



IN Touch

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A University of California newsletter on issues about the university

Enrollment growth at historic high

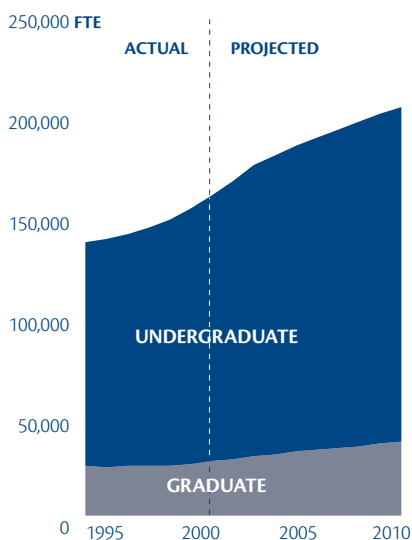
UC freshman admissions for fall 2002 grew nearly 5 percent, with more than 48,000 students offered admission at one or more of UC's eight undergraduate campuses.

This is more than double the state education department's projected 1.9 percent growth rate for California's public high school graduating class.

The 2002 freshman class is the first to be selected through comprehensive review where each applicant is evaluated using all the information provided on the application.

As expected, comprehensive review had only modest impact on the ethnic composition of UC's admitted class with all major racial and ethnic groups registering systemwide increases. Underrepresented students made up 19.1 percent of the admitted class, compared with 18.8 percent in Fall 1997.

UC STUDENT GROWTH
1995 to 2010



Does not include summer buyouts, which add 6,595 FTE. Phase in began in summer 2001 with Berkeley, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, followed by summer 2002 with Davis.

FTE means "full-time equivalent." A full-time student is 1.00 FTE. A student who attends class half-time has an FTE of .50.

National laboratories addressing homeland security issues

As Congress determines how to incorporate the research prowess of UC's national laboratories, the laboratories are continuing R&D on technologies that can respond to threats ranging from nuclear smuggling to bioterrorism to attacks on the electrical grid and natural gas pipelines. Among these projects, the Livermore and Los Alamos laboratories collaborated on a biological sentry system called BASIS that helped provide security at the Winter Olympics. Los Alamos is creating a center for analyzing how natural or terrorist-generated disasters will affect traffic, the electrical grid and other features of the nation's infrastructure. Livermore is evaluating instruments for detecting the telltale signs of nuclear materials smuggled in sealed cargo containers. The Berkeley lab helped develop a sensitive nuclear detector system that does not require liquid coolant – a significant obstacle in the field – as well as a Web-based building protection guide to help managers and occupants reduce vulnerability to a chemical or biological attack.

Regents endorse education bond on Nov. ballot

The UC Regents have endorsed the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002 – Prop. 47 on the November ballot – that would provide more than \$11.4 billion for K-12 and \$1.65 billion for higher education capital projects. If passed by voters, the investment in California education will relieve crowding and reduce class size, improve the seismic safety of many buildings and modernize outdated facilities. Over the next four years, UC projected capital needs total \$600 million per year. UC would receive \$345 million annually for the two-year period covered by the bonds. For more details:

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/prop47.html

College Board approves changes to SAT

Earlier this summer, College Board trustees voted to change the SAT I exam, marking a major event in the history of standardized testing. The decision lays the foundation for a new test that will better serve our students and schools, noted UC President Richard C. Atkinson, who issued a national call in February 2001 to reform the tests used for college admissions. The new test will be more closely aligned with the college prep curriculum in high school and include a student-written essay and expanded math section. The analogies section will be replaced by more critical reading passages. The new SAT I test will be ready in March 2005; until then, the current test will be used. UC also is working with ACT Inc. on a revised exam. More information: www.ucop.edu/news/sat

UC expands summer session

As part of UC's effort to meet an expected 40-percent increase in enrollment over the next decade, UC is greatly expanding its summer classes. In summer 2001, campuses offered between two and five sessions, lasting from four to nine weeks. Summer session classes also help UC students complete course requirements for their undergraduate colleges, finding courses that are often over-enrolled during the academic year are readily available for summer students. www.universityofcalifornia.edu/academics/summer.html

