



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

January 15, 2025

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

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Wiener:

CAMPUSES

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

Pursuant to Section 66057 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California’s annual report to the Legislature on Summer Enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. He can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by e-mail at Cain.Diaz@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. Diego Lopez)
 - (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
 - The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
 - Assembly Education Finance Subcommittee #3
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)
 - (Attn: Ms. Sarah Haynes)
 - Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
 - Ms. Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
 - Ms. Jessica Deitchman, Department of Finance
 - Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance
 - Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office
 - Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office
 - Mr. Ian Klein, Legislative Analyst’s Office
 - Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Vice President Pamela Brown
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Summer Enrollment

The following report is submitted in compliance with Section 66057 of the Education Code, which states in part:

- “...(d) On or before January 10 of each year, the University of California is requested to, the California State University shall, submit to the Legislature a report describing summer enrollment for their respective systems. The report shall include all of the following information separately for each campus in the system:
- (1) The number of state-funded headcount students enrolled during the summer term of the preceding calendar year and, for comparison purposes, the year-average number of state-funded headcount students enrolled during the preceding fall, winter, and spring terms.
 - (2) The number of state-funded full-time equivalent students enrolled during the summer term of the preceding calendar year and, for comparison purposes, the number of year-average state funded full-time equivalent students enrolled during the preceding fall, winter, and spring terms.
 - (3) Efforts undertaken to increase summer enrollment.”

SUMMARY

Facing extraordinary growth in high school graduating classes beginning in the late 1990s and the corresponding need to accommodate substantial enrollment increases, the University, with funding from the State, began expanding summer instruction programs in 2001. Since then, the University has more than doubled its summer enrollments, growing from a little over 39,000 students (on a headcount basis) in 2001 to over 101,284 students in 2024. For several years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, annual growth in summer enrollments fluctuated between 2% and 5%. Summer enrollment increased significantly in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic and the resulting large-scale shift to remote instruction. Summer enrollment declined in 2021 and 2022 but remains above pre-pandemic levels. The decline in summer 2022 relative to summer 2021 is likely attributable in part to California lifting most COVID restrictions in early summer, along with other possible factors including preferences for in-person instruction and activities available in summer 2022 that were not available in summer 2021. In summer 2024, enrollment went up by roughly 10% as compared to summer 2023 enrollment. The systemwide summer 2024 headcount was approximately 39% of the 2023-24 fall, winter, and spring term year average headcount, with that proportion ranging from 23% to 64% by campus. Alternatively, summer enrollments represent 23% of an average academic year term’s full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment.

The key to achieving substantial long-term enrollment growth in the summer has been to offer summer instruction that is critical to student progress toward graduation, along with essential student support services and student financial aid. Expansion of summer enrollments has resulted in more efficient uses of facilities and accelerated time-to-degree for undergraduates, making room for additional students during the academic year. Campuses have offered a greater breadth of courses during the summer to maximize efficiency and student progress toward the degree; campuses offered 5,485 primary classes in summer 2023 (the last year for which complete data are available), 50% more than the number of primary classes offered in summer 2000. Students report using summer as a means to graduate on time and enjoy the smaller class sizes and greater faculty contact often provided by summer courses.

Display 1: Year-Average Headcount and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment*

