
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Admission and Enrollment of Students from LCFF+ High Schools

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 92680.4(d) of the Education Code, which states:

- (d) Commencing in 2017, no later than November 30 of each year, the university shall report to the Director of Finance and to the Legislature the number of pupils who attended a school identified by the Superintendent pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 41580 and were admitted to the university, and the number of those students who enrolled, disaggregated by campus.

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

Background

Supporting the success of UC students and continuing to expand access to a diverse student body fully representative of the state are fundamental to fulfilling the educational mission of the University of California. UC campuses are engaged in many efforts to broaden access and improve undergraduate student outcomes—particularly for low-income, first-generation, and other students who may be at greater risk of lower graduation rates or longer time-to-degree. These efforts have shown promising results—the racial/ethnic diversity of UC students is increasing and the percentage of undergraduates who complete their studies on time has steadily improved over the last decade. However, more work can (and should) be done to increase access, improve graduation rates overall, and close opportunity gaps. UC actively seeks out partnerships with the State to pursue this work.

As part of a package of initiatives proposed by former Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin De León, the 2016–17 State budget for the University of California included one-time funds for support services for “low-income students and students from underrepresented minority groups,” including students who were enrolled in high schools in which more than 75 percent of the school’s total enrollment (unduplicated) is composed of pupils who are identified as either English learners, eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or foster youth. These schools, which are eligible for supplemental funding under California’s Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), are known as “LCFF plus” (LCFF+) schools. This one-time funding was intended to help increase the application, admission, and enrollment of students from LCFF+ high schools.

UC campuses leveraged the one-time funding to engage with LCFF+ high schools and other partners in efforts to increase applications, admissions, and enrollments of these students, including:

- Partnering with community-based organizations to raise awareness of UC and to better serve LCFF+ students and their families
- Using UC proprietary software (e.g., UC’s Transcript Evaluation Service) and other tools to identify attendees at LCFF+ schools who are close to achieving UC eligibility, and to provide college advising and academic enrichment programs to those students
- Providing LCFF+ high school students with UC campus experiences (e.g., campus visits, residential programs) and/or connecting them with UC student peer mentors

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- Raising awareness of UC at LCFF+ schools during the fall application period for 2017 high school graduates and in spring 2017 for students in grades 9–11 by conducting additional application, college preparation, and financial aid workshops for students and parents; as well as providing support for students who are preparing responses to the “personal insight” questions on the UC application
 - Conducting targeted “yield” activities (e.g., campus visits and advising) for students attending LCFF+ schools who are admitted to UC
 - Providing transition support to reduce the number of UC-admitted students who have indicated they will enroll in the fall but fail to do so

In addition, as a system, UC has undertaken special efforts to increase applications and admissions of low-income students and of those from LCFF+ schools. Beginning with the fall 2017 application cycle, campuses are able to identify applicants from LCFF+ high schools to ensure that they receive full consideration in the comprehensive review process. UC also redesigned its process for application fee waivers (by which low-income students can apply to up to four campuses free of charge) so that applicants who reported low family incomes were automatically granted a waiver—rather than being required to apply for one—and were reminded to maximize the fee waiver when fewer than four campuses were selected.

Most recently, the 2019–20 State Budget Act provided the University with one-time funds for a purpose similar to those provided in the 2016–17 Budget Act. This one-time appropriation was for the provision of outreach and student support services to low-income students and students from underrepresented minority groups, including students who were enrolled in LCFF+ high schools. The University leveraged this one-time funding to support efforts such as conducting college preparation, college application, and financial aid workshops; providing college advising and academic enrichment to students attending LCFF+ schools; using data analytics to identify students in need of academic support and targeting services to those students; and developing or expanding summer academic support programs.

Applications, Admissions, and Enrollments

The following analyses look at California residents from LCFF+ California high schools in fall 2019, fall 2020, and fall 2021 freshman admission cycles. Fall 2021 enrollment data are preliminary based on Statements of Intent to Register as of August 2021. These analyses include LCFF+ designations used for the fall 2021 admissions cycle (based on 2019–20 school enrollment data); therefore, data for prior years have been updated from prior reports.

UC Systemwide

The number of students admitted to UC from LCFF+ high schools increased 16 percent from 15,829 in 2019 to 18,393 in 2020, before increasing 6 percent to 19,487 in 2021, as the overall number of admissions went up 12 percent in 2020, then up 5 percent in 2021 (Table 1). The admit rate for students from LCFF+ schools increased from 58 percent in 2019 to 68 percent in 2020, then up to 70 percent in 2021. The overall admit rate went up from 62 percent in 2019 to 71 percent in 2020, then down to 67 percent in 2021. The gap between the admit rates for students from LCFF+ schools and non-LCFF+ schools narrowed from four percentage points in 2019 to three percentage points in 2020; in 2021, the rate for LCFF+ students was three percentage points higher than the overall rate.

