



UC ENROLLMENT GROWTH

The University of California is preparing to accommodate 63,000 additional students by 2010 – enrollment growth of 43 percent – as the state’s college-age population swells. **UC is committed to keeping its promise of access to these students while continuing to provide high-quality instructional and research programs.** The university is pursuing a range of strategies for accommodating this enrollment growth, focusing on creative solutions tailored to local needs.

‘TIDAL WAVE II’

According to the California Postsecondary Education Commission, California’s public institutions of higher education can expect enrollments to rise by more than 700,000 students between now and 2010. This enrollment surge, dubbed “Tidal Wave II” by former UC President Clark Kerr, is attributable to growth in the college-age population and anticipated increases in college participation rates, among other factors.

Under the state Master Plan for Higher Education, UC enrolls students from the top 12.5 percent of California’s high school graduating class each year. The university fully intends to continue accommodating these students who have earned a place at UC. As a result, the university expects enrollments on its general campuses to grow from approximately 147,000 full-time-equivalent students in 1998–99 to approximately 210,000 by 2010.

This increase equals the university’s total enrollment growth over the last 30 years and also is equivalent to the existing enrollments of UC Berkeley and UCLA combined.

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

UC Merced is one part of the solution to the enrollment challenge. UC has been planning to open UC Merced, the university’s first campus in the San Joaquin Valley, in 2005 and enroll 5,000 students there by 2010. Gov. Gray Davis has created a “Red Team” to expedite the approval process for UC Merced in hopes of opening it by 2004.

The university is working on creative strategies for accommodating the remainder of the enrollment growth, and each campus will pursue the solutions that work best given local needs and circumstances. The solutions include:

- **Offering more classes during the summer.** Currently, student fees are higher for the summer session because it is not state-supported. To help ease the enrollment crunch, the university will expand instructional offerings during the summer, a step that will require state funding.
- **Offering more off-campus opportunities** through the Education Abroad Program and new off-campus centers such as those in Ventura and Fresno. The university’s 2000-01 budget proposal requests funding for development of another off-campus center in the Santa Clara Valley.
- **Expanding regular enrollments during the fall, winter and spring quarters,** with sensitivity to the concerns of the campuses’ surrounding communities.
- **Continuing to improve students’ time to graduation.** Currently, UC students graduate in 13 quarters on average. The university will continue working to facilitate students’ ability to earn a diploma in 12 quarters.
- **Making use of technology.** Advances in educational technology will enhance the quality of instruction on UC campuses and may help expand off-campus learning opportunities.

Campus	1998-99	2010-11	Average annual growth rate
Berkeley	27,800	31,800	1.1 %
Davis	20,300	26,400	2.2 %
Irvine	15,700	27,600	4.8 %
Los Angeles	28,500	32,900	1.2 %
Merced		5,000	
Riverside	9,550	19,900	6.3 %
San Diego	16,850	27,600	4.2 %
Santa Barbara	17,880	21,900	1.7 %
Santa Cruz	10,420	16,900	4.1 %
TOTAL UC	147,000	210,000	3.0 %

* The campuses have been asked by the Office of the President to evaluate the feasibility of these possible enrollment levels in 2010-11. The figures reflect FTE (full-time equivalent) students rather than headcount. They exclude enrollments in the health sciences and in self-supporting programs, such as the existing summer session. The 2010-11 suggested enrollment targets are based on previous campus growth plans, judgments about feasible rates of additional campus growth, and UC’s commitment to meeting the state’s needs under the Master Plan for Higher Education. The campuses would accommodate these enrollments through a variety of means, such as those listed at left.

— continued

A CHALLENGE FOR THE STATE

According to UC President Richard C. Atkinson, “The challenge of enrollment growth presents the University of California with a tremendous opportunity – an opportunity to serve the educational needs of a growing and diverse population, and thus to expand the university’s contributions to the economic and societal well-being of California as a whole.”

Meeting the challenge will, of course, require a sustained commitment of resources. For instance, UC campus growth, along with needed renovation and seismic projects, will require \$500 million per year in capital funding. The university will need to hire approximately 3,000 new faculty members for enrollment growth alone. Student services will likewise require expansion.

UC must also continue to receive the operating budget support and research funding necessary to preserve its high-quality instructional and research programs, which provide the educated workforce and research innovations that are critical to California’s knowledge-based economy.

The university is committed to maintaining both access and quality as it enters the 21st century. But UC cannot do it alone. Educating the next generation of California’s students is a challenge not just for the university, but for the state as a whole.