PART III. Universitywide Indicators with Campus Comparisons

Section 3. Undergraduate Access

Goals
The University’s undergraduate access goals are defined by the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. The Master Plan dictates that UC enroll freshmen from the top 12.5 percent of California’s public high school graduates, but allows UC to define that pool. UC has historically done this by establishing the academic criteria by which students can become eligible. UC guarantees admission somewhere in the system to the students who have satisfied these eligibility requirements.

The Master Plan also dictates that UC create a well-defined transfer route for students who choose to attend a California community college after high school. UC provides this route by establishing academic criteria by which students can become eligible to transfer and by guaranteeing admission somewhere in the system to all transfer students who have satisfied these eligibility requirements.

UC campuses give upper-division California community college students priority over other transfer applicants in their admissions selection processes. Nearly 90 percent of UC’s transfer students come from the California community colleges.

Measures
This section provides data about the students who apply, are admitted to, and enroll in UC. It includes information about their academic preparedness, such as their high school grade point averages and scores on standardized tests. By any measure, UC undergraduates enter with excellent preparation to engage in the learning offered by UC campuses.
UC freshman enrollment has increased rapidly in the past 10 years. Several factors account for this trend, including growth in the number of high school graduates and growth in the proportion of high school graduates who are meeting UC’s eligibility requirements and applying to, and attending, the University.

Freshman enrollment dropped in 2004 when funding for enrollment growth was excluded from the 2004-05 state budget. Enrollment growth funds were later restored. By that time, however, UC had, in anticipation of a serious budget shortfall, denied an unusually large number of students for the Fall 2004 term.

Note: Universitywide data are unduplicated counts. Students typically apply to more than one UC campus so the sums for all of the campuses’ applicants will exceed the Universitywide totals.
3.1 (continued) Freshman Applicants, Admits and Enrollees, Fall 1995 to 2008

Berkeley

Davis

Irvine

Los Angeles

Merced

Riverside

San Diego

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

Santa Cruz
Indicator 3.2
Percent of Minority Students in the Freshman Class Compared to California High School Graduates, Fall 1989 to 2008

Source: UCOP Student Affairs Office.

- UC’s goal is to reduce the “enrollment gap,” or the difference between the race/ethnicity distribution of the incoming freshman class and the high school graduating class.

- UC has classified “underrepresented” students as those from groups whose presence in the top 12.5 percent of the state’s high school graduates is disproportionately small compared to their presence in the general population. At present, these include African-American, American Indian and Chicano/Latino students.

- In 1996, the voters of California passed Proposition 209, which prohibits public institutions from considering race and ethnicity in admissions. Although Proposition 209 went into effect with the entering class of 1998, UC saw a drop in applications from underrepresented students beginning in 1995, when the issue was first raised. This, combined with lower enrollment rates, led to a reduction in the absolute numbers as well as the proportion of underrepresented minority students in UC’s freshman class.

- The proportion of UC’s enrolled freshmen who are underrepresented minorities has increased steadily since the low point in 1996. However, most of this increase simply reflects growth in the proportion of those students among high school graduates. Since 2005, the gap between the proportion of underrepresented students among high school graduates and among UC freshmen has narrowed slightly.
Indicator 3.3
Freshman Applicants, Admits and Enrollees by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 1994 to 2008

Source: UCOP Corporate Student Systems data reported in StatFinder.

Note: Race/ethnicity data are drawn from UC admissions applications. Reporting of race/ethnicity is optional and the proportion of students who choose to provide this data fluctuates from year to year. For example, in Fall 1998, significantly more students chose not to report their ethnicity; this may be related to the fact that in the same year a smaller proportion self-identified as “white.” A smaller, but still noticeable decline was also observed that year in “Asian-American.”
Annually, transfer students make up approximately 30 percent of incoming students. These graphs show data for the transfer students who apply for admission in the fall term only. Additional transfer students matriculate in other terms.

Approximately 90 percent of transfer students come to UC from the California Community Colleges. In accordance with California’s Master Plan for Higher Education, these students are given priority in admission over transfer applicants from other institutions.