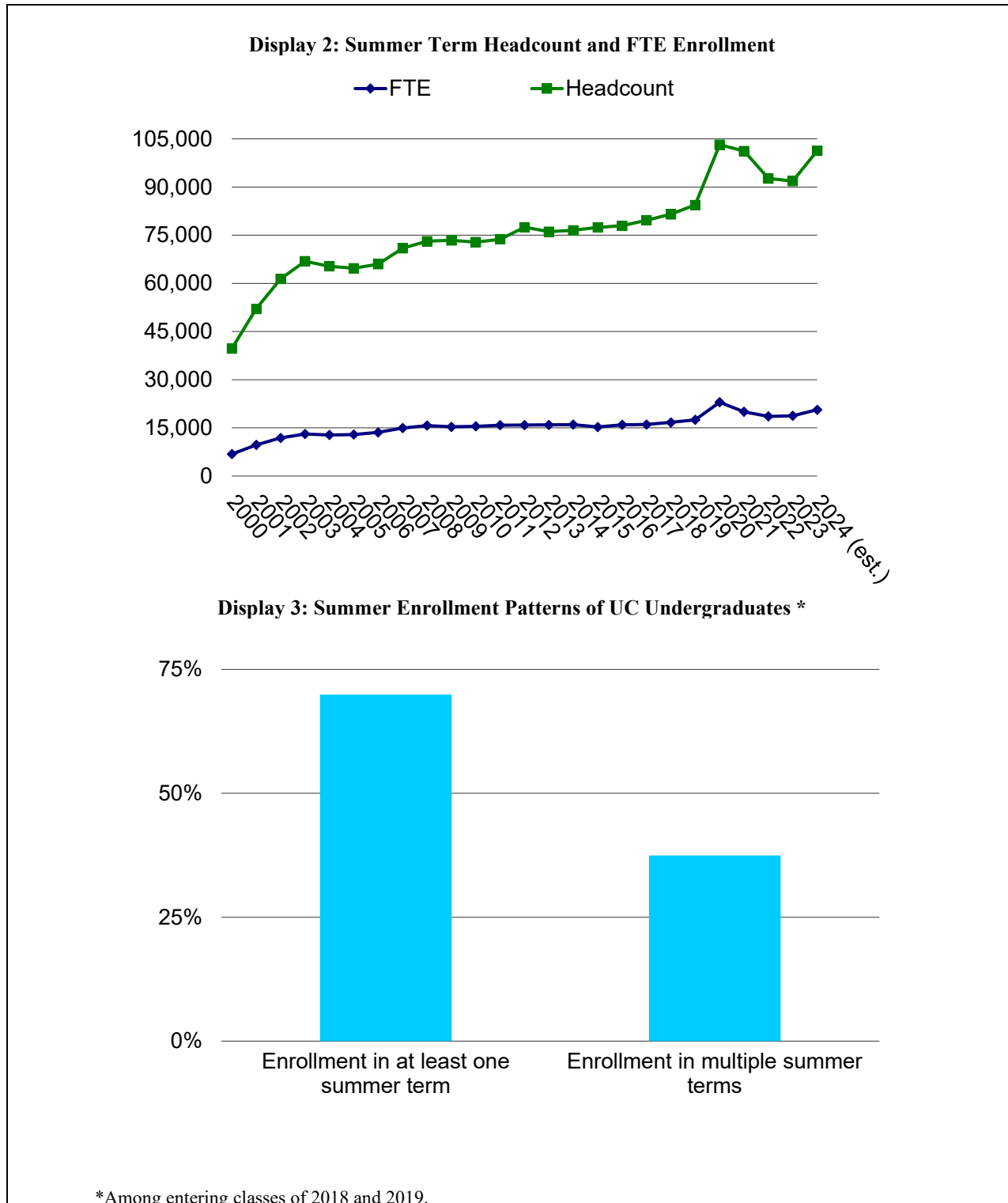
University Total	Year-Average Headcount (YAHC)	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)**
Fall-Winter-Spring 2023-24	262,678	257,287
Average per acad year term	-	93,780
Summer 2024 (estimated)	101,284	20,630
% of Fall-Winter-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	39%	23%

* Includes undergraduate, postbaccalaureate and graduate students. Excludes health sciences and self-supporting degree programs.

** Full-time equivalency is based on the number of student credit hours (units) a student takes over the fall-winter-spring terms divided by the normative load for the student. On a quarter campus, for an undergraduate, 45 units equals 1.0 FTE; for a graduate student, 36 units. On a semester campus, the normative undergraduate load is 30 units, and the graduate load is 24. Summer units are also divided by the normative load, so a student taking 15 units in the summer at a quarter campus would represent 1/3 FTE. See the footnote under Display 5 for a detailed explanation of how FTE percentages are derived.
Source: Budget Analysis and Planning, UC Office of the President.

