

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN (APIDA) STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT CSUN



Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) student enrollment at CSUN has been steadily declining in recent years. CSUN's Office of Institutional Research investigated APIDA enrollment trends across time, both collectively as a pan-ethnic group and by disaggregated regional groups to better understand this enrollment decline.

Key Findings

- In recent years, APIDA undergraduate enrollment as a proportion of the total undergraduate population has experienced a steady decline.** CSUN had its lowest APIDA undergraduate enrollment (9.3%) in 2021-22.
- A potential explanation for the decline in APIDA enrollment is CSUN's implementation of campus-wide regional impact for transfer admissions, starting Fall 2016.** The number of incoming Tier-2 APIDA first-time transfers (FTT) experienced roughly a 39% decline from 2015 to 2016 (394 to 239).
- APIDA application numbers to CSUN steadily declined after the 2015-16 academic year—mostly among first-time freshman (FTF) applicants.** This trend is true for all APIDA regional groups except South Asian (SA) applicants.
- Despite the decline in application numbers, the admission rate for APIDA applicants experienced a sharp increase after the 2015-16 year.** CSUN reached its record APIDA admission rate (82.4%) and admitted its highest number of APIDA students in Fall 2022 (3,986).
- Although more APIDA applicants are being admitted, the proportion of admitted applicants who end up enrolling at CSUN (i.e., yield) declined after the 2015-16 academic year.** This trend in yield holds true for all APIDA regional groups
- East Asian (EA) and Filipino/a/x (FIL) applicants comprise the majority of the APIDA application numbers from 2009–22; with EA applicants having the lowest yield rate (14.5% in 2022), and FIL applicants having the highest yield rate (32.4% in 2022) among the APIDA regional groups.**
- Despite declining application numbers and yield rates, APIDA undergraduate enrollment stayed relatively consistent from 2016 to 22 because of the increase in admission rates.**
- From 2009 to 2013, first-time freshman APIDA enrollment exceeded transfer APIDA enrollment; however, from 2014 to 2022, transfer enrollment numbers exceeded freshman enrollment.**



Overview

The current report examines enrollment trends among Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) students at CSUN, both collectively as a pan-ethnic group and by national origin/detailed ethnicity. Specifically, the report seeks to investigate the ongoing decline in this student population.¹

APIDA Definition

There are many terms that are used to denote Asian American and Pacific Islander populations, including (but not limited to): Asian Pacific American (APA), Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI). In this report, we use Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) as a pan-ethnic classification that consciously includes South Asians (Desi) as part of the community.

There are conflicting views on the appropriateness and oversimplification of any racial classification. Thus, we acknowledge that the terms students use to describe themselves are part of a dynamic process of self-determination and self-identification. Moreover, it is important to recognize that there is great heterogeneity in the historical contexts that shape the experiences within the APIDA ethnic groups (e.g., certain Southeast Asian American ethnic groups being relatively new to the United States).

For the current report, we have disaggregated the APIDA ethnic groups into regional groups as classified by the [Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence \(api.gov.org\)](http://api.gov.org), with two modifications: 1) the Filipinx ethnic group has been disaggregated into their own separate category (FIL) because of their longer history in the United States compared to the other Southeast Asian ethnic groups and the relative size of this group at CSUN, and 2) due to the shared sociopolitical identity as refugees caused by the aftermath of the Viet Nam war, Khmer Rouge Genocide in Cambodia, and the U.S. Secret War in Laos, Khmer, Hmong, Lao, Mien, Montagnard, and Viet ethnic groups have been grouped as one-half of the Southeast Asia region (SEA1) and the remaining ethnic groups in the Southeast Asia region are grouped separately (SEA2), Burmese, Indonesian, Malaysian, Singaporean, and Thai.

East Asian (EA): Chinese, Iwo Jiman, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan, Taiwanese, Tibetan

Filipinx (FIL): Filipinx

Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Pacific Islander (NHPI): Carolinian, Chamorro/Guamanian, Chuukese, Fijian, Gilbertese, I-Kiribati, Kosraean, Maori, Mariana Islander, Marshallese, Niue Islander, Ni-Vanuatu, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Pohnpeian, Saipanese, Samoan, Solomon Islander, Tahitian, Tokelauan, Tongan, Yapese

South Asian/Desi (SA): Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Indian, Maldivian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Sri Lankan

Southeast Asian (SEA1): Khmer, Hmong, Lao, Mien, Montagnard, Viet

Southeast Asian (SEA2): Burmese, Indonesian, Indo Chinese Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai

Other Asian (OTH): Other Asian, Decline to State, Not Specified, Two or more Ethnicities

Although some Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) groups reside within the Asia region, we do not include them in this disaggregation because: 1) they may not self-identify as part of the APIDA population and 2) there is research to indicate that they deserve separate consideration as SWANA.

APIDA regional groups are fully disaggregated in the addendum to this report by national origin/ detailed ethnicity since the regional comparison limits our ability to highlight trends unique to each national origin group. We acknowledge that notions of ethnic and national identity labels carry political, social, and familial meanings that can be controversial. Most importantly, we recognize the limitations and imperfections of disaggregating by regional group.

Data

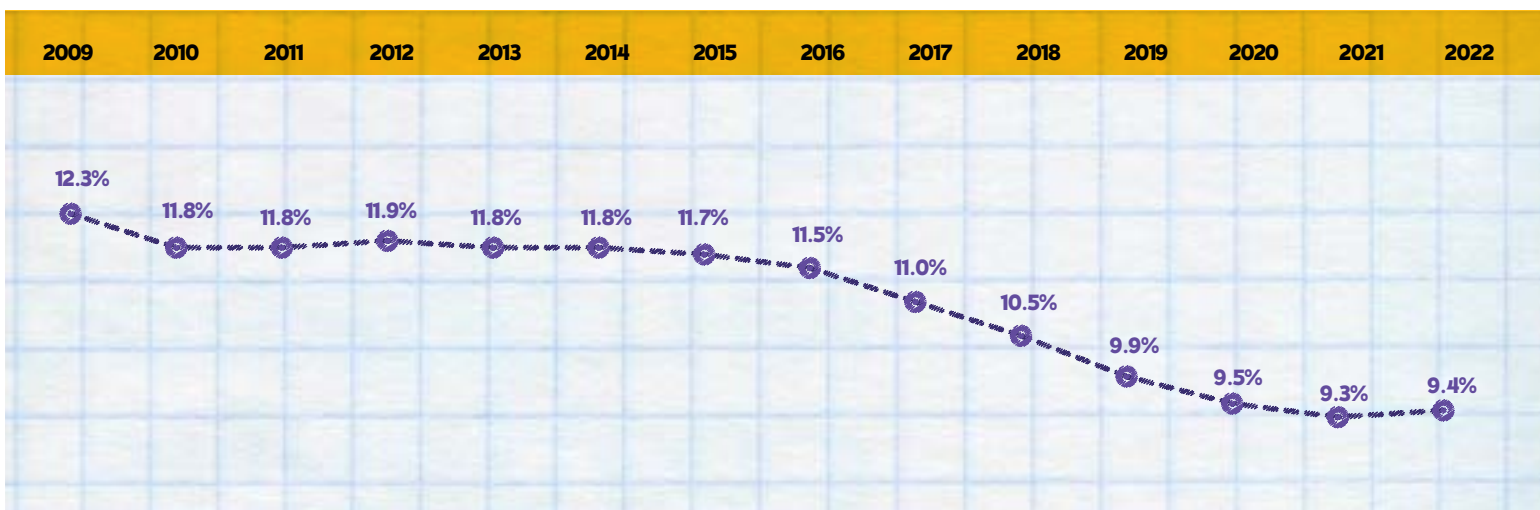
The current report references the data available on [CSUN Counts](#) regarding [total undergraduate student](#) and [new incoming undergraduate](#) student count. Additionally, a dataset from the Office of Institutional Research with detailed APIDA student application information (admission and enrollment) from 2009 to 2022 was used to disaggregate by specific APIDA ethnicities as [captured by the CSU system](#).¹ The total size of the dataset is 73,899 applicants. Note that we have filtered out international applicants from Asia for this brief.

A. APIDA UNDERGRADUATE TRENDS ACROSS TIME

APIDA Undergraduate Population is Declining

From 2009 to 2018, CSUN consistently maintained an enrollment of at least 10% APIDA-identifying students per academic year (although the proportion has seen a steady decline. As of the 2021-22 academic year, CSUN had its lowest APIDA student enrollment (9.3%). In fact, the CSUN APIDA undergraduate student population experienced a similar proportional decline (2.9%) to the proportional decline of Black undergraduate students at CSUN (3.1%) from 2009 through 2022.

Proportion of All APIDA Identifying Undergraduate Student Enrollment by Year



1. Some APIDA ethnicity groups may not be represented in this brief because of the limited options provided in the CSU system common application form.

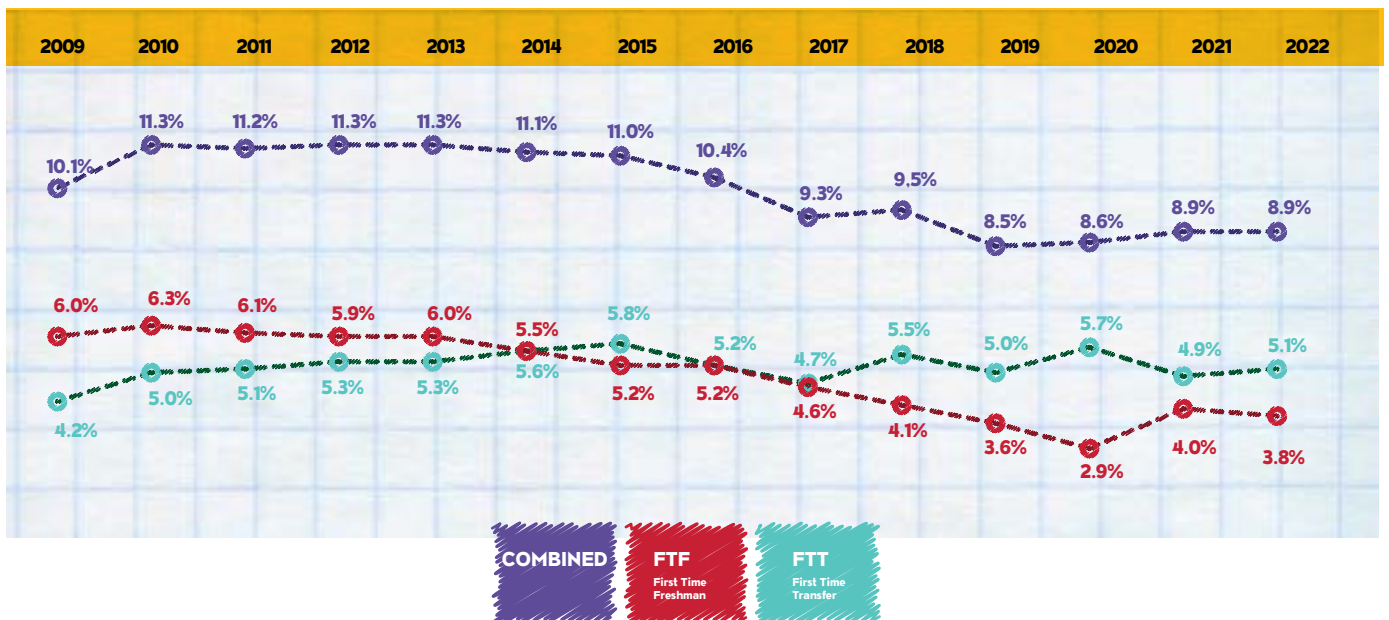
Proportional Breakdown of All CSUN Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity



Incoming APIDA Undergraduate Population is Declining

The proportional decline of new incoming APIDA undergraduate students showcases the likelihood of a continued decline in the total APIDA undergraduate population if trends do not change. Note that the decline in recent years is largely due to a marked decline in incoming FTF students.

