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February 17, 2011

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assembly Member Blumenfield:

Pursuant to Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on *Entry Level Writing Requirement*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Debora Obley would be pleased to speak with you. She can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9112, or by e-mail at Debora.Obley@ucop.edu.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Jody Martin, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Tina McGree, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Diane Anderson, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Provost and Executive Vice President Lawrence Pitts
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Chief Financial Officer Peter Taylor
Vice President Patrick Lenz
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez
Associate Vice President Debora Obley
Executive Director Jenny Kao

Report on Entry Level Writing Requirement

March 2011

Legislative Report

**An investment in UC pays
dividends far beyond what
can be measured in dollars.
An educated, high-achieving
citizenry is priceless.**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**Report on Entry Level Writing Requirement
Fall 2010**

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, which states:

The University of California is requested to annually notify the governing board of each high school of both of the following:

- (1) The number of graduates who enrolled in the university in the previous year and the number of graduates who were required to take the entry level writing requirement.
- (2) The comparable numbers of all California high school graduates who enrolled in the university.

(b) The University of California is requested to provide an annual summary of the information specified in subdivision (a) to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

Background

The University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (formerly known as the Subject A requirement) is a reading and writing proficiency requirement that is intended to assure that entering level freshman students have the writing skills necessary to succeed in lower-division University-level courses. UC students must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses, and this ability must be demonstrated in student writing that communicates effectively to University faculty.

The Academic Senate Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) oversees the University's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). This requirement may be satisfied by successfully completing a course or program of study in English composition during the first year of enrollment at UC. In addition, prior to enrollment at the University of California, a student may satisfy the ELWR by attaining a score approved by the Committee on one of the following examinations:

1. the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly known as the Subject A Examination];
2. the SAT Reasoning Test in Writing;
3. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination;
4. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination;
5. the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A only).

An additional option for completing the writing requirement prior to enrollment at the University is the successful completion of a transferable college-level course in English composition of 3 semester credits or 4 quarter units.

Each May, the University offers its Analytical Writing Placement (AWPE) examination to incoming freshman who have not satisfied the English Language Writing Requirement by that date. The AWPE defines a basic level of proficiency in reading and writing for incoming students and sets a baseline of expectations that extends across all UC campuses. As the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) observed at its April 2002 meeting, “it is very important to have a single University of California standard that clearly communicates to students, parents, teachers, and schools the academic reading and writing abilities expected of entering freshmen.”

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Entry Level Writing Requirement for freshman students who entered the University for the fall 2010 term and provides fall 2009 data as a point of comparison (see attached tables).

Information to Schools

The University annually notifies each California high school, county and district superintendent that comprehensive ELWR performance results are available on the AWPE Result web site (at <http://www.ucop.edu/cgi-bin/elwr/results.pl>). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students.

The AWPE web site (at <http://www.ucop.edu/elwr/>) contains previously administered examinations, the scoring guide, and annotated sample student essays with reader comments exemplifying each scoring level. These resources are intended to help clarify the ELWR standard of competence.

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Data on Entering Freshmen

The attached tables display ELWR data for fall 2009 and 2010 entering freshmen.

Of the 31,926 freshman students who entered the University for the fall 2010 term, 73.1 percent (23,335) met the Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to fall enrollment. This percent is down slightly from the fall 2009 outcome of 74.0 percent (23,967) for newly enrolling students. The percent of fall 2010 entrants who fulfilled the ELWR is a combination of students who met the requirement through other means prior to entry – 51.6 percent (16,472) – and students who successfully passed the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (6,863, or 21.5 percent) of the total students enrolling.

As the proportion of fall 2010 students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrollment increased, the decline in the total number/percent of students who did not fulfill the requirement prior to fall term enrollment is attributable to the smaller proportion of entering students who fulfilled the requirement via the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) in 2010 (21.5 percent) compared to the 2009 cohort (25.2 percent). The AWPE pass rate for fall 2010 entrants was 44.9 percent, compared to 51.2 percent for 2009 test-takers. As a result, slightly more fall 2010 freshmen – 26.9 percent, or 8,591 students – will be required to

meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the University than was the case for fall 2009 entrants (26.0 percent, or 8,424 students).

