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An edition of the *San Jose Mercury News*

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CABRILLO CUTBACKS

More students find themselves on wait lists

College has reduced classes
by 12 percent since 2008

By TOVIN LAPAN

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APTOS — Cabrillo College student Savita Franklin has advantages: She has been at the school for six terms, is one of the first to register and has witnessed the chaos of students scrambling to get into required classes first hand.

Yet, she was still unable to get into four classes for the spring term starting Monday, and was placed on the wait list.

"The last couple of years have been tough," said Franklin, who wants to transfer to a four-year university. "Students stand in the halls outside classrooms hoping to get a spot in the most needed courses. If you are on a wait list and want to get into the class, you have to fight for it."

Like Franklin, the 16,000 students at Cabrillo have learned over the past few years that procrastination is

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a sure way to find yourself on wait lists, and unsure of what classes you will be able to get into.

As of Tuesday, Cabrillo administration said every wait list for over-enrolled classes is full. On average, each wait list has 15 spots. Before the 2010-2011 school year, 100 classes were cut, and about 400 classes were eliminated over the two previous years, representing a 12 percent total reduction since 2008.

"Administration and faculty are doing what they can but the classes are still overflowing," Cabrillo Student Senate President Theo Offei said. "At the end of day, it comes down to being responsible and registering the first day you can. Still, even some of the responsible students who register on time are only getting on the wait list."

Students interviewed on campus Tuesday said if they registered as soon as their assigned window opened, they typically could get into the classes they wanted. Those who waited were struggling to get into required classes.

Cabrillo student Abbi Levine, who admits she was late to register, said she is worried about getting the 12 units she needs to receive her full financial aid allotment. She is enrolled in one class and on the wait list for nine others.

"They have really cut down on the number of courses offered and the times when they are offered," Levine said. "All the general education classes like statistics and English are full and hard to get into."

Classes for medical fields, such as organic chemistry and biology, have always been



TOVIN LAPAN/SENTINEL

A Cabrillo student walks into the Enrollment Services building on the Aptos campus on Tuesday. Students are increasingly finding it harder to get into classes as course sections have been cut. Every wait list at Cabrillo for the spring 2011 term, starting Monday, is currently full.

AT A GLANCE

REGISTERING AT CABRILLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- All wait lists for the upcoming term starting Feb. 7 are full.
- Counselors at the Watsonville and Aptos campuses are holding express drop-in meetings all this week and next.
- Aptos Counseling Services: 479-6274
- Watsonville Counseling Services: 786-4734
- Students on a wait list will be notified by e-mail if a spot has opened up for them.
- Cabrillo Vice President of Student Services Dennis Bailey-Fougner recommends that students on a wait list attend the class, do the work and make contact with the professor to discuss their chances of getting into the class.
- Some courses are offered on multiple campuses, and if a student is unable to get into a class in Aptos, the same course may have open seats in Watsonville or Scotts Valley. Information is available at www.cabrillo.edu/services/ar/register-continuing.html.

hard to get into because of limited laboratory space, but now those problems have been spread to other departments such as anthropology, sociology and history, said Dennis

Bailey-Fougner, Cabrillo's vice president of student services.

"When we cut sections, we tried not to cut sections that were for transfer and basic

skills," Bailey-Fougner said. "We stuck to our mission of offering the basic, transfer and career technical education courses. Still, there may be less of them, and at the same time there is more demand. With the down economy more people are coming back to school for training."

Cabrillo is currently over cap, meaning it is educating more students than the state is paying for. Cabrillo's 2010-2011 total budget is \$60 million, and, due to state budget cuts, the school's funding has decreased by \$5.56 million since 2008-2009.

Students are assigned registration time slots based on the number of units they have completed. According to state education code, veterans, students with disabilities and those students who are identified as economically and educationally disadvantaged through the state's Equal Opportunity Programs and Services get priority registration.

The most convenient way for students to register is online. In January 2009 the website crashed, which led to frantic students and long lines at the enrollment office. Bailey-Fougner said that Cabrillo has since fortified the site to accommodate heavier traffic and added more registration time slots. Students still complain about the site running poorly, and Bailey-Fougner admits there has been a few slowdowns, but he said the site has worked well overall since the adjustments were made.

"If [the students] were on top of it, they should have been able to get the classes they want," Bailey-Fougner said. "Those who waited until January are the ones who have had difficulties and some frustration. If you wait that long you don't have very many options."