If offered admission, transfer students are more likely to enroll at UC than their freshman counterparts. This is because transfer students are often more focused—they have completed specific lower-division course work to prepare for admission to a specific UC campus.
3.4 (continued) Upper Division California Community College Transfer Applicants, Admits and Enrollees, Fall 1994 to 2008

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)
Indicator 3.5
Upper-Division California Community College Transfer Applicants, Admits and Enrollees by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 1994 to 2008

Source: UCOP Corporate Student Systems data reported in StatFinder.

Note: Race/ethnicity data are drawn from UC admissions applications. Reporting of race/ethnicity is optional and the proportion of students who choose to provide this data fluctuates from year to year. For example, in Fall 1998, significantly more students chose not to report their ethnicity; this may be related to the fact that in the same year a smaller proportion self-identified as “white.” A smaller, but still noticeable decline was also observed that year in “Asian-American.”
Indicator 3.6
Middle 50% of SAT Math and Critical Reading Score Range for Entering Freshmen – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 2006

Source: U.S. News and World Report’s America’s Best Colleges.

- The horizontal bars above represent the range of test scores for the middle 50 percent of new freshmen. The left-most number on each bar represents the 25th percentile; the right-most number represents the 75th percentile of the range.

Note: Data for the SAT Writing Test are not available for comparison institutions. San Francisco does not enroll freshmen.
Indicator 3.7
Average SAT Scores for Entering Freshmen, Fall 1994 to 2008

The scores reported here represent admitted students’ highest total SAT scores from any single test administration. This is the score used in determining UC eligibility and in most campus selection processes.

With the changes to the SAT in 2006 (the elimination of analogies and the addition of more critical reading passages and higher level mathematics questions), UC experienced a slight decline in the average test scores of Fall 2007 applicants. This dip has continued and has been reported by the College Board and other institutions around the country.

Note: Data is scored on a 1600-point scale. The old SAT scores were based on the Math and Verbal tests; the new SAT scores are based on the Math and Critical Reading tests.
3.7 (continued) Average SAT Scores for Entering Freshmen, Fall 1994 to 2008

(Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz)

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)
Indicator 3.8
Middle 50% of SAT Score Range for Entering Freshmen, Fall 2008

The horizontal bars above represent the range of test scores for the middle 50 percent of new freshmen. The left-most number on each bar represents the 25th percentile; the right-most number represents the 75th percentile of the range.

Source: UCOP StatFinder files.
3.8 (continued) Middle 50% of SAT Score Range for Entering Freshmen, Fall 2008

Berkeley

Davis

Irvine

Los Angeles

Merced

Riverside

San Diego

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

Santa Cruz
Indicator 3.9
Average High School GPA of Entering Freshmen, Fall 1994 to 2008

Source: UCOP StatFinder files.

- UC computes both weighted and unweighted high school GPAs.
- The weighted GPA displayed here assigns a bonus grade point for successful completion of advanced level courses, such as those in the College Board’s Advanced Placement program. An A in a UC-approved honors course receives 5 points, a B receives 4 points, etc. Thus average weighted GPAs for individual students may be higher than 4.0.
- In making admissions decisions, some campuses also consider the unweighted GPA. The unweighted GPA reflects grades earned in college preparatory courses without any additional bonus points and is calculated on a 4-point scale with an A receiving 4 grade points, a B receiving 3 grade points, etc.
3.9 (continued) Average High School GPA of Entering Freshmen, Fall 1994 to 2008

Berkeley

Davis

Irvine

Los Angeles

Merced

Riverside

San Diego

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

Santa Cruz
Indicator 3.10
Average College GPA for Entering Upper-Division California Community College Transfer Students, Fall 1994 to 2008

The maximum average GPA for entering transfer students is 4.00. Grades included are for college-level academic courses from the college(s) where students were previously enrolled.
3.10 (continued) Average College GPA for Entering Upper-Division California Community College Transfer Students, Fall 1994 to 2008

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- Los Angeles
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)