Proportion of New Incoming APIDA Identifying Undergraduate Enrollment by Year



Proportional Breakdown of New Incoming Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

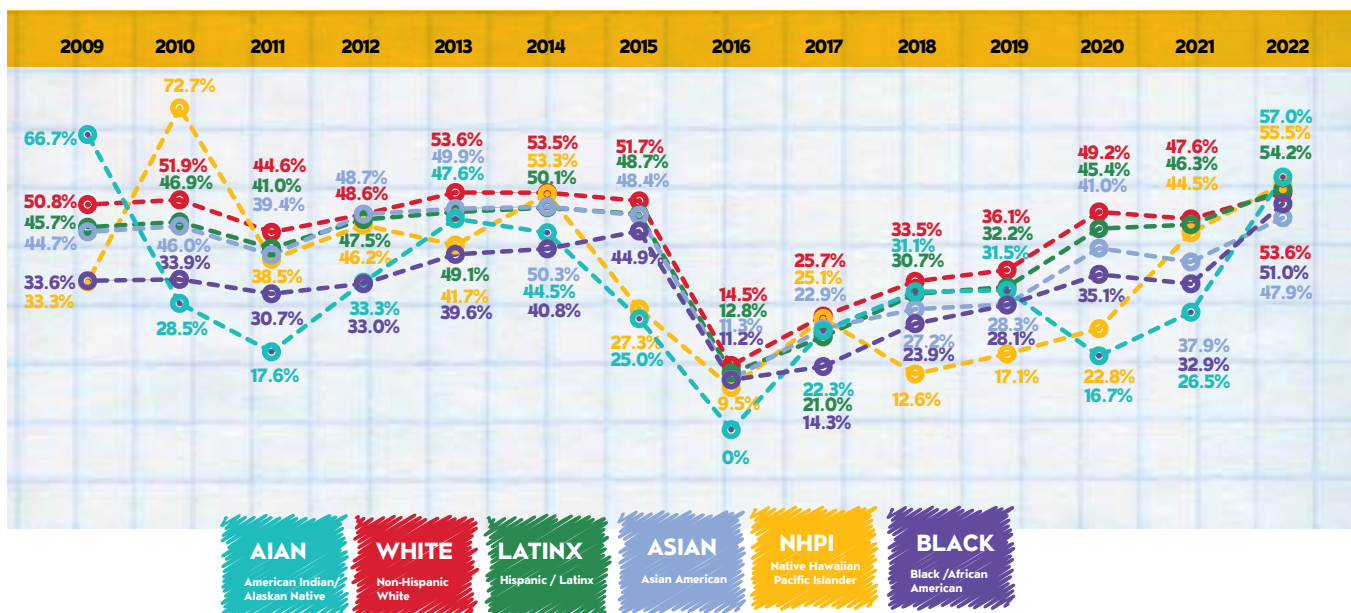


B. IMPACTION POLICY COINCIDES WITH DECREASE IN APIDA ENROLLMENT, ESPECIALLY AMONG TIER 2 STUDENTS

One of the most probable explanations for the decline in APIDA enrollment is CSUN's [impaction policy](#). During the years between 2009 and 2022, there was a drastic drop in enrollment from 2015 to 2016. CSUN went into campus-wide regional impaction in [Fall 2016](#), which limited admissions for California resident transfer student applicants outside the CSUN-defined local area (i.e., Tier-2; the campus had already declared regional impaction for FTF earlier, in 2009). As such, the new policy required Tier-2 FTT applicants to have a higher eligibility index to be eligible for admission to the university.

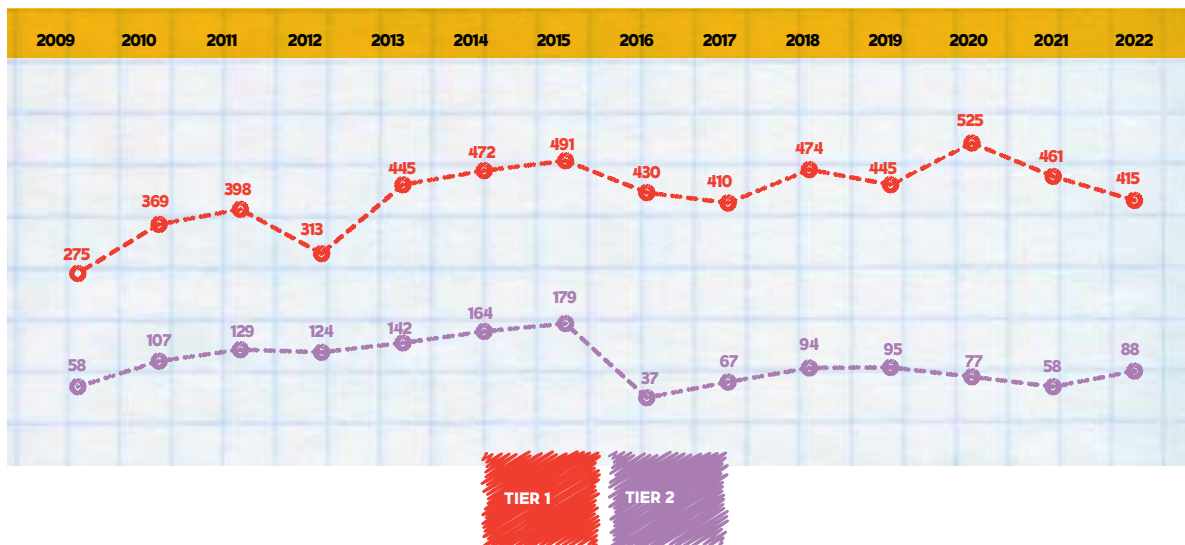
Upon moving into impaction in 2016, admission rates experienced a sharp decline across all racial/ethnic groups at CSUN.

FTT Tier-2 Admission Rates Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity: 2009 to 2022



Indeed, when the count of new incoming FTT APIDA students is disaggregated by tier, the effect of the impaction policy on Tier-2 applicants is especially evident. For example, the number of incoming Tier-2 APIDA FTT experienced a 79% decline from 2015 to 2016 (179 to 37). In comparison, the number of incoming Tier-1 APIDA FTT experienced only about a 12% decline from 2015 to 2016 (491 to 430).

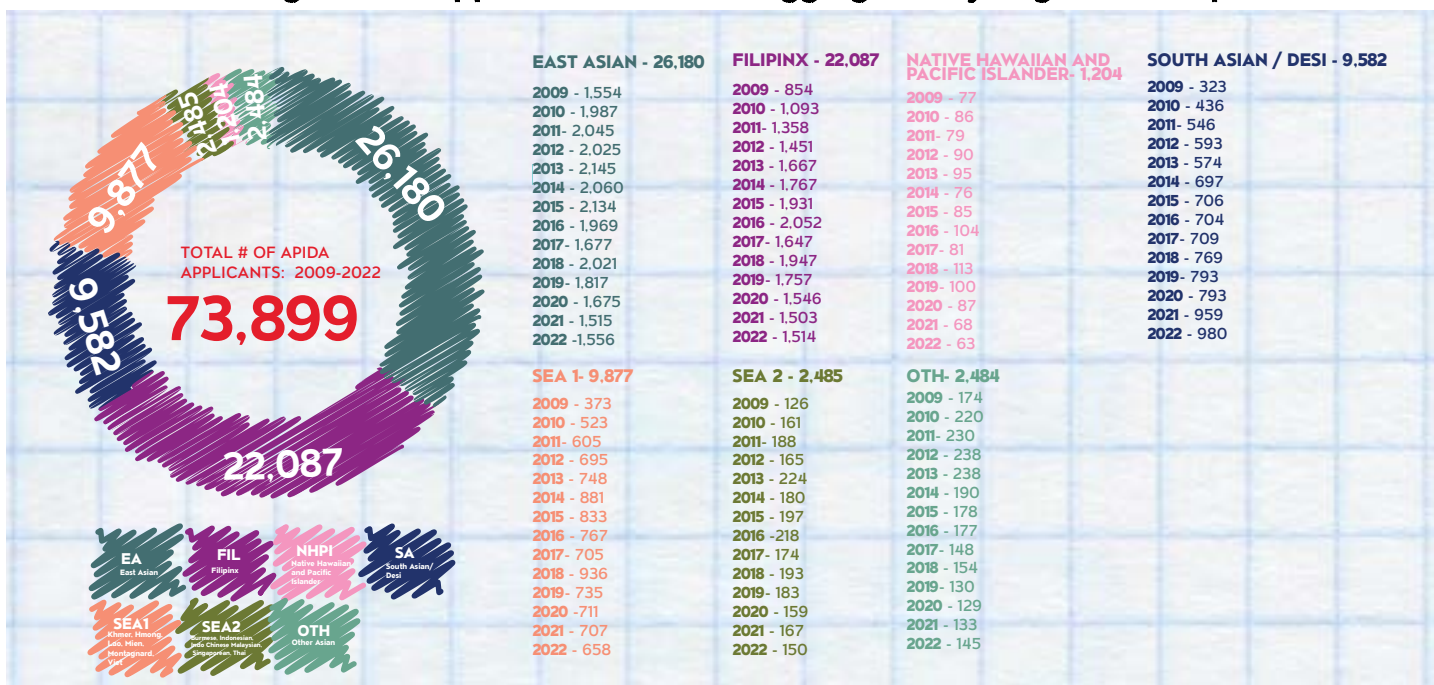
Count of New APIDA FTT by Tier: 2009-2022



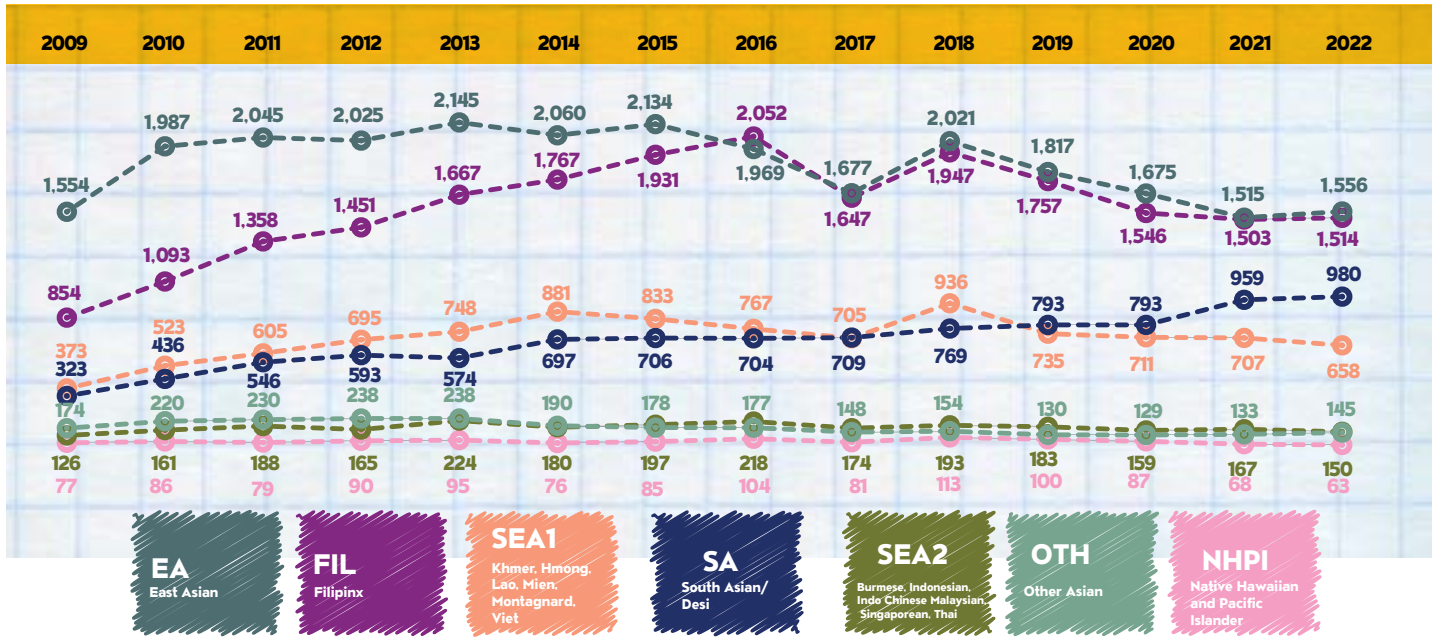
C. FEWER APPLICATIONS AND LOWER YIELD RATES DESPITE AN INCREASE IN ADMISSION RATES

Overall, applications from APIDA students increased from 2009 to 2015. After 2015, however, this number has steadily decreased. When application count is disaggregated by APIDA regional group, the trend in growth/decline holds across all groups except SA applicants. From 2009 to 2022, SA applications experienced steady growth and did not decline with the other regional groups after 2015. On the other hand, NHPI applications reach a record low in 2022 at 63 applicants.

APIDA Undergraduate Application Count Disaggregated by Regional Group: 2009-2022



APIDA Undergraduate Application Count by Regional Group: 2009 to 2022

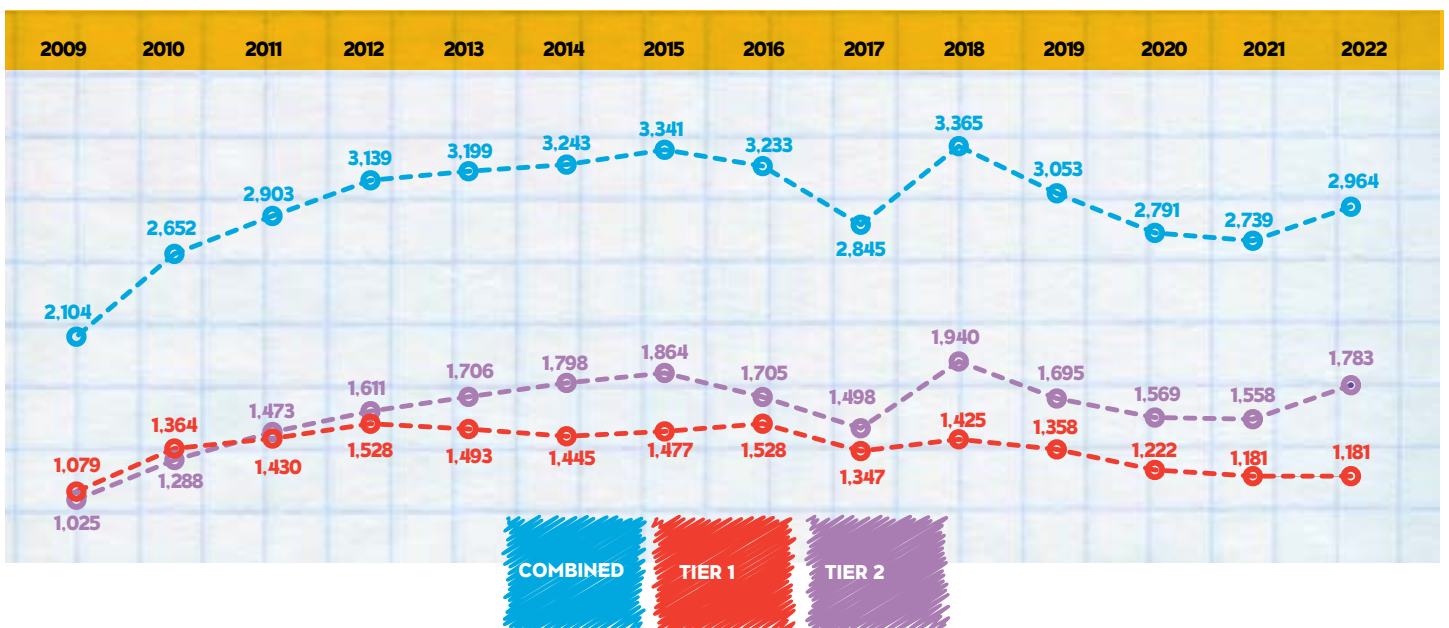


Application Count by Entry Type (FTF/FTT) and Tier Status

First-Time Freshmen (FTF)

Disaggregating FTF applications by tier reveals that both Tier-1 and Tier-2 APIDA FTF applications experienced a steady decline after the 2015-16 academic year (except 2018 for Tier-2 students).

