



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

---

James B. Milliken  
President

July 28, 2026

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

[universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu)

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Laird:

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](mailto:Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,

James B. Milliken  
President

Enclosure

---

CAMPUSES

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

MEDICAL CENTERS

Davis  
Irvine  
UCLA  
San Diego  
San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Lawrence Berkeley  
Lawrence Livermore  
Los Alamos

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)  
(Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)  
The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3  
(Attn: Mr. Christian Griffith)  
(Attn: Mr. Tobias Wolken)  
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  
Ms. Florence Bouvet, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman  
Vice President Pamela Brown  
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton  
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Summer Enrollment

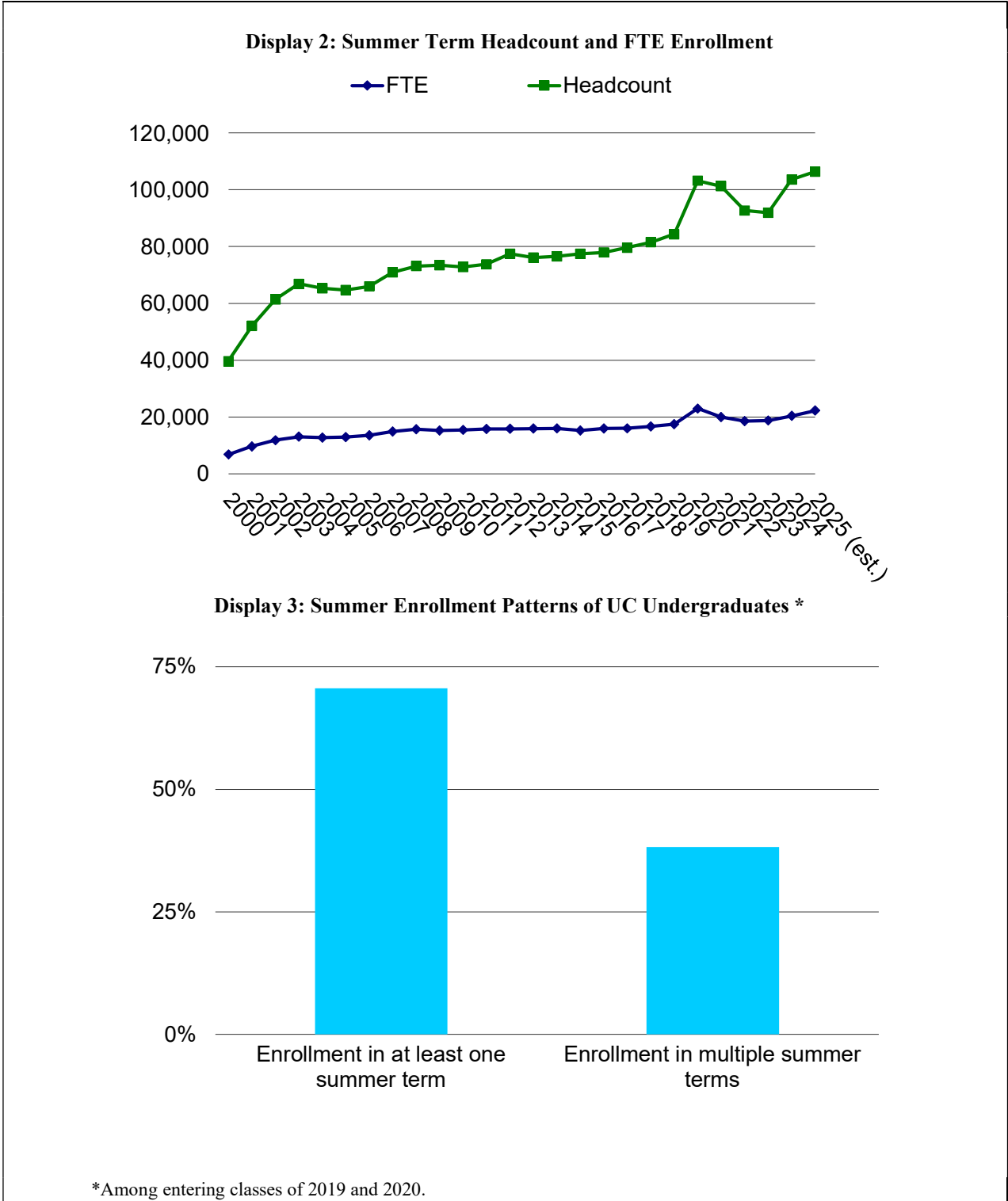
The following report is submitted in compliance with Section 66057 of the Education Code, which states in part:

