Fact Sheet: Fall 2015 Freshman & Transfer Admissions to the University of California

The admissions outcomes reported in the summary below and the accompanying tables are preliminary. These data reflect admissions offers as of Thursday, June 18, 2015. Campus and systemwide admission numbers in this report are subject to change.

The University of California used a waitlist process to help campuses enroll the maximum number of students consistent with its enrollment goals for state-supported students. The snapshot below and in the associated tables incorporates students admitted from waitlists, as well as those admitted through the referral process for both freshman and transfer applicants.

Unless otherwise noted, the universitywide totals in this summary and the associated tables are “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

For fall 2015, UC admitted 92,324 students out of a freshman applicant pool of 158,338. Additionally, the University admitted 20,921 California Community College (CCC) transfer students out of an applicant pool of 29,821.

Freshman Table 1 of the freshman tables lists the number of admitted freshman students by residency for each UC campus as well as for the system over the past three years. Freshman Table 2 includes systemwide and campus admission rates. Transfer Table 1 shows the number of admitted CCC transfer students by race and ethnicity for each UC campus as well as for the system over the past three years. Transfer Table 2 summarizes the admission rates by campus for the last three years.

Changes in admission offers are driven by campus enrollment goals, the anticipated rate at which students accept these offers, and, in some cases, by enrollment outcomes in recent years. These results are consistent with the campuses’ conservative approach to admission offers during uncertain budget negotiations with the state.

Below is a summary for California resident and nonresident freshmen and CCC transfers.

California Freshmen

The number of California resident freshmen admitted to the University decreased by 1,039 students for fall 2015, a 1.7 percent decrease. The admission rate—the percentage of applicants admitted—decreased slightly systemwide to 60 percent for fall 2015 from 62.9 percent in 2014. In contrast, the admission rate for nonresidents was 55.2 percent.

UC continues to honor its commitment to the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Students who are in the top 9 percent of their high school or the top 9 percent of the state are guaranteed admission to the University. Through a referral process, these students were offered the opportunity to be admitted to UC Merced if they did not receive an offer of admission from any campus to which they applied.
Nonresident Freshmen

The number of nonresident students admitted to the University increased by 3,453 students for fall 2015, a 12.8 percent increase. The admission rate for nonresident students decreased slightly to 55.2 percent in fall 2015 from 55.4 percent in 2014.

California Community College Transfers

The number of CCC transfers admitted to the University remained relatively flat—20,921 for fall 2015 compared to 20,889 for fall 2014. The admission rate decreased slightly systemwide to 70.2 percent in fall 2015 from 71.0 percent in fall 2014. All campuses except Berkeley admitted more CCC transfers this year.

Diversity

The proportional diversity of the University's admitted freshman and transfer classes remained relatively unchanged for fall 2015.

Freshman Table 3 shows the University's admission of students by ethnic and racial groups among California freshman applicants over the past three years. For fall 2015, the proportion of African American (4.3 percent), American Indian (0.7 percent), and Pacific Islander (0.3 percent) students admitted to the University remained unchanged compared to fall 2014. The proportion of Asian American (36.3 percent) and Chicano/Latino (29.6 percent) students increased slightly while the proportion of White (25.4 percent) students decreased slightly compared to fall 2014.

The attached bar charts show that the proportions of newly admitted California freshmen who are either the first in their family to attend college, come from low-income families, or attended a California high school with a low Academic Performance Index (API) score remained virtually unchanged.

Among CCC transfers, for fall 2015, the proportion of African American (4.6 percent), Chicano/Latino (26.8 percent), and Pacific Islander (0.4 percent) students admitted to the University increased slightly while the proportion of American Indian (0.8 percent), Asian American (29.4 percent), and White (34.6 percent) decreased slightly.