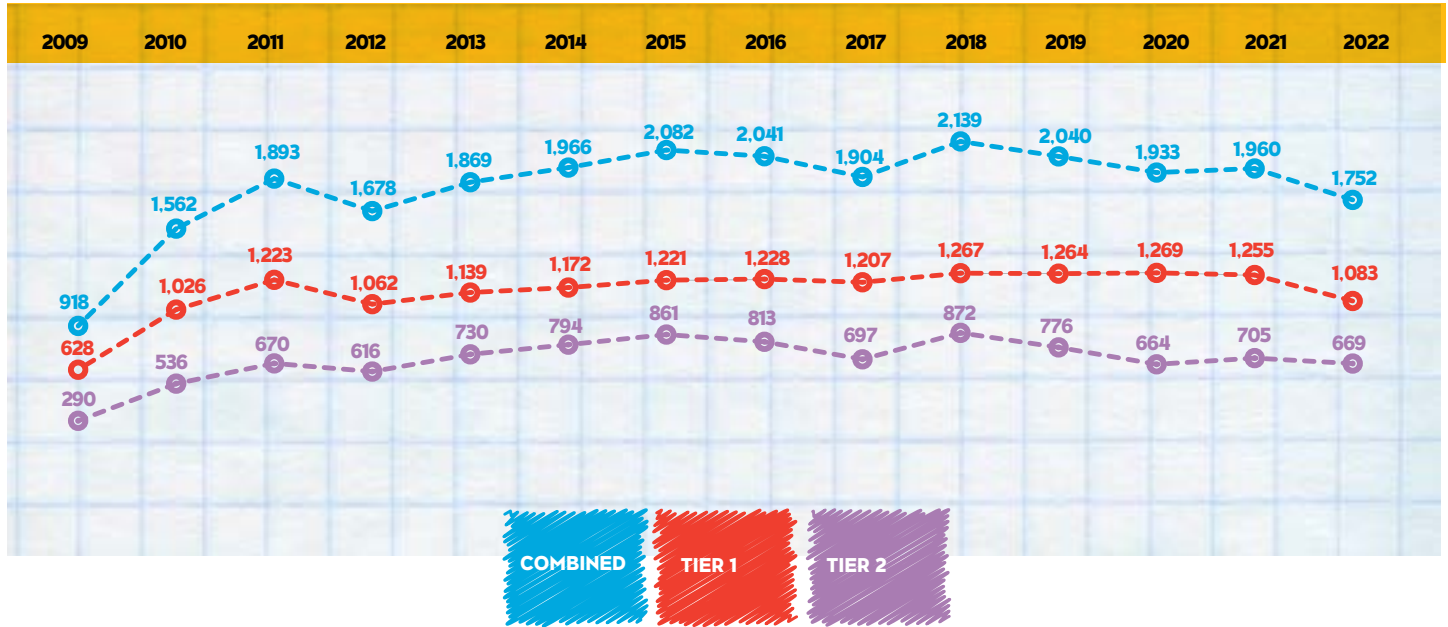
FTF APIDA Application Count by Tier: 2009-2022



First-Time Transfer (FTT)

Similarly, after increasing to their peak in 2015 (861), FTT Tier-2 APIDA applications declined and then held steady at around 700 applications each year (except 2018). On the other hand, Tier-1 FTT APIDA applications have stayed relatively consistent in number since 2011.

FTT APIDA Application Count by Tier: 2009-2022



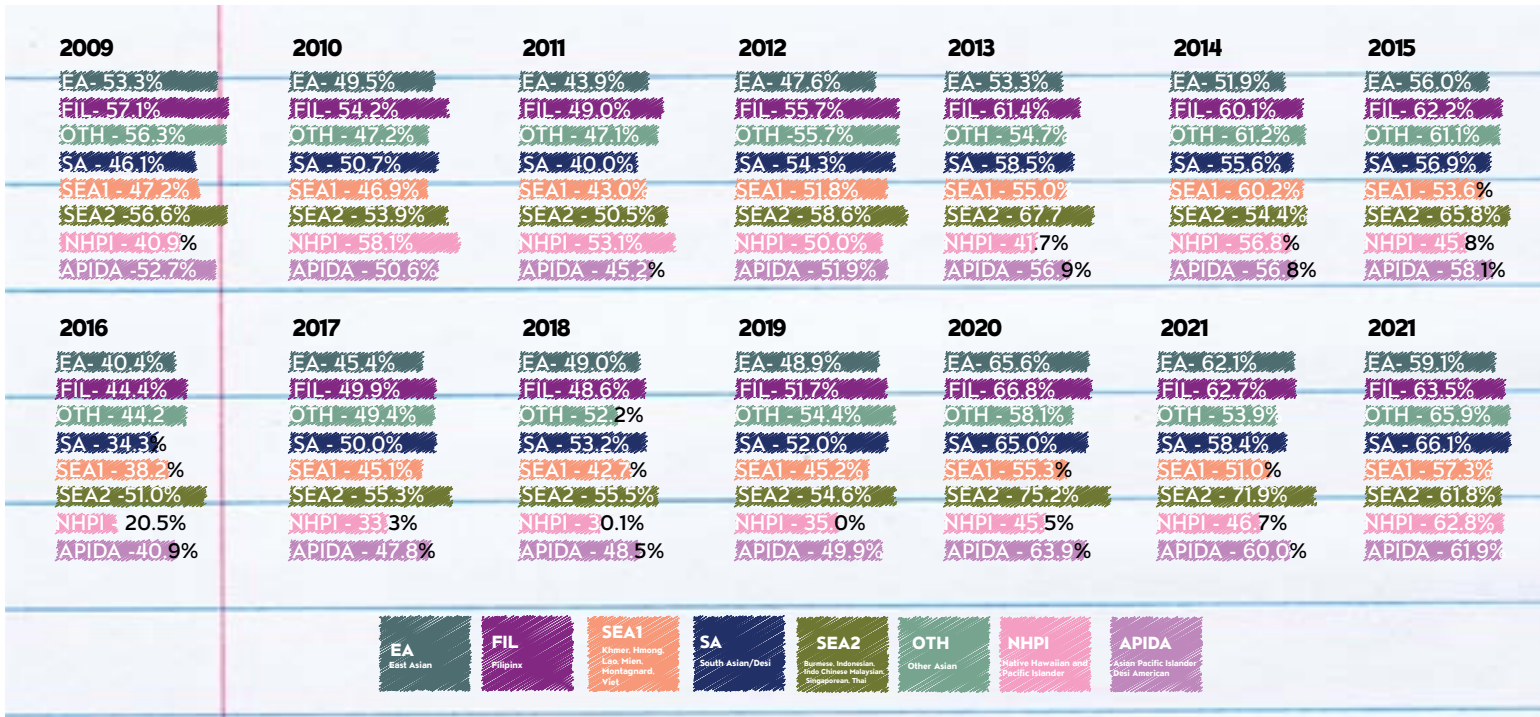
Admissions Rate Steadily Increased

Although application counts began decreasing overall after 2015, there was a concurrent steady increase in admission rates for APIDA applicants during this same time period. Among APIDA FTF, in recent years, admission rates have been increasing since 2016 (with a dip in 2018), to a high of 94% in 2022. Admission rates for APIDA FTT have been increasing since 2017, to a high of 64% in 2020.

APIDA FTF Admission Rates by Regional Group: 2009-2022

Year	EA	FIL	SEA1	SEA2	SA	OTH	NHPI	APIDA
2009	83.6%	83.0%	83.9%	86.1%	83.1%	67.3%	82.8%	
2010	88.2%	82.3%	81.7%	84.4%	85.5%	69.1%	85.1%	
2011	78.7%	73.2%	69.4%	70.1%	69.4%	57.4%	74.3%	
2012	56.9%	57.3%	53.5%	56.8%	50.1%	30.3%	55.3%	
2013	78.6%	73.1%	71.7%	71.8%	72.6%	46.5%	74.0%	
2014	67.4%	63.8%	58.5%	64.5%	60.3%	31.5%	63.4%	
2015	46.0%	55.3%	43.2%	64.2%	39.7%	24.6%	48.5%	
2016	58.6%	60.9%	61.4%	62.1%	52.3%	38.5%	58.5%	
2017	67.2%	67.8%	67.4%	73.0%	60.8%	52.9%	66.1%	
2018	54.6%	57.1%	57.6%	62.8%	50.2%	37.0%	54.8%	
2019	68.8%	72.1%	69.0%	75.6%	69.6%	60.0%	70.0%	
2020	76.4%	79.3%	76.9%	76.6%	74.4%	52.5%	76.8%	
2021	90.6%	92.3%	93.6%	93.3%	94.6%	86.5%	92.3%	
2022	93.9%	93.9%	94.3%	92.3%	94.9%	95.1%	94.1%	