- “...(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 106,000 students in 2025. For several years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, annual growth in summer enrollments fluctuated between 2% and 5%. Summer enrollment rose sharply 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 remained above pre-pandemic levels, as COVID restrictions were lifted. Since 2022, summer enrollments have steadily climbed. In summer 2025, FTE enrollment increased by roughly 9% compared to summer 2024—returning to pandemic-era levels under far more typical enrollment conditions. The systemwide summer 2025 headcount was approximately 40% of the 2024-25 fall, winter, and spring term year average headcount, with that proportion ranging from 29% to 67% 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 5,756 primary classes in summer 2024 (the last year for which complete data are available), 52% 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 (YABC) | Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)** |
| Fall-Winter-Spring 2024-25                                             | 263,706                       | 260,233                      |
| Average per acad year term                                             | -                             | 94,785                       |
| Summer 2025 (estimated)                                                | 106,367                       | 22,269                       |
| % of Fall-Winter-Spring (YABC); % of average acad year term (FTE)      | 40%                           | 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 2019 and 2020, approximately 71% enrolled during at least one summer term during their undergraduate careers, and approximately 38% enrolled during multiple summer terms.
- Summer Enrollment Legislative Report

Page 1



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.<sup>1</sup> 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 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

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

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). UC Santa Cruz launched a similar program in summer 2023, called “Pay for Only 10”, which established a cap on summer fees whereby current and incoming UC students paid no additional fees for units taken above a cap of 10.

Effects of COVID-19 on Summer Enrollment

Starting in spring 2020, the University took 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 of 16% (or over 3,207) total undergraduate summer FTE from summer 2020 highs as COVID-related restrictions were lifted. 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 three UC campuses that offered less than 20% of their summer courses remote or online. Since 2022, summer enrollments have steadily climbed. Enrollment in summer 2025 increased approximately 9% (or 1,829) over 2024, reaching pandemic-era levels under far more typical enrollment conditions. Campuses continue to adjust to the lessons learned from remote instruction in summers 2021 and 2022 when planning future summer sessions.

Display 4: UC Undergraduate FTE Enrollment  
Summer 2024 and 2025 (estimated)\*

| Campus                                                                                                                                               | Summer 2024<br>Undergraduate<br>FTE | Summer 2025<br>Undergraduate<br>FTE (estimated) | Change from<br>2024 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Berkeley                                                                                                                                             | 2,698                               | 2,835                                           | 137                 |
| Davis                                                                                                                                                | 2,084                               | 2,272                                           | 188                 |
| Irvine                                                                                                                                               | 2,880                               | 3,300                                           | 420                 |
| Los Angeles                                                                                                                                          | 2,992                               | 3,225                                           | 234                 |
| Merced                                                                                                                                               | 496                                 | 693                                             | 197                 |
| Riverside                                                                                                                                            | 1,793                               | 2,038                                           | 245                 |
| San Diego                                                                                                                                            | 2,703                               | 2,877                                           | 174                 |
| Santa Barbara                                                                                                                                        | 2,358                               | 2,451                                           | 93                  |
| Santa Cruz                                                                                                                                           | 1,878                               | 2,018                                           | 140                 |
| UC Total                                                                                                                                             | 19,881                              | 21,709                                          | 1,829               |
| *Summer 2025 figures submitted by campuses in November 2025. Figures submitted by campuses may slightly differ from the UC Information due to timing |                                     |                                                 |                     |

