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February 13, 2013

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Leno:

Pursuant to Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the *2012 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 email at Debora.Obley@ucop.edu.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Peggy Collins, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Mr. Jim Lasky, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Mr. Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Ana J. Matosantos, Director of Finance
Ms. Sara Swan, Department of Finance
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Dan Dooley
Vice President Patrick Lenz
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez
Associate Vice President Debora Obley
Executive Director Jenny Kao

2012 Entry Level Writing Requirement

February 2013

Legislative Report



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

2012 Entry Level Writing Requirement

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

- (a) 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 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's University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) oversees the 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, or
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 or 4 quarter units.

Each May, the University offers its Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) to incoming freshman who have not satisfied the Entry Level 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 2012 term and provides Fall 2011 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 website (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 website (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 2011 and 2012 entering freshmen.

Of the 33,193 freshman students who entered the University for the Fall 2012 term, 72.6 percent (24,108) met the Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to fall enrollment. This percent is down slightly from the Fall 2011 outcome of 73.0 percent (23,530) for newly enrolling students. The percent of Fall 2012 entrants who fulfilled the ELWR includes both students who met the requirement through other means prior to entry – 53.6 percent (17,785) – and students who successfully passed the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (6,323, or 19.0 percent).

The proportion of Fall 2012 students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrollment remained the same as last year. While the AWPE pass rate for Fall 2012 was slightly higher in 2012 (44.6 percent compared to 43.7 percent), a smaller proportion of students actually took the exam (19.0 percent compared to 19.5 percent of the 2011 cohort). Therefore, the total number/percent of students who did not fulfill the ELWR requirement prior to fall term enrollment increased slightly; 27.4 percent, or 9,085 students will be required to meet the ELWR

during their first year of enrollment at the University compared to 27.0 percent, or 8,688 students in 2011.

The percent of entering students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment differs by UC eligibility status. In Fall 2011, 73.6 percent (23,353) of regularly admitted and enrolled freshman students satisfied the ELWR prior to entry, compared to 35.8 percent (177) for enrolled students admitted by exception. For Fall 2012, the completion rate dropped slightly for regularly admitted and enrolled students (73.1 percent, 23,984), and the completion rate for enrolled students admitted by exception also dropped from the previous year, 32.9 percent (124 students).

The percentage of all fall students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment varies by campus. In 2012, this ranged from a high of 89.8 percent at UC Berkeley compared to 37.4 percent at UC Merced. This pattern closely mirrors individual campus applicant pools and selectivity rates and is consistent across both years.

The UC Entry Level Writing Requirement is a reading and writing proficiency requirement. Each student must be able to understand and respond to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses. Passing the Analytical Writing Placement Exam is one method of satisfying the ELWR prior to enrollment, and it is the method of satisfaction most used to succeed after not achieving satisfactory scores on other tests. A student who has not satisfied the Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to enrollment must do so as early as possible during their first year of attendance by enrolling in a specific course leading to satisfaction of the requirement. The University routinely monitors new student progress toward satisfaction of its Entry Level Writing Requirement and reports relevant statistics.

Contact information:

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Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2011

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	7,194	2,903	2,651	91.3	524	296	10.2	2,355	81.1	252	8.7	
Davis	19,246	4,313	3,123	72.4	1,869	915	21.2	2,208	51.2	1,190	27.6	
Irvine	19,301	4,820	3,237	67.2	2,618	1,065	22.1	2,172	45.1	1,583	32.8	
Los Angeles	11,021	4,796	4,189	87.3	1,166	638	13.3	3,551	74	607	12.7	
Merced	10,462	1,360	517	38	967	262	19.3	255	18.8	843	62	
Riverside	16,277	3,536	2,024	57.2	2,475	881	24.9	1,143	32.3	1,512	42.8	
San Diego	14,725	2,932	2,626	89.6	1,111	508	17.3	2,118	72.2	306	10.4	
Santa Barbara	18,956	3,666	2,839	77.4	1,380	737	20.1	2,102	57.3	827	22.6	
Santa Cruz	17,382	3,397	2,147	63.2	1,980	896	26.4	1,251	36.8	1,250	36.8	
Total	134,564	31,723	23,353	73.6	14,090	6,198	19.5	17,155	54.1	8,370	26.4	
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION												
Berkeley	59	58	21	36.2	20	6	10.3	15	25.9	37	63.8	
Davis	107	99	42	42.4	49	13	13.1	29	29.3	57	57.6	
Irvine	24	17	3	17.6	7	2	11.8	1	5.9	14	82.4	
Los Angeles	84	76	22	28.9	29	13	17.1	9	11.8	54	71.1	
Merced	250	75	24	32	54	13	17.3	11	14.7	51	68	
Riverside	105	56	12	21.4	25	3	5.4	9	16.1	44	78.6	
San Diego	18	3	3	100	1	0	0	3	100	0	0	
Santa Barbara	71	36	6	16.7	14	4	11.1	2	5.6	30	83.3	
Santa Cruz	222	75	44	58.7	51	21	28	23	30.7	31	41.3	
Total	940	495	177	35.8	250	75	15.2	102	20.6	318	64.2	
ALL STUDENTS	135504	32218	23530	73	14340	6273	19.5	17257	53.6	8688	27	
Berkeley	7,253	2,961	2,672	90.2	544	302	10.2	2,370	80.0	289	9.8	
Davis	19,353	4,412	3,165	71.7	1,918	928	21.0	2,237	50.7	1,247	28.3	
Irvine	19,325	4,837	3,240	67.0	2,625	1,067	22.1	2,173	44.9	1,597	33.0	
Los Angeles	11,105	4,872	4,211	86.4	1,195	651	13.4	3,560	73.1	661	13.6	
Merced	10,712	1,435	541	37.7	1,021	275	19.2	266	18.5	894	62.3	
Riverside	16,382	3,592	2,036	56.7	2,500	884	24.6	1,152	32.1	1,556	43.3	
San Diego	14,743	2,935	2,629	89.6	1,112	508	17.3	2,121	72.3	306	10.4	
Santa Barbara	19,027	3,702	2,845	76.9	1,394	741	20.0	2,104	56.8	857	23.1	
Santa Cruz	17,604	3,472	2,191	63.1	2,031	917	26.4	1,274	36.7	1,281	36.9	
Total	135,504	32,218	23,530	73.0	14,340	6,273	19.5	17,257	53.6	8,688	27.0	