APIDA FTT Admission Rates by Regional Group: 2009-2022

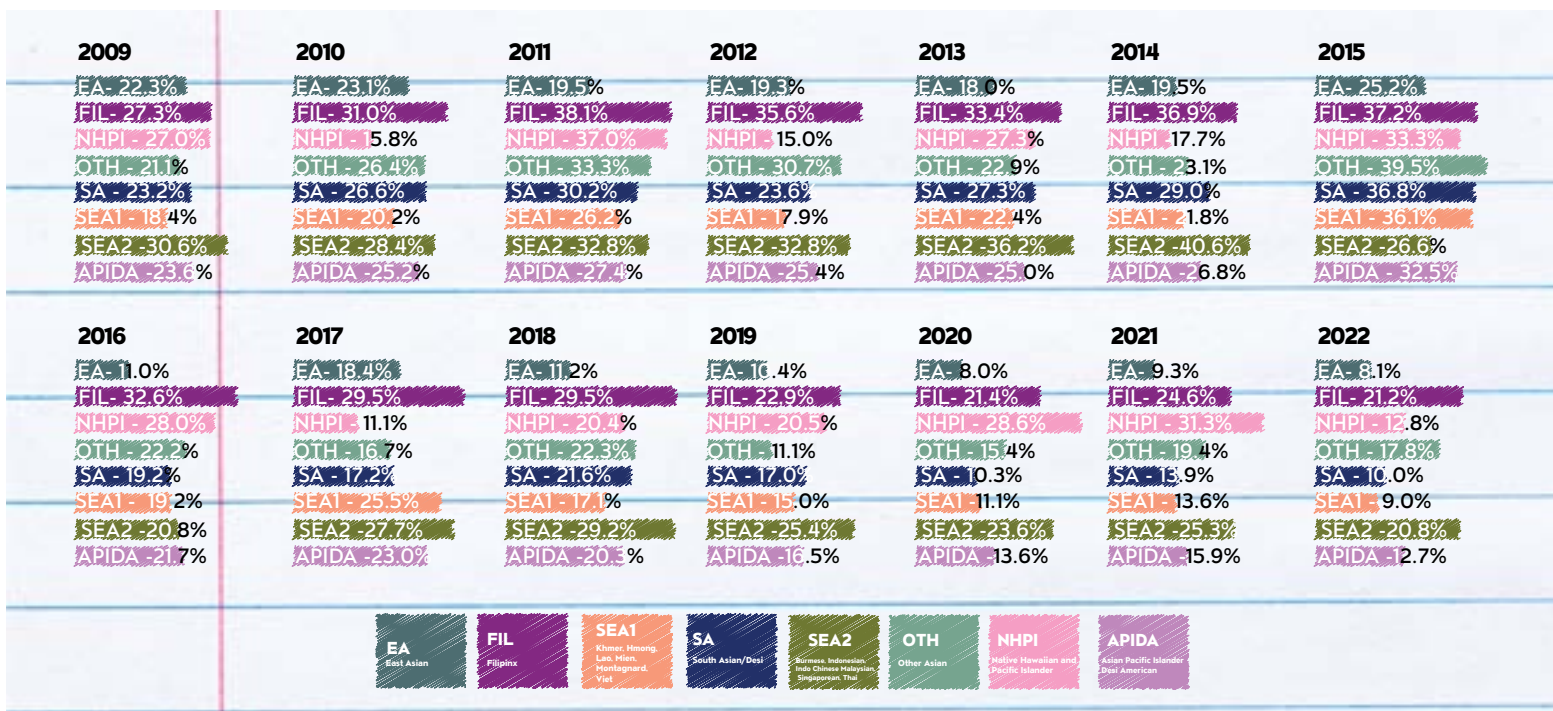


Yield Rate Decreases

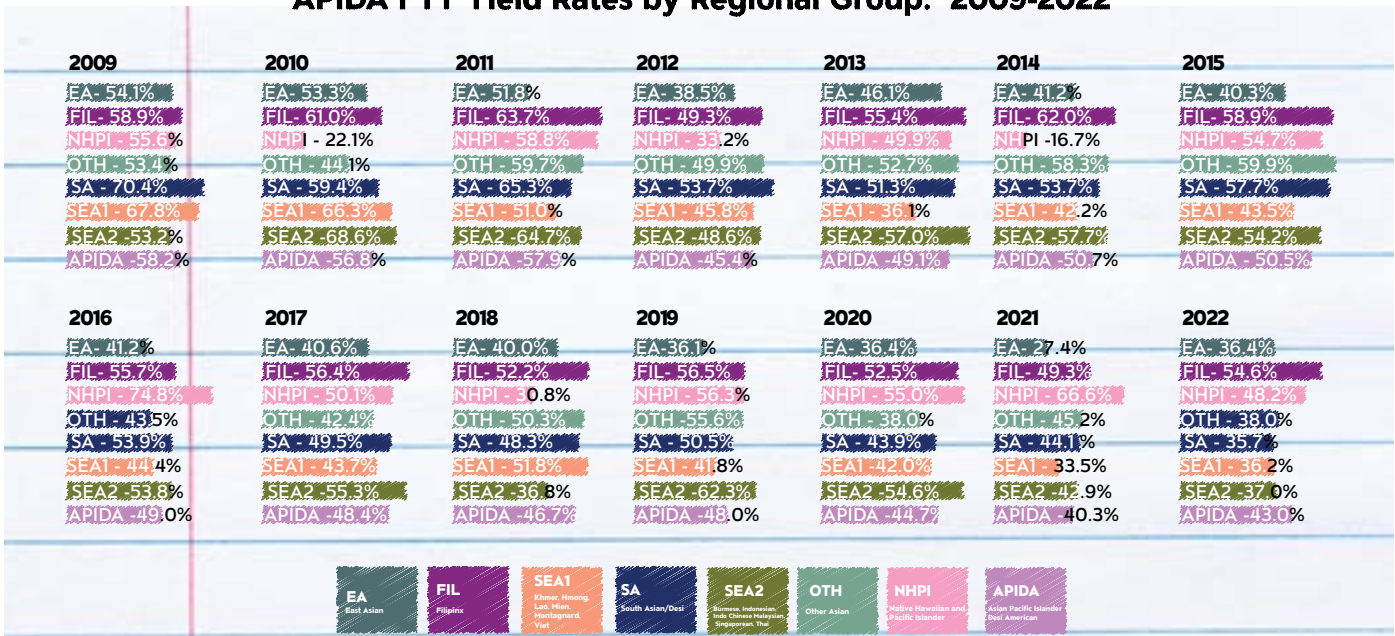
Among APIDA FTT who were admitted to CSUN, yield rates remained fairly steady before a sharp peak in 2015. Thereafter, there was a general decline in yield rates, to their lowest rate in 2022 (13%). There was wide variability in yield rates by regional groups; for the past 5 years, Filipinx and Southeast Asian 1 admitted students consistently had the highest yield rates.

Yield rates among APIDA FTT have been higher than for APIDA FTF (a common pattern among all race/ethnic groups). After a dip in 2012, yield rates rebounded for a few years before beginning a slow decline in more recent years, to a low of 40% in 2021. Again, there is wide variability by regional group, with Filipinx admitted FTT consistently showed among the top yield rates.

APIDA FTT Yield Rates by Regional Group: 2009-2022



APIDA FTT Yield Rates by Regional Group: 2009-2022



D. TAKEAWAYS

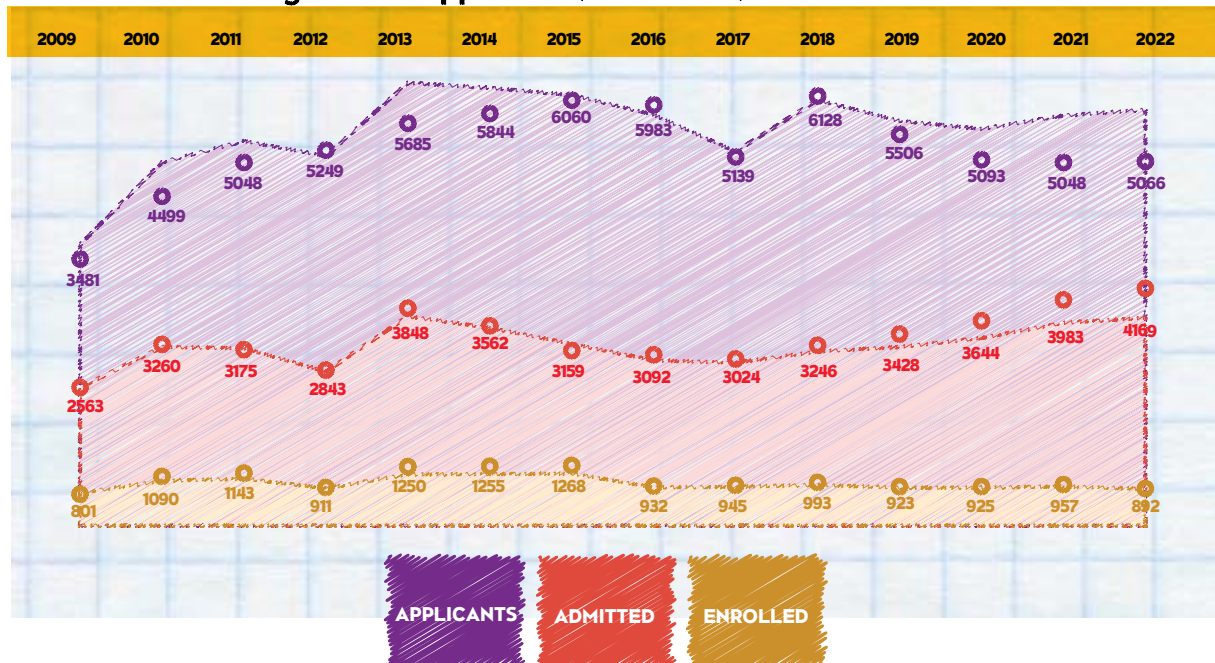
Impaction Policy

Before the Fall 2016 impaction policy, the proportion of new incoming undergraduate APIDA students stayed relatively consistent. However, starting in the 2016-17 academic year, there has been a steady decline in this population at CSUN—an indicator of the potential influence the Fall 2016 impaction policy had on the APIDA student population.

Application Count and Admissions/Yield Rates

There has been a decline in APIDA undergraduate applications to CSUN since 2016, with a concurrent increase in admissions rates for this group. Therefore, despite fewer applicants, the net total headcount of admitted APIDA undergraduate students has increased during this period. However, despite the increase in the total number of admitted APIDA undergraduate students, the yield rates have declined during this period. This has resulted in declining numbers of APIDA undergraduate student enrollment overall, resulting in the proportion of APIDA students dipping below the 10% needed for AANAPISI status. It remains to be seen what the effects of lifting regional impaction (in 2022 for FTT and 2023 for FTF) will be.

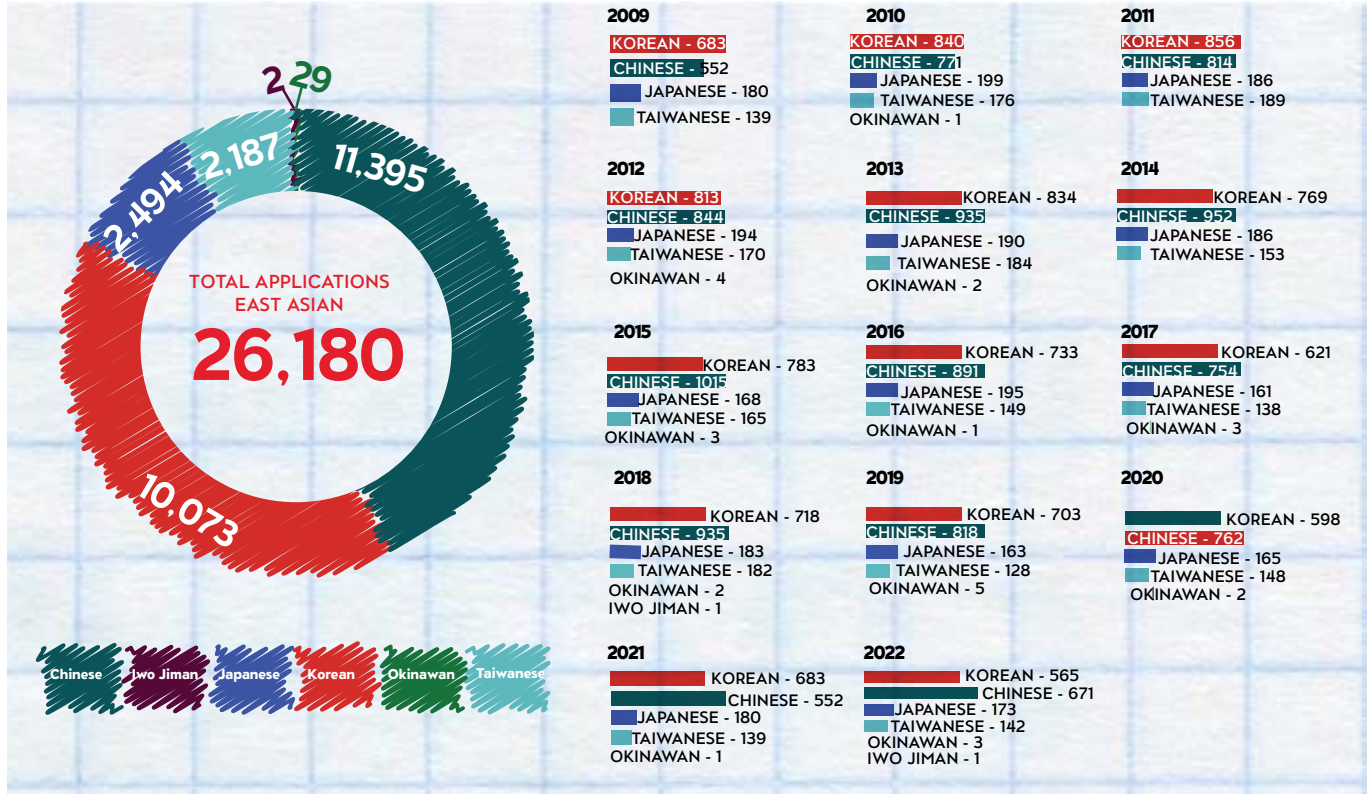
APIDA Undergraduate Application, Admission, Yield Count: 2009 to 2022



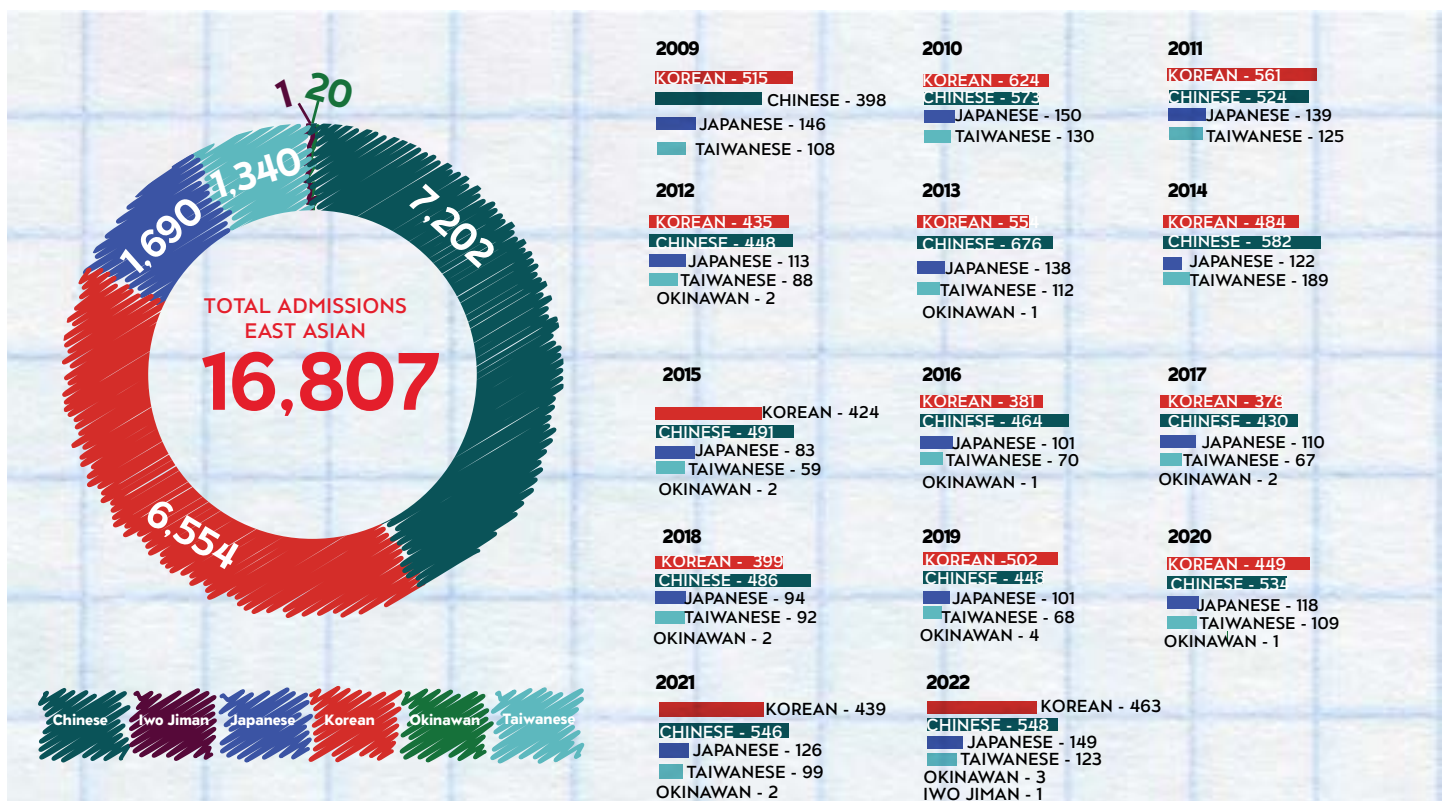
DATA DISAGGREGATED BY NATIONAL ORIGIN WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPINGS

