



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

February 28, 2022

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

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

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Skinner:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

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 e-mail at [David.Alcocer@ucop.edu](mailto:David.Alcocer@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

Enclosure

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Mr. Christopher Francis)  
(Attn: Ms. Jean-Marie McKinney)
- The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Carolyn Nealon)
- Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
- Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate
- Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
- Ms. Sue Parker, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
- Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
- Ms. Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance
- Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office  
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Brown  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt  
Associate Vice Provost Elizabeth Halimah  
Senior Vice President Brent Colburn  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2021

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 University 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. Alternatively, 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 ACT, English + Writing\*
5. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination
6. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination
7. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Literature Examination
8. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Language and Literature Examination

\* Beginning with students entering UC in fall 2021, the University accepts the ACT, English + Writing score to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement.

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 three semester or four quarter units. The University administers the AWPE to incoming California freshmen who have not satisfied the ELWR at the time of admission. 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.

For the second straight year, the 2021 administration of the AWPE was offered in an online format, rather than in person. As with the fall 2020 entering class, four campuses (Davis, Irvine, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz) offered alternative testing and placement options for fall 2021 entrants. Students were allowed to fulfill the ELWR prior to enrollment with these local alternatives or with the AWPE.

This report summarizes the outcomes of the ELWR for freshmen who entered the University for the fall 2021 term and provides fall 2020 data as a point of comparison. (See Table 1 and Table 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 UC Info Center website (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/elwr>). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students. The 2021 ELWR performance results will be posted by April 2022.

The AWPE website (<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/elwr/>) contains an example of a previously administered examination, the scoring guide, and annotated sample 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 2020 and 2021 entering freshmen from California public and private high schools.

The University of California admitted 276 fewer California freshmen for fall 2021 (180,385 compared with 180,661 in 2020), but 1,680 more California freshmen enrolled (40,179) compared with fall 2020 (38,499). Of the 40,179 fall 2021 freshmen who entered the University, 27,328 met the ELWR prior to their enrollment (68.0 percent) — a drop from fall 2020 (71.9 percent). The number who fulfilled the ELWR includes students who successfully passed the AWPE (2,964, or 7.4 percent of enrolled students) as well as students who met the requirement through other means — 60.6 percent of entrants (24,364).

More enrolled students, proportionally and in number, met the ELWR by passing the AWPE: 7.4 percent (2,964 students) in fall 2021, compared with 5.3 percent (2,028 students) in fall 2020. The proportion of students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrolling dropped to 60.6 percent in 2021 from 66.6 percent in 2020, a decrease of 1,270 (24,364 in 2021 from 25,634 in 2020). The number and proportion of students required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the University in 2021 was higher: 12,851 (32.0 percent) in 2021, compared with 10,837 (28.1 percent) in 2020. It is likely that the unavailability of standardized tests during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in fewer fall 2021 entrants fulfilling the ELWR using SAT or ACT scores.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2021, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 68.3 percent (27,251 students), while the completion rate for students admitted by exception was 25.0 percent (77 students). The ELWR completion rate of 68.3 percent for regularly admitted enrollees was lower than the 2020 rate of 72.0 percent. The rate decreased for students admitted by exception compared to the prior year's rate of 29.9 percent (52 students).

The percentage of all fall 2021 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2021, this ranged from a high of 91.7 percent at Los Angeles to 38.3 percent at Merced.

The following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering freshmen from California high schools for fall 2021 and fall 2020.