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

*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2012

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 ADMIT												
Berkeley	7,272	2,940	2,676	91.0	514	302	10.3	2,374	80.7	264	9.0	
Davis	19,037	4,842	3,605	74.5	2,057	1,062	21.9	2,543	52.5	1,237	25.5	
Irvine	18,110	4,438	2,779	62.6	2,290	907	20.4	1,872	42.2	1,659	37.4	
Los Angeles	9,777	3,973	3,517	88.5	963	502	12.6	3,015	75.9	456	11.5	
Merced	9,906	1,416	529	37.4	992	291	20.6	238	16.8	887	62.6	
Riverside	17,083	3,861	2,379	61.6	2,560	1,003	26.0	1,376	35.6	1,482	38.4	
San Diego	15,638	3,563	3,038	85.3	964	523	14.7	2,515	70.6	525	14.7	
Santa Barbara	19,227	4,180	3,351	80.2	1,397	755	18.1	2,596	62.1	829	19.8	
Santa Cruz	17,902	3,603	2,110	58.6	2,235	926	25.7	1,184	32.9	1,493	41.4	
Total	133,952	32,816	23,984	73.1	13,972	6,271	19.1	17,713	54.0	8,832	26.9	
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION												
Berkeley	74	72	30	41.7	29	11	15.3	19	26.4	42	58.3	
Davis	3	2	0	0.0	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	
Irvine	176	40	10	25.0	21	3	7.5	7	17.5	30	75.0	
Los Angeles	74	64	14	21.9	29	8	12.5	6	9.4	50	78.1	
Merced	258	66	25	37.9	49	14	21.2	11	16.7	41	62.1	
Riverside	67	38	11	28.9	19	2	5.3	9	23.7	27	71.1	
San Diego	20	7	5	71.4	3	1	14.3	4	57.1	2	28.6	
Santa Barbara	49	34	12	35.3	13	5	14.7	7	20.6	22	64.7	
Santa Cruz	63	54	17	31.5	44	8	14.8	9	16.7	37	68.5	
Total	784	377	124	32.9	209	52	13.8	72	19.1	253	67.1	
ALL STUDENTS												
Berkeley	7,346	3,012	2,706	89.8	543	313	10.4	2,393	79.4	306	10.2	
Davis	19,040	4,844	3,605	74.4	2,059	1,062	21.9	2,543	52.5	1,239	25.6	
Irvine	18,286	4,478	2,789	62.3	2,311	910	20.3	1,879	42.0	1,689	37.7	
Los Angeles	9,851	4,037	3,531	87.5	992	510	12.6	3,021	74.8	506	12.5	
Merced	10,164	1,482	554	37.4	1,041	305	20.6	249	16.8	928	62.6	
Riverside	17,150	3,899	2,390	61.3	2,579	1,005	25.8	1,385	35.5	1,509	38.7	
San Diego	15,658	3,570	3,043	85.2	967	524	14.7	2,519	70.6	527	14.8	
Santa Barbara	19,276	4,214	3,363	79.8	1,410	760	18.0	2,603	61.8	851	20.2	
Santa Cruz	17,965	3,657	2,127	58.2	2,279	934	25.5	1,193	32.6	1,530	41.8	
Total	134,736	33,193	24,108	72.6	14,181	6,323	19.0	17,785	53.6	9,085	27.4	

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

*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.