

ENROLLMENT DESTINATIONS OF TRANSFER STUDENTS ADMITTED TO UC

California's Master Plan for Higher Education identifies transfer admissions as an important part of providing access to higher education for all qualified students. In fall 2016, transfer applications, admits, and incoming enrollees surged to record levels as UC increased California resident enrollment. Looking at all applicants—residents and non-residents—nearly 40,000 students applied for admission as transfer students to UC systemwide (Figure 1). Over 26,000 were admitted, and over 19,000 enrolled at a UC campus. This one-year increase follows a pattern of growth in most years with some fluctuation over time. (See Figure 1.1.2 in UC's Annual Accountability Report 2017, <http://accountability.universityofcalifornia.edu/2017/chapters/chapter-1.html#1.1.2>.)

One challenge in efforts to increase the enrollment of transfer students at any particular UC campus is competition between UC campuses and between UC and other colleges and universities for these students. Due to variation in the effects of this competition across campuses, efforts to increase the enrollment of transfer students may benefit UC as a whole while the increases in transfer enrollees are expected to vary across campuses.

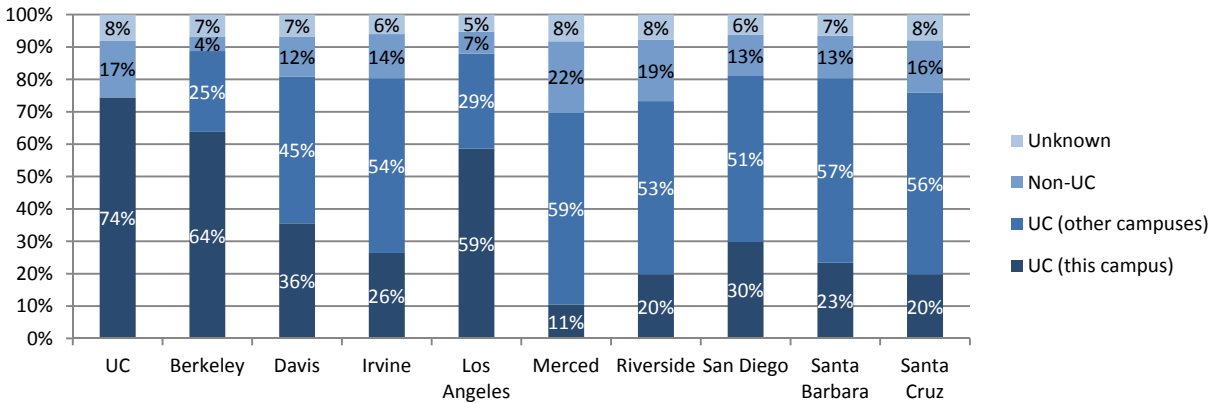
This brief focuses on admitted students, matching UC admission data to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) enrollment data (see the technical notes at the end of this document about NSC data) to examine the enrollment destinations of these students. The data presented show the share of transfers who enroll at UC (systemwide and by campus), non-UC colleges and universities (California State Universities, California Community Colleges, private selective four-years, and other types), and those whose enrollment destination is unknown (did not enroll anywhere or not found in NSC).

ENROLLMENT CHOICES OF UC ADMITS

Many transfer students apply and are admitted to multiple UC campuses, but they can only enroll at one campus. This can make it more challenging for certain campuses to meet the goal of enrolling at least one California resident transfer student for every two California resident freshman student enrolled in the entering class each year without impacting the ability of other UC campuses to meet this goal. (See Discussion Item A2: Strategies to Increase Transfer Student Enrollment at the University of California, UC Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee, May 17, 2017, <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may17/a2.pdf>).

