

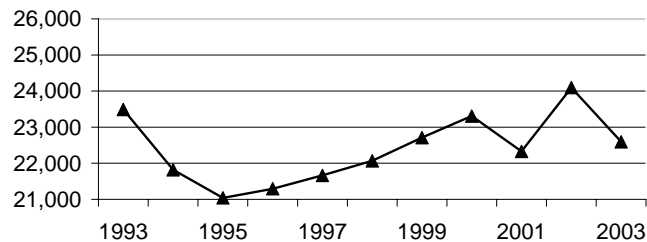
HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

San Diego Mesa College is an urban community college serving the greater metropolitan area of San Diego. The College is the largest of the three colleges of the San Diego Community College District. The District also includes the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC), providing adult non-credit instruction and fee-based enrichment courses, and the Employment Training Institute (ETi), providing customized contract education to San Diego region employers.

Mesa College's 104-acre campus officially opened in fall 1964 with 1,900 students enrolled in 25 programs. At that time the College was governed by the San Diego Unified School District; not until 1972 did voters approve the creation of a separate community college district. Seven years later, in 1979, the San Diego Evening College, a separately administered and accredited institution which shared the campus, combined with the day program to form one continuous college program from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Although the campus was originally planned for approximately 3,500 students, the College population grew steadily, eventually reaching the point in 1992 when resources became stretched to the maximum, with the headcount exceeding 29,000 students enrolled in more than 50 programs.

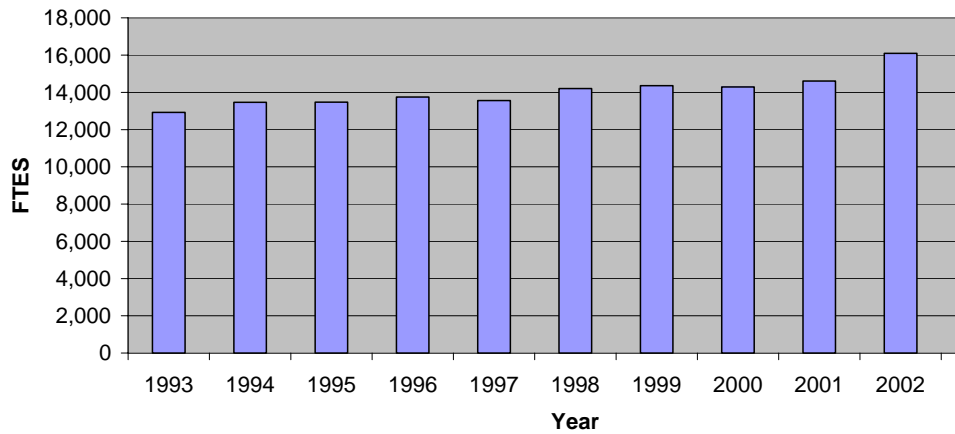
**Mesa College Enrollment
Fall Semesters 1993-2003**



Following this peak, the College experienced a steep and rapid decline in enrollment, in headcount, in weekly student contact hours (WSCH), and in full-time-equivalent students (FTES). A variety of factors contributed to this, including serious budget reductions and changes in state support for specified types of programs, as well as a differential enrollment fee for students already possessing a baccalaureate degree.

In 1993, under the leadership of President Constance M. Carroll, the College instituted a system of enrollment management and has been able to reach two important objectives: increasing the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) while decreasing the headcount. The charts below shows a 10-year FTES enrollment history for the College, including the high point in 1991-92, the enrollment decline of the early 1990's, and the steady growth under the enrollment management system. The year 2002-03 saw a sudden jump in both enrollment and FTES.