(EA) EAST ASIAN POPULATION TRENDS

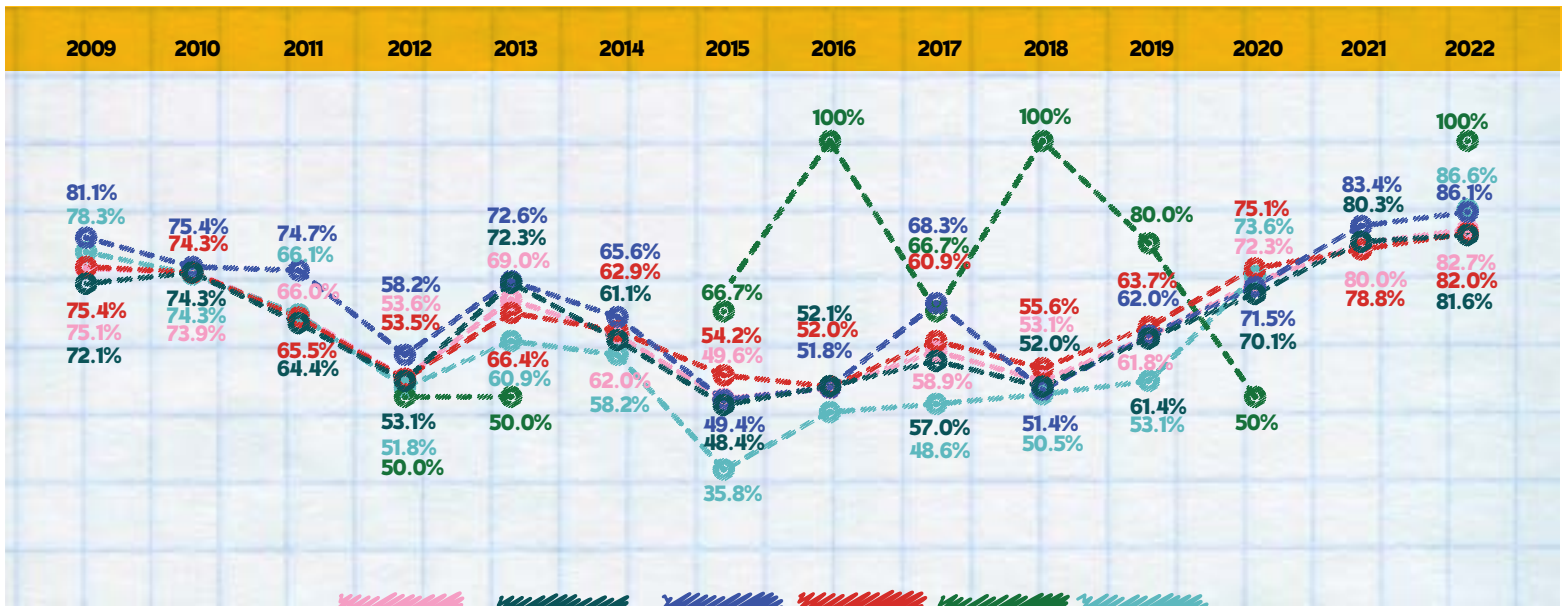
CSUN EA Undergraduate Application Count: 2009-2022



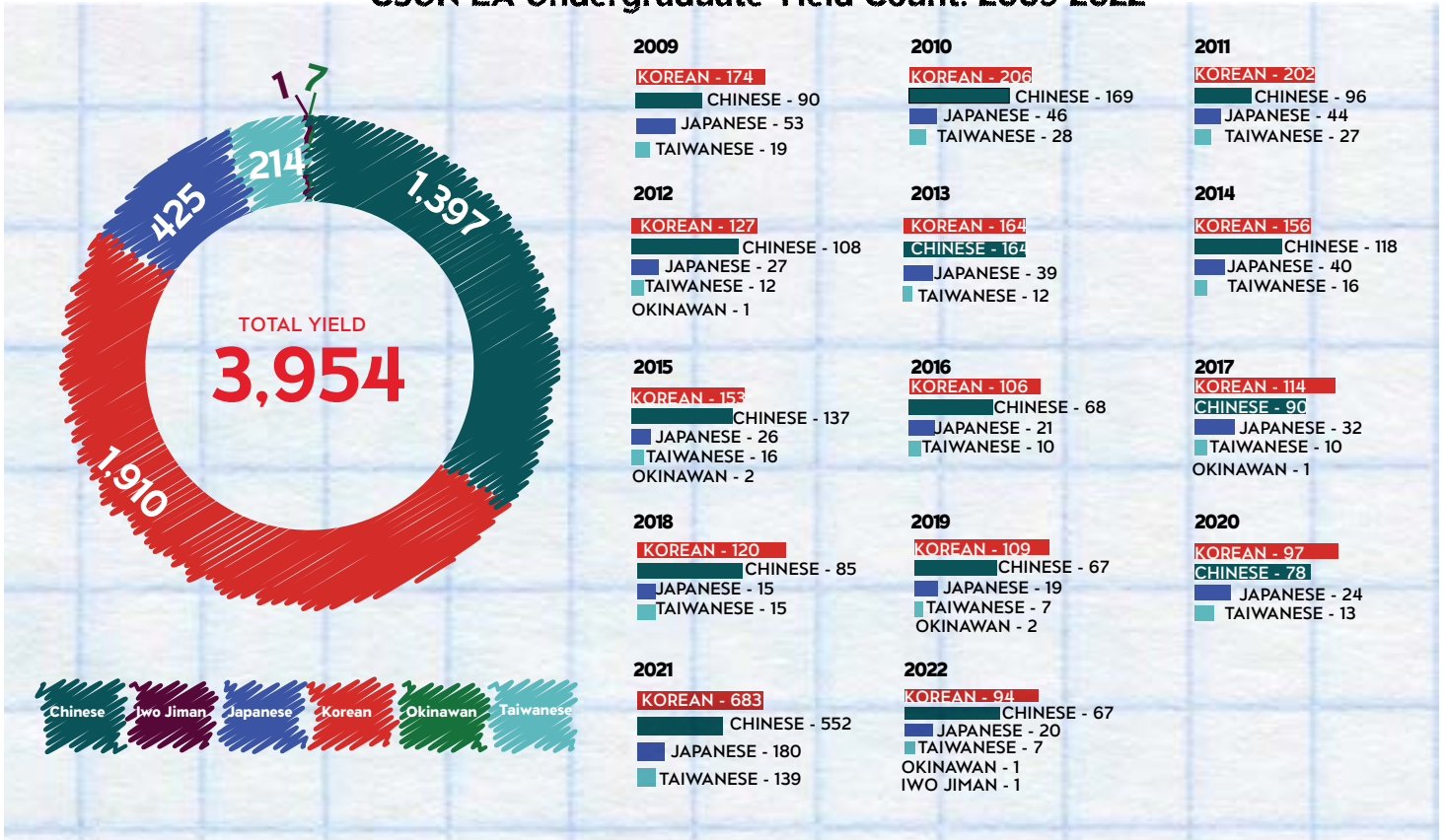
CSUN EA Undergraduate Admission Count: 2009-2022



CSUN EA Undergraduate Admission Rates: 2009-2022



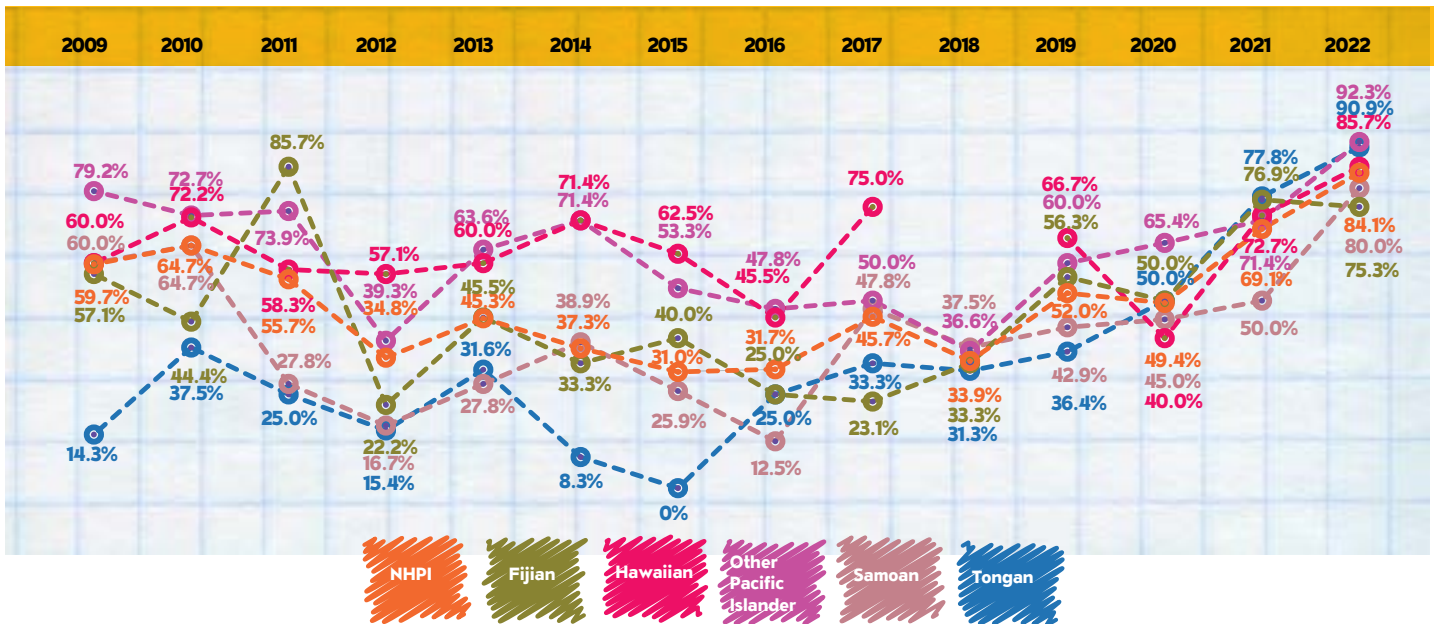
CSUN EA Undergraduate Yield Count: 2009-2022



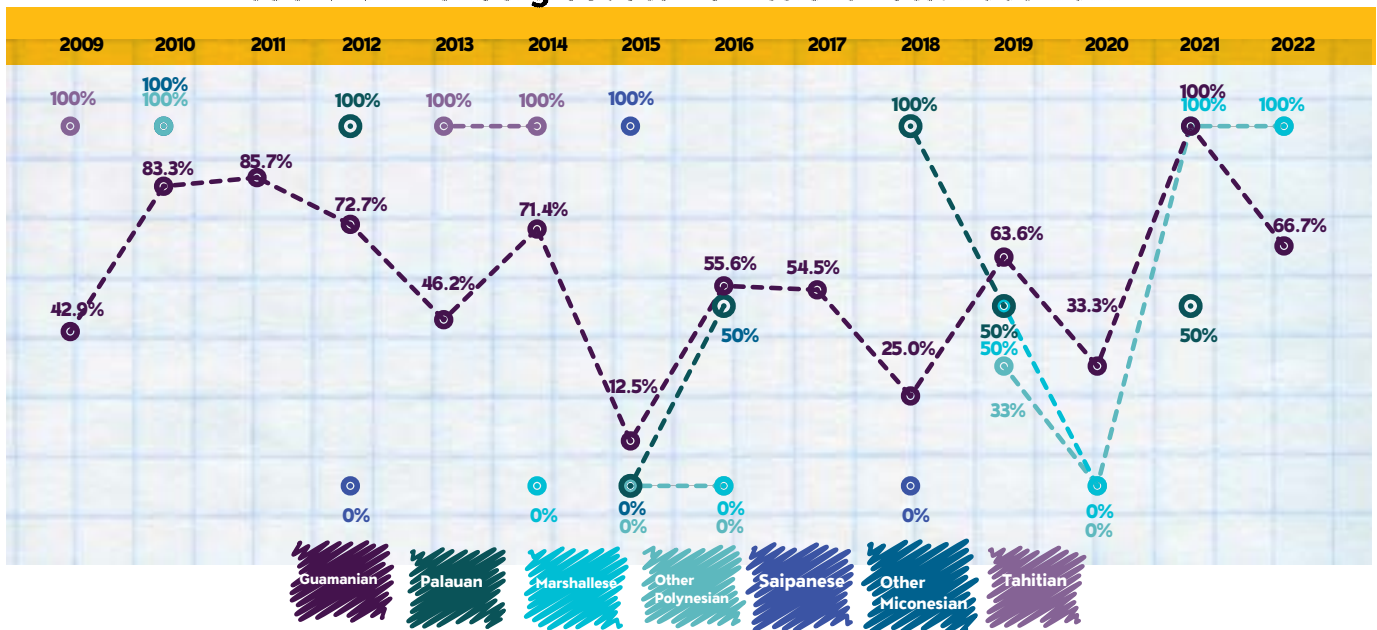
CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Admissions Count: 2009-2022