In 2016, about three-quarters (74%, or about 19,000) of the transfer students admitted to one or more UC campuses decided to enroll at a UC campus, for a yield rate of 74% systemwide (Figure 1). However, yield rates for individual campuses were lower, ranging from 11% at Merced to 64% at Berkeley, because many students were admitted to multiple UC campuses but can only attend one. At two UC campuses (Berkeley and Los Angeles), the majority of transfer students admitted to that particular campus end up enrolling there. At seven other campuses (Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz), the largest share (from 45% to 59%) of transfer students admitted to

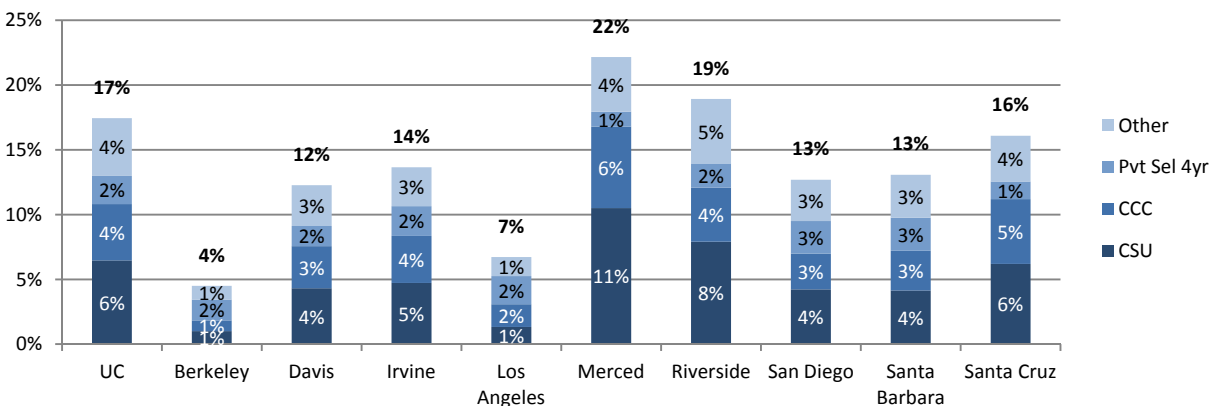
Figure 1: Enrollment Destinations of Students Admitted to UC as Transfers, Fall 2016



that particular campus end up enrolling at another UC campus. Therefore, efforts to increase the preparation of transfer students for UC admission and to encourage admitted students to enroll may benefit UC as a whole, but the increases in transfer enrollees will vary across campuses.

About one-sixth (17%) of transfer students admitted to UC enroll at non-UC colleges and universities (Figure 2). The largest shares enroll in the California State University system (6% of all admits) or the California Community Colleges (4%). Smaller shares go to private selective four-year colleges (2%) or other types of colleges such as private, nonprofit, non-selective colleges, or out-of-state publics. As with intercampus competition within UC, the share going to colleges outside of the UC system varies by campus (from 4% at Berkeley to 22% at Merced). This is another factor that may pose a challenge to efforts to increase the enrollment of transfer students at UC, both systemwide and for individual campuses.

Figure 2: Non-UC Enrollment Destinations of Students Admitted to UC as Transfers, Fall 2016



For the remaining transfers admitted to UC (8% of the total), their enrollment destinations are unknown, meaning they did not enroll anywhere or they enrolled in a college not participating in the National Student Clearinghouse (see Figures 1 and 2 above).

TECHNICAL NOTES

This analysis uses undergraduate admissions (UAD) data from the UC Corporate Student System (CSS) as of January 2017 matched to data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) as of January 2017. The data include all students admitted to UC as transfer students for fall 2016. Transfer students are undergraduates who apply for advanced standing, excluding limited, special, and second baccalaureate students. NSC's StudentTracker® service includes enrollment data from over 3,600 colleges and universities covering over 98% of all students in U.S. colleges and universities. (See National Student Clearinghouse, StudentTracker, <http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/colleges/studenttracker/>.) Students who are listed as enrolled at a UC campus in NSC data but not in UC admissions data are counted in the "Other" category. Private selective four-year colleges are nonprofit four-year colleges that reported to the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) that they admitted 50% or fewer of their applicants in 2014-15. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding to the nearest 1%. Similarly, within a category, percentages for sub-categories may not add up to the percentage for the entire category.