

Fall 2010 Undergraduate Applications  
to the University of California  
Information Summary

Universitywide application volume (Tables 1 and 2). The University of California received a record number of applications for admission to the fall 2010 term. Overall application volume for fall 2010 admission increased by 5.8 percent over fall 2009 (from 126,701 to a record high of 134,029), which includes a 2.4 percent increase (from 98,002 to 100,320) at the freshman level, and a 17.5 percent increase (from 28,699 to 33,709) at the transfer level. Of the 134,029 applications received, only 24 (compared to 70 in 2008 and 721 in 2007) were mailed in paper applications.

Multiple applications to the University grew slightly this year from an average 3.3 campuses per application in 2009 to 3.4 campuses for 2010. Freshman applicants applied to an average of 3.5 campuses in fall 2010; transfer applicants applied to 3.0 campuses on average.

The increase in the number of applications from California freshman applicants was 1.6 percent, while those from out-of-state freshmen increased by 2.0 percent; international freshman applications grew by 13.9 percent. California transfer applications increased by 18.1 percent, while international transfer applicants grew by 15.4 percent. Out-of-state transfer applicants increased 6.2 percent.

Applications by Campus (Table 3). All campuses experienced growth in freshman applications this year. Merced, Riverside and Santa Barbara had healthy growth in freshman applicants at 17.3 percent, 5.8 percent, and 4.5 percent respectively. Freshman applicants to other campuses grew moderately: Irvine 3.6 percent, Berkeley and Los Angeles 3.5 percent, Davis and San Diego 2.2 percent, and Santa Cruz 1.4 percent.

For the third year in a row, all campuses experienced notable increases in transfer applications. The increases in transfers ranged from 49.5 percent at Merced to 13.6 percent at Los Angeles. Transfer applications have increased at the systemwide level by 30.6 percent since 2008.

Applications by Ethnicity (Table 4 and 5). Data on the California freshman applicant pool reflect an increase in the number of applicants from many racial/ethnic groups compared to fall 2009 outcomes. The largest increases were from American Indian (22.3 percent), Pacific Islanders (14.0 percent), African American (9.3 percent), and Chicano/Latino (5.9 percent). Asian American freshman applicants grew by 2.2 percent. There was a 9.8 percent decline in the White/Other category. Among transfer applicants, there were increases of 48.2 percent for African Americans, 42.6 percent for American Indians, 24.6 percent for Chicano/Latinos, 16.0 percent for Asian Americans, 9.9 percent for Pacific Islanders, and 4.2 percent for White/Others.

California Freshman Applicants by Public High School (Table 6). For 2010, freshman applications from California public high school students increased by 2.3 percent, despite the California Department of Finance's (DOF) projected zero growth rate for the number of California public high school graduates. The DOF projected a decrease in White and African American graduates, virtually no change for American Indians and small increases for Chicano/Latino and Asian American/Pacific Islanders. In contrast, freshman applications to the University reflect a 25.1 percent increase in American Indians, 8.4 percent increase in African Americans and 6.5 percent increase in Chicano/Latinos.

The overall rate of public high school graduates applying to the university is 18.5 percent, up from 18.1 percent last year.

Transfer Applications from California Community Colleges (Table 7). The overall number of transfer applicants from California Community Colleges (CCC) increased this year by 20.7 percent, or 4,856 students. All campuses experienced a significant increase, ranging from 50.9 percent at Merced (545 students) to 15.7 percent at Los Angeles (2,167). Applications from all ethnic groups increased, led by African Americans (52.7 percent), American Indians (48.3 percent), Chicano/Latinos (26.7 percent), and Asian American (18.8 percent). [Note: Percentage changes related to ethnic groups in this section should be viewed with caution due to the relatively small number of transfer applicants within many groups.]

Applications by Gender and Level (Table 8). The freshman applicant pool is 55 percent female and 45 percent male. At the transfer level, male applicants (16,771 or 51.9 percent) slightly outnumber female applicants (15,540, or 48.1 percent).

Applications by California Region (Table 9). The Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay Area, Orange County and San Diego/Imperial regions continue to be the most strongly represented regions in the California applicant pool. Approximately seven out of ten freshman and transfer applicants come from one of these four regions. The relative proportion of applications across most regions has remained stable over the last several years.

Characteristics of California Resident Freshman Applicants. The academic quality of UC freshman applicants, as measured by self-reported high school grade point average, admissions test scores and number of academic courses completed in high school, remains high. The university also continues to experience slight gains among student who report they will be the first in their family to graduate from college and who report a low family income.

*[Note: The systemwide totals used above and in the attached tables are preliminary and “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. Based on the UCAP file of 1/04/10.]*