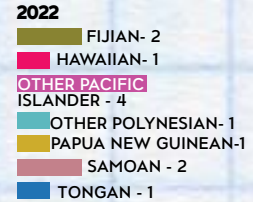
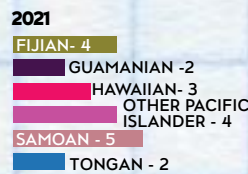
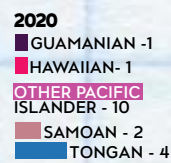
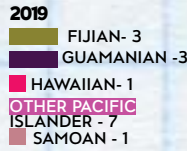
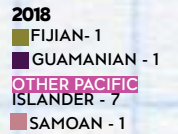
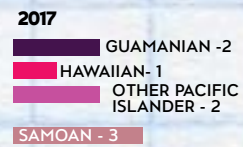
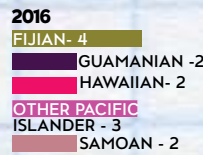
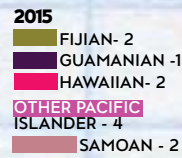
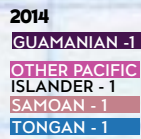
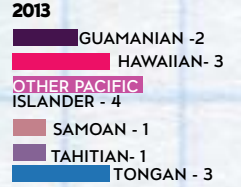
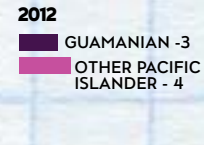
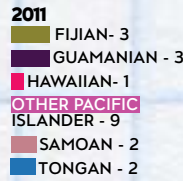
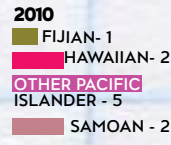
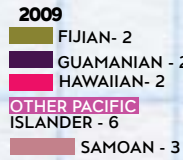
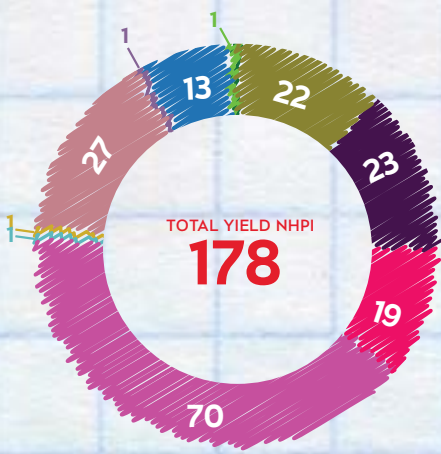
CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Admissions Rate: 2009-2022



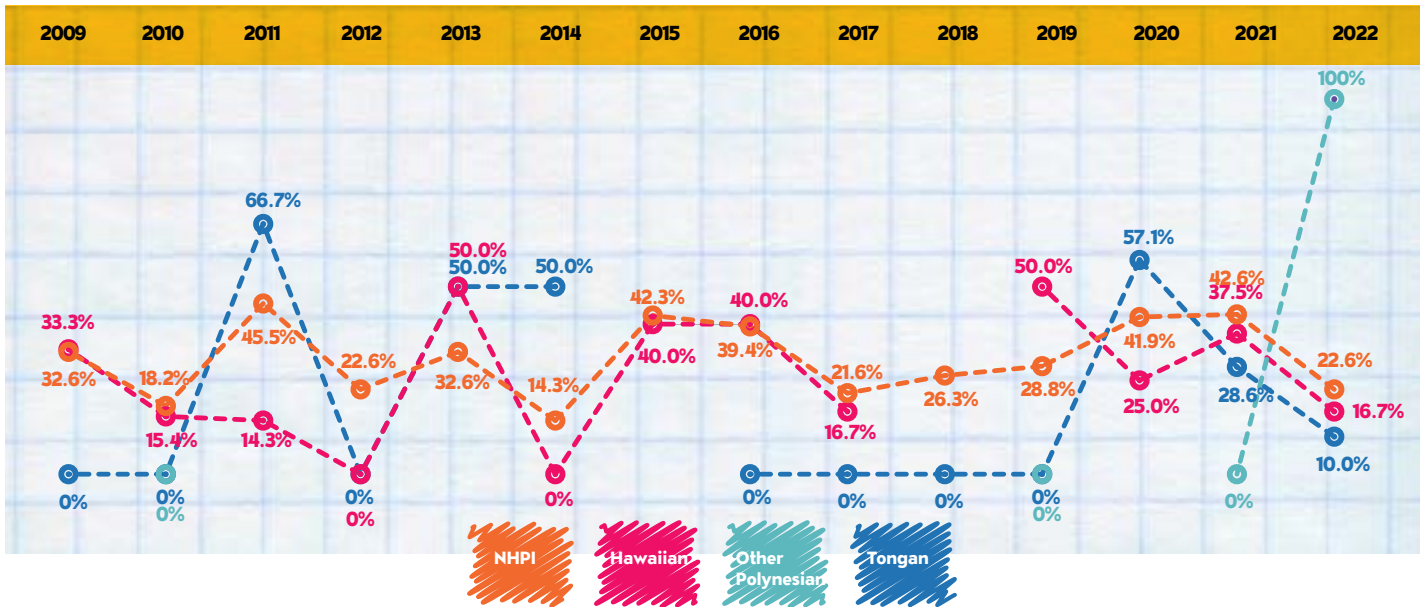
CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Admissions Rate: 2009-2022



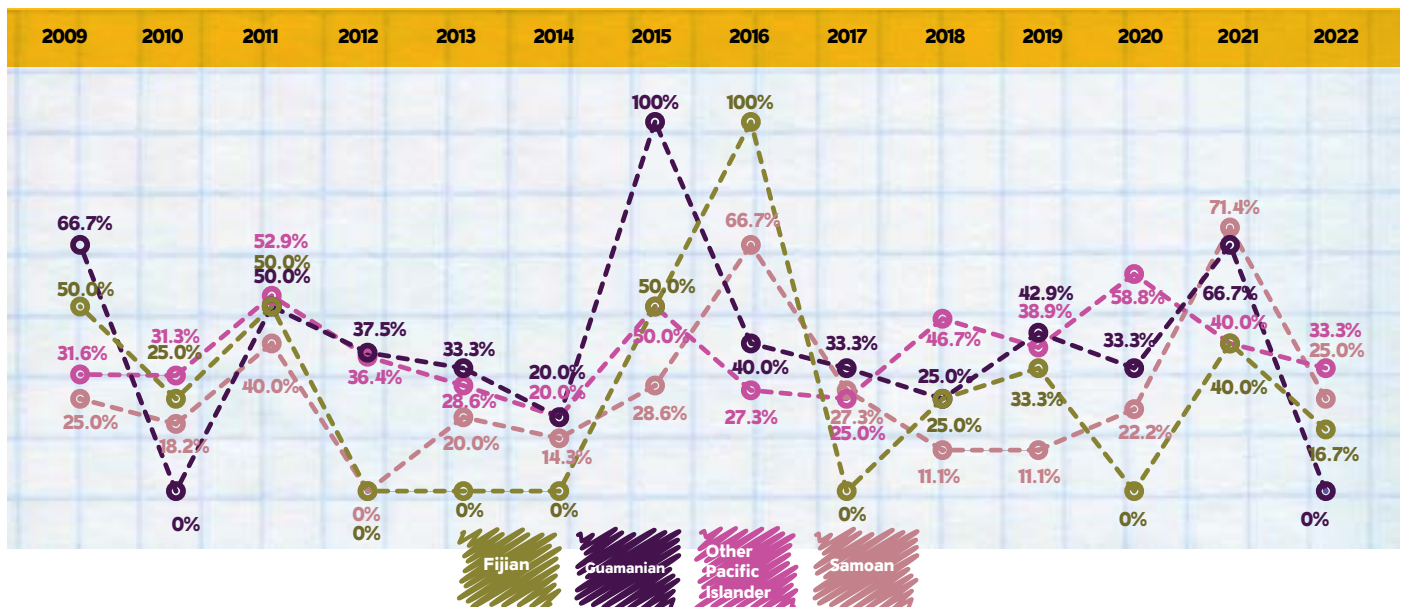
CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Yield Count: 2009-2022



CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Yield Rates: 2009-2022

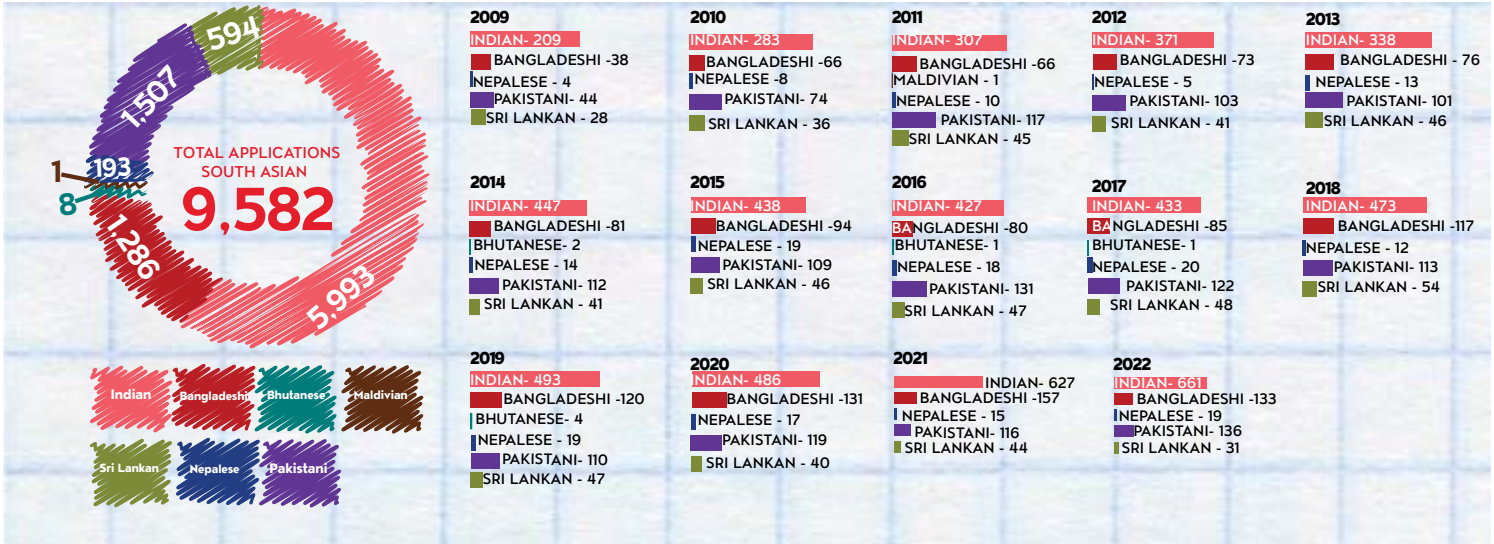


CSUN NHPI Undergraduate Yield Rates: 2009-2022

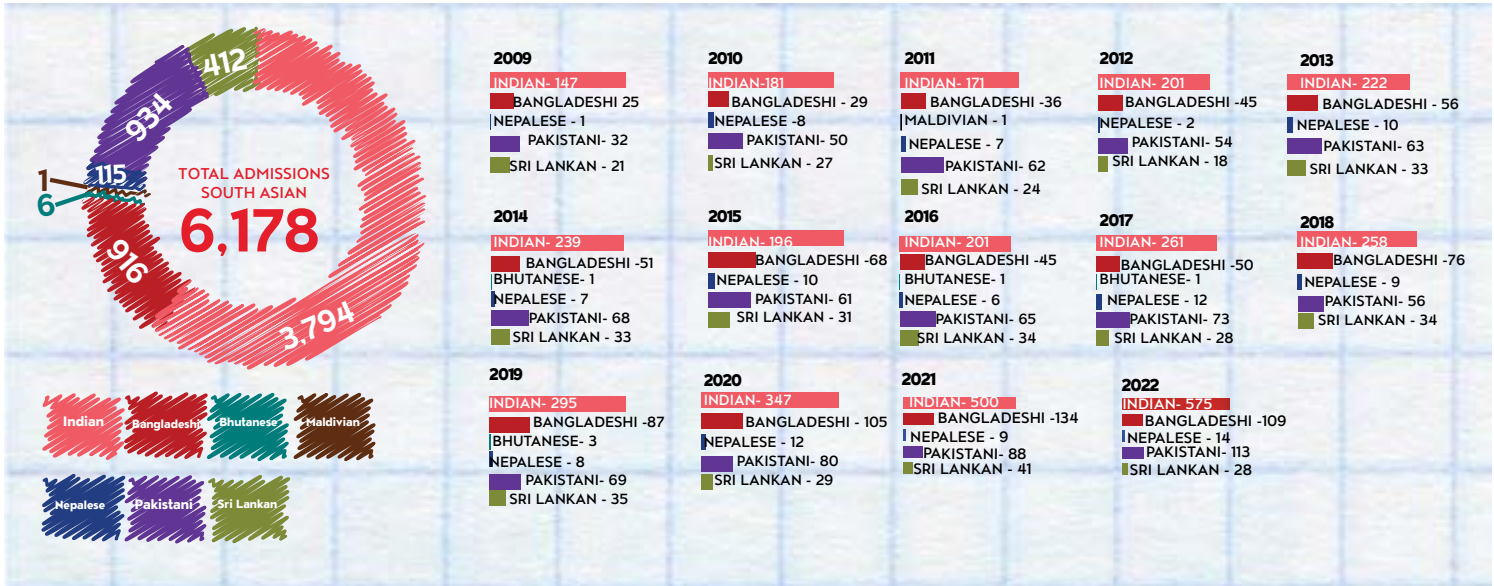


(SA) SOUTH ASIAN POPULATION TRENDS

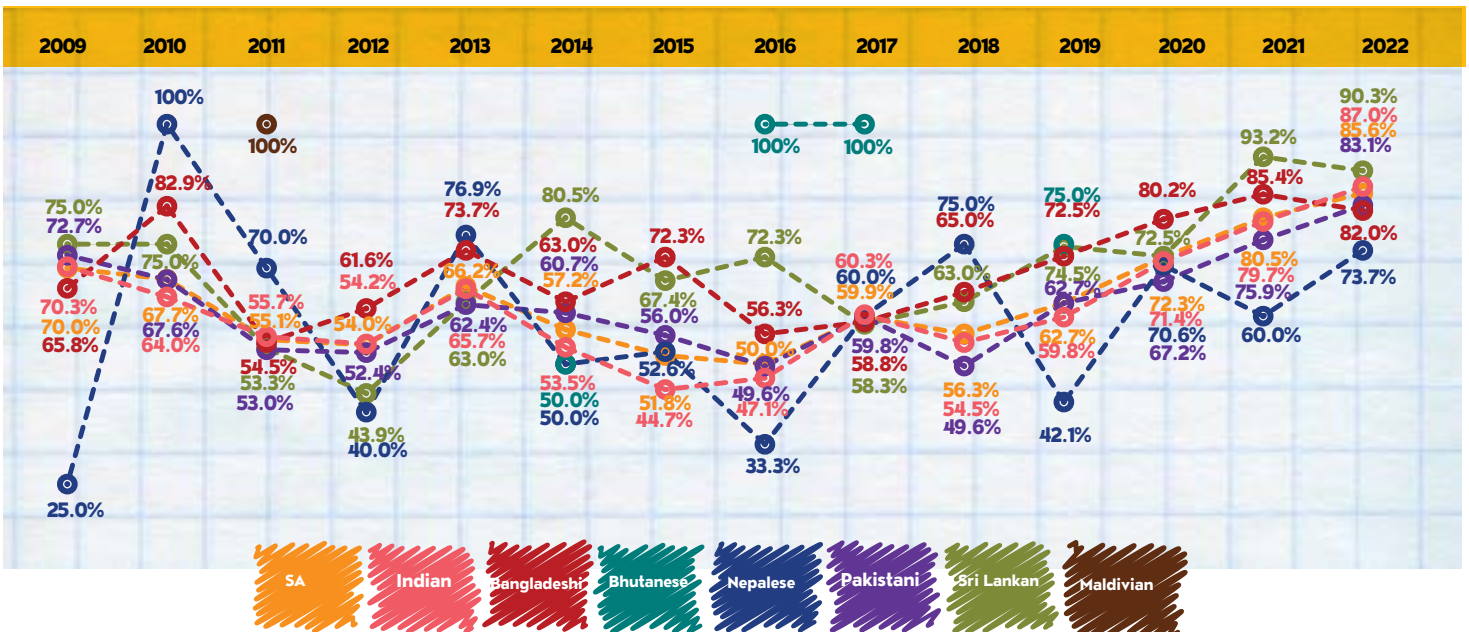
CSUN SA Undergraduate Application Count: 2009-2022



CSUN SA Undergraduate Admission Count: 2009-2022



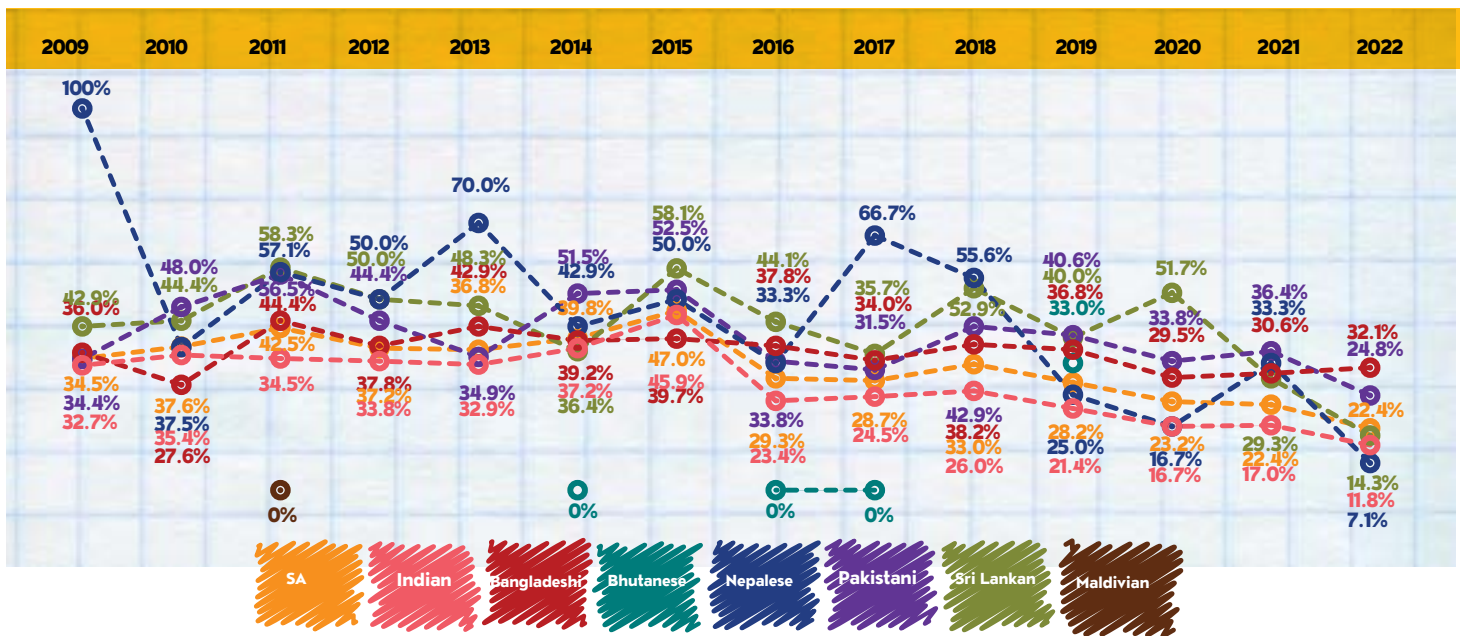
CSUN SA Undergraduate Admission Rates: 2009-2022



CSUN SA Undergraduate Yield Count: 2009-2022

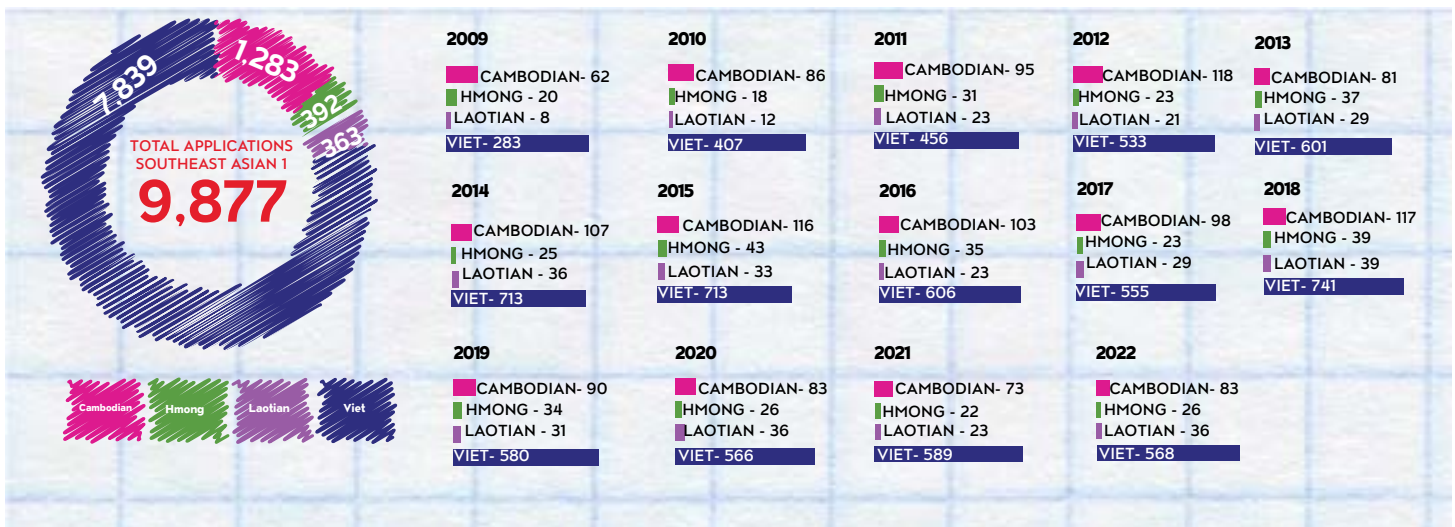


CSUN SA Undergraduate Admission Rates: 2009-2022

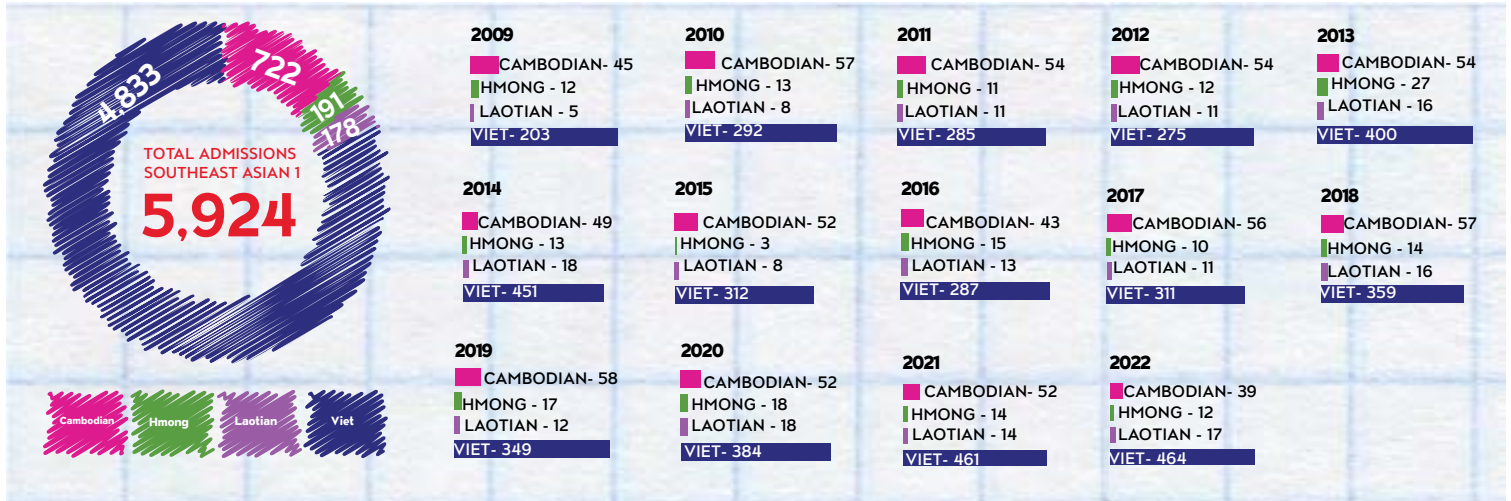


(SEA1) SOUTHEAST ASIAN POPULATION TRENDS

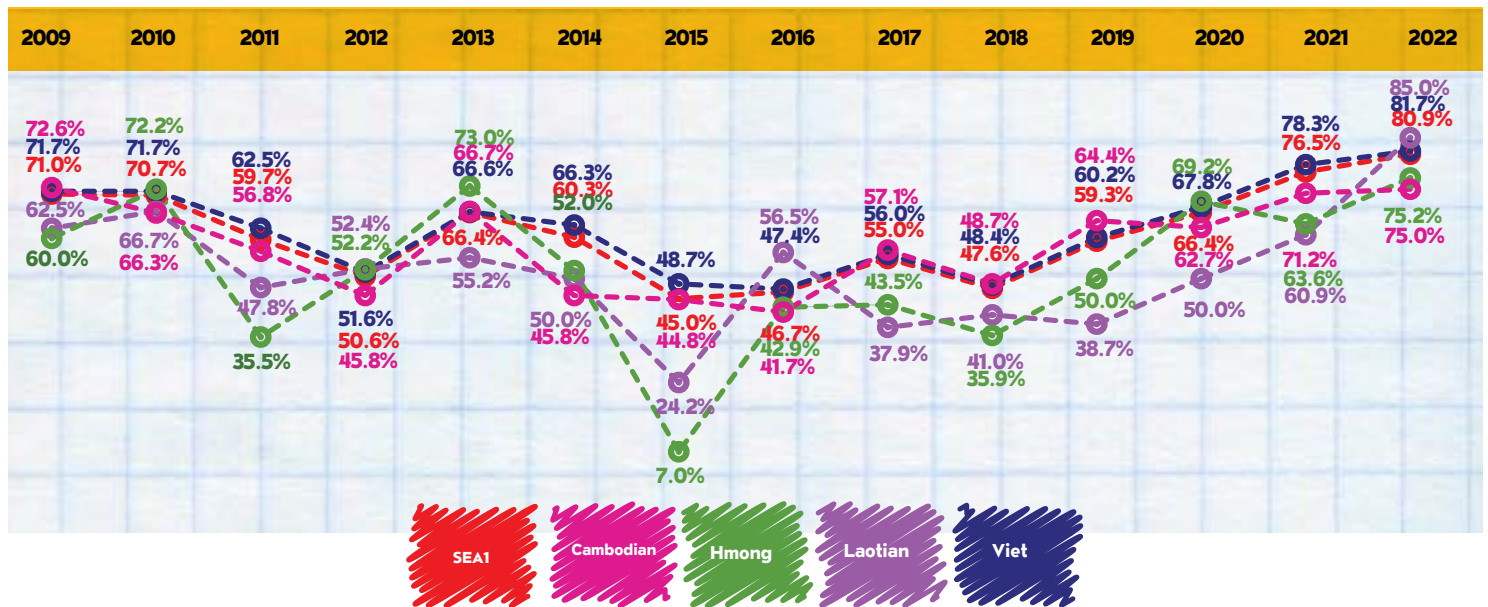
CSUN SEA1 Undergraduate Application Count: 2009-2022



