2010 Freshman Admissions to the University of California
Overview

The admissions outcomes reported in the summary below and the accompanying tables are preliminary and focus entirely on admission of freshman applicants. Transfer admissions data will be available mid-May. These data reflect admissions offers as of April 1, 2010, and except as noted, are for California resident students.

This year the University of California is implementing a waitlist process to help participating campuses enroll the maximum number of new freshmen consistent with their enrollment targets for state-supported students. Individual campus admission numbers in this report are subject to change if campuses admit students from their waiting lists. New totals that incorporate waitlist admits will be distributed with preliminary reports of Statements of Intent to Register in June.

Unless otherwise noted, the universitywide totals in this summary and the tables are “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once. Data provided for individual campuses typically reflect multiple admissions offers; on average, fall 2010 freshman applicants applied to 3.5 UC campuses.

Summary

The fall 2010 University of California freshman admissions cycle took place in a challenging context that included the largest number of applicants in the University’s history (100,428, compared to 98,119 for fall 2009 and 95,444 for all 2008), budgetary constraints, and unfunded over-enrollments on most campuses. For the second consecutive year, the University is seeking to reduce the enrollment of new students from high school, although the 1,500 student planned reduction is less than the 2,300 enrollment reduction implemented for the fall 2009 term. At the same time, the University has increased the enrollment target for California community college transfer students by 500 students overall and all campuses are committed to increasing transfer enrollments for the fall 2010 term. Transfer admissions outcomes will be reported later this spring.

Even under these difficult circumstances, the University remained steadfast in its commitment to access and has offered, or will offer, a place to every UC-eligible freshman applicant. However, most campuses reduced their number of freshman admissions offers and many applicants received fewer offers of admission than they might have received in previous years. This action is intended to result in the modest reduction in freshman enrollments for the fall term.

While this was a very competitive year for freshman admission, the preliminary outcomes show that the University has been able to preserve and expand access for students who come from low-income families and those who will be the first in their families to graduate from college. Although many campuses made fewer admissions offers, the University was able to maintain or enhance proportional representation in admissions offers to African American, American Indian, Asian and Latino students on nearly all campuses; the representation of Whites dropped, however, due to the decline in the projected number of White high schools graduates and their representation in UC’s applicant pool. Serving all of California’s diverse communities is a very high priority for the University. While this report focuses exclusively on the preliminary freshman admissions outcomes, the University also plans to expand opportunity for California community college transfer students
and is committed to increasing the enrollment of transfer students on all campuses by 500 to 13,500 students for the fall 2010 term.

The University of California has offered admission to 68,329 applicants for the fall 2010 term, including 58,777 California resident freshman applicants. The number of admissions offers represents an increase of 2,064 offers compared to the fall 2009 outcomes with most of this increase occurring among out-of-state and international applicants. This year 71.6 percent of fall 2010 California freshman applicants have been offered admission to the University, compared to 72.5 percent for fall 2009 and 75.4 percent for fall 2008.

The University will offer a space to every UC-eligible California resident applicant. Several campuses, including Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced and Santa Cruz, were able to offer admission to a greater number of California applicants. The remaining campuses, including Berkeley, Davis, Riverside, San Diego, and Santa Barbara, reduced their number of admissions offers for the fall term. The fall admissions numbers include 2,146 applicants who have been offered admission to the spring term at Berkeley. In addition to the numbers reported here, another 10,960 UC-eligible applicants who were not offered admission to a campus to which they originally applied will be offered admission to Merced and/or Riverside through a process known as referral. This year, 10,712 applicants, all with a firm admissions offer at one or more UC campuses, have also received an invitation to participate on at least one campus waitlist.

A brief summary of the admissions data follows:

**The University of California awards highest priority in freshman admissions to California resident applicants:** 86 percent of students offered admission are California residents (58,777). Admissions offers to out-of-state and international students numbered 9,552.

**Universitywide, the rate of admission (admits/applicants), declined slightly for the fall 2010 term, and most campuses also experienced a drop in their admissions rate.** Illustrating the intense level of competition for admission this year, seven of nine campuses – all but Merced and Riverside – report the lowest admission rate in campus history.

**Underrepresented students increased as a proportion of UC admits.** African Americans, American Indians and Chicano/Latinos comprise 28.3 percent of the University admits, up from 26.9 percent for fall 2009 and 25.1 percent for fall 2008. Despite the reductions in admissions offers – which affected all groups – most campuses registered gains in the proportion of underrepresented students in their admitted class. Led by a strong increase in applications, the admission of American Indian students increased by nearly 20 percent, or 80 admitted students compared to fall 2009; the two-year increase is 45 percent, or 151 students. The University also is experiencing a 5.3 percent increase (+691) in the admission of Chicano/Latino applicants and a 3.5 percent increase (+84) in admissions offers to African American students. Admissions offers for Asian students remained relatively unchanged (up 1.7 percent, 355 students), while offers to white students decreased by 7.2 percent (-1,412), mirroring their decline among projected California public high graduates and within UC’s applicant pool. The percentage of students admitted who declined to state their ethnicity increased by 51 percent (+345) compared to the previous year. This increase is attributed to federal changes in ethnic reporting requirements.

**Representation by gender remained stable.** The admitted class is 56 percent female and nearly 44 percent male.
**Geographic representation through California continues to improve.** The University of California is committed to attracting, admitting and enrolling students from throughout all of California. The majority (73.7 percent) of admitted students call Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Orange and San Diego/Imperial counties home, but the Riverside/San Bernardino (+72 students), Santa Barbara/ Ventura/ San Luis Obispo (+34 students), and Fresno/Inyo/Kings/Kern/Tulare (+29 students) regions made small gains in numbers this year in spite of the overall decline in admissions offers in most areas of the state.

**Universitywide, UC continues to excel at offering opportunity and access to students from families that have traditionally not enjoyed the benefits of higher education.** Over 38 percent of freshman admits come from families where neither parent has a 4-year degree, 39.4 percent come from low income families, and one out of five admitted students is enrolled in a high school that is in the lower 40 percent of California public high schools, as ranked by the Academic Performance Index (API) score.

**Applicants offered admission have exceptionally strong academic records.** UC admits complete on average 23 year-long college preparatory courses, earn a high school grade point average of 3.84, and on average score 26 on the ACT and 1794 on the SAT. Nearly 23 percent of admitted students have been ranked by the University as in the top 4 percent of their graduating senior year class.

A complete set of tables is available at [www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/fall2010adm.html](http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/fall2010adm.html).

Information on UC’s new freshman admissions policy, effective for the class entering the University in 2012, is now available at: [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman2012/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman2012/)