Display 5 provides more granular information about summer 2025 enrollment by campus, comparing it against 2024-25 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<br>Headcount (YAHC) | Full-Time Equivalent<br>(FTE)** |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Berkeley | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                        | 40,487                           | 39,461                          |
|          | Average per acad year term                                 | -                                | 19,731                          |
|          | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                    | 12,658                           | 2,911                           |
|          | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE) | 31%                              | 15%                             |
| Davis    | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                        | 36,046                           | 35,353                          |
|          | Average per acad year term                                 | -                                | 11,784                          |
|          | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                    | 11,492                           | 2,282                           |
|          | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of average acad year term (FTE) | 32%                              | 19%                             |
| Irvine   | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                        | 31,007                           | 30,922                          |
|          | Average per acad year term                                 | -                                | 10,307                          |

|                |                                                               | Year-Average<br>Headcount (YAHC) | Full-Time Equivalent<br>(FTE)** |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Los Angeles    | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 17,907                           | 3,408                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 58%                              | 33%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 39,306                           | 38,883                          |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 12,961                          |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| Merced         | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 15,959                           | 3,313                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 41%                              | 26%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 8,802                            | 8,783                           |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 4,392                           |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| Riverside      | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 2,574                            | 697                             |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 29%                              | 16%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 24,459                           | 23,783                          |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 7,928                           |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| San Diego      | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 9,562                            | 2,113                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 39%                              | 27%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 39,168                           | 39,098                          |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 13,033                          |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| Santa Barbara  | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 13,978                           | 2,938                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 36%                              | 23%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 25,178                           | 24,755                          |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 8,252                           |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| Santa Cruz     | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 9,403                            | 2,552                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 37%                              | 31%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 19,254                           | 19,194                          |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 6,398                           |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
| Universitywide | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 12,834                           | 2,056                           |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 67%                              | 32%                             |
|                | Fall-Spring 2024-25                                           | 263,706                          | 260,233                         |
|                | Average per acad year term                                    | -                                | 94,785                          |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |
|                | Summer 2025 (estimated)                                       | 106,367                          | 22,269                          |
|                | % of Fall-Spring (YAHC); % of<br>average acad year term (FTE) | 40%                              | 23%                             |
|                |                                                               |                                  |                                 |

\*Includes undergraduate, postbaccalaurate, 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 ½ 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 2015-2025 (estimated)\*