CAMPUS EFFORTS TO INCREASE SUMMER ENROLLMENT

Display 2 shows FTE enrollment in summer instruction grew substantially with the onset of State support in 2001, but remained nearly flat from 2009 to 2015, before resuming growth in 2016. Display 3 shows the summer enrollment patterns of UC undergraduates in one or more summer terms. Among undergraduates who entered UC in 2018 and 2019, approximately 70% enrolled during at least one summer term during their undergraduate careers, and approximately 37% enrolled during multiple summer terms.



Starting in 2001, State support enabled campuses to implement strategies that encourage more students to participate in the summer term and to increase summer average units attempted. These strategies included providing more financial aid, reducing the cost of summer attendance through summer financial aid, and expanding the availability of summer courses and programs.

Ongoing budget pressures resulted in some campuses scaling back efforts to increase summer enrollment that they had made in earlier years. Most notably, two campuses that had offered a cap on summer charges (in which students did not pay the per-unit charge for units beyond a certain number) discontinued this incentive in summer 2015. Diminished resources through summer 2015 also resulted in a reduction in advertising and marketing efforts than in past years had attracted additional summer enrollments.

In the 2016 summer session, as part of a budget framework agreement with former Governor Jerry Brown, the University piloted three initiatives aimed at increasing summer enrollment through alternative pricing models.¹ These initiatives led to an increase in summer enrollment at the pilot campuses by 638 undergraduate FTE, compared to a collective increase at the six non-pilot campuses of only 106 FTE. In the following years, campuses

¹ More information about the pilot programs and their outcomes can be found in a [report](https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/2016-Summer-Session-Pilot-Outcomes-final-report.pdf) published by the University in July 2017, available at <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/2016-Summer-Session-Pilot-Outcomes-final-report.pdf>.

applied best practices established by the pilot programs to increase summer enrollment. As a result, the University increased undergraduate summer enrollment by approximately 260 FTE in summer 2017, approximately 500 FTE in summer 2018, and approximately 730 FTE in summer 2019. For example, one best practice implemented at UC Irvine in summer 2016, established a cap on summer fees whereby current and incoming UC students paid no additional fees for units taken above a cap of eight (the “Pay for 8” pilot). Another example is the program at UC Santa Cruz, whereby students receive a substantial refund if they complete 10 units or more during the summer.

Effects of COVID-19 on Summer Enrollment

Starting in spring 2020, the University has taken many measures to protect the UC community and the public at large from the spread of COVID-19. Among these measures was the necessary transition to remote instruction. This transition contributed to substantial enrollment growth in summer 2020; however, summer 2021 saw a decline from summer 2020 highs, with an estimated decline of 16% (or over 3,207) total undergraduate summer FTE. Enrollment in summer 2022 was also down roughly 8% (or over 1,575) total undergraduate summer FTE, relative to summer 2021; however, summer enrollment remained 5% above summer 2019 levels. 73% of the summer 2022 total undergraduate FTE decline was at 3 UC campuses that offered less than 20% of their summer courses remote or online. Enrollment in summer 2024 was up by roughly 10% (or 1,733) over 2023.

**Display 4: UC Undergraduate FTE Enrollment
Summer 2023 and 2024 (estimated)***

Campus	Summer 2023 Undergraduate FTE	Summer 2024 Undergraduate FTE (estimated)	Change from 2023
Berkeley	2,478	2,698	220
Davis	1,883	2,069	186
Irvine	2,412	2,880	468
Los Angeles	2,914	2,990	76
Merced	496	529	33
Riverside	1,651	1,792	141
San Diego	2,620	2,703	83
Santa Barbara	2,086	2,358	272
Santa Cruz	1,624	1,878	254
UC Total	18,164	19,897	1,733
*Summer 2024 figures submitted by campuses in November 2024. Figures submitted by campuses may slightly differ from the UC Information due to timing			

Students’ reduced ability to continue to take summer courses remotely, in association with California lifting most COVID restrictions (thereby providing alternative options for summer activities such as employment, vacation travel, research, other training opportunities, etc.), contributed to this summer enrollment decline from summer 2021 to summer 2022. Campuses have continued to adjust to the lessons learned from remote instruction in summers 2021 and 2022 when planning future summer sessions.