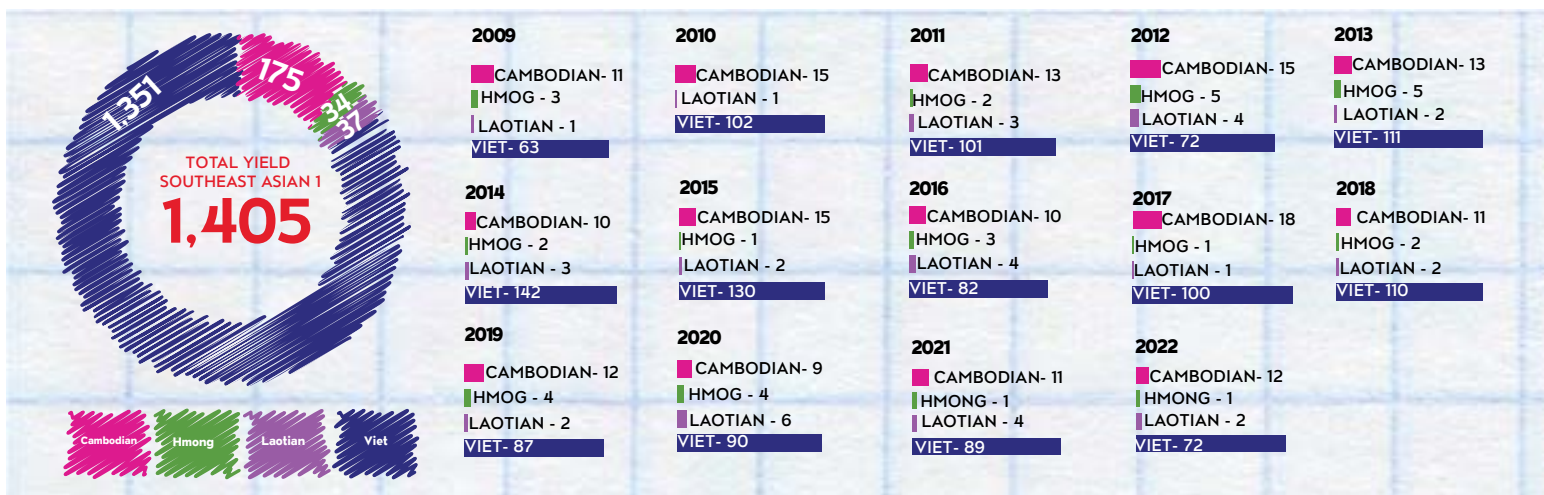
CSUN SEA1 Undergraduate Admission Count: 2009-2020



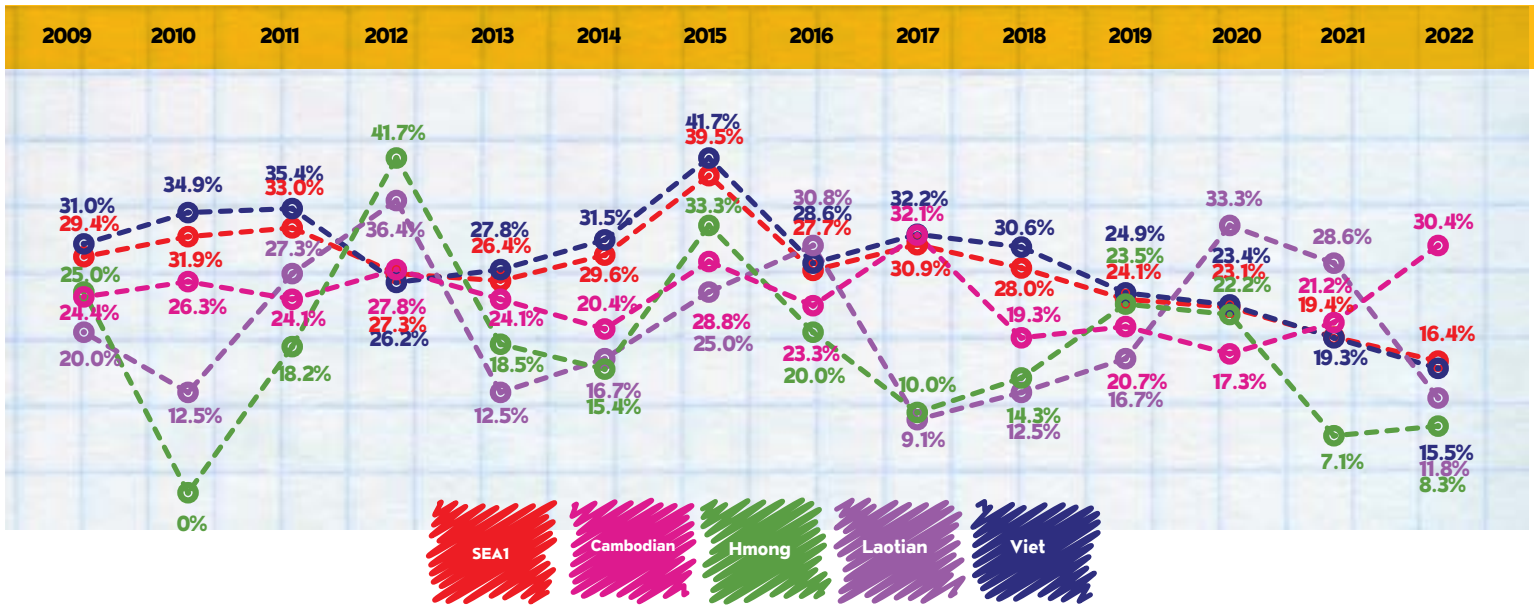
CSUN SEA1 Undergraduate Admission Rates: 2009-2022



CSUN SEA1 Undergraduate Yield Count: 2009-2022



CSUN SEA1 Undergraduate Yield Rates: 2009-2022



(SEA2) SOUTHEAST ASIAN POPULATION TRENDS

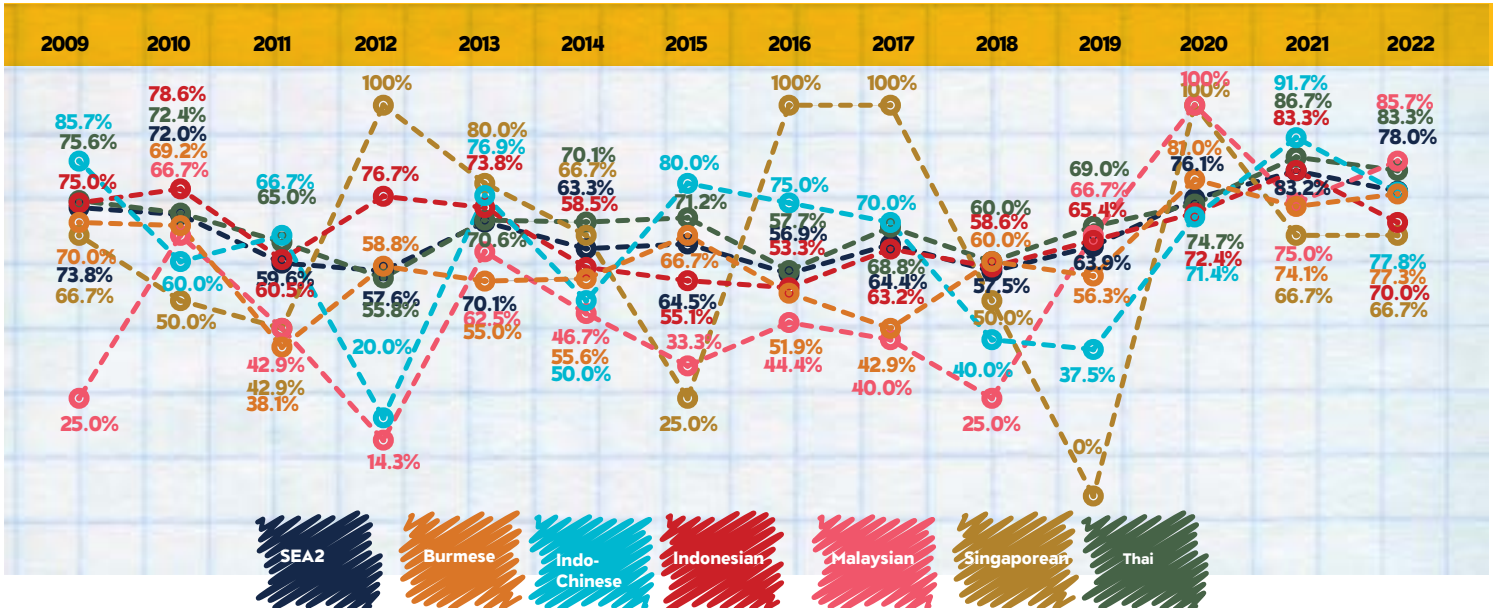
CSUN SEA2 Undergraduate Application Count: 2009-2022



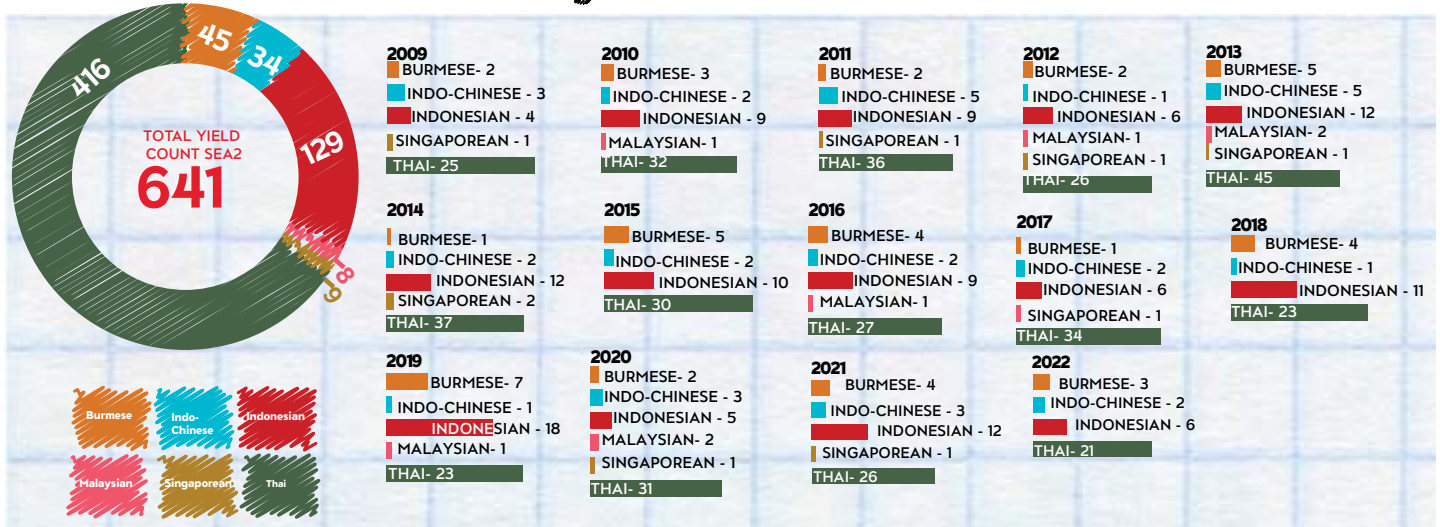
CSUN SEA2 Undergraduate Admission Count: 2009-2022



CSUN SEA2 Undergraduate Admission Rate: 2009-2022



CSUN SEA2 Undergraduate Yield Count: 2009-2022



CSUN SEA2 Undergraduate Yield Rates: 2009-2022

