



March 2002

UC Campuses Lead Nation in Enrolling Students From Lower Income Families

University of California campuses enroll more low-income students than any other top university in the country, public or private, according to a new study by the James Irvine Foundation.

Summary of Lower-Income Students at UC

- The Irvine Foundation looked at the top 40 major universities, as ranked by the *U.S. News & World Report* 2001 College Guide. Three UC campuses – Berkeley, Los Angeles and San Diego – are included in this list.
- Of these top 40 major U.S. universities, which include both public and private institutions, UC campuses enroll the highest percentage of students from lower-income families:
 - UCLA has the highest enrollment, with 34.8 percent of its students coming from a lower-income background;
 - UC Berkeley is next on the list, with 30.1 percent;
 - UC San Diego ranked third with 28.7 percent.
- UC's own analyses reveal that its other five undergraduate campuses also consistently enroll high percentages of lower-income students: UC Davis (26.2%), UC Irvine (32%), UC Riverside (41.5%), UC Santa Barbara (22.4%) and UC Santa Cruz (24.9%)
- UC campuses rank significantly better than other flagship public institutions such as the University of Virginia (9%), the University of Wisconsin (11%), and the universities of Michigan and North Carolina (both about 12%). UC campuses also rank better than other California institutions in the study, including the University of Southern California (27%), Stanford University (10.8%) and Cal Tech (16.2%).
- The new data was compiled by studying the percentage of domestic students who receive federal Pell grant scholarships each year. Data was compiled across institutions using a common formula that compared the economic diversity of various colleges. More information about the study can be found online at www.irvine.org.
- Pell grant recipients come from low-income families whose earnings are usually below \$30,000 a year.
- This research indicates that UC is successfully meeting the challenge of expanding educational access to high-achieving students from all economic backgrounds.