

Fall 2003 Undergraduate Applications to the University of California

Information Summary

Universitywide application volume: The University of California received 99,991 on-time applications for Fall 2003 undergraduate admission, a 5.2 percent increase from the 95,014 received last year.

For freshman applicants, the increase is 4.7 percent (7.2 percent among California freshman applicants). For transfer applicants, the increase is 7 percent (8 percent among applicants from the California Community Colleges).

Domestic out-of-state applications fell 8.6 percent at the freshman level and 11.3 percent at the transfer level. International student applications increased 9.6 percent at the transfer level but fell 5.4 percent at the freshman level.

Applications by campus: All campuses registered increases in the number of freshman applicants, ranging from 13.5 percent at UC Davis to 1.7 percent at UC Berkeley. Over the last 5 years, total freshmen applications to the University have increased by 21.3 percent.

All campuses also saw an increase in transfer applications over last year. The rates of application growth for transfers ranged from 20.2 percent at UC Irvine to 9.1 percent at UCLA. Transfer applications have grown by 18.2 percent since 1999.

California freshman applications by ethnicity: Applications from all ethnic groups increased: Chicano freshmen, 15.7 percent; African American freshmen, 12.1 percent; Latino freshmen 11.3 percent; American Indian freshmen 1.8 percent; Asian American freshmen, 2.1 percent; Filipino American freshmen 5.8 percent, White/Other freshmen, 4 percent. The overall proportional distribution of ethnic groups remained constant. Underrepresented minorities (African Americans, American Indians, Chicanos and Latinos) increased as a proportion of the applicants from 20.8 percent last year to 22.07 percent this year.

California freshman applications vs. public high school graduates: Growth in UC applications continues to outpace the growth of the state's high school population. Applications from California public high school students increased 8.4 percent, while the projected growth in California public high school graduates this year is 2.4 percent.

Freshman ELC applications: Approximately 81 percent of the high school students identified as UC-eligible through the Eligibility in the Local Context program applied. Their 11,224 applications represent a 2.9 percent increase over last year and account for 17.1 percent of the total number of California freshman applications. The ELC program grants UC eligibility to the top 4 percent of students in each of the state's high schools, based on their grades in UC-required courses. Fall 2003 was the third year of implementation of the ELC program.

California Community College transfer applications by ethnicity: Applications from all ethnic groups increased except for Filipino Americans, which decreased by 2.3 percent (13 applicants). Applications from California Community College students increased 18.3 percent among African Americans; 13.4 among Latinos; 11.5 percent among Chicanos; 10.4 percent among Asian Americans; 9.4 among American Indians; and 6.4 percent among White/Other students. All percent changes in this section should be viewed with caution due to the relatively small number of applicants within each ethnic category.

Applications by gender and level: The total applicant pool for Fall 2003 was composed of 55.1 percent women and 44.9 percent men. The freshman applicant pool was 55.8 percent female and 44.2 percent male, while the transfer pool was 52.6 percent female and 47.4 percent male.

Applications by region: The regions with the largest increases in applications were Santa Barbara/Ventura/San Luis Obispo (13.8 percent), Los Angeles (9.2 percent) and San Diego/Imperial counties (8.1 percent).

Use of electronic applications: UC received 68,423 applications electronically through the University's online "Pathways" system this year, a 64 percent increase over last year, when 41,733 and a 145 percent increase over 2001 when 27,934 applications were received.

[Note: The systemwide totals used above and in the attached tables are "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.]

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