



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

August 9, 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 68052.1 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California’s annual report to the Legislature on Data on Nonresident Student Admission, Fall 2021.

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.

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
Ms. Tammy Weis, 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
Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Scott Ogus, Legislative Analyst Office
Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Brown
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Brent Colburn
Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt
Associate Vice Provost Elizabeth Halimah
Associate Vice President David Alcocer
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Data on Nonresident Student Admission Fall 2021

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 68052.1 of the Education Code, which states:

The University of California is requested to comply with both of the following:

- (a) By July 1, 2018, the University of California, in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the University of California, is requested to ensure that implementation of any admissions policy it adopts regarding admission of nonresident undergraduate students shall include guidance that ensures that the academic qualifications for admitted nonresident undergraduate students generally exceeds, on average, the academic qualifications of resident undergraduate students admitted at each campus.
- (b) The University of California is requested to report to the Legislature annually regarding implementation of this policy, including, but not limited to, the mean and median scores on academic indicators of admitted resident and nonresident undergraduate students at each campus.

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

Background

Adopted in 2011, the University of California policy on the admission of nonresident domestic and international students states that “[n]on-resident domestic and international students admitted to a campus should compare favorably to California residents admitted at that campus.”¹ The University’s Academic Senate faculty committee, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), monitors each campus’s compliance with this “Compare Favorably” policy and produces an annual summary report.²

Under the University’s guidelines regarding the admission of undergraduate students—referred to as the Comprehensive Review policy—faculty have identified multiple factors that may be used by campuses to assess the achievements of California resident and nonresident applicants alike.³ Almost all of these 13 factors are qualitative in nature, and there is no statistically valid way to report mean and median scores for these factors.

Fall 2021 was the first year in which standardized test scores from the SAT/ACT were eliminated from the University’s comprehensive review process, leaving high school grade point average (GPA) as the only remaining quantitative measure of academic preparation. Additionally, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the University made temporary adjustments to admission requirements. This included suspending the letter-grade requirement for high school classes, which affected GPAs. Thus, while a comparison of the GPAs

¹http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/DS_MGY_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf

²<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/boars/reports.html>

³https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/documents/guidelines-implementation-of-ug-admission-rev-7-2019.pdf

of admitted students can provide a rough indication of whether a campus has met the Compare Favorably policy, such a narrow academic indicator is an imperfect measure, given the use of comprehensive review on all campuses, which requires campus admissions professionals to consider multiple factors in the broad assessment of merit they use to admit students.

Data Summary

Tables 1 and 2 summarize systemwide and campus data for high school unweighted GPA. The values range from 0–4.0.

Among all freshman students admitted to the University for fall 2021, Table 1 shows that domestic and international nonresident students had higher mean and median unweighted GPAs than California residents.

Table 1: High School (HS) GPA of UC Freshman Admits, Systemwide, Fall 2021

Residency Status	# of Freshman Admits	Mean HS GPA	Median HS GPA
California Resident	83,770	3.68	3.76
Out-of-State Domestic	28,008	3.80	3.88
International	19,658	3.75	3.85

The GPA results varied by campus. The campus-specific GPA differences are often minor—some are as small as one or two one-hundredths of a point (0.01 and 0.02), trivial variances when one considers that the difference between the letter grade of “A” and “A-” is three-tenths of a point (0.3). Evaluating the grades of students from other states and countries can be particularly challenging, as the records are often more complex. There is also wide variation in curricula and standards for grading.

Three factors to take into consideration for the fall 2021 admission cycle are the elimination of standardized test scores, a large increase in applications systemwide, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Campuses used newly modified review processes to assess students for the first time without standardized test scores. In addition, there was a large increase in applications for fall 2021. Systemwide, applications for freshman admission increased by more than 18 percent. Finally, the COVID-19 global pandemic continued to affect high school students around the world.

In sum, the degree of compliance across the University is very high, especially when one considers the increasingly large volume of applications that are received by the University, the extraordinary level of achievement presented by virtually all applicants, the challenges of applying the complex Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive and internally dynamic admissions process, and the challenges of a global pandemic.

Table 2
University of California
High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits, Fall 2021

Campus	Residency Status¹	# of Freshman Admits	Mean High School GPA²	Median High School GPA²
Systemwide	C	83,770	3.68	3.76
	D	28,008	3.80	3.88
	I	19,658	3.75	3.85
Berkeley	C	10,463	3.90	3.95
	D	4,159	3.92	4.00
	I	1,703	3.92	4.00
Davis	C	23,712	3.86	3.90
	D	7,649	3.75	3.83
	I	11,111	3.77	3.83
Irvine	C	15,669	3.86	3.94
	D	8,606	3.80	3.85
	I	6,776	3.86	3.91
Los Angeles	C	8,436	3.94	4.00
	D	4,614	3.96	4.00
	I	1,962	3.96	4.00
Merced	C	22,194	3.45	3.47
	D	786	3.65	3.70
	I	1,078	3.61	3.64
Riverside	C	28,795	3.65	3.69
	D	2,066	3.58	3.64
	I	3,576	3.54	3.59
San Diego	C	21,698	3.90	3.95
	D	12,249	3.87	3.92
	I	6,430	3.90	3.96
Santa Barbara	C	19,908	3.88	3.93
	D	6,097	3.91	3.95
	I	4,780	3.91	3.95
Santa Cruz	C	26,744	3.75	3.79
	D	5,132	3.70	3.75
	I	4,339	3.63	3.67

Notes:

1. Residency Status: Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; I=International.

2. High School GPA: Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2021.