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March 2, 2015

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Leno:

Pursuant to Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Debora Obley would be pleased to speak with you. She can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9112, or by e-mail at Debora.Obley@ucop.edu.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
The Honorable Marty Block, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)
(Attn: Ms. Cheryl Black)
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
(Attn: Ms. Amy Rutschow)
Ms. Peggy Collins, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Mr. Jim Lasky, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Mr. Danny Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office
Mr. Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst's Office
Mr. Paul Golaszewski, Legislative Analyst's Office
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance
Mr. Christian Osmena, Department of Finance
Ms. Jillian Kisse, Department of Finance

Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Nelson Peacock
Vice President Judy Sakaki
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez
Associate Vice President Debora Obley
Executive Director Jenny Kao
Manager Bruce Kennedy
Deputy to Vice President Marsha Sato

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

Legislative Report

March 2015



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2014

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, which states:

- (a) The University of California is requested to annually notify the governing board of each high school of both of the following:
 1. The number of graduates who enrolled in the university in the previous year and the number of graduates who were required to take the entry level writing requirement.
 2. The comparable numbers of all California high school graduates who enrolled in the university.
- (b) The University of California is requested to provide an annual summary of the information specified in subdivision (a) to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

Background

The University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is a reading and writing proficiency requirement that is intended to assure that entering freshman students have the writing skills necessary to succeed in lower-division university-level courses. UC students must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses, and this ability must be demonstrated in student writing that communicates effectively to university faculty.

The Academic Senate's University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) oversees the ELWR. This requirement may be satisfied by successfully completing a course or program of study in English composition during the first year of enrollment at UC. In addition, prior to enrollment at the University of California, a student may satisfy the ELWR by attaining a score approved by the Committee on one of the following examinations:

1. the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam (formerly known as the Subject A Examination),
2. the SAT Reasoning Test, Writing section,
3. the ACT Combined English/Writing test,
4. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination,
5. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination,
6. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Literature Examination, or
7. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Language and Literature Examination.

An additional option for completing the writing requirement prior to enrolling at the university is the successful completion of a transferable college-level course in English composition of 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

Each May, the university offers its Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) to incoming freshmen who have not satisfied the ELWR by that date. The AWPE defines a basic level of proficiency in reading and writing for incoming students and sets a baseline of expectations that extends across all UC campuses. As the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) observed at its April 2002 meeting, “it is very important to have a single University of California standard that clearly communicates to students, parents, teachers, and schools the academic reading and writing abilities expected of entering freshmen.”

This report summarizes the outcomes of the ELWR for freshmen who entered the university for the fall 2014 term and provides fall 2013 data as a point of comparison (see TABLE 1 and TABLE 2).

Information to Schools

Each year, the university notifies California high school principals and county and district superintendents that comprehensive ELWR performance results are available on the AWPE Results website (www.ucop.edu/elwr/examdata/results/). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students.

The AWPE website (www.ucop.edu/elwr) contains previously administered examinations, the scoring guide, and annotated sample student essays with reader comments exemplifying each scoring level. These resources are intended to help clarify the ELWR standard of competence.

Entry Level Writing Requirement Data on Entering Freshmen

The attached tables display ELWR data for fall 2013 and 2014 entering freshmen.

Of the 34,202 freshmen who entered the university for the fall 2014, 76.6 percent (26,199) met the ELWR prior to their enrollment. This is up from the fall 2013 outcome of 73.0 percent (24,241) for newly enrolled freshmen. The percent of fall 2014 freshmen who fulfilled the ELWR include students who successfully passed the AWPE (7,189, or 20.6 percent) as well as students who met the requirement through other means – 55.6 percent of entrants (19,010).

