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Undeclared sophomore Erika Jimenez and business management senior Mari Ortega work on writing papers yesterday afternoon at the Chicano/Hispano Student Resource Center in the Economics building. The total number of Hispanic students enrolled at the UA has increased by about 2.8 percent over the past 10 years.

## Hispanic enrollment rises

BY KRISTINA DUNHAM  
Staff Writer

Hispanic student enrollment at the UA is increasing, but graduation rates for Hispanic students on campus are still lagging behind those of white students, mirroring a national trend.

The number of Hispanic students who enrolled at the UA climbed about 2.8 percent during the past 10 years to make up 13.2 percent of the student body, according to UA census data released Sept. 24.

Out of the 36,847 students attending the UA this year, 4,855 are Hispanic.

Ten years ago, 3,661 out of 35,129 students were Hispanic.

Salomon Baldenegro, senior research analyst for multicultural programs and services, said UA's growing Hispanic enrollment is the result of the combined efforts of the university and the Hispanic community.

"I think that there's been a concerted effort going back to the early '80s — '82, '83, '84 — when there was a lot of pressure to do something about our hor-

rendously low (Hispanic enrollment) rates back in those days," Baldenegro said. "The university was once perceived as an elite institution unto itself out here — out of reach to the average person in the community."

There has been political pressure to open up the doors of the UA community, and when parents, teachers and high school counselors saw a change in the past 20 years, more began to push their children to enroll, he said.

"Money is a big, big factor," Baldenegro added, citing how students have to not only pay tuition and books, but pay for everything ranging from parking to printing on campus. "It's not a cheap proposition to come here."

Marisol Diaz, a retention specialist for the department of multicultural affairs, said money is a big issue for many Hispanic first-generation students who might be able to get into college, but who cannot afford to continue their education once

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## HPV at top of list for common campus STDs

BY RACHEL WILLIAMSON  
Staff Writer

Doctors and nurses at Campus Health Services are expecting another influx of students reporting symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases this October.

Some of the students who are having sex for the first time are contracting STDs, in what has become an annual cycle for healthcare providers on campus.

"We tend to see (STDs) more just after the beginning of school," said Faye Libbey, a nurse practitioner in the Women's Health Clinic at Campus Health. "Freshmen come in who've never been away from home before. They're having relationships that they've never had. They don't even have to have intercourse to get (some STDs), just skin-to-skin contact."

Of 1,281 UA students randomly surveyed in an anonymous questionnaire during spring 2002, about 2 percent reported having the human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer in women, or genital warts for men and women.

2 percent of the students reported having chlamydia, 1 percent reported genital herpes and 1 percent reported gonorrhea.

But the statistics are not completely accurate because some students who have STDs are unaware of them, said Melissa McGee, coordinator of harm and risk reduction at Campus Health Services.

"I would imagine that these percentages would be a little more elevated if we were able to test students (for STDs)," McGee said.

### Most prevalent UA STD

The HPV is the STD Campus Health Center workers see most often.

"HPV is our big one," Libbey said. "I would say it is by far the most common thing we deal with."

About 80 percent of sexually active people will contract the virus at some point in their life, according to the National HPV and Cervical Cancer Prevention Resource Center.

About 20 million people in the United States have the virus. There are different types of the virus, but one type accounts for more than 50 percent of cervical cancer and abnormal cell growth, according to the Center for Disease Control.

The virus is attracting growing attention at the CDC because it is hard to track and highly common among young, sexually active people.

The majority of people infected with HPV do not know it, facilitating its spread and making it somewhat more difficult to address.

The virus is spread from person to person through different types of sexual encounters, including genital skin-to-skin contact.

Sexual penetration is not required to contract the virus, Libbey said.

HPV can also be transmitted through sexual intercourse, anal sex and oral sex.

Usually people with HPV do not see or feel any symptoms.

Some types of HPV cause genital warts — 3-millimeter, red or pink bumps that sometimes show up in clusters.

These warts are sometimes too small to be visible on men or women or can be hidden within the vagina.

The other types of HPV that show up on the woman's cervix, the lower part of the womb, can be detected with pap smears.

Cervical HPV is the only proven cause of cervical cancer and can take one to three years to show up on a test, Libbey said.

The annual pap smear, an examination for abnormalities in the vagina, is the first step in testing for HPV.

### A case in point

Students who find out that they have an STD are sometimes referred to Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, when they express fear for their well-being, Libbey said.

"We're trying to let people know that they're not the only person in the world with this," Libbey said. "It won't traumatize their lives. Almost

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## New dating policy requires disclosure

BY JESSE GREENSPAN  
Staff Writer

University employees looking for office romance with a subordinate or supervisor are going to have to watch their step under a new policy.

When one person is in a position of power over another, faculty-faculty relationships, faculty-student relationships and student-student relationships all may be monitored, according to the new "Policy for the Management of Personal Conflicts of Interest for the University of Arizona."

The policy is designed for employees to disclose relationships — sexual or otherwise — that could create a conflict of interest at the university, and will most likely be enacted as a permanent policy in the future, said UA attorney Vicki Gotkin, who designed the policy along with vice president for campus life Sandra Taylor.

For the policy to go into permanent effect, all campus constituencies involved would have to look at it, and then President Likins would have the final call, Gotkin said.

Likins sent the proposal to his cabinet in late July.

"It is a bad, bad policy to have these relationships going on," Gotkin said. "We don't want students to fear someone getting preferential treatment."

However, it is not a question of legality, said Jeanne Kleespie, the director of equal opportunity and affirmative action. Kleespie said the new policy was instead designed to get these relationships out in the open.

"It's not forbidding these relationships," said Kleespie, whose office handles any such complaints on the matter.

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EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Employees and students who work together and have relationships — romantic or not — must notify their supervisors under a new university policy.