Enrollment Management FAQ – Academic Year 2016-17
San José State University, Academic Planning and Budgets

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What is an enrollment target?
California State University (CSU) campuses are assigned an enrollment target for California resident students each year. The target is stated in terms of “full-time equivalent students (FTES)”. San Jose State’s 2016-17 California resident target is 22,411 full-time equivalent students. The CSU defines full time status as follows—for undergraduate students, enrolling in 15 units each semester equals full-time status, and for graduate students, full-time status is 12 units per semester. Because many SJSU students do not enroll full time due to work, family and/or other obligations, SJSU must enroll more than 22,411 California residents to meet the target.

Who sets the target?
The CSU Chancellor’s Office establishes the enrollment target for each of the 23 CSU campuses. The targets depend on the amount of state funding provided to the CSU each year in the California state budget. This means fluctuations in the California state budget from one year to the next can cause SJSU’s target to change. In good state budget years, targets generally increase and in poor state budget years the target can be significantly reduced.

Can SJSU’s enrollment target be increased?
Since Fall 2012, SJSU’s California resident enrollment target has increased from 21,045 FTES to 22,411 FTES – a 6.5% increase. New revenues resulting from Proposition 30 and California’s general economic recovery provided this increase. Although SJSU’s target has increased in recent years, it is still lower than it was in Fall 2009 (22,460 FTES).
What happens if SJSU does not meet its enrollment target?
Of course, it’s not possible for a campus to exactly meet its target, so a small miss – 1% or less – will not result in any adverse effects. When a campus falls short of its target by more than 1%, its enrollment target may be reduced the following year. When a campus exceeds its target, the campus does not receive any state support funding for the excess students. State support currently covers about 57% of the cost of teaching a student. Although SJSU strongly supports greater access to higher education, it is our responsibility to provide a quality education to our student population, which means managing enrollment to match the amount of funding available.

What does “impaction” mean?
Impaction refers to a situation where more CSU eligible students want to enroll in an academic program, or at a campus, than can be accommodated given the instructional resources and physical capacity of the campus. SJSU is an impacted campus, which means we cannot serve every CSU eligible student who wants to attend. Admission to San José State is competitive in all majors and applicants should expect to be held to a higher standard than the minimum CSU eligibility requirements. Students admitted to SJSU typically have a higher GPA and/or SAT/ACT score and may also be subject to meeting supplemental criteria for admission, such as specific preparatory coursework.

What are supplemental criteria?
SJSU uses supplemental criteria to evaluate transfer students applying to certain majors. These majors (engineering, science, technology, pre-nursing, and kinesiology) have designated specific preparatory coursework that, if completed with a grade C or better, gives the student a higher ranking in the admissions process. Certain majors in Humanities and Arts give preference to transfer students who have completed an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) at a community college in their intended field of study. The ADT indicates a student has completed desired preparatory coursework and is “on track” when they start at SJSU. Transfer students who have not completed their preparatory coursework at a community college before enrolling at San José State will compete with freshman and sophomore students for preparatory courses, which impacts everyone’s ability to graduate on time. Please go to [http://www.sjsu.edu/admissions/impaction/](http://www.sjsu.edu/admissions/impaction/) for more information on supplemental criteria currently in effect.

How do you determine whether an applicant is “local” in the admission process?
Freshmen applicants are considered “local” if they graduated from a high school located in Santa Clara County. Transfer applicants are considered “local” if they have earned the majority of their transferable units at a college in Santa Clara or Santa Cruz County.

How is enrollment managed across the university?
Through the annual budget process, SJSU sets a total campus enrollment target. Targets are next established for each of SJSU’s seven academic colleges using a predictive analytical tool called the Induced Course Load Matrix (ICLM). A detailed explanation of ICLM is available [here](#). Each college then works with their departments to determine the courses that will be offered each term, a decision that is balanced against the college’s enrollment target and available resources.
I can’t get my classes. What is being done about this?
A major effort is underway to fix this situation. The university has designated $2.8 million to relieve course bottlenecks in 2016-17, and a similar effort is planned for 2017-18. Departments have identified course bottlenecks, and we are working hard to eliminate these bottlenecks by adding additional sections so our students can graduate on time.

Why does SJSU enroll international students and students from other states?
International and non-resident students are not factored into the enrollment limits campuses must comply with. That is, even if SJSU admitted zero international students, we would have the same limit on the number of California resident students we can serve. International students do not take away enrollment spots from California residents.

State support for CSU follows the boom-and-bust cycle of the state budget. In years when the state supports fewer students, SJSU has the physical capacity to serve students who pay the full cost of their instruction (international and out-of-state students pay an additional Non-Resident Tuition Fee of $372 per unit). The number of international/out-of-state students is small – about 10% of SJSU’s total student population. The revenues that come with these students help the campus maintain quality and access for all students. Additionally, international and out of state students provide a rich opportunity for all students to experience regional differences, global perspectives and diverse cultures.

Where can I learn more?
SJSU posts information about admissions and enrollment for all programs. Please see the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics website.

The CSU system has a detailed FAQ on admissions and enrollment and a FAQ on enrollment management practices and policies.

The annual CSU Support Budgets provide details on the history of California funding for higher education and CSU’s funding priorities.

The Public Policy Institute of California provides additional insights in their report: “Defunding Higher Education: What are the Effects on College Enrollment”.