

## **Fall 2012 Undergraduate Applications to the University of California Information Summary**

A record high of 160,939 students applied for admission to the University of California for Fall 2012, an overall increase of 13.2 percent over Fall 2011 that included a 19.1 percent jump in the number of freshman applicants. All nine undergraduate UC campuses saw gains, ranging from 5.3 percent at Davis to 12.7 percent at Los Angeles.

The numbers reflected a slight drop in the percentage of transfer applications – off 4.2 percent from last year – but they were still 2.8 percent higher than they were two years ago. As a percentage, however, the biggest jump came in the number of out of state and international students applying to UC as freshmen: up from 21,095 last year to 33,001 for Fall 2012.

Details about California high school students applying for freshman admission, nonresident freshman applicants and community college transfer applicants are below. Information on campus applicant counts by level and residency is displayed in tables 2.2 and 2.3. Campus applicant counts by level and ethnicity are shown in tables 3.2 and 3.3.

California Freshmen. Among California students who applied for admission as freshmen, UC experienced an increase of 9.8 percent over last year with the total number of applicants growing to 93,298. This more than doubled last year's 3.6 percent increase and was consistent with the growth seen at the California State University system. This is especially notable given that the state has projected no increase in the number of students graduating from California public high schools.

The profile of applicants for Fall 2012 looks very similar to that for Fall 2011. For example, the average number of college preparatory courses, grade point averages, and average test scores of applicants for this fall are very similar to those of last year's applicants.

In addition, some positive trends toward greater diversity in the backgrounds of students applying to UC continued. The University saw a slight increase in the proportion of students who will be the first in their family to graduate from college – 44.5 percent this year compared to 42.7 percent last year – and a slight increase in the proportion of students from the most disadvantaged schools – 24.4 percent this year compared to 23.7 percent last year. The proportion of low-income applicants rose from 37.7 percent to 38.9 percent.

Applications from all ethnic groups increased in absolute numbers but African Americans and Chicano/Latino applicants both rose as a percentage of the applicant pool. African Americans comprise 6.1 percent of the 2012 freshman California resident applicant pool, up from 5.7 percent last year. Chicano/Latino applicants make up 30.1 percent of the 2012 pool, up from 28.2 percent last year. Asian Americans are still the largest ethnic group among applicants, comprising 32.2 percent of the pool, about the same as last year.

These outcomes are consistent with the University's new admissions policy, which is intended to expand consideration for admission to a broad range of students; the outcomes also reflect efforts by UC Admissions to encourage students to apply.

Out-of-State Freshmen. There were also substantial increases in the numbers of domestic non-resident (from 12,759 to 19,128) and international (from 8,336 to 13,873) applicants for freshman admission. As a matter of policy, the University caps its undergraduate enrollment of non-resident students at 10 percent systemwide. This year, approximately 6.9 percent of UC's undergraduate population hail from outside California.

California Community College Transfer Applicants. For Fall 2012, UC experienced a 5.7 percent decline in transfer applicants from the California community colleges – the largest subset of transfer applicants. This follows exceptionally large increases in transfer applicants over the past two years. The number of applications received for Fall 2012 is above Fall 2010 applicant numbers by about 940 students.

The socioeconomic diversity of California community college transfers remains relatively unchanged.

*Notes:*

*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.*

*Effective with the Fall 2011 admissions cycle, the University is using a redesigned admissions application that facilitates the collection of more complete and accurate applicant information. Applicants are providing more complete information than they have in previous years – such as about their estimated family income – and fewer applicants are declining to report their ethnicity (see the decline in "missing"). As a result of this change, any slight fluctuation up or down in certain categories may be artificial and does not reflect a shift in the characteristics of the applicant pool.*

*Based on the UCAP file of 12/27/11.*