Display 5 provides more granular information about summer 2024 enrollment by campus, comparing it against 2022-23 year-average headcount and full-time equivalent enrollments. Display 6 below shows the University’s summer enrollment trends since 2015.

Display 5: Fall-Winter-Spring Year Average Headcounts (FWS YAHC), Summer Headcounts, and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment by Campus and Term*

		Year-Average Headcount (YAHC)	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)**
Berkeley	Fall-Spring 2023-24	40,456	39,341
	Average per acad year term	-	19,671
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	12,463	2,754
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	31%	14%
Davis	Fall-Spring 2023-24	35,724	34,860
	Average per acad year term	-	11,620
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	10,901	2,263
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	31%	19%

		Year-Average Headcount (YAHC)	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)**
Irvine	Fall-Spring 2023-24	32,024	31,599
	Average per acad year term	-	10,533
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	16,370	2,997
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	51%	28%
Los Angeles	Fall-Spring 2023-24	39,144	38,500
	Average per acad year term	-	12,833
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	15,451	3,085
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	39%	24%
Merced	Fall-Spring 2023-24	8,849	8,762
	Average per acad year term	-	4,381
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	2,054	544
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	23%	12%
Riverside	Fall-Spring 2023-24	24,465	23,612
	Average per acad year term	-	7,871
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	8,869	1,872
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	36%	24%
San Diego	Fall-Spring 2023-24	37,644	37,561
	Average per acad year term	-	12,520
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	13,629	2,763
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	36%	22%
Santa Barbara	Fall-Spring 2023-24	25,199	23,949
	Average per acad year term	-	7,981
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	9,361	2,443
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	37%	31%
Santa Cruz	Fall-Spring 2023-24	19,173	19,109
	Average per acad year term	-	6,370
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	12,186	1,909
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	64%	30%
Universitywide	Fall-Spring 2023-24	262,678	257,287
	Average per acad year term	-	93,780
	Summer 2024 (estimated)	101,284	20,630
	% of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE)	39%	23%

*Includes undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students. Excludes self-supporting and health sciences programs.

** Full-time equivalency is based on the number of student credit hours (units) a student takes over the fall-winter-spring terms divided by the normative load for the student. On a quarter campus, for an undergraduate, 45 units equals 1.0 FTE; for a graduate student, 36 units. On a semester campus, the normative undergraduate load is 30 units, and the graduate load is 24. Summer units are also divided by the normative load, so a student taking 15 units in the summer would represent 1/3 FTE on quarter campuses and 1/2 FTE on semester campuses. Just as summer FTE represents workload intensity (as opposed to headcount enrollment) during a summer term, academic year (Fall-Winter-Spring) FTE represents workload intensity over the course of two terms on semester campuses or three terms on quarter campuses. To express summer FTE as a proportion of a full workload, one must either scale summer FTE up (by multiplying it by 2 for Berkeley and Merced, and by 3 for the quarter campuses), or scale the

academic year FTE down (by dividing it by 2 or 3). The summer FTE percentages shown in Display 5, for example, display summer FTE divided by the average FTE per academic year term (i.e., Fall-Winter-Spring FTE divided by 2 or 3).
Source: Budget Analysis and Planning, UC Office of the President, and Campus Registrars