The percent of entering students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment differs by UC eligibility status. In fall 2009, 74.7 percent (23,809) of regularly admitted freshman students satisfied the ELWR prior to entry, compared to 30.3 percent (158) for students admitted by exception. For fall 2010, the completion rate dropped slightly for regularly eligible students (73.5 percent, 23,226), while the completion rate for students admitted by exception increased slightly over the previous year, 31.4 percent (109 students). Note that the number of enrollees admitted by exception dropped by a third from 2009 (522) to 2010 (374).

The percentage of all fall students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment varies by campus. In 2010 this ranged from a high of 90.9 and 90.8 percent respectively at UCLA and Berkeley to 35.5 percent at UC Merced. This pattern closely mirrors individual campus admission applicant pools and selectivity rates, and is consistent across both years.

The University routinely monitors new student progress toward satisfaction of its Entry Level Writing Requirement and reports relevant statistics.

Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2009

Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took UC Exam	Passed UC Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)											
Berkeley	8,877	3,831	3,499	91.3	876	564	14.7	2,935	76.6	332	8.7
Davis	18,303	4,237	3,022	71.3	2,231	1,194	28.2	1,828	43.1	1,215	28.7
Irvine	18,227	3,896	2,790	71.6	2,078	1,071	27.5	1,719	44.1	1,106	28.4
Los Angeles	9,817	3,926	3,499	89.1	1,208	745	19.0	2,754	70.1	427	10.9
Merced	17,771	1,008	409	40.6	736	265	26.3	144	14.3	599	59.4
Riverside	25,194	4,220	2,403	56.9	3,258	1,314	31.1	1,089	25.8	1,817	43.1
San Diego	15,123	3,497	2,887	82.6	1,491	831	23.8	2,056	58.8	610	17.4
Santa Barbara	19,108	4,313	3,242	75.2	2,063	1,140	26.4	2,102	48.7	1,071	24.8
Santa Cruz	15,794	2,941	2,058	70.0	1,682	960	32.6	1,098	37.3	883	30.0
Total	148,214	31,869	23,809	74.7	15,623	8,084	25.4	15,725	49.3	8,060	25.3
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION											
Berkeley	36	36	8	22.2	18	4	11.1	4	11.1	28	77.8
Davis	46	22	6	27.3	10	3	13.6	3	13.6	16	72.7
Irvine	19	17	5	29.4	7	3	17.6	2	11.8	12	70.6
Los Angeles	79	68	17	25.0	32	10	14.7	7	10.3	51	75.0
Merced	418	110	28	25.5	88	21	19.1	7	6.4	82	74.5
Riverside	45	40	12	30.0	8	1	2.5	11	27.5	28	70.0
San Diego	125	69	36	52.2	53	20	29.0	16	23.2	33	47.8
Santa Barbara	63	41	7	17.1	8	3	7.3	4	9.8	34	82.9
Santa Cruz	297	119	39	32.8	100	28	23.5	11	9.2	80	67.2
Total	1,128	522	158	30.3	324	93	17.8	65	12.5	364	69.7
ALL STUDENTS											
Berkeley	8,913	3,867	3,507	90.7	894	568	14.7	2,939	76.0	360	9.3
Davis	18,349	4,259	3,028	71.1	2,241	1,197	28.1	1,831	43.0	1,231	28.9
Irvine	18,246	3,913	2,795	71.4	2,085	1,074	27.4	1,721	44.0	1,118	28.6
Los Angeles	9,896	3,994	3,516	88.0	1,240	755	18.9	2,761	69.1	478	12.0
Merced	18,189	1,118	437	39.1	824	286	25.6	151	13.5	681	60.9
Riverside	25,239	4,260	2,415	56.7	3,266	1,315	30.9	1,100	25.8	1,845	43.3
San Diego	15,248	3,566	2,923	82.0	1,544	851	23.9	2,072	58.1	643	18.0
Santa Barbara	19,171	4,354	3,249	74.6	2,071	1,143	26.3	2,106	48.4	1,105	25.4
Santa Cruz	16,091	3,060	2,097	68.5	1,782	988	32.3	1,109	36.2	963	31.5

Total	149,342	32,391	23,967	74.0	15,947	8,177	25.2	15,790	48.7	8,424	26.0
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Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

*Admission counts are duplicated.

