Reporting on Admission by Exception and Special Talent

Current Admission by Exception Policy

The University of California Regents Policy on Undergraduate Admissions by Exception[1] allows campuses the flexibility to admit by exception students who demonstrate the potential to succeed at the University but do not meet all of the eligibility requirements for undergraduate admissions. By policy, up to six percent of new enrollment are permitted for admission by exception. Four percent are set aside for students "from low socio-economic backgrounds or students having experienced limited educational opportunities" and the remaining two percent reserved for "other students."

The guidelines for implementing the policy were written by the Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)[2] as the standard for making decisions on Admission by Exception and the methodology for calculating the percent allowed under the policy.

In addition to the BOARS guidelines, campuses must following the minimal procedures in compliance with Section 66022.5 of the Education Code (AB 1383) which include the following:

- Campuses will establish a policy that outlines acceptable rationale and the required evaluation process for admissions by exception.

- Campuses will establish controls to ensure that an acceptable rationale for identifying an applicant to be considered for admission by exception is documented for each applicant being considered under the policy.

- Campuses will keep record of individuals and committees that were involved in the evaluation of the application and the final decision. For application evaluations and final decisions that are determined by committees, campuses will also record the names of the individuals who served on those committees.

- Campuses will identify all ineligible students admitted under the admission by exception policy with rationale for the admission decision.

- All decisions on admission by exception will be approved by the admission director, another member of senor leadership in admissions and/or enrollment management, and an administrator or faculty member external to the admission office such as the chair of the division (campus) admission committee prior to the students' enrollment.

- An individual who identifies a candidate for admission by exception for a special talent program cannot make the final admission decision.

- Campuses will establish a policy requiring a minimum of one year of participation in an athletic program for non-scholarship student athletes admitted by exception.

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[1] Regents Policy 2105: Policy on Undergraduate Admissions by Exception, available at
https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/2105.html
[2] The implementation guidelines are available at
https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/documents/a-by-e-guidelines.pdf

Reporting Practices

Campuses report admissions decisions for their applicants to the systemwide UC Office of the President on both the files submitted to the application system (applyUC) and the bi-monthly undergraduate admission files for the UC Data Warehouse (UCDW). UCDW is considered the official repository for final admissions data as applyUC is the transactional system.

An admission decision may be an offer of admission, an offer of admission by exception, an alternate (term) admission offer, a denial of admission, or a cancellation of the application. Campuses are expected to report a decision status for every applicant.

As a result of UC's internal audit of admission practices, campuses will also follow a standard practice of identifying and tracking the population of applicants that are reviewed for special talent. (See Systemwide Guidelines for Special Talent Admissions.)

See the 2021-22 applyUC Data Dictionary available on Sharepoint for specifications on:
- Admit Status Type
- By Exception Reason
- By Exception Rationale
- Special Program Code and Status