**Display 6: UC Undergraduate FTE Enrollment by Campus
Summer 2015-2024 (estimated)***

Campus	Summer UC Undergraduate FTE									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Berkeley*	2,238	2,232	2,180	2,358	2,387	3,491	2,740	2,315	2,478	2,698
Change from Prior Year		(6)	(52)	178	29	1,133	(751)	(425)	163	220
YOY % change		0%	-2%	8%	1%	46%	-22%	-16%	7%	9%
Davis	1,964	1,974	2,108	2,156	2,209	2,928	2,408	1,920	1,883	2,069
Change from Prior Year		10	134	48	53	772	(520)	(488)	(37)	186
YOY change		1%	7%	2%	2%	33%	-18%	-20%	-2%	10%
Irvine*	1,833	2,350	2,375	2,505	2,549	3,013	2,539	2,390	2,412	2,880
Change from Prior Year		517	25	130	44	508	(474)	(149)	22	468
YOY change		28%	1%	5%	2%	18%	-16%	-6%	1%	19%
Los Angeles	2,810	2,824	2,812	2,739	2,639	3,439	2,867	2,828	2,914	2,990
Change from Prior Year		14	(12)	(73)	(100)	700	(572)	(39)	86	76
YOY change		0%	0%	-3%	-4%	30%	-17%	-1%	3%	3%
Merced	418	422	436	417	468	611	623	458	496	529
Change from Prior Year		4	14	(19)	51	194	12	(165)	38	33
YOY change		1%	3%	-4%	12%	31%	2%	-26%	8%	7%
Riverside	1,173	1,160	1,008	1,083	1,238	1,692	1,555	1,581	1,651	1,792
Change from Prior Year		(13)	(152)	75	155	609	(137)	26	70	141
YOY change		-1%	-13%	7%	14%	37%	-8%	2%	4%	9%
San Diego*	1,753	1,880	1,983	1,902	2,030	2,982	2,677	2,638	2,620	2,703
Change from Prior Year		127	103	(81)	128	1,080	(305)	(39)	(18)	83
YOY change		7%	5%	-4%	7%	47%	-10%	-1%	-1%	3%
Santa Barbara	1,668	1,684	1,779	1,920	2,105	2,650	2,268	2,033	2,086	2,358
Change from Prior Year		16	95	141	185	730	(382)	(235)	53	272
YOY change		1%	6%	8%	10%	26%	-14%	-10%	3%	13%
Santa Cruz	669	744	847	1,025	1,183	1,627	1,548	1,487	1,624	1,878
Change from Prior Year		75	103	178	158	602	(79)	(61)	137	254
YOY change		11%	14%	21%	15%	38%	-5%	-4%	9%	16%
Systemwide	14,526	15,270	15,528	16,105	16,808	22,433	19,225	17,650	18,164	19,897
Change from Prior Year		744	258	577	703	6,328	(3,208)	(1,575)	514	1,733
YOY change		5%	2%	4%	4%	33%	-14.30%	-8.19%	3%	10%

*2016 pilot initiatives participant

Student Financial Aid

Historically, the availability of additional financial aid during summer has made it possible for more students to attend summer terms. In an effort to provide financial access to all students in the summer, campuses continue to set aside a portion of summer charges revenue for financial aid. In summer 2023, the last year for which complete financial aid data for summer enrollments are available, campuses provided 39,300 students with more than \$135 million in need-based financial aid during the summer, including \$121 million in grants and scholarships, nearly \$1.6 million of which were Cal Grants.

The Budget Act of 2021 set aside \$4 million of the University’s State General Fund (SGF) appropriation for summer financial aid to UC students who are both California residents (including students receiving an exemption from Nonresident Supplemental Tuition) and eligible for State financial aid. The availability of this funding in the future is contingent on continuation of these SGF revenues in 2024-25 or an equivalent action by the State to fund summer Cal Grants.

Course Offerings and Special Programs

Campuses have expanded course offerings to encourage more students to participate in the summer term. Between 2000 and 2023, the number of primary courses available in the summer has grown from about 2,700 to more than 5,485. Some of this growth has been because of the special advantages the summer term offers. For example, campuses use summer to offer special courses not available as frequently during the regular academic year (e.g., internships, field study, and travel study). Additional benefits of enrolling during the summer term are included below.