Table 1. High School Graduates, California Resident Applicants, Admits, Enrollees from Public High Schools, by LCFF+ Status of High School, UC Systemwide

	Students	LCFF+	Non-LCFF+	TOTAL
2019	H.S. Graduates	150,154	288,496	438,650
	Applicants	27,370	73,950	101,320
	Admits	15,829	47,178	63,007
	Enrollees	7,790	25,159	32,949
	Application Rate	18%	26%	23%
	Admit Rate	58%	64%	62%
	Yield Rate	49%	53%	52%
2020	H.S. Graduates	145,794	282,187	427,981
	Applicants	27,140	72,016	99,156
	Admits	18,393	51,993	70,386
	Enrollees	7,608	26,869	34,477
	Application Rate	19%	26%	23%
	Admit Rate	68%	72%	71%
	Yield Rate	41%	52%	49%
2021	H.S. Graduates	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Applicants	27,865	83,157	111,022
	Admits	19,487	54,648	74,135
	Enrollees	8,753	28,532	37,285
	Application Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Admit Rate	70%	66%	67%
	Yield Rate	45%	52%	50%

Source: LCFF+ designation based on 2019–20 enrollment data from the California Department of Education. High school graduates from 2018–19 data from the California Department of Education. Applicants, admits, and enrollees from applyUC data (as of August 11, 2021) for fall 2021 admissions cycle and UC Data Warehouse, Undergraduate Admissions Data Mart for fall 2019 and fall 2020.

Notes: LCFF+ means more than 75 percent of a school's students are English language learners, foster youth, and/or eligible for free or reduced meal prices (i.e., low income). LCFF+ status based on enrollment for the academic year prior to the given year (i.e., 2015–16 for 2017). High school graduates are 12th-grade graduates of California public schools in the academic year ending in the given year (i.e., 2015–16 for 2016); these data include a small number of international students as well as California residents. "n/a" means data not yet available. Applicants, admits, and enrollees are unduplicated counts of California residents from California public high schools for UC systemwide for the fall term of the given year.

The estimated number of students from LCFF+ high schools enrolling as new freshmen at UC in 2021 (8,753) was larger than in 2019 (7,790) or 2020 (7,608). About 23 percent of the fall 2021 freshman incoming class were from LCFF+ high schools, which is slightly smaller than the share in fall 2019 (24 percent), and slightly larger than the share in fall 2020 (22 percent).

UC Campuses

In all three years, UC Irvine had more freshman applicants from LCFF+ high schools than any other campus, with 17,251 in 2021 (Table 2). In 2019 and 2020, UC Merced had the largest number of freshman admits; but in 2021, UC Riverside had the largest number with 7,774. UC Merced had the highest admit rate in all three years (88 percent in 2021) for students from LCFF+ high schools.

Table 2. California Resident Applicants, Admits, Enrollees from LCFF+ High Schools, by UC Campus

	Berkeley	Davis	Irvine	Los Angeles	Merced	Riverside	San Diego	Santa Barbara	Santa Cruz	
2019	Applicants	8,240	10,131	17,265	14,355	9,530	14,755	11,792	12,435	9,217
	Admits	1,375	3,673	3,213	1,461	6,321	5,752	3,544	3,376	2,643
	Enrollees	586	961	1,300	928	906	1,058	1,039	709	303
	Admit Rate	17%	36%	19%	10%	66%	39%	30%	27%	29%
	Yield Rate	43%	26%	40%	64%	14%	18%	29%	21%	11%
2020	Applicants	8,097	9,687	18,200	13,839	9,727	14,707	12,347	11,529	9,119
	Admits	2,013	3,639	2,596	1,596	8,258	7,016	3,531	3,576	3,996
	Enrollees	801	924	768	885	919	1,339	825	639	508
	Admit Rate	25%	38%	14%	12%	85%	48%	29%	31%	44%
	Yield Rate	40%	25%	30%	55%	11%	19%	23%	18%	13%
2021	Applicants	9,876	10,007	17,251	16,634	8,600	13,893	12,875	11,054	8,404
	Admits	2,153	3,980	3,952	1,661	7,526	7,774	4,564	3,886	4,276
	Enrollees	806	923	1,440	928	942	1,492	1,116	605	510
	Admit Rate	22%	40%	23%	10%	88%	56%	35%	35%	51%
	Yield Rate	37%	23%	36%	56%	13%	19%	24%	16%	12%

Source: LCFF+ designation based on 2019–20 enrollment data from the California Department of Education. High school graduates from 2018–19 data from the California Department of Education. Applicants, admits, and enrollees from applyUC data (as of August 11, 2021) for fall 2021 admissions cycle and UC Data Warehouse, Undergraduate Admissions Data Mart for fall 2019 and fall 2020.

