

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9074  
<http://www.ucop.edu>

February 20, 2020

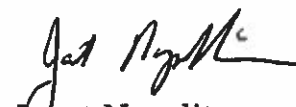
The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

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,

  
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: Ms. Jean-Marie McKinney)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Carolyn Nealon)

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
February 20, 2020  
Page 2

Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance  
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Ms. Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance  
Mr. Brian Rutledge, Department of Finance  
Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, 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  
Associate Vice President Elizabeth Halimah  
Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Paul Jenny  
Senior Vice President Claire Holmes  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2019

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 (UC) Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is a reading and writing proficiency requirement that is intended to ensure 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 UC faculty.

The Academic Senate's University Committee on Preparatory Education 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 (AWPE),
2. the SAT, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing\*
3. the ACT, English Language Arts,
4. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination,
5. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination,
6. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Literature Examination, or
7. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Language and Literature Examination.

\*Beginning with students entering UC in fall 2018, the university accepts the SAT, Evidence-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 California 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 has observed in the past, “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 2019 term and provides fall 2018 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 2019 ELWR performance results will be posted by April 2020.

The AWPE website ([www.ucop.edu/elwr/](http://www.ucop.edu/elwr/)) contains an example of a previously administered examination, 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 2018 and 2019 entering freshmen.

The University of California admitted slightly more California freshmen for fall 2019 (151,601) compared to fall 2018 (151,449), but 572 fewer California freshmen enrolled in fall 2019 (36,820) compared to fall 2018 (37,392). This slight drop is also reflected in the number of entering freshmen that met the ELWR requirement compared to fall 2018, although the proportion that met the requirement did not change (72.6 percent, for both 2019 and 2018). Of the 36,820 fall 2019 freshmen who entered the university, 26,745 met the ELWR prior to their enrollment. The number who fulfilled the ELWR includes students who successfully passed the AWPE (3,515, or 9.5 percent of total enrolled students) as well as students who met the requirement through other means (23,226, or 63.1 percent of total enrolled students).

Fewer enrolled students, proportionally and in number, took the AWPE in 2019; 29.9 percent took the 2019 exam (11,012 out of 36,820 enrollees) compared to 34.1 percent of the 2018 cohort (12,757 out of 37,392 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate was also lower for fall 2019 at 31.9 percent (3,515 out of 11,012 examinees) from 34.1 percent the previous year (4,356 out of 12,757 examinees). The proportion of students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrolling increased to 63.1 percent (23,226) in 2019 from 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 2019 was similar in absolute number and the same as a percent of the total; 10,075 (27.4 percent) in 2019, compared to 10,251 (27.4 percent) in 2018.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2019, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 73.0 percent (26,669 students), while the completion rate for students admitted by exception was 27.6 percent (76 students). The ELWR completion rate of 73.0 percent for regularly admitted enrollees did not change from the 2018 rate. The rate dropped for students admitted by exception compared to the prior year's rate of 28.3 percent (91 students).

The percentage of all fall 2019 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2019, this ranged from a high of 89.7 percent at Los Angeles to a low of 32.8 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. The following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering freshmen from California high schools for fall 2019 and fall 2018.

**Table 1**

<b>Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2019</b>												
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	9,260	4,612	4,006	86.9	653	251	5.4	3,755	81.4	606	13.1	
Davis	19,966	4,940	3,444	69.7	1,632	508	10.3	2,936	59.4	1,496	30.3	
Irvine	14,560	4,810	3,342	69.5	1,852	590	12.3	2,752	57.2	1,468	30.5	
Los Angeles	8,242	4,349	3,952	90.9	605	249	5.7	3,703	85.1	397	9.1	
Merced	17,223	2,069	682	33.0	1,346	236	11.4	446	21.6	1,387	67.0	
Riverside	24,576	4,583	2,786	60.8	2,038	631	13.8	2,155	47.0	1,797	39.2	
San Diego	17,957	4,420	3,360	76.0	998	360	8.1	3,000	67.9	1,060	24.0	
Santa Barbara	18,022	3,701	2,970	80.2	829	305	8.2	2,665	72.0	731	19.8	
Santa Cruz	20,159	3,061	2,127	69.5	963	376	12.3	1,751	57.2	934	30.5	
Total	149,965	36,545	26,669	73.0	10,916	3,506	9.6	23,163	63.4	9,876	27.0	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
Berkeley	4	4	4	100.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Davis	11	11	4	36.4	4	1	9.1	3	27.3	7	63.6	
Irvine	889	22	8	36.4	9	1	4.5	7	31.8	14	63.6	
Los Angeles	77	76	16	21.1	26	2	2.6	14	18.4	60	78.9	
Merced	147	27	6	22.2	10	0	0.0	6	22.2	21	77.8	
Riverside	125	39	9	23.1	16	2	5.1	7	17.9	30	76.9	
San Diego	9	2	1	50.0	2	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	
Santa Barbara	16	12	1	8.3	4	0	0.0	1	8.3	11	91.7	
Santa Cruz	358	82	27	32.9	25	2	2.4	25	30.5	55	67.1	
Total	1,636	275	76	27.6	96	9	3.3	63	22.9	199	72.4	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
Berkeley	9,264	4,616	4,010	86.9	653	251	5.4	3,755	81.3	606	13.1	
Davis	19,977	4,951	3,448	69.6	1,636	509	10.3	2,939	59.4	1,503	30.4	
Irvine	15,449	4,832	3,350	69.3	1,861	591	12.2	2,759	57.1	1,482	30.7	
Los Angeles	8,319	4,425	3,968	89.7	631	251	5.7	3,717	84.0	457	10.3	
Merced	17,370	2,096	688	32.8	1,356	236	11.3	452	21.6	1,408	67.2	
Riverside	24,701	4,622	2,795	60.5	2,054	633	13.7	2,162	46.8	1,827	39.5	
San Diego	17,966	4,422	3,361	76.0	1,000	361	8.2	3,000	67.8	1,061	24.0	
Santa Barbara	18,038	3,713	2,971	80.0	833	305	8.2	2,666	71.8	742	20.0	
Santa Cruz	20,517	3,143	2,154	68.5	988	378	12.0	1,776	56.5	989	31.5	
Total	151,601	36,820	26,745	72.6	11,012	3,515	9.5	23,226	63.1	10,075	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**

Table 2: 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	%	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	
Total	149,781	37,070	27,050	73.0	12,613	4,333	11.7	22,717	61.3	10,020	27.0	
<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	
Total	1,668	322	91	28.3	144	23	7.1	68	21.1	231	71.7	
<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	
Total	151,449	37,392	27,141	72.6	12,757	4,356	11.6	22,785	60.9	10,251	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.