**Table 1**

<b>Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2021</b>										
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met ELWR by Passing AWPE		Met ELWR by Other Means		Met ELWR Prior to Enrollment (Total)		Did Not Meet ELWR Prior to Enrollment	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>										
Berkeley	10,351	4,832	591	12.2	3,326	68.8	3,917	81.1	915	18.9
Davis	24,380	5,753	0	0.0	3,373	58.6	3,373	58.6	2,380	41.4
Irvine	16,313	4,809	0	0.0	3,497	72.7	3,497	72.7	1,312	27.3
Los Angeles	8,375	4,529	500	11.0	3,655	80.7	4,155	91.7	374	8.3
Merced	21,681	2,237	308	13.8	569	25.4	877	39.2	1,360	60.8
Riverside	29,185	4,974	749	15.1	1,927	38.7	2,676	53.8	2,298	46.2
San Diego	21,839	5,275	777	14.7	3,534	67.0	4,311	81.7	964	18.3
Santa Barbara	20,054	3,685	1	0.0	2,834	76.9	2,835	76.9	850	23.1
Santa Cruz	26,950	3,777	16	0.4	1,594	42.2	1,610	42.6	2,167	57.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,128</b>	<b>39,871</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>24,309</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>27,251</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>12,620</b>	<b>31.7</b>
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>										
Berkeley	5	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	100.0
Davis	11	10	0	0.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	9	90.0
Irvine	2	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	1	50.0
Los Angeles	16	11	1	9.1	5	45.5	6	54.5	5	45.5
Merced	720	149	14	9.4	22	14.8	36	24.2	113	75.8
Riverside	152	41	1	2.4	3	7.3	4	9.8	37	90.2
San Diego	76	24	5	20.8	7	29.2	12	50.0	12	50.0
Santa Barbara	17	10	0	0.0	6	60.0	6	60.0	4	40.0
Santa Cruz	258	57	1	1.8	10	17.5	11	19.3	46	80.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>75.0</b>
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>										
Berkeley	10,356	4,836	591	12.2	3,326	68.8	3,917	81.0	919	19.0
Davis	24,391	5,763	0	0.0	3,374	58.5	3,374	58.5	2,389	41.5
Irvine	16,315	4,811	0	0.0	3,498	72.7	3,498	72.7	1,313	27.3
Los Angeles	8,391	4,540	501	11.0	3,660	80.6	4,161	91.7	379	8.3
Merced	22,401	2,386	322	13.5	591	24.8	913	38.3	1,473	61.7
Riverside	29,337	5,015	750	15.0	1,930	38.5	2,680	53.4	2,335	46.6
San Diego	21,915	5,299	782	14.8	3,541	66.8	4,323	81.6	976	18.4
Santa Barbara	20,071	3,695	1	0.0	2,840	76.9	2,841	76.9	854	23.1
Santa Cruz	27,208	3,834	17	0.4	1,604	41.8	1,621	42.3	2,213	57.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,385</b>	<b>40,179</b>	<b>2,964</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>24,364</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>27,328</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>12,851</b>	<b>32.0</b>
Source: University of California Office of the President, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity 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 (ELWR) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2020										
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met ELWR by Passing AWPE		Met ELWR by Other Means		Met ELWR Prior to Enrollment (Total)		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>										
Berkeley	10,110	4,547	249	5.5	3,680	80.9	3,929	86.4	618	13.6
Davis	22,237	4,912	68	1.4	3,028	61.6	3,096	63.0	1,816	37.0
Irvine	17,227	4,726	59	1.2	3,236	68.5	3,295	69.7	1,431	30.3
Los Angeles	9,119	4,756	230	4.8	4,088	86.0	4,318	90.8	438	9.2
Merced	20,753	1,908	108	5.7	472	24.7	580	30.4	1,328	69.6
Riverside	28,494	4,696	414	8.8	2,303	49.0	2,717	57.9	1,979	42.1
San Diego	22,123	4,875	380	7.8	3,761	77.1	4,141	84.9	734	15.1
Santa Barbara	22,571	4,009	266	6.6	3,029	75.6	3,295	82.2	714	17.8
Santa Cruz	27,182	3,896	249	6.4	1,990	51.1	2,239	57.5	1,657	42.5
Total	179,816	38,325	2,023	48.2	25,587	66.8	27,610	72.0	10,715	28.0
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>										
Berkeley	7	7	0	0.0	3	42.9	3	42.9	4	57.1
Davis	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Irvine	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Los Angeles	19	17	1	5.9	4	23.5	5	29.4	12	70.6
Merced	202	32	1	3.1	4	12.5	5	15.6	27	84.4
Riverside	206	44	0	0.0	13	29.5	13	29.5	31	70.5
San Diego	22	3	0	0.0	2	66.7	2	66.7	1	33.3
Santa Barbara	19	8	2	25.0	1	12.5	3	37.5	5	62.5
Santa Cruz	370	63	1	1.6	20	31.7	21	33.3	42	66.7
Total	845	174	5	35.6	47	27.0	52	29.9	122	70.1
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>										
Berkeley	10,117	4,554	249	5.5	3,683	80.9	3,932	86.3	622	13.7
Davis	22,237	4,912	68	1.4	3,028	61.6	3,096	63.0	1,816	37.0
Irvine	17,227	4,726	59	1.2	3,236	68.5	3,295	69.7	1,431	30.3
Los Angeles	9,138	4,773	231	4.8	4,092	85.7	4,323	90.6	450	9.4
Merced	20,955	1,940	109	5.6	476	24.5	585	30.2	1,355	69.8
Riverside	28,700	4,740	414	8.7	2,316	48.9	2,730	57.6	2,010	42.4
San Diego	22,145	4,878	380	7.8	3,763	77.1	4,143	84.9	735	15.1
Santa Barbara	22,590	4,017	268	6.7	3,030	75.4	3,298	82.1	719	17.9
Santa Cruz	27,552	3,959	250	6.3	2,010	50.8	2,260	57.1	1,699	42.9
Total	180,661	38,499	2,028	5.3	25,634	66.6	27,662	71.9	10,837	28.1
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.										

**Contact Information:**  
University of California  
Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
<http://www.ucop.edu>