In 2021, UC Riverside had the largest number (1,492) of incoming freshmen from LCFF+ high schools. At six of the nine undergraduate campuses, the number of incoming freshmen from LCFF+ high schools was higher in 2021 than in 2019.

Race/Ethnicity

The share of freshman applicants, admits, and enrollees from LCFF+ high schools who were from underrepresented groups (URGs) remained relatively the same (or increased) in both 2020 and 2021 (Table 3).¹ In 2021, 84 percent of applicants from LCFF+ high schools were from URGs, compared to 82 percent in 2019 and 84 percent in 2020. Students from URGs represented 82 percent of LCFF+ admits in 2021, compared to 80 percent in 2019 and 82 percent in 2020. Almost four-fifths (79 percent) of the incoming freshmen from LCFF+ schools in 2021 were from URGs, which is up from 77 percent in both 2019 and 2020. The share of LCFF+ high school graduates who were from URGs was 85 percent in 2019 and 86 percent in 2020 (the most recent years for which these data are available). In all three years, the largest racial/ethnic group among applicants, admits, and enrollees from LCFF+ high schools was Hispanic/Latino(a).

¹ Underrepresented groups are African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics/Latino(a)s, and Pacific Islanders.

Table 3. High School Graduates, California Resident Applicants, Admits, Enrollees from LCFF+ High Schools, by Race/Ethnicity

		African American	American Indian	Hispanic/Latino(a)	Pacific Islander	Sub-total URGs	Asian	White	Unkn
2019	H.S. Graduates	10,115	668	116,811	616	128,210	8,766	10,649	
	Applicants	1,861	54	20,588	57	22,560	3,408	911	
	Admits	815	32	11,783	31	12,661	2,350	585	
	Enrollees	404	17	5,530	16	5,967	1,430	295	
	Application Rate	18%	8%	18%	9%	18%	39%	9%	
	Admit Rate	44%	59%	57%	54%	56%	69%	64%	
	Yield Rate	50%	53%	47%	52%	47%	61%	50%	
2020	H.S. Graduates	9,232	697	114,646	587	125,162	8,673	9,636	
	Applicants	1,736	57	20,845	44	22,682	3,307	760	
	Admits	971	34	14,040	21	15,066	2,574	526	
	Enrollees	415	18	5,394	8	5,835	1,455	261	
	Application Rate	19%	8%	18%	7%	18%	38%	8%	
	Admit Rate	56%	60%	67%	48%	66%	78%	69%	
	Yield Rate	43%	53%	38%	38%	39%	57%	50%	
2021	H.S. Graduates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	
	Applicants	1,877	55	21,297	48	23,277	3,532	888	
	Admits	1,125	43	14,852	32	16,052	2,683	639	
	Enrollees	494	18	6,369	22	6,903	1,503	305	
	Application Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Admit Rate	60%	78%	70%		69%	76%	72%	
	Yield Rate	44%	42%	43%		43%	56%	48%	

Source: LCFF+ designation based on 2019–20 enrollment data from the California Department of Education. High school graduates from 2018–19 data from the California Department of Education. Applicants, admits, and enrollees from applyUC data (as of August 11, 2021) for fall 2021 admissions cycle and UC Data Warehouse, Undergraduate Admissions Data Mart for fall 2019 and fall 2020.

The number of African American admits from LCFF+ high schools grew from 2019 to 2021, increasing 19 percent in 2020 and 16 percent in 2021. Hispanics/Latino(a)s also showed a pattern of growth in admits by 19 percent from 2019 to 2020, and by six percent from 2020 to 2021. American Indians and Pacific Islanders have smaller overall numbers, so it is helpful to look at counts rather than percent changes. The number of American Indians admitted increased from 32 in 2019 to 34 in 2020, and 43 in 2021; the number of Pacific Islander admits went from 31 in 2019 to 21 in 2020, and 32 in 2021.