	9	12	28		
Total Natural Sciences		37	35	33	54	71	92%
All Degrees Awarded		1,099	1,126	1,124	1,294	1,399	27%

Source: CCC Chancellor's Office and ECC Admissions & Records

TABLE 10
El Camino College (Main Torrance Campus)
CERTIFICATES Awarded by Major
Five-Year Trend

Division	Major	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-yr change
Behav. & Soc Sci	Childhood Education	9	12	2	34	78	
Total Behavioral and Social Sciences		9	12	2	34	78	767%
Business	Accounting	12	11	11	12	13	
	Business	9	13	8	9	11	
	Computer Information Systems	5	3	2	1	2	
	Marketing	6	13	8	10	7	
	Office Administration	5	2	8	8	5	
	Paralegal Studies	10	24	7	15	25	
	Real Estate		3	3	3	2	
Total Business		47	69	47	58	65	38%
Fine Arts	Art (Various Majors)	2			1	2	
	Digital Arts	4	3	8	5	6	
	Film/Video	3	3	5	5	5	
	Photography				1	3	
Total Fine Arts		9	6	13	12	16	78%
Health Sciences and Athletics	Radiologic Tech	12		18	15	11	
	Respiratory Care	14	13	15	20	19	
	Sign Language/Interpreter Tng.	20	19	14	15	16	
Total Health Sciences and Athletics		46	32	47	50	46	0%
Humanities	Journalism					4	
Total Humanities		0	0	0	0	4	
Industry and Technology	Administration of Justice	16	14	13	9	19	
	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	10	36	59	41	52	
	Architecture	3		5	2	15	
	Auto. Collision Repair/Paint.	4		3	6	13	
	Automotive Technology	3	12	26	15	14	
	Computer Aided Design/Drafting	1	4	1	3	4	
	Construction Technology	10	4	5	6	4	
	Cosmetology	41	36	45	44	28	
	Electronics/Comp Hardware Tech	8	13	10	1	10	
	Fashion Design and Production	3	1	5	1	2	
	Fashion Merchandising			1			
	Fire & Emergency Technology	55	35	39	26	5	
	Fire & Emergency Tech.-P Tech	56	63	104	67	28	
	Machine Tool Technology	4	10	7	3	6	
	Manufacturing Technology	2					
Welding	8	5	7	10	5		
Total Industry and Technology		224	233	330	240	205	-8%
Mathematics	Computer Science	2	1	2	2		
Total Mathematics		2	1	2	2	0	-100%
Natural Sciences	Environmental Horticulture	1	3	1	6		
Total Natural Sciences		1	3	1	6	0	-100%
All Certificates Awarded		338	356	442	402	414	22%

TABLE 11
El Camino College Compton Center
DEGREES Awarded by Major
Five-Year Trend

Division	Major	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-yr change
Behavioral and Social Sciences	Anthropology				1		
	Childhood Education	13		15	23	29	
	History			1		1	
	Political Science				1	3	
	Psychology		1		2	1	
	Sociology	1	1	1	1	10	
Total Behavioral and Social Sciences		14	2	17	28	44	214%
Business	Accounting	1					
	Business Management	1	1	5	5	14	
	Computer Information Systems					1	
	Real Estate		1	3		1	
Total Business		2	2	8	5	16	700%
Fine Arts	Dance					1	
	Film/Video			1			
	Speech Communication			1			
Total Fine Arts		0	0	2	0	1	
Health Sciences and Athletics	Nursing	23	35	34	47	30	
	Physical Education					1	
	Respiratory Care				1		
	Sign Language/Interpreter Tng.	1				1	
Total Health Sciences and Athletics		24	35	34	48	32	33%
Humanities	Spanish				1		
Total Humanities		0	0	0	1	0	
General Studies	General, Transfer or Liberal Studies	75	62	84	68	104	
Total General Studies		75	62	84	68	104	39%
Industry and Technology	Administration of Justice	5	4	1	3	6	
	Auto. Collision Repair/Paint.		1			1	
	Automotive Technology					1	
	Computer Aided Design/Drafting	1					
	Cosmetology	1				1	
	Fire & Emergency Tech.-P Tech				1	2	
	Machine Tool Technology	1					
	Welding	1		3	1	1	
Total Industry and Technology		9	5	4	5	12	33%
Natural Sciences	Chemistry			1			
	General Science					1	
	Pre-Dentistry or Medicine				2	1	
Total Natural Sciences		0	0	1	2	2	
All Degrees Awarded		124	106	150	157	211	70%

Source: CCC Chancellor's Office and ECC Admissions & Records

TABLE 12
El Camino College Compton Center
CERTIFICATES Awarded by Major
Five-Year Trend

Division	Major	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	5-yr change
Behav & Soc Sci	Childhood Education	8	18	15	53	24	
Total Behavioral and Social Sciences		8	18	15	53	24	200%
Business	Accounting				1		
	Business Administration				1	1	
	Business Management			1			
	Computer Information Systems			1			
	Marketing			1	1		
	Office Administration			2	5		
	Real Estate		1	1	1		
Total Business		0	1	6	9	1	
Fine Arts	Music				1	1	
Total Fine Arts		0	0	0	1	1	
Health Science and Athletics	Respiratory Care				1		
	Sign Language/Interpreter Tng.	1			1		
Total Health Sciences and Athletics		1	0	0	2	0	-100%
Industry and Technology	Administration of Justice	3	5			4	
	Air Conditioning & Refrigeration					12	
	Architecture				1		
	Auto. Collision Repair/Paint.	1				1	
	Automotive Technology		3	3	2	5	
	Computer Aided Design/Drafting	1				1	
	Cosmetology	1		1			
	Fire & Emergency Technology	1					
	Machine Tool Technology				1		
	Welding		2	2	9	2	
Total Industry and Technology		7	10	6	13	25	257%
All Certificates Awarded		16	29	27	78	51	219%

Source: CCC Chancellor's Office and ECC Admissions & Records