More students, proportionally and in number, took the AWPE in 2014; 42.1 percent took the 2014 exam (14,410 out of 34,202 enrollees) compared to 40.7 percent of the 2013 cohort (13,536 out of 33,221 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate was higher for fall 2014 at 49.9 percent (7,189 out of 14,410 examinees) from 41.1 percent the previous year (5,567 out of 13,536 examinees). The proportion of students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrolling decreased from 56.2 percent (18,674) in 2013 to 55.6 percent (19,010) in 2014. Overall, 23.4 percent, or 8,003 students will be required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the university compared to 27.0 percent, or 8,980 students in 2013.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2014, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 76.9 percent or 26,133, while the completion rate

for students admitted by exception was 31.6 percent (66 students). This is slightly higher than last year's completion rates which were 73.3 percent (24,155) and 31.4 percent (86), respectively.

The percentage of all fall students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2014, this ranged from a high of 90.7 percent at Berkeley to 45.1 percent at Merced. This pattern closely mirrors individual campus applicant pools and selectivity rates and is consistent across both years.

Passing the AWPE is one method of satisfying the ELWR prior to enrollment, and it is the primary method used when satisfactory scores on other tests are not met. A student who has not satisfied the ELWR prior to enrollment must do so as early as possible during their first year of attendance by successfully completing a specific course leading to satisfaction of the requirement. The following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering freshmen from California high schools for fall 2013 and fall 2014.

Table 1

Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2013											
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam	Passed AWPE Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)											
Berkeley	7,054	3,070	2,718	88.5	572	263	8.6	2,455	80.0	352	11.5
Davis	18,159	4,439	3,159	71.2	1,793	802	18.1	2,357	53.1	1,280	28.8
Irvine	19,824	4,594	3,017	65.7	2,443	964	21.0	2,053	44.7	1,577	34.3
Los Angeles	9,649	4,037	3,601	89.2	898	460	11.4	3,141	77.8	436	10.8
Merced	10,096	1,636	665	40.6	1,204	354	21.6	311	19.0	971	59.4
Riverside	18,418	4,053	2,343	57.8	2,558	841	20.8	1,502	37.1	1,710	42.2
San Diego	16,779	4,115	3,549	86.2	1,131	595	14.5	2,954	71.8	566	13.8
Santa Barbara	19,859	4,098	3,331	81.3	1,210	625	15.3	2,706	66.0	767	18.7
Santa Cruz	16,653	2,905	1,772	61.0	1,569	625	21.5	1,147	39.5	1,133	39.0
Total	136,491	32,947	24,155	73.3	13,378	5,529	16.8	18,626	56.5	8,792	26.7
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION											
Berkeley	28	26	6	23.1	17	2	7.7	4	15.4	20	76.9
Davis	5	5	1	20.0	2	0	0.0	1	20.0	4	80.0
Irvine	22	12	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	100.0
Los Angeles	74	62	17	27.4	32	12	19.4	5	8.1	45	72.6
Merced	48	13	5	38.5	10	4	30.8	1	7.7	8	61.5
Riverside	80	40	9	22.5	20	1	2.5	8	20.0	31	77.5
San Diego	22	11	9	81.8	4	2	18.2	7	63.6	2	18.2
Santa Barbara	58	29	9	31.0	9	1	3.4	8	27.6	20	69.0
Santa Cruz	86	76	30	39.5	60	16	21.1	14	18.4	46	60.5
Total	423	274	86	31.4	158	38	13.9	48	17.5	188	68.6
ALL STUDENTS											
Berkeley	7,082	3,096	2,724	88.0	589	265	8.6	2,459	79.4	372	12.0
Davis	18,164	4,444	3,160	71.1	1,795	802	18.0	2,358	53.1	1,284	28.9
Irvine	19,846	4,606	3,017	65.5	2,447	964	20.9	2,053	44.6	1,589	34.5
Los Angeles	9,723	4,099	3,618	88.3	930	472	11.5	3,146	76.8	481	11.7
Merced	10,144	1,649	670	40.6	1,214	358	21.7	312	18.9	979	59.4
Riverside	18,498	4,093	2,352	57.5	2,578	842	20.6	1,510	36.9	1,741	42.5
San Diego	16,801	4,126	3,558	86.2	1,135	597	14.5	2,961	71.8	568	13.8
Santa Barbara	19,917	4,127	3,340	80.9	1,219	626	15.2	2,714	65.8	787	19.1
Santa Cruz	16,739	2,981	1,802	60.4	1,629	641	21.5	1,161	38.9	1,179	39.6
Total	136,914	33,221	24,241	73.0	13,536	5,567	16.8	18,674	56.2	8,980	27.0

Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.

Table 2

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2014											
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam	Passed AWPE Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)											
Berkeley	7,266	3,840	3,483	90.7	765	451	11.7	3,032	79.0	357	9.3
Davis	18,162	4,573	3,433	75.1	1,986	976	21.3	2,457	53.7	1,140	24.9
Irvine	18,820	4,484	3,146	70.2	2,358	1,178	26.3	1,968	43.9	1,338	29.8
Los Angeles	9,346	4,119	3,737	90.7	1,002	570	13.8	3,167	76.9	382	9.3
Merced	10,426	1,529	693	45.3	1,147	405	26.5	288	18.8	836	54.7
Riverside	18,199	4,093	2,718	66.4	2,427	1,099	26.9	1,619	39.6	1,375	33.6
San Diego	16,097	3,748	3,275	87.4	1,072	601	16.0	2,674	71.3	473	12.6
Santa Barbara	19,126	4,139	3,398	82.1	1,460	853	20.6	2,545	61.5	741	17.9
Santa Cruz	18,459	3,468	2,250	64.9	2,069	1,023	29.5	1,227	35.4	1,218	35.1
Total	135,901	33,993	26,133	76.9	14,286	7,156	21.1	18,977	55.8	7,860	23.1
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION											
Berkeley	4	4	4	100.0	1	1	25.0	3	75.0	0	0.0
Davis	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Irvine	18	12	2	16.7	5	0	0.0	2	16.7	10	83.3
Los Angeles	63	56	18	32.1	27	10	17.9	8	14.3	38	67.9
Merced	79	14	3	21.4	12	3	21.4	0	0.0	11	78.6
Riverside	72	27	9	33.3	20	4	14.8	5	18.5	18	66.7
San Diego	15	8	4	50.0	4	1	12.5	3	37.5	4	50.0
Santa Barbara	40	28	7	25.0	10	1	3.6	6	21.4	21	75.0
Santa Cruz	69	60	19	31.7	45	13	21.7	6	10.0	41	68.3
Total	360	209	66	31.6	124	33	15.8	33	15.8	143	68.4
ALL STUDENTS											
Berkeley	7,270	3,844	3,487	90.7	766	452	11.8	3,035	79.0	357	9.3
Davis	18,162	4,573	3,433	75.1	1,986	976	21.3	2,457	53.7	1,140	24.9
Irvine	18,838	4,496	3,148	70.0	2,363	1,178	26.2	1,970	43.8	1,348	30.0
Los Angeles	9,409	4,175	3,755	89.9	1,029	580	13.9	3,175	76.0	420	10.1
Merced	10,505	1,543	696	45.1	1,159	408	26.4	288	18.7	847	54.9
Riverside	18,271	4,120	2,727	66.2	2,447	1,103	26.8	1,624	39.4	1,393	33.8
San Diego	16,112	3,756	3,279	87.3	1,076	602	16.0	2,677	71.3	477	12.7
Santa Barbara	19,166	4,167	3,405	81.7	1,470	854	20.5	2,551	61.2	762	18.3
Santa Cruz	18,528	3,528	2,269	64.3	2,114	1,036	29.4	1,233	34.9	1,259	35.7
Total	136,261	34,202	26,199	76.6	14,410	7,189	21.0	19,010	55.6	8,003	23.4

Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

* Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.