The University of California delivers on its commitment to promote social mobility.

Higher education promotes social mobility. UC provides access to that education by enrolling large numbers of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority students. In fall 2013, 42% of UC undergraduates were Pell Grant recipients, 42% were first-generation college students, and 26% were from underrepresented minority groups (URM).

UC enrolls more low-income students than other leading research universities:

- 42% of UC undergraduates are Pell Grant recipients, compared to 22% at other public member universities of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and 16% at the AAU Privates.
- Five UC campuses individually enroll more Pell Grant recipients than the entire Ivy League combined.

UC enrolls more first-generation students than other leading research universities:

- 42% of UC undergraduates were first-generation college students in fall 2013.
- In fall 2011, UC’s first-generation student population was 4 percentage points higher than very selective public research universities and 15 percentage points higher than very selective private research universities.
UC enrolls more underrepresented minority (URM) students than other leading research universities:

- In fall 2013, 26% of UC undergraduates were URM compared to 14% at AAU public institutions and 17% at AAU private institutions.

UC’s students succeed at completing degrees:

All groups show marked improvement in 6-year graduation rates compared to 4-year graduation rates. Pell Grant recipients’ 6-year graduation rates are comparable to those of non-Pell recipients.

UC’s low-income students succeed in the California labor market:

- Since 2003, UC has graduated 170,000 Pell Grant recipients, with more than 30% of them in STEM fields.

- More than 70% have gone on to work in California after receiving their UC degrees.

- Within five years of graduating from UC, these low-income students earn an average income higher than their parents’ combined incomes during the time those students attended UC (approx. $50,000).