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2010

Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took UC Exam	Passed UC Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)											
Berkeley	7,396	3,019	2,764	91.6	615	335	11.1	2,429	80.5	255	8.4
Davis	18,417	4,351	3,095	71.1	2,131	1,048	24.1	2,047	47	1,256	28.9
Irvine	19,259	4,258	3,130	73.5	2,264	1,104	25.9	2,026	47.6	1,128	26.5
Los Angeles	9,968	3,974	3,549	89.3	1,033	576	14.5	2,973	74.8	425	10.7
Merced	19,720	1,273	459	36.1	937	277	21.8	182	14.3	814	63.9
Riverside	19,611	4,418	2,267	51.3	3,387	1,159	26.2	1,108	25.1	2,151	48.7
San Diego	15,616	3,704	3,367	90.9	1,368	679	18.3	2,688	72.6	337	9.1
Santa Barbara	19,065	3,482	2,658	76.3	1,449	788	22.6	1,870	53.7	824	23.7
Santa Cruz	16,354	3,100	1,937	62.5	1,904	856	27.6	1,081	34.9	1,163	37.5
Total	145,406	31,579	23,226	73.5	15,088	6,822	21.6	16,404	51.9	8,353	26.5
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION											
Berkeley	46	46	18	39.1	13	4	8.7	14	30.4	28	60.9
Davis	44	20	5	25	15	4	20	1	5	15	75
Irvine	19	15	2	13.3	5	0	0	2	13.3	13	86.7
Los Angeles	72	67	16	23.9	27	8	11.9	8	11.9	51	76.1
Merced	181	55	13	23.6	38	5	9.1	8	14.5	42	76.4
Riverside	33	26	6	23.1	3	0	0	6	23.1	20	76.9
San Diego	4	1	1	100	0	0	0	1	100	0	0
Santa Barbara	70	36	16	44.4	10	6	16.7	10	27.8	20	55.6
Santa Cruz	233	81	32	39.5	56	14	17.3	18	22.2	49	60.5
Total	702	347	109	31.4	167	41	11.8	68	19.6	238	68.6
ALL STUDENTS											
Berkeley	7,442	3,065	2,782	90.8	628	339	11.1	2,443	79.7	283	9.2
Davis	18,461	4,371	3,100	70.9	2,146	1,052	24.1	2,048	46.9	1,271	29.1
Irvine	19,278	4,273	3,132	73.3	2,269	1,104	25.8	2,028	47.5	1,141	26.7
Los Angeles	10,040	4,041	3,565	88.2	1,060	584	14.5	2,981	73.8	476	11.8
Merced	19,901	1,328	472	35.5	975	282	21.2	190	14.3	856	64.5
Riverside	19,644	4,444	2,273	51.1	3,390	1,159	26.1	1,114	25.1	2,171	48.9

Budget and Capital Resources
March 2011

San Diego	15,620	3,705	3,368	90.9	1,368	679	18.3	2,689	72.6	337	9.1
Santa Barbara	19,135	3,518	2,674	76.0	1,459	794	22.6	1,880	53.4	844	24.0
Santa Cruz	16,587	3,181	1,969	61.9	1,960	870	27.3	1,099	34.5	1,212	38.1
Total	146,108	31,926	23,335	73.1	15,255	6,863	21.5	16,472	51.6	8,591	26.9

Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

*Admission counts are duplicated.

Contact information:

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