- More campuses are offering special summer programs for entering students (new freshmen and transfers), which give them an early start on their UC coursework.
- Students can choose to take an entire year’s worth of foreign language in less than three months.
- For undergraduates, enrolling in courses offered during the summer that are usually over-enrolled in the regular academic year can decrease their time-to-degree.
- Students are attracted to summer because of its shorter terms and more flexible scheduling, which allow them to use the remaining time to work, travel, or fulfill other personal obligations.
- Online instruction has attracted additional students to summer because of convenience and flexibility, helping students complete their UC coursework without having to stay on or commute to campus. The

increase in summer FTE over summer 2019 due to the transition to remote instruction suggests that student access to their home campus courses when they are home during the summer is a factor in enrollment decisions.

- Students find the summer per-unit tuition model, which allows them to pay only for the courses they take, affordable and more tailored to their individual needs.
- Students often choose to enroll in the summer term to take advantage of the smaller class sizes and increased faculty contact that summer courses often provide.

Administrative Improvements

Campuses have been incorporating summer into the broader educational structure, spotlighting summer options as they help students plan their undergraduate careers. As a result, summer programs are more visible both to students and departments as strategic tools to address time-to-degree and academic priorities. Other strategies campuses use to accommodate summer enrollment include:

- Allowing UC students to register in summer session earlier in the year and improving the management of wait lists so that students have more time to finalize their summer plans;
- Benchmarking best practices and tactics among UC campuses through close collaboration among UC Summer Session offices;
- Providing incentives to departments that offer more classes and otherwise increase enrollments; and
- Continuing the efforts to streamline cross-campus registration procedures and to increase online offerings, thereby enabling students to attend a UC campus that is accessible regardless of their whereabouts—in the past three years, about 4,334 UC students have taken advantage of the cross-campus enrollment option during the summer.

Conclusion

Though the reasons are various, and unique circumstances contributed to the enrollment decline in summer 2022 relative to summer 2021, summer 2024 enrollment increased for UC students, in terms of both headcount and FTE. Although about 37% of the regular academic year's students enroll in multiple summer terms, 70% of undergraduates enroll in at least one summer term during their UC campus experience. However, 89% of UC undergraduates say it is at least somewhat important to take summer courses to graduate on time. Furthermore, 91% of Pell grant recipients and 92% of first-generation students recognize the importance of taking summer courses to graduating on time². Those who never enroll in summer cite work, affordability, a desire to return home, and other conflicts as reasons for not enrolling. Providing compelling incentives to students, such as those implemented as part of the summer 2016 pilot initiatives, is considered a best practice and will be an important strategy for increasing UC summer enrollment in future years.

Summer enrollment has enabled some students to eliminate a fifth year of enrollment and other students to graduate in less than four years. Specifically, summer enrollment following the fourth year allowed 5.2% of the fall 2019 cohort to graduate without having to enroll in a fifth year (2,401 students). Similarly, summer enrollment after the second year allowed approximately 10% of the fall 2021 transfer cohort to graduate without having to enroll in a third year (2,064 students).

In addition to offering UC students an alternative to taking required courses during their undergraduate years, all UC campuses are creating innovative summer programs that are helping prepare incoming UC students at both the freshman and transfer levels, especially for demanding STEM majors. These innovative “summer start” and “summer bridge” programs should result in improvements in time-to-degree and in graduation rates over the next few years. Summer instruction has benefited students by providing them with unique academic offerings, additional opportunities to take impacted courses, and the flexibility of part-time enrollment. Summer instruction has benefited the State by increasing capacity of existing campus facilities, helping students graduate in a timely manner, and freeing up space for new enrollments.

Contact information:
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607-5220
<http://www.ucop.edu>

² 2020 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)