



Dual Admissions

The UC Board of Regents has adopted a “Dual Admissions” program that will provide a new way for top-performing California high school students to become UC-eligible. The program will grant UC admission to students between the top 4 percent and 12.5 percent of the class in their own high school, provided they first complete a transfer program at a California community college.

These students will receive both an admission offer from a community college and a provisional admission offer from a UC campus during their senior year of high school. After successfully fulfilling their freshman and sophomore requirements at the community college, these students will complete their upper-division studies at the UC campus and receive a UC degree.

This new policy, proposed by UC President Richard C. Atkinson, was endorsed by the Academic Senate in May and by the Board of Regents in July. The program will take effect as soon as funding for its implementation can be secured.

Benefits of the proposal

The “Dual Admissions” concept builds on the university’s “Eligibility in the Local Context” (ELC) program, which grants UC eligibility to the top 4 percent of the class in each high school, on the basis of grades in UC-required courses. “Dual Admissions” applies to the next group of students, in the top 4 to 12.5 percent of the class, provided they are not already UC-eligible under the university’s statewide criteria of grades and standardized test scores.

President Atkinson and the Academic Senate put forth the “Dual Admissions” approach for several reasons:

- It helps UC and the California Community Colleges fulfill the promise of the Master Plan for Higher Education, which envisions a strong, effective transfer program expanding Californians’ access to the four-year baccalaureate degree.
- It helps UC meet the goals of the university’s “Partnership Agreement” with Gov. Gray Davis, which, among other things, calls for an annual 6 percent increase through 2005-06 in the number of community college transfers to the university.
- It sends a clear message to high-performing students – particularly those in disadvantaged schools that historically have sent few students to the University of California – that they have a straightforward path to a UC degree.
- It improves student preparation for the transfer process and for UC entrance through early identification, systematic academic advising and close monitoring of qualified students.

Implementation of the program

The Regents approved “Dual Admissions” with the understanding that the faculty will carefully examine several issues – the minimum grade-point average required for transfer, implications for students in the ELC program, and the resources available for the program’s support – and that the president will then recommend any appropriate policy adjustments to the Regents. Other key points about the implementation of the “Dual Admissions” program include:

- Every UC campus will participate in the program and admit students through the “Dual Admissions” program. Qualified students not selected by their campus of choice will be offered admission to another UC campus.
- The number of newly enrolling UC students under the “Dual Admissions” program – estimated at as many as 3,500 per year – is consistent with the level of transfer enrollment growth for which the university already has been planning.
- Academic expectations will be high. Students will have taken a large number of UC’s required college preparatory courses in high school and, in community college, will be required to meet the course and grade requirements for their UC major.