Applications for enrollment at CSU, Chico hit a record number after the October-November 2012 application term: over 26,000 total applications were received for the Fall 2013 semester. CSU, Chico, like other campuses in the California State University system, is “impacted”, meaning that there are more students applying for admission than the university can accommodate. The CSU system, as a whole, is “impacted” although at a lower and less variable requirement than at Chico. Each term, Chico State sets an eligibility index that is based on the grade point averages (GPA) and test scores reported by students composing the applicant pool for that term, to cut-off students at the enrollment capacity. This index is usually more stable for local students (using SAT, 2000; ACT, 694), but is not completely set for non-locals until late in the application period. When the dataset used in this analysis was received from CSU, Chico Office of Admissions April 2, 2013, the index for the coming fall semester had stabilized at 330 and first time freshmen (FTF) decisions had been finalized. Students under the 330 index received letters telling them that Chico State could not accommodate them, but this is different than a “denial” because they are still eligible to CSU’s without impact criteria unless lower than a GPA of 2.0. Indices are calculated as follows:

Student Index = (GPA * 800) + (SAT Reasoning Test total)

or

Student Index = (GPA * 200) + (ACT Composite * 10)

This dataset uses FTF with a status of “ADMT” for students above the index, “CANCL” for those students who withdrew their application before a decision was made, and “DENY/DK” which aggregates students ineligible for both CSU and Chico impaction criteria. This allows the analysis to study all ineligible students in a single instance.

This analysis found clusters of statistical significance at the \( p < 0.10 \) level for both datasets produced. These maps show potential for future recruitment strategies and establish spatially specific data that could be used by the Admissions or Institutional Research offices on Chico State or any campus.

Much effort was exerted programming a Python script (later abandoned due to time constraints) for future use, compatible with every incoming applicant pool, as a tool for non-GIS persons or offices wishing to explore analysis like this. This aspect of the project might be worth attempting again.