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February 20, 2019

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell:

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 (ELWR)*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by email at [David.Alcocer@ucop.edu](mailto:David.Alcocer@ucop.edu).

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano  
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Richard D. Roth, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)  
(Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Mrs. Katie Sperla)  
Ms. Jennifer Troia, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell

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Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Keely Bosler, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance  
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Carolyn Chu, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Executive Vice President and Provost Michael Brown  
Vice Provost and Chief Outreach Officer Yvette Gullatt  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Claire Holmes  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty  
Associate Vice President Elizabeth Halimah  
Chief of Staff to the Chief Financial Officer Oren Gabriel  
Chief of Staff Governmental Relations Bob Hartnagel  
Manager Jennifer Brice

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2018

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 (ELWR) 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 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,
2. the SAT, Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing,\*
3. the SAT Reasoning Test, Writing (last administered January 2016),
4. the ACT, English Language Arts,
5. the ACT, Combined English/Writing (last administered June 2015),
6. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination,
7. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination,
8. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Literature Examination, or
9. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Language and Literature Examination.

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\*Beginning with students entering UC in fall 2018, the university is accepting the SAT, Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing score to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement on a pilot basis.

An additional option for completing the writing requirement prior to enrolling 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 freshmen who have not satisfied the ELWR 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 ELWR for freshmen who entered the university for the fall 2018 term and provides fall 2017 data as a point of comparison (see Tables 1 and 2).

### Information to Schools

Each year, the university notifies California high school principals and county and district superintendents that comprehensive ELWR performance results are available on the AWPE Results website ([www.ucop.edu/elwr/examdata/results/](http://www.ucop.edu/elwr/examdata/results/)). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students.

The AWPE website ([www.ucop.edu/elwr/](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 Data on Entering Freshmen

The attached tables display ELWR data for fall 2017 and 2018 entering freshmen. Fall 2018 was the first year that the SAT, Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing score was included as a method of satisfying ELWR.

The University of California enrolled more California freshmen for fall 2018 (37,392) compared to fall 2017 (36,989), which is proportionately reflected in the number of entering freshmen that met the ELWR requirement compared to fall 2017.

Of the 37,392 fall 2018 freshmen who entered the university, 27,141 (72.6 percent) met the ELWR prior to their enrollment. This rate is similar to the fall 2017 outcome of 72.5 percent (26,807) for newly enrolled freshmen. The percent of fall 2018 freshmen who fulfilled the ELWR includes students who successfully passed the AWPE (4,356, or 11.6 percent) as well as students who met the requirement through other means – 60.9 percent of entrants (22,785).

Fewer enrolled students, proportionally and in number, took the AWPE in 2018; 34.1 percent took the 2018 exam (12,757 out of 37,392 enrollees) compared to 39.3 percent of the 2017 cohort (14,550 out of 36,989 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate was also lower for fall 2018 at 34.1 percent (4,356 out of 12,757 examinees) from 45.3 percent the previous year (6,593 out of 14,550 examinees). The proportion of students who met the

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ELWR through other means prior to enrolling increased from 54.6 percent (20,214) in 2017 to 60.9 percent (22,785) in 2018. The number of students required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the university in 2018 was similar in both absolute number and as a percent of the total; 10,251 (27.4 percent) in 2018, compared to 10,182 (27.5 percent) in 2017.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2018, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 73.0 percent or 27,050 students, while the completion rate for students admitted by exception was 28.3 percent (91 students). The ELWR completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees increased slightly from 72.7 percent in 2017 to 73.0 in 2018. The rate dropped for students admitted by exception compared to the prior year's rate of 38.1 percent (or 102 students).

The percentage of all fall 2018 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2018, this ranged from a high of 87.7 percent at Los Angeles to 34.3 percent at Merced.

Passing the AWPE is one method of satisfying the ELWR prior to enrollment, and it is the primary method used when satisfactory scores on other tests are not met. A student who has not satisfied the ELWR prior to enrollment must do so as early as possible during the first year of attendance by successfully completing 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 2018 and fall 2017.