| Campus                 | Summer UC Undergraduate FTE |        |        |        |        |        |         |         |        |        |             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                        | 2015                        | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021    | 2022    | 2023   | 2024   | 2025 (est.) |
| Berkeley*              | 2,238                       | 2,232  | 2,180  | 2,358  | 2,387  | 3,491  | 2,740   | 2,315   | 2,478  | 2,698  | 2,835       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | (6)    | (52)   | 178    | 29     | 1,133  | (751)   | (425)   | 163    | 220    | 137         |
| YOY % change           |                             | 0%     | -2%    | 8%     | 1%     | 46%    | -22%    | -16%    | 7%     | 9%     | 5%          |
| Davis                  | 1,964                       | 1,974  | 2,108  | 2,156  | 2,209  | 2,928  | 2,408   | 1,920   | 1,883  | 2,084  | 2,272       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 10     | 134    | 48     | 53     | 772    | (520)   | (488)   | (37)   | 201    | 188         |
| YOY change             |                             | 1%     | 7%     | 2%     | 2%     | 33%    | -18%    | -20%    | -2%    | 11%    | 9%          |
| Irvine*                | 1,833                       | 2,350  | 2,375  | 2,505  | 2,549  | 3,013  | 2,539   | 2,390   | 2,412  | 2,880  | 3,300       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 517    | 25     | 130    | 44     | 508    | (474)   | (149)   | 22     | 468    | 420         |
| YOY change             |                             | 28%    | 1%     | 5%     | 2%     | 18%    | -16%    | -6%     | 1%     | 19%    | 15%         |
| Los Angeles            | 2,810                       | 2,824  | 2,812  | 2,739  | 2,639  | 3,439  | 2,867   | 2,828   | 2,914  | 2,992  | 3,225       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 14     | (12)   | (73)   | (100)  | 700    | (572)   | (39)    | 86     | 78     | 234         |
| YOY change             |                             | 0%     | 0%     | -3%    | -4%    | 30%    | -17%    | -1%     | 3%     | 3%     | 8%          |
| Merced                 | 418                         | 422    | 436    | 417    | 468    | 611    | 623     | 458     | 496    | 496    | 693         |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 4      | 14     | (19)   | 51     | 194    | 12      | (165)   | 38     | (1)    | 197         |
| YOY change             |                             | 1%     | 3%     | -4%    | 12%    | 31%    | 2%      | -26%    | 8%     | 0%     | 40%         |
| Riverside              | 1,173                       | 1,160  | 1,008  | 1,083  | 1,238  | 1,692  | 1,555   | 1,581   | 1,651  | 1,793  | 2,038       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | (13)   | (152)  | 75     | 155    | 609    | (137)   | 26      | 70     | 142    | 245         |
| YOY change             |                             | -1%    | -13%   | 7%     | 14%    | 37%    | -8%     | 2%      | 4%     | 9%     | 14%         |
| San Diego*             | 1,753                       | 1,880  | 1,983  | 1,902  | 2,030  | 2,982  | 2,677   | 2,638   | 2,620  | 2,703  | 2,877       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 127    | 103    | (81)   | 128    | 1,080  | (305)   | (39)    | (18)   | 83     | 174         |
| YOY change             |                             | 7%     | 5%     | -4%    | 7%     | 47%    | -10%    | -1%     | -1%    | 3%     | 6%          |
| Santa Barbara          | 1,668                       | 1,684  | 1,779  | 1,920  | 2,105  | 2,650  | 2,268   | 2,033   | 2,086  | 2,358  | 2,451       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 16     | 95     | 141    | 185    | 730    | (382)   | (235)   | 53     | 272    | 93          |
| YOY change             |                             | 1%     | 6%     | 8%     | 10%    | 26%    | -14%    | -10%    | 3%     | 13%    | 4%          |
| Santa Cruz             | 669                         | 744    | 847    | 1,025  | 1,183  | 1,627  | 1,548   | 1,487   | 1,624  | 1,878  | 2,018       |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 75     | 103    | 178    | 158    | 602    | (79)    | (61)    | 137    | 254    | 140         |
| YOY change             |                             | 11%    | 14%    | 21%    | 15%    | 38%    | -5%     | -4%     | 9%     | 16%    | 7%          |
| Systemwide             | 14,526                      | 15,270 | 15,528 | 16,105 | 16,808 | 22,433 | 19,225  | 17,650  | 18,164 | 19,881 | 21,709      |
| Change from Prior Year |                             | 744    | 258    | 577    | 703    | 6,328  | (3,208) | (1,575) | 514    | 1,717  | 1,829       |
| YOY change             |                             | 5%     | 2%     | 4%     | 4%     | 33%    | -14.30% | -8.19%  | 3%     | 9%     | 9%          |

\*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 2024, the last year for which complete financial aid data for summer enrollments are available, campuses provided over 41,000 students with more than \$152 million in need-based financial aid during the summer, including \$134 million in grants and scholarships, nearly \$1.3 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 2025-26 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 2024, the number of primary courses available in the summer has grown from about 2,700 to more than 5,700. 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. In summer 2024, 57% of all summer units were delivered online.
- 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, 4,738 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 2025 enrollment increased for UC students, in terms of both headcount and FTE, reaching pandemic-era levels. Although about 38% of the regular academic year's students enroll in multiple summer terms, 71% 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 time<sup>2</sup>. 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 is considered a best practice and will be an important strategy for continuing to increase 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 5.6% of the fall 2020 cohort to graduate without having to enroll in a fifth year (2,622 students). Similarly, summer enrollment after the second year allowed approximately 10.5% of the fall 2022 transfer cohort to graduate without having to enroll in a third year (1,921 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>

---

<sup>2</sup> 2020 UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)