Fall 2015 Undergraduate Applications to the University of California

INFORMATION SUMMARY

A total of 193,873 students applied for admission to the University of California for Fall 2015, an overall increase of 5.8 percent over Fall 2014 and the eleventh consecutive year in which UC reported an increase in applications. All nine undergraduate campuses saw gains, ranging from 5.3 percent at San Diego and Santa Barbara to 14.1 percent at Merced. Freshman applications systemwide increased by 6.5 percent, while the number of transfer applications increased by 2.6 percent. Chicanos-Latinos remained the largest ethnic group among California freshman applicants.

Details about high school students applying for freshman admission and California 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.

Freshman Applicants

Among California students who applied for admission as freshmen, UC experienced growth of 3.2 percent over last year, with the total number of applicants growing to 102,994. All campuses saw increases in applications from California freshmen, ranging from 2.2 percent at Santa Barbara to 14.8 percent at Merced. On average, California students applied to approximately four UC campuses.

Among students applying from California, applications from African American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino, and Pacific Islander students rose in terms of absolute numbers. Chicano/Latino students remained the largest ethnic group within the California freshman applicant pool. The number of applications from American Indian and White students decreased slightly. These shifts appear to be consistent with the changing California high school enrollment pipeline, which shows declines in American Indian and White students.

There were increases in the number of domestic non-resident (from 26,143 to 30,517) and international (from 22,546 to 24,635) applicants for freshman admission. Notably, the increases in non-resident applicants for Fall 2015 represent slower growth than the University saw in 2014.

California Community College Transfer Applicants

For Fall 2015, UC experienced slight growth in applications (from 29,311 to 29,736) from students who reported a California Community College as their last school attended. Only San Diego reported a decline in the number of applications. On average, students applied to approximately four campuses.

Most ethnic groups saw little change, although applications from Chicano/Latino students continue to rise in both absolute numbers and as a percentage of the whole. There was also a rise in the number of international applicants from California Community Colleges, from 3,208 for Fall 2014 to 3,469 for Fall 2015, an increase of 8.1 percent.

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 they applied to multiple campuses. As a result, the systemwide totals are not the sum of the individual campus counted. Based on the UCAP file of 12/03/14.