

2006 Freshman Admissions to the University of California

Overview

The statistics in this information summary and the accompanying tables are preliminary and a small number of applications are still under review. In general, about nine out of every 10 admitted freshman students are California residents, and the data in this package are for California residents only. Transfer data are not yet available.

On average, students applied to 3.6 campuses. Students accepted by multiple campuses are included in the admissions figures for each campus in the attached tables. Unless otherwise noted, the universitywide totals in this summary and in the tables are “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once.

In making year-to-year comparisons, it is worth noting that the fall 2004 cycle was anomalous because state budget difficulties produced a reduction in the number of students UC was able to admit. These data reflect admissions as of March 30, 2006. Some campuses continue to admit small numbers of students.

Summary

The University of California admitted a record number of freshman students for Fall 2006. A total of 55,242 California freshman students were offered Fall 2006 admission, an increase of 5,225 students, compared to 50,017 in Fall 2005. Overall, 78.2 percent of Fall 2006 California freshman applicants have been offered admission to the University, compared to 76.3 percent in Fall 2005 and 73.3 percent in Fall 2004.

The University of California was able to offer admission to all eligible freshman applicants for Fall 2006, and all campuses were able to offer admission to a greater number of applicants – from 118 additional admissions offers at UC Merced to 3,507 additional offers at UC Davis.

An additional 3,534 students were offered Winter or Spring admission and another 6,257 were offered admission to a campus they had not selected on their application through a process known as a referral. Admissions offers to out-of-state and international students numbered 6,143.

Students have until May 1 to make their Fall 2006 enrollment decision.

A brief summary of the admissions data follows:

- The growth rate in admissions exceeds the growth of California’s public high school graduating class. For Fall 2006, UC freshman admissions offers grew by 10.4 percent. This is nearly three times the California Department of Education’s projected growth rate of 3.4 percent for the public high school graduating class.

- Universitywide, all racial and ethnic groups registered increases in the number of admitted students, and most groups, with the exception of white/Caucasian, also registered increases as a proportion of the admitted class. The proportion of American Indian students remained unchanged. A breakdown of the increase/decrease as a proportion of the total number of students for each racial and ethnic group follows:
 - African-American/Black: 0.2 percent
 - Asian/Asian-American: 1.4 percent
 - Chicano/Latino: 0.7 percent
 - White/Caucasian: -2.1 percent

- Underrepresented students – African Americans, American Indians and Chicano/Latinos – comprise 21.7 percent of the Universitywide admits, up from 20.6 percent for Fall 2005. Six of nine campuses – Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz – registered incremental gains in the proportion of underrepresented students in the admitted class, and three campuses – UCLA, Merced and San Diego – experienced small *proportional* declines, even though Merced and San Diego admitted a higher *number* of underrepresented students than in the previous year. Several campuses have continued to admit a small number of students after March 30.

- Systemwide, the proportion of admitted California resident students who are the first in their families to attend college increased slightly, while the proportion of those from low-income families and/or who attend a low performing school remained virtually unchanged.

- The academic quality of the incoming freshman class continues to be outstanding. Admitted students are taking more college preparatory courses than are required and continue to earn high grades. The average number of year-long “a-g” courses completed is 23; the minimum requirement is 15 of these courses. The average GPA of admitted students Universitywide is 3.78.

- In the first year of the new SAT Reasoning Test, average total SAT scores are lower among UC admits than in previous years. While the University is still studying reasons for the decline, the combination of the Writing test with the Critical Reading and Mathematics tests into a single test -- and UC’s policy of taking the highest total score from a single test administration -- explain, in part, the decline in UC’s reported mean SAT test scores for Fall 2006 students. Previously, students had the opportunity to take the SAT I (Verbal and Mathematics) and the SAT II: Writing examinations separately, and UC would use the best scores from each of these test administrations. As of March 2005, students take all three tests in a single administration, thus affecting test score averages by eliminating different combinations of scores.

A complete set of tables is available online at:
<http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/fall2006adm.html>

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