

UCSC filled to capacity

Enrollment at the UC-Santa Cruz campus is at an all time high this year with a total of 6,983 students — an increase of 32 students from the campus's previous record high in 1981.

The campus is now filled to its "steady-state" capacity, said UCSC Dean of Admissions Richard Moll.

"Between an increase in retaining continuing students, and an increase in new first-year students, we've attained our most optimistic projections," said Moll. "This is the year in which we have 'stabilized and normalized' the campus."

The campus continues to be "residential" in that over 50 percent of its students live on campus in one of eight colleges.

The capacity enrollment is a major about-face from a few years ago when UC officials were openly discussing the closure of the campus, partly because of its sagging enrollment.

Campus public information officer Tom O'Leary credits the reversal in the campus enrollment picture today to a continu-

ing outreach program.

Moll has built a staff of six full-time admission recruiters whose primary purpose is to dispel some of the most entrenched "myths" about UCSC. During the year, they visit over 500 high schools and community colleges.

The campus has also benefited from the so-called Berkeley Redirect Program, which as started four years ago. The program encourages qualified students turned away from an overflowing Berkeley campus to apply to Santa Cruz. Once they have finished the first two years of undergraduate work at UCSC, these students are guaranteed admission to Berkeley in their junior year. "Some people have seen the program as a Band-aid," says Moll, "but I hope it will never be cancelled. Through the program we are able to draw a number of elements to the class who would not ordinarily have picked Santa Cruz. Many of these students are interested in math and science, which, according to popular myth, are secondary at Santra Cruz.

"Actually nothing could be further from the truth, as many students quickly find out. We actually end up retaining about 40 percent of the redirects, who decide to remain at Santa Cruz to earn their degrees."

Undergraduate applications received during the November open filing period for the current freshman class increased 74 percent over the same period four years ago.

The most popular undergraduate major at UCSC is biology, with 860 enrollments, or 14 percent of all students. Psychology and computer and information sciences both have enrollments of 450 to 480; literature has 366; economics, 263; and politics, 236. Physics, chemistry, sociology, environmental studies, earth sciences, and history all have enrollments in the 125 to 145 range.

Broken down by divisions, the natural sciences at Santa Cruz claims about 43 percent of all declared majors; social sciences about 32 percent; humanities, about 15 percent; and the arts, about six percent.