Enrollment down 4 percent at Cabrillo

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WATSONVILLE — As students came to Cabrillo College Monday for the first day of Fall semester, officials are reporting a 4 percent enrollment decline from last year.

College officials say years of budget cuts and course reductions are largely responsible for the drop.

According to spokeswoman Kristin Fabos, an estimated 14,233 students are taking classes this semester, a 4.1 percent drop from last year, and a further drop from 2007, when 14,877 students enrolled.

Of the 1,529 course sections currently offered, 438 courses have a wait list and approximately 60 percent are full, Fabos said.

"Because of budget cuts we've had to reduce some of the courses that were available," she said.

Moreover, Fabos said that the college has reduced its adjunct faculty by nearly 4 percent, its permanent staff by 6 percent and its classified staff by 15 percent.

The college's administrative staff was reduced by 15 percent.

Meanwhile, the college board is making further cuts to help fill a $4.6 million budget gap, which could include eliminating more than 100 positions.

While college officials cut several sections of classes, they left untouched the "core" classes, or those designed for students seeking degrees or transfers to four-year universities.

Vice President of Student Services Dennis Bailey-Fournier said the declining enrollment

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