Section 1. Undergraduate Student Success

**Goals**
The University of California aims to prepare students to assume roles as the next generation of leaders for California and the nation. UC graduates leave the University with the foundations upon which they can build rewarding and successful lives as engaged citizens and productive workers contributing to the social and economic well-being of the state.

**Measures**
The data that follow illustrate UC undergraduates’ progress in earning their degrees compared to students at other institutions. They show how many students who enter UC complete their degrees and the areas of study in which their degrees are earned. Graduation data are presented for entering freshmen and upper-division community college transfer students, and by race/ethnicity and gender. In addition, two tables display students’ post-graduation plans and aspirations. The high level of success for UC undergraduates is evident across the campuses, across disciplines and across freshman and transfer entrants.
Indicator 1.1
Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 1999 Cohort

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Graduation Rate Survey.

- Six years is the national standard used by the U.S. Department of Education for measuring college graduation rates.

Note: The Fall 1999 cohort is the latest for which the six-year graduation rate is available. The Association of American Universities (AAU) is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities; six UC campuses are members (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara).
1.1 (continued) Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 1999 Cohort

Note: Merced opened in Fall 2005. San Francisco has no undergraduates.
Graduation rates at UC are improving steadily. Four-year graduation rates, in particular, have risen rapidly, from 36 percent for freshmen who entered in 1992 to 59 percent for the 2004 entering cohort. Likewise, six-year graduation rates have risen from 76 percent in 1992 to 82 percent in 2002.

Note: UCOP graduation rates include inter-campus transfers, which IPEDS graduation rates do not. UCOP graduation rates also do not include degrees awarded retrospectively, which campus graduation rates do, and so may vary slightly from graduation rates published elsewhere.
1.2 (continued) Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen, Fall 1997 to 2004

(Merced opened in 2005.)

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)
Six-year graduation rates vary by race/ethnicity. Universitywide, 68 percent of African-Americans, 83 percent of Asian-Americans, 74 percent of Chicano/Latino and 81 percent of white students graduated in six years.

This follows trends at other AAU research universities as well, where graduation rates of Asian-Americans are highest, followed by white, Chicano/Latino and African-American students.
1.3 (continued) Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 1999 Cohort

African-American

Asian-American

Chicano/Latino

White
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Indicator 1.4
Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 1997 to 2004

- Universitywide, six-year graduation rates for entering freshmen have increased slightly or have been stable across all racial/ethnic groups.
Universitywide, a higher proportion of women graduate in six years than men. This follows similar trends at AAU public and private comparison institutions.
1.5 (continued) Graduation Rates for Entering Freshmen by Gender – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 1999 Cohort

### Females

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- Los Angeles
- Riverside
- San Diego
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- U of Illinois
- U of Michigan
- SUNY Buffalo
- U of Virginia
- Harvard
- MIT
- Stanford
- Yale

### Males

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- Los Angeles
- Riverside
- San Diego
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- U of Illinois
- U of Michigan
- SUNY Buffalo
- U of Virginia
- Harvard
- MIT
- Stanford
- Yale
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Universitywide, six-year graduation rates have increased slightly for women and men over the past eight years; however, the proportion of students that graduate in four years has grown significantly.
Indicator 1.7
Graduation Rates for Entering Upper-Division California Community College Transfer Students, Fall 1997 to 2006

A total of 87 percent of transfers to the University of California are upper-division students from the California Community Colleges (CCC).

Graduation rates for upper-division community college transfer students parallel those for entering freshmen—52 percent of CCC transfers graduate in two years, 81 percent graduate in three years and 86 percent graduate in four years.

National data on graduation rates for transfer students are not available.

Note: Upper-division CCC transfer students are those who enter UC with 60 or more transferable units.
1.7 (continued) Graduation Rates for Entering Upper-Division California Community College Transfer Students, Fall 1997 to 2006

Note: Graduation rates at Merced are unstable due to the small number of transfer students at this campus.
Universitywide, graduation rates for upper-division CCC transfer students have increased for all racial/ethnic groups (African-American, Asian-American, Chicano/Latino and white students) over the past eight years.

However, graduation rates for upper-division CCC transfer students vary by race/ethnicity, with Asian-American and white upper-division CCC transfer students having higher graduation rates than Chicano/Latino and African-American transfer students.
Universitywide, graduation rates for upper-division CCC transfer students have increased for men and women over the past eight years.

A higher proportion of women upper-division CCC transfer students graduate in two or three years than men.
Indicator 1.10
Retention of New Freshmen – UC and Comparison Institutions, Fall 2005 to 2006

Source: U.S. News and World Report’s America’s Best Colleges. Retention data for Merced are from UC StatFinder.

- First-year retention is the proportion of entering freshmen who return for their sophomore year.

Note: San Francisco has no undergraduates. Average retention rates for the entire group of AAU publics and AAU privates are not readily available.
Indicator 1.11
Retention of New Students (Freshmen and CCC Transfers), Fall 1997 to 2007

Freshman Retention to Second Year
Transfer Retention to Second Year

Source: UCOP StatFinder files.