DID YOU KNOW? UC has launched a new Web site, which tells the full story of the university's expansive involvement in the life, health and economy of California – and beyond. Access research and academic programs around the UC system, and learn about UC's role in California's K-12 schools, the environment, health care, culture and the community. The site also features a handy multimedia archive for audio/video clips on recent UC news. www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Community college transfers increase

For the fourth consecutive year, the number of community college students transferring to UC campuses increased, with more than 13,500 transfer students admitted – a 3.8-percent jump from last year. California's community colleges are an ideal place for many students to begin a UC career, and UC has seen a nearly 10-percent increase in transfer students over the past four years. Contributing to this growth: transfer agreements between the colleges and UC, academic development programs, counselor training, and outreach programs that identify qualified applicants and encourage them to transfer to a UC campus.

UC Merced to preserve 25,000 acres

As part of an conservation program to create the UC Merced campus, more than 25,000 acres – more than 39 square miles – of grassland habitat in eastern Merced County have been designated for preservation. Through these measures, backed by a \$30 million state fund and generous contributions by private foundations, UC is helping protect the habitat from development. The conservation program is directed by the California Wildlife Conservation Board and facilitated by the Nature Conservancy. UC Merced is scheduled to open in 2004. For more details: www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/files/UCM_Conservation-Broch_02.pdf

Renowned scientist leads UC Riverside

France A. Córdoba, a nationally recognized astrophysicist who served as UC Santa Barbara's vice chancellor for research, began her new duties as chancellor of the Riverside campus in July. Córdoba succeeds Raymond L. Orbach who departed after 10 years to become director of the U.S. Energy Department's Office of Science. Córdoba, 54, served as chief scientist at NASA before coming to UCSB in 1996. The first Latina to lead a U.S. public research university, Córdoba previously headed Penn State's astronomy and astrophysics department and served as deputy group leader of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's space astronomy and astrophysics group. Córdoba, a Californian, earned her B.A. in English from Stanford and Ph.D. in physics from Caltech. For more: www.pr.ucr.edu/resources/cordova

Fourth-down: kick or go for it?

Football's back, and a UC Berkeley prof has produced research that could help a coach or two. David Romer, an expert in macroeconomics, challenges the widely held belief that it's better to kick on a fourth down than to go for a first down or touchdown. Romer analyzed nearly 20,000 first quarter plays in 732 NFL regular season games from 1998-2000, concluding that pro teams go for a first down or touchdown in only 10 percent of favorable situations. Teams should be more aggressive, he concludes. Read Romer's analysis at: emlab.berkeley.edu/users/dromer/papers/nber9024.pdf

UC newest performing arts venue

The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis will open in grand fashion on Oct. 3, with an active two-month long festival of performances by international touring artists, regional performing organizations such as the San Francisco Symphony and Sacramento Ballet, and UC Davis ensembles. The \$57-million Mondavi Center, named for the famed Napa winemakers, will serve as a world-class venue for the Davis music, theatre and dance departments, a major K-12 arts education program, and one of the largest arts-and-lectures-presenting programs in the nation – as well as a public gathering space for the community. For more details and the festival schedule: www.mondaviarts.org

UC names new Livermore director

This summer, UC named Michael R. Anastasio director of the UC-managed Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. A 22-year veteran of the laboratory, Anastasio has directed the national Stockpile Stewardship Program designed to sustain the safety, security and reliability of America's weapons stockpile. Anastasio, 53, received his bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University and graduate degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Livermore, with 7,500 employees and a \$1.5 billion budget, is marking its 50th year of contributing to science in the cause of national security and innovative basic research in a wide spectrum of disciplines. More: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/labs

UC provides new retirement benefits

UC has extended to eligible UC employees with domestic partners a set of retirement benefits mirroring those offered to married UC employees. UC Retirement Plan members and their qualified domestic partners and/or family members will now be able to receive survivor benefits. Previously, only UCRP members with spouses and/or dependent children or dependent parents were eligible for these benefits. It is estimated that 2 percent of the UCRP membership with same-sex domestic partners, and 6 percent of the UCRP membership with opposite-sex domestic partners, would qualify for the new survivor income benefits. UC currently also provides employees' same-sex domestic partners with health benefits. There are approximately 128,500 members in UC's retirement plan. UC employs more than 157,000 people at its 10 campuses, five medical centers and three national laboratories. For more on UC employee benefits: www.ucop.edu/bencom

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