Universitywide application volume: The University of California received a record total of 106,784 on-time freshman and transfer applications for fall 2006, a 6.6 percent increase from the 100,138 undergraduate applications received for fall 2005. Prospective freshmen filed 82,841 applications, an increase of 8.8 percent over the 76,152 recorded for fall 2005. The increase in the number of applications from California applicants at the freshman level was 7.7 percent, while those from out-of-state freshman applicants increased by 1,203 or 14.9 percent. International freshman applications grew by 16.1 percent. California transfer applications were down by 0.4 percent, while out-of-state transfers increased by 10.7 percent and international transfers decreased by 2.2 percent. The average freshman applicant applied to 3.6 campuses, while transfer students applied to an average of 2.8 campuses.

Applications by Campus: The overall number of freshman applications increased on every campus. All campuses except Berkeley showed a decrease in transfer applications over last year.

California Freshman Applicants vs. Public High School Graduates: The increase in freshman applications from public high schools (8.4 percent) exceeds the Department of Finance’s projected increase for California public high school graduates, which was 3.4 percent for 2006.

California Applications by Ethnicity: Data on the California freshman applicant pool reflect an increase in the number of applicants from all racial/ethnic groups compared to last year with the exception of applicants who do not state their ethnic/racial background, for which there was a decrease of 1.1 percent. Last year’s growth continued with the freshman count for African Americans rising from 2,906 in fall 2005 to 3,240 in fall 2006 (11.5 percent). Chicano/Latino freshman applicants increased by 1,334 or 11 percent for fall 2006. Universitywide percentage increases for the three other major ethnic categories -- Asian American, Filipino American and white/other-- were 14.3 percent, 4.3 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively.
The overall number of transfer applicants from California Community Colleges (CCC) declined 2.3 percent from fall 2005 to fall 2006. Negligible application growth is noted for three ethnic groups – American Indians (2.7 percent/4 applicants); African Americans (1.0 percent/7 applicants); and Chicanos/Latinos (3.4 percent/5 applicants). Groups with lower application figures included Filipino American (-10.2 percent), Asian American (-6.1 percent); white/other (-1.6 percent). Applicants in the decline-to-state and international categories diminished by 0.8 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively.

Applications by Gender and Level: The total applicant pool for fall 2006 was 54.5 percent female and 45.5 percent male.

Applications by Geographic Region: The Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area continue to be the most strongly represented regions in the California applicant pool followed by Orange County and the San Diego/Imperial region. The relative proportion of most regions has remained stable over several years. Approximately two-thirds of the applicants came from Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Orange County.

In the central region spanning Fresno, Inyo, Kings, Kern, and Tulare counties, freshman applications grew 2.6 percent. These same counties show a reversal of a trend of increasing transfer applications, as this year’s figures are 17.4 percent lower. In contrast, freshman and transfer application growth continues in the Northern Central region of California with increases of 6.3 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively. Freshman applications from the Riverside/San Bernardino area increased by 7.3 percent, while transfer applicants decreased by 8.6 percent.

[Note: The systemwide totals used above and in the attached tables are preliminary and “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once, even if he or she applied to multiple campuses. As a result, the systemwide totals are not the sum of the individual campus counts. Based on the UCAP Management Report of 1/12/06.]