Universitywide application volume (Tables 1 and 2). The University of California received a record number of applications for admission to the fall 2008 term. Overall application volume for fall 2008 admission increased by 9 percent over fall 2007 (from 110,994 to an all-time high of 121,005), which includes a 9.2 percent increase (from 87,213 to 95,201) at the freshman level, and an 8.5 percent increase (from 23,781 to 25,804) at the transfer level. Of the 121,005 applications received, only 721 were mailed as paper applications, yielding an online filing rate of 99.5 percent for freshmen and 99 percent for transfers.

The increase in the number of applications from California freshman applicants was 7.7 percent, while those from out-of-state freshmen increased by 14.4 percent and international freshman applications were up by 25.2 percent.

California transfer applications increased by 7.1 percent, reversing last year’s dip, while out-of-state and international transfer applicants were up by 5.1 percent and 24.9 percent, respectively. Since 2006, freshman applications have increased by 14.9 percent and transfers by 7.8 percent.

The average freshman applicant applied to 3.6 campuses, while transfer students applied to an average of 2.9 campuses.

Applications by Campus (Table 3). The number of freshman applications increased on all campus. The increases were as follows: Davis (15.6 percent), Santa Barbara (15 percent), Santa Cruz (13.8 percent), Merced (13.2 percent), Berkeley (9.8 percent), Los Angeles (9.2 percent), Riverside (6.5 percent), Irvine (6.2 percent) and San Diego (5.1 percent). All campuses also showed increases – in most cases, double-digit – in transfer applications, led by Merced (37.7 percent, or 300 applicants), Santa Barbara (12.9 percent), Los Angeles (12 percent) and Davis (11.9 percent).

Applications by Ethnicity (Table 4 and 5). Among all freshmen, the data reflect an increase in the number of applicants from every racial/ethnic group with the largest increases among Chicano/Latino applicants (17.9 percent) and African-American applicants (16.1 percent). Among California resident freshmen, all campuses experienced increases in African-American applicants, with the highest, 61.3 percent at Santa Barbara (+792). Since 2006, applications from African-American students have increased by 26.4 percent. Applications from California resident Chicano/Latino students increased by at least 16.2 percent on all campuses. The two-year increase in Chicano/Latino applicants is 30.4 percent.

Among all transfer applicants, there is a one-year increase of 10.8 percent for Asian Americans, 7.1 percent in the White/Other category and 4.6 percent for Chicano/Latino applicants. African-American transfer applicants decreased by 2.1 percent (18 students).
California Freshman Applicants by Public High School (Table 6). For 2008, the California Department of Finance (DOF) projects an increase in graduates from California public high schools of 3.2 percent. The 6.4 percent increase in freshman applications to the university from California public high school applicants substantially exceeds the DOF’s projected increase for high school graduates. Further, applications to the university increased faster than DOF projections for all ethnic groups.

The overall rate of public high school graduates applying to the university is 17.8 percent, up from 17.3 percent last year.

Transfer Applications from California Community Colleges (Table 7). The overall number of transfer applicants from California Community Colleges (CCC) increased this year by 8.1 percent, or 1,522 students. All campuses experienced a solid increase, including Merced which had a one-year increase of 231 applicants (32.3 percent). Application growth is noted among the following groups – Asian American (12.3 percent), Chicano/Latino (6.3 percent), White/Other (5.5 percent) and Filipino American (2.3 percent). There also was a 20.6 percent increase in applications from international students who are attending California community colleges. Groups with lower application figures include African American (-1.2 percent, 9 students) and American Indian (-3.7 percent, 6 students).

Applications by Gender and Level (Table 8). Consistent with the trend in recent years, the gender proportion of the freshman applicant pool remained unchanged at 55.6 percent female and 44 percent male. Among transfer applicants, however, this has been a slight increase in proportion of male applicants over the last three years and the female-to-male balance is 49.6 percent to 50.4 percent, respectively.

Applications by California Region (Table 9). The Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, Orange County and San Diego/Imperial regions continue to be the most strongly represented regions in the California applicant pool. Nearly 3 out of 4 applicants come from one of these four regions. The relative proportion of applications across all regions has remained stable over several years.

Characteristics of California Resident Freshman Applicants. The academic quality of UC freshman applicants, as measured by self-reported high school grade point average, admissions test scores and number of academic courses completed in high school, remains high. In addition, the university is experiencing slight gains among student populations who report they are the first in their families to attend college, who report a low family income, and among those who are attending California’s lowest-performing public high schools as defined by the school’s academic performance index (API) score.

[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 1/04/08.]