2013 Freshman Admissions to the University of California

The admissions outcomes reported in the summary below and the accompanying tables are preliminary and focus entirely on admission of freshman applicants. These data reflect admissions offers as of April 2, 2013. Transfer admissions data will be available mid-June.

The University of California continues to use a waitlist process to help campuses enroll the maximum number of freshmen consistent with their enrollment goals for state-supported students. Individual campus admission numbers in this report are subject to change if campuses admit students from their wait lists. New totals that incorporate students admitted from waitlists, as well as those admitted through the referral process described below, will be distributed with preliminary reports of Statements of Intent to Register (SIR) in the summer.

Unless otherwise noted, the universitywide totals in this summary and the tables are “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once.

Summary

For fall 2013, the University of California admitted a record 82,850 applicants for freshman admission out of a similarly record-setting applicant pool of 139,915. Table 1 shows the number of admitted students by residency for each UC campus as well as for the system over the past three years. Table 2 shows the same information including the admission rates. Below is a summary for California residents and nonresidents.

California Residents

The number of California resident students admitted to the University decreased by 1,354 students over fall 2012, although it is still 801 above the number admitted in fall 2011. Because the number of newly admitted California students did not keep pace with the increase in the number of applicants, the admission rate — the percentage of applicants admitted — dropped for the system from 65.8 percent in 2012 to 60.6 percent in 2013.

Changes in admission offers for California students are driven by campus enrollment goals, the anticipated rate at which students accept these offers, and, in some cases, by enrollment outcomes in recent years. Campus “yield” (the percentage of admission offers that are accepted) in 2012 was higher than anticipated, which may has led some campuses to restrict admission offers this year, both to balance an unexpectedly large entering class last year and in anticipation of similar increases in yield rates this year.

The University of California will continue to honor its commitment to the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Students who are in the top 9 percent of their high school or the top 9 percent of the state are guaranteed admission to the University. Through a process called referral, these students will be offered the opportunity to be admitted to UC Merced if they do not receive an offer of admission from any campus to which they applied.
Out-of-State and International Students

The number of out-of-state and international students admitted to the University of California increased from fall 2012 to fall 2013, from 18,846 to 22,761. The increase did not keep pace with the 23.3 percent increase in applications from nonresidents. Therefore, the systemwide admission rates for out-of-state and international students dropped between the two years. For out-of-state students, the admission rate fell from 53.9 percent in 2012 to 53.8 percent in 2013; for international students, it went from 61.3 percent in 2012 to 58.2 percent in 2013.

Diversity

The University maintained the diversity of its incoming 2013 class.

Table 3 shows modest improvement in the University’s admission of students from historically underrepresented minority groups over the past three years. In 2013, this increase was driven by an increase in the proportion of Latinos from 27.3 percent to 27.6 percent of the admitted class. The proportion of admitted students who are African American decreased slightly from 4.4 percent in 2012 to 4.2 percent in 2013.

The attached bar charts show that the University also experienced modest declines in the proportions of newly admitted freshmen who are either the first in their family to attend college, come from low-income families, or attended a California high school with a low Academic Performance Indicator (API).