



UC undergraduate admissions

Background

The University of California has revised the way it will evaluate students for admissions to eliminate the consideration of race and gender in the selection process. This change is in response to a resolution approved by UC's Board of Regents in July 1995.

For undergraduates, the new criteria go into effect in the spring quarter 1998 or in fall 1998 at UC Berkeley, which uses the semester system. The new admissions criteria encompass broad quantitative and qualitative measures of academic achievement and potential.

Academic criteria

Under the new admissions policy, UC will admit no less than 50 percent and no more than 75 percent of freshmen on academic criteria. (That compares to 40 to 60 percent under the old policy.) The academic criteria are:

- Academic grade point average (GPA)
- Scores on the Scholastic Assessment Test I or the American College Test, and the College Board Scholastic Assessment Test II: Subject Tests
- Number, content and performance in courses completed in academic subjects beyond the minimum required by UC
- Number of and performance in UC approved honors courses, College Board Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses and transferable college courses completed
- Quality of the senior year program, as measured by type and number of academic courses in progress or planned
- Quality of academic performance relative to educational opportunities available in an applicant's high school
- Outstanding performance in one or more specific academic subjects
- Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field
- Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, as demonstrated by GPA and quality of course work, with particular attention to the last two years of high school

Additional criteria

The remaining 50 percent to 25 percent of the class will be selected using the above criteria plus additional measures to assess academic promise and potential to contribute to the educational environment of the campus. The additional criteria are:

- Special talents, achievements, awards, skills, interests, intensive study and exploration of other cultures; or experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership or that demonstrate promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus
- Completion of special projects
- Academic accomplishments in light of the applicant's life experiences and special circumstances
- Location of the applicant's high school and residence

Impact of Proposition 209

Proposition 209, the California Civil Rights Initiative on the November state ballot, would prohibit the consideration of race and gender in state employment, education and contracting programs. If Proposition 209 is approved by California voters, the measure would go into effect immediately after the Nov. 5 election, unless there is a legal challenge. Admissions decisions made after the implementation of the initiative would not take race and gender into consideration.