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February 28, 2014


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 *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](mailto:Debora.Obley@ucop.edu).

Yours very truly,

  
Janet Napolitano  
President

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Marty Block, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Mr. Joe Stephenshaw)  
(Attn: Ms. Cheryl Black)  
The Honorable Das Williams, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Amy Rutschow)  
Mr. Michael Cohen, Department of Finance  
Mr. Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Peggy Collins, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Mr. Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate  
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. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Dan Dooley  
Vice President Patrick Lenz  
Vice President Judy Sakaki  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez  
Associate Vice President Debora Obley  
Executive Director Jenny Kao  
Deputy Marsha Sato

# Entry Level Writing Requirement

February 2014

Legislative Report



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement Fall 2013

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, Writing section,
3. the ACT Combined English/Writing test,
4. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination,
5. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination, or
6. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard 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 2013 term and provides fall 2012 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.

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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 2012 and 2013 entering freshmen.

Of the 33,221 freshman students who entered the University for the fall 2013 term, 73.0 percent (24,241) met the Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to fall enrollment. This percent is up slightly from the fall 2012 outcome of 72.6 percent (24,108) for newly enrolling students. The percent of fall 2013 entrants who fulfilled the ELWR includes both students who met the requirement through other means prior to entry – 56.2 percent of entrants (18,674) – and students who successfully passed the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (5,567, or 16.8 percent).

The proportion of students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrollment rose from 53.6 percent (17,785) in 2012 to 56.2 percent (18,674) in 2013. While the AWPE pass rate for fall 2013 dropped slightly from fall 2012, a smaller proportion of students actually took the exam; 40.7 percent took the exam (13,536 examinees out of 33,221 enrollees) compared to 42.7 percent of the 2012 cohort (14,181 examinees out of 33,193 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate for fall 2013 was 41.4 percent (5,567 students passed the exam out of 13,536 examinees) and the pass rate for fall 2012 was 44.5 percent (6,323 students passed the exam out of 14,181 examinees). Therefore, the total number and percent of students who did not fulfill the ELWR requirement prior to fall term enrollment decreased slightly; 27.0 percent, or 8,980 students will be required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the University compared to 27.4 percent, or 9,085 students in 2012.

The percent of entering students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment differs by UC eligibility status. In fall 2012, 73.1 percent (23,984) of regularly admitted freshman enrollees satisfied the ELWR prior to entry, compared to 32.9 percent (124) of enrolled students admitted by exception. For fall 2013, the completion rate rose slightly for regularly admitted enrollees (73.3 percent, 24,155), and the completion rate for enrolled students admitted by exception dropped to 31.4 percent (86 students).

The percentage of all fall students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment varies by campus. In 2013, this ranged from a high of 89.2 percent at UC Los Angeles compared to 40.6 percent at UC Merced. This pattern closely mirrors individual campus applicant pools and selectivity rates and is consistent across both years.

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 ELWR 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 following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering freshmen from California high schools for fall 2012 and fall 2013.

**Table 1: 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	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>											
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
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>											
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
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>											
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.

**Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2013**

Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took UC Exam	Passed UC Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>											
Berkeley	7,054	3,070	2,718	88.5	572	263	8.6	2,455	80.0	352	11.5
Davis	18,159	4,439	3,159	71.2	1,793	802	18.1	2,357	53.1	1,280	28.8
Irvine	19,824	4,594	3,017	65.7	2,443	964	21.0	2,053	44.7	1,577	34.3
Los Angeles	9,649	4,037	3,601	89.2	898	460	11.4	3,141	77.8	436	10.8
Merced	10,096	1,636	665	40.6	1,204	354	21.6	311	19.0	971	59.4
Riverside	18,418	4,053	2,343	57.8	2,558	841	20.8	1,502	37.1	1,710	42.2
San Diego	16,779	4,115	3,549	86.2	1,131	595	14.5	2,954	71.8	566	13.8
Santa Barbara	19,859	4,098	3,331	81.3	1,210	625	15.3	2,706	66.0	767	18.7
Santa Cruz	16,653	2,905	1,772	61.0	1,569	625	21.5	1,147	39.5	1,133	39.0
Total	136,491	32,947	24,155	73.3	13,378	5,529	16.8	18,626	56.5	8,792	26.7
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>											
Berkeley	28	26	6	23.1	17	2	7.7	4	15.4	20	76.9
Davis	5	5	1	20.0	2	0	0.0	1	20.0	4	80.0
Irvine	22	12	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	100.0
Los Angeles	74	62	17	27.4	32	12	19.4	5	8.1	45	72.6
Merced	48	13	5	38.5	10	4	30.8	1	7.7	8	61.5
Riverside	80	40	9	22.5	20	1	2.5	8	20.0	31	77.5
San Diego	22	11	9	81.8	4	2	18.2	7	63.6	2	18.2
Santa Barbara	58	29	9	31.0	9	1	3.4	8	27.6	20	69.0
Santa Cruz	86	76	30	39.5	60	16	21.1	14	18.4	46	60.5
Total	423	274	86	31.4	158	38	13.9	48	17.5	188	68.6
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>											
Berkeley	7,082	3,096	2,724	88.0	589	265	8.6	2,459	79.4	372	12.0
Davis	18,164	4,444	3,160	71.1	1,795	802	18.0	2,358	53.1	1,284	28.9
Irvine	19,846	4,606	3,017	65.5	2,447	964	20.9	2,053	44.6	1,589	34.5
Los Angeles	9,723	4,099	3,618	88.3	930	472	11.5	3,146	76.8	481	11.7
Merced	10,144	1,649	670	40.6	1,214	358	21.7	312	18.9	979	59.4
Riverside	18,498	4,093	2,352	57.5	2,578	842	20.6	1,510	36.9	1,741	42.5
San Diego	16,801	4,126	3,558	86.2	1,135	597	14.5	2,961	71.8	568	13.8
Santa Barbara	19,917	4,127	3,340	80.9	1,219	626	15.2	2,714	65.8	787	19.1
Santa Cruz	16,739	2,981	1,802	60.4	1,629	641	21.5	1,161	38.9	1,179	39.6
Total	136,914	33,221	24,241	73.0	13,536	5,567	16.8	18,674	56.2	8,980	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.

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Report website: <http://ucop.edu/operating-budget/budgets-and-reports/legislative-reports/index.html>