**Table 1**

Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2018												
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam		Passed AWPE Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
Berkeley	8,694	4,285	3,574	83.4	746	322	7.5	3,252	75.9	711	16.6	
Davis	20,059	4,999	3,477	69.6	1,991	657	13.1	2,820	56.4	1,522	30.4	
Irvine	17,407	4,600	3,271	71.1	1,817	669	14.5	2,602	56.6	1,329	28.9	
Los Angeles	8,611	4,293	3,821	89.0	755	335	7.8	3,486	81.2	472	11.0	
Merced	15,862	2,178	750	34.4	1,449	256	11.8	494	22.7	1,428	65.6	
Riverside	22,403	4,370	2,573	58.9	2,090	640	14.6	1,933	44.2	1,797	41.1	
San Diego	17,688	5,232	4,280	81.8	1,447	578	11.0	3,702	70.8	952	18.2	
Santa Barbara	19,966	4,028	3,208	79.6	1,088	425	10.6	2,783	69.1	820	20.4	
Santa Cruz	19,091	3,085	2,096	67.9	1,230	451	14.6	1,645	53.3	989	32.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,781</b>	<b>37,070</b>	<b>27,050</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>12,613</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>22,717</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>10,020</b>	<b>27.0</b>	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
Berkeley	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Davis	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Irvine	1,003	74	23	31.1	42	5	6.8	18	24.3	51	68.9	
Los Angeles	83	78	13	16.7	36	5	6.4	8	10.3	65	83.3	
Merced	110	20	3	15.0	13	1	5.0	2	10.0	17	85.0	
Riverside	139	38	5	13.2	14	0	0.0	5	13.2	33	86.8	
San Diego	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Santa Barbara	44	27	14	51.9	2	1	3.7	13	48.1	13	48.1	
Santa Cruz	288	85	33	38.8	37	11	12.9	22	25.9	52	61.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>71.7</b>	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
Berkeley	8,694	4,285	3,574	83.4	746	322	7.5	3,252	75.9	711	16.6	
Davis	20,059	4,999	3,477	69.6	1,991	657	13.1	2,820	56.4	1,522	30.4	
Irvine	18,410	4,674	3,294	70.5	1,859	674	14.4	2,620	56.1	1,380	29.5	
Los Angeles	8,694	4,371	3,834	87.7	791	340	7.8	3,494	79.9	537	12.3	
Merced	15,972	2,198	753	34.3	1,462	257	11.7	496	22.6	1,445	65.7	
Riverside	22,542	4,408	2,578	58.5	2,104	640	14.5	1,938	44.0	1,830	41.5	
San Diego	17,689	5,232	4,280	81.8	1,447	578	11.0	3,702	70.8	952	18.2	
Santa Barbara	20,010	4,055	3,222	79.5	1,090	426	10.5	2,796	69.0	833	20.5	
Santa Cruz	19,379	3,170	2,129	67.2	1,267	462	14.6	1,667	52.6	1,041	32.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,449</b>	<b>37,392</b>	<b>27,141</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>12,757</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>10,251</b>	<b>27.4</b>	

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

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2017												
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam		Passed AWPE Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means**		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
Berkeley	8,962	4,408	3,507	79.6	822	437	9.9	3,070	69.6	901	20.4	
Davis	19,102	4,386	3,081	70.2	1,896	883	20.1	2,198	50.1	1,305	29.8	
Irvine	20,728	5,350	3,875	72.4	2,462	1,157	21.6	2,718	50.8	1,475	27.6	
Los Angeles	9,225	4,322	3,940	91.2	959	536	12.4	3,404	78.8	382	8.8	
Merced	14,840	2,262	818	36.2	1,665	429	19.0	389	17.2	1,444	63.8	
Riverside	22,139	4,426	2,754	62.2	2,479	1,002	22.6	1,752	39.6	1,672	37.8	
San Diego	18,728	4,411	3,221	73.0	1,453	716	16.2	2,505	56.8	1,190	27.0	
Santa Barbara	18,748	3,723	3,080	82.7	1,053	575	15.4	2,505	67.3	643	17.3	
Santa Cruz	19,482	3,433	2,429	70.8	1,622	813	23.7	1,616	47.1	1,004	29.2	
Total	151,954	36,721	26,705	72.7	14,411	6,548	17.8	20,157	54.9	10,016	27.3	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
Berkeley	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Davis	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Irvine	831	18	6	33.3	8	2	11.1	4	22.2	12	66.7	
Los Angeles	64	60	23	38.3	31	14	23.3	9	15.0	37	61.7	
Merced	110	26	10	38.5	17	4	15.4	6	23.1	16	61.5	
Riverside	207	56	13	23.2	27	2	3.6	11	19.6	43	76.8	
San Diego	36	16	10	62.5	6	4	25.0	6	37.5	6	37.5	
Santa Barbara	29	16	5	31.3	10	3	18.8	2	12.5	11	68.8	
Santa Cruz	332	76	35	46.1	40	16	21.1	19	25.0	41	53.9	
Total	1,609	268	102	38.1	139	45	16.8	57	21.3	166	61.9	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
Berkeley	8,962	4,408	3,507	79.6	822	437	9.9	3,070	69.6	901	20.4	
Davis	19,102	4,386	3,081	70.2	1,896	883	20.1	2,198	50.1	1,305	29.8	
Irvine	21,559	5,368	3,881	72.3	2,470	1,159	21.6	2,722	50.7	1,487	27.7	
Los Angeles	9,289	4,382	3,963	90.4	990	550	12.6	3,413	77.9	419	9.6	
Merced	14,950	2,288	828	36.2	1,682	433	18.9	395	17.3	1,460	63.8	
Riverside	22,346	4,482	2,767	61.7	2,506	1,004	22.4	1,763	39.3	1,715	38.3	
San Diego	18,764	4,427	3,231	73.0	1,459	720	16.3	2,511	56.7	1,196	27.0	
Santa Barbara	18,777	3,739	3,085	82.5	1,063	578	15.5	2,507	67.1	654	17.5	
Santa Cruz	19,814	3,509	2,464	70.2	1,662	829	23.6	1,635	46.6	1,045	29.8	
Total	153,563	36,989	26,807	72.5	14,550	6,593	17.8	20,214	54.6	10,182	27.5	
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.												
**The new SAT was not an approved a method for satisfying ELWR for Fall 2017.												