**Mesa College FTES
Academic Years 1993-94 to 2002-03**



	Academic Years 1993 - 1997				
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Resident	12,390.95	12,979.56	13,029.41	13,254.53	13,032.45
Non-Resident	534.03	481.00	441.41	495.49	528.85
Total	12,924.98	13,460.56	13,470.82	13,750.02	13,561.30
	Academic Years 1998 - 2002				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Resident	13,558.59	13,616.53	13,426.68	13,708.82	15,153.56
Non-Resident	646.57	742.23	864.14	904.77	948.92
Total	14,205.16	14,358.76	14,290.82	14,613.59	16,102.48

Each year, the College is given an enrollment (FTES) target that may be adjusted mid-year if necessitated by census FTES data. Scheduling decisions for the size of the schedule are driven by the FTES target. In 2003-04, the College was given an initial FTES target of 14,801, subsequently adjusted midyear to 15,083 FTES.

Today Mesa offers Associate degrees and certificates in 45 different disciplines. Students may select from 80 different associate degrees, 46 certificates of achievement (18 units and over), and 50 certificates of completion (less than 18 units). The student headcount population ranges between 21,000 and 23,000 students, and the class schedule extends into the weekend.

In fall 2003, the District adopted a 16-week semester with fifteen days of flexible professional development for faculty. Under this system, the majority of classes are scheduled on Monday – Thursday. Weekend classes are offered on Friday and Saturdays. A limited, but growing, number of classes are available as distance education.

The College offers a selected number of classes at off-campus locations. Remedial English courses are offered at the University of California at San Diego. The Architecture program offers a joint articulated degree program with Woodbury University; a few Mesa courses are

taught at the San Diego campus of Woodbury University. The Accelerated College Program (ACP) offers calculus and political science courses at 13 San Diego public high schools. Fall 2003 saw the start of the Fast Track Program for Kearny High School juniors and seniors which permits qualified high school students to take one or more courses at Mesa College.

The late 1990's saw the development of several new instructional and co-curricular programs. Degrees and/or certificates are now offered in Chemical Technician, Dietetic Service Supervisor, Fitness Specialist, Geographic Information Systems, Microsoft Training and Multimedia. A new and highly successful Teacher Education program was developed through a Teacher and Reading Development Program grant. The co-curricular program now includes a Speech and Debate Team, a school newspaper through the Journalism department, and a Service Learning program. More recently, instruction and student services have collaborated on a freshman success learning community curriculum.

Mesa College's new Learning Resource Center opened in 1998. This 107,000 square foot four-story building provides state-of-the-art learning resources and technology for the entire campus. Its award-winning design has served as the inspiration for the design of future campus buildings.

In fall 2002, the San Diego Community College District saw voters pass Proposition S an \$875 million bond for District facilities construction. This bond will fund the campus facilities master plan and the construction of seven new buildings and a parking structure. The first such building, Humanities, Languages and Multicultural Studies, was completed and opened in January 2003 in anticipation of passage of the bond. Other buildings to be constructed with Proposition S funding are: Technology, Mathematics & Sciences, Allied Health, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Physical Conditioning/Health Services, a police substation and shipping & receiving.

The next Proposition S construction will be the parking structure, which will resolve long-term serious problems. After 15 years of negotiation with the San Diego Unified School District, in early 2004 Mesa College was finally able to conclude an agreement for the long-term lease of the Muir School location adjacent to Mesa College. This will provide the land for much-needed parking facilities and an improved campus entrance. The agreement also calls for construction of a joint use facility to build a 400-student Middle College High School. Plans are for construction to begin in fall 2005 and for the school to open in fall 2006.

Over the past three years, Mesa College has absorbed large reductions to the general fund budget by freezing staff and faculty positions and reducing all budget categories. The number of unfilled faculty and staff positions is now at the point where quality will be impacted if the College is unable to start filling positions. With the recent passage of Propositions 57 and 58, members of the College are hopeful that the budget is now stabilized and that the College will be able to fill vacant positions soon.

Since its beginning, Mesa College has consistently responded to its community by modifying and creating programs designed to address identified needs. As a result, the College has continued to grow in size, quality, and reputation, as indicated by responses to student surveys and the community's positive response to Proposition S. The challenge for the future will be to maintain and enhance that status by continuing to manage internal systems while providing instruction and programs that meet the College's high standards.