- Retention of new freshmen and new upper-division California Community College transfer students has held steady at about 92 percent for the past ten years.
1.11 (continued) Retention of New Students (Freshmen and CCC Transfers), Fall 1997 to 2007

Berkeley

Davis

Irvine

Los Angeles

Merced

Riverside

San Diego

Santa Barbara

Santa Cruz

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

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Indicator 1.12
Undergraduate Degrees Awarded by Discipline – UC and Comparison Institutions, 2006-07

Source: IPEDS Completions Survey.

Approximately 31 percent of all undergraduate degrees awarded at UC are in the physical and life sciences, technology, engineering and math fields, compared to 28 percent at the AAU public comparison institutions and 27 percent at the AAU private institutions.

Note: Degrees are based upon first degrees awarded as reported to IPEDS; double- or triple-majors are counted as one degree. “Interdisciplinary & Other” includes students who earned two or more degrees in majors that cross disciplinary groups (e.g., Economics and Math); students who earned two or more degrees in one disciplinary group (e.g., English and History) are counted in that disciplinary group, in this case Humanities.
1.12 (continued) Undergraduate Degrees Awarded by Discipline – UC and Comparison Institutions, 2006-07

Note: San Francisco has no undergraduates. Merced awarded a small number of degrees in 2006-07.
The number of undergraduate degrees awarded at UC has grown almost 4 percent per year on average since 2000-01.

Note: Double and triple majors are counted as one degree.
1.13 (continued) Undergraduate Degrees Awarded, 2000-01 to 2007-08

Berkeley

Davis

Irvine

Los Angeles

Merced

Riverside

San Diego

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

Santa Cruz
Indicator 1.14
Degree Aspirations of Seniors, Spring 2008

Universitywide

- Bachelor's degree: 21%
- Master's degree: 24%
- Medical or other health profession: 13%
- Law: 8%
- Business: 11%
- Doctorate: 20%
- Multiple doctoral degrees (MD/PhD): 3%

Source: Spring 2008 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES).

- Comparable national data on the degree aspirations of seniors are not available.

Note: Students were asked, “What is the highest academic degree or credential that you plan to eventually earn?” Data include all students identified as seniors by their campus whether in the first, second or third term of their senior year.
1.14 (continued) Degree Aspirations of Seniors, Spring 2008

Berkeley

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Business</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Doctorate</td>
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Davis

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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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Irvine

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<td>Business</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>19%</td>
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Los Angeles

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<td>Business</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>17%</td>
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Merced

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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</table>

Riverside

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<tbody>
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San Diego

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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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</table>

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>16%</td>
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Santa Cruz

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</thead>
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<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>6%</td>
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</table>
Indicator 1.15
Post-Graduation Plans of Seniors, Spring 2008

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional school</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work full-time</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take year off</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intern/volunteer</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study/work abroad</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Spring 2008 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES).

- Students’ plans for the year following graduation are often in flux during their senior year.
- Other surveys at UC show that as seniors approach graduation, the number planning to work full-time increases and the number planning to attend graduate or professional school the year immediately following graduation declines.

Note: Students were asked, “What do you plan to do when you graduate?” Data include all students identified as seniors by their campus, whether in the first, second or third term of their senior year.
1.15 (continued) Post-Graduation Plans of Seniors, Spring 2008

Berkeley

Grad/Prof school 32%

Work full-time 42%

Something else 8%

Intern/volunteer 4%

Study/work abroad 5%

Take year off 8%

Davis

Grad/Prof school 39%

Work full-time 36%

Something else 9%

Intern/volunteer 5%

Study/work abroad 3%

Take year off 8%

Irvine

Grad/Prof school 39%

Work full-time 38%

Something else 8%

Intern/volunteer 3%

Study/work abroad 4%

Take year off 8%

Los Angeles

Grad/Prof school 40%

Work full-time 35%

Something else 9%

Intern/volunteer 3%

Study/work abroad 3%

Take year off 8%

Merced

Grad/Prof school 61%

Work full-time 17%

Something else 10%

Intern/volunteer 3%

Study/work abroad 0%

Take year off 9%

Riverside

Grad/Prof school 43%

Work full-time 38%

Something else 7%

Intern/volunteer 4%

Study/work abroad 2%

Take year off 6%

San Diego

Grad/Prof school 39%

Work full-time 36%

Something else 9%

Intern/volunteer 4%

Study/work abroad 4%

Take year off 8%

(San Francisco has no undergraduates.)

Santa Barbara

Grad/Prof school 30%

Work full-time 44%

Something else 10%

Intern/volunteer 4%

Study/work abroad 5%

Take year off 7%

Santa Cruz

Grad/Prof school 30%

Work full-time 36%

Something else 13%

Intern/volunteer 6%

Study/work abroad 6%

Take year off 9%