

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2016

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 Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is a reading and writing proficiency requirement that is intended to assure 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 (UCOPE) 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. In 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,
2. the SAT Reasoning Test, Writing (last administered January 2016),
3. the ACT, Combined English/Writing (last administered June 2015),
4. the ACT, English Language Arts,
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, or
8. the International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A: Language and Literature Examination.

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 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

Each May, the university offers its Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) to incoming freshmen who have not satisfied the ELWR by that date. 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. As the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) observed at its April 2002 meeting, “it is very important to have a single University of California standard that clearly communicates to students, parents, teachers, and schools the academic reading and writing abilities expected of entering freshmen.”

This report summarizes the outcomes of the ELWR for freshmen who entered the university for the fall 2016 term and provides fall 2015 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 AWPE Results website (www.ucop.edu/elwr/examdata/results/). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students.

The AWPE website (www.ucop.edu/elwr/) contains previously administered examinations, the scoring guide, and annotated sample student 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 2015 and 2016 entering freshmen.

The University of California enrolled significantly more California freshmen for fall 2016 (38,823) compared to fall 2015 (33,067). The fall 2016 enrollment growth is reflected in the larger number of entering freshmen that met the ELWR requirement, took and passed the AWPE, and met ELWR through means other than the AWPE compared to fall 2015. In addition, given the large growth in enrollment it is not surprising to see a larger number of students who did not meet ELWR prior to enrollment in fall 2016.

Of the 38,823 fall 2016 freshmen who entered the university, 29,335 (75.6 percent) met the ELWR prior to their enrollment. This rate is a slight decrease from the fall 2015 outcome of 76.7 percent (25,365) for newly enrolled freshmen. The percent of fall 2016 freshmen who fulfilled the ELWR includes students who successfully passed the AWPE (7,814, or 20.1 percent) as well as students who met the requirement through other means – 55.4 percent of entrants (21,521).

More enrolled students, proportionally and in number, took the AWPE in 2016; 40.9 percent took the 2016 exam (15,890 out of 38,823 enrollees) compared to 39.1 percent of the 2015 cohort (12,933 out of 33,067 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate was also higher for fall 2016 at 49.2 percent (7,814 out of 15,890 examinees) from 46.4 percent the previous year (6,005 out of 12,933 examinees). The proportion of students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrolling decreased from 58.5 percent (19,360) in 2015 to 55.4 percent (21,521) in 2016. The number of students required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the

university in 2016 increased in both absolute number and as a percent of the total; 9,488 (24.4 percent) in 2016, compared to 7,702 (23.3 percent) in 2015.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2016, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 75.8 percent or 29,217, while the completion rate for students admitted by exception was 42.3 percent (118 students). While the ELWR completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees dropped from 76.9 percent in 2015 to 75.8 percent in 2016, the 2016 rate was higher for students admitted by exception than the prior year's rate of 33.5 percent (or 56 students).

The percentage of all fall 2016 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2016, this ranged from a high of 95.5 percent at Berkeley to 37 percent at Merced.

Passing the AWPE is one method of satisfying the ELWR prior to enrollment, and it is the primary method used when satisfactory scores on other tests are not met. A student who has not satisfied the ELWR prior to enrollment must do so as early as possible during the first year of attendance by successfully completing a specific course leading to satisfaction of the requirement. The following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering freshmen from California high schools for fall 2016 and fall 2015.

Table 1

Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2016											
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam			Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%	Exam	Passed AWPE Exam	n	%	n	%	n
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)											
Berkeley	9,446	4,652	4,441	95.5	999	614	13.2	3,827	82.3	211	4.5
Davis	19,180	4,713	3,341	70.9	1,886	947	20.1	2,394	50.8	1,372	29.1
Irvine	21,754	4,992	3,672	73.6	2,334	1,183	23.7	2,489	49.9	1,320	26.4
Los Angeles	10,350	4,830	4,381	90.7	1,197	706	14.6	3,675	76.1	449	9.3
Merced	14,539	2,009	740	36.8	1,492	420	20.9	320	15.9	1,269	63.2
Riverside	24,417	5,183	3,069	59.2	3,467	1,424	27.5	1,645	31.7	2,114	40.8
San Diego	18,974	4,237	3,567	84.2	1,362	722	17.0	2,845	67.1	670	15.8
Santa Barbara	20,240	4,234	3,487	82.4	1,297	772	18.2	2,715	64.1	747	17.6
Santa Cruz	22,186	3,694	2,519	68.2	1,702	966	26.2	1,553	42.0	1,175	31.8
Total	161,086	38,544	29,217	75.8	15,736	7,754	20.1	21,463	55.7	9,327	24.2
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION											
Berkeley	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Davis	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Irvine	33	11	4	36.4	4	2	18.2	2	18.2	7	63.6
Los Angeles	64	58	21	36.2	33	14	24.1	7	12.1	37	63.8
Merced	155	34	15	44.1	22	11	32.4	4	11.8	19	55.9
Riverside	243	52	12	23.1	30	4	7.7	8	15.4	40	76.9
San Diego	35	11	11	100.0	3	2	18.2	9	81.8	0	0.0
Santa Barbara	62	33	17	51.5	17	11	33.3	6	18.2	16	48.5
Santa Cruz	413	80	38	47.5	45	16	20.0	22	27.5	42	52.5
Total	1,005	279	118	42.3	154	60	21.5	58	20.8	161	57.7
ALL STUDENTS											
Berkeley	9,446	4,652	4,441	95.5	999	614	13.2	3,827	82.3	211	4.5
Davis	19,180	4,713	3,341	70.9	1,886	947	20.1	2,394	50.8	1,372	29.1
Irvine	21,787	5,003	3,676	73.5	2,338	1,185	23.7	2,491	49.8	1,327	26.5
Los Angeles	10,414	4,888	4,402	90.1	1,230	720	14.7	3,682	75.3	486	9.9
Merced	14,694	2,043	755	37.0	1,514	431	21.1	324	15.9	1,288	63.0
Riverside	24,660	5,235	3,081	58.9	3,497	1,428	27.3	1,653	31.6	2,154	41.1
San Diego	19,009	4,248	3,578	84.2	1,365	724	17.0	2,854	67.2	670	15.8
Santa Barbara	20,302	4,267	3,504	82.1	1,314	783	18.4	2,721	63.8	763	17.9
Santa Cruz	22,599	3,774	2,557	67.8	1,747	982	26.0	1,575	41.7	1,217	32.2
Total	162,091	38,823	29,335	75.6	15,890	7,814	20.1	21,521	55.4	9,488	24.4

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.

Table 2

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2015												
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took AWPE Exam		Passed AWPE Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)												
Berkeley	8,710	3,934	3,651	92.8	639	370	9.4	3,281	83.4	283	7.2	
Davis	16,248	4,196	3,074	73.3	1,674	790	18.8	2,284	54.4	1,122	26.7	
Irvine	18,901	4,402	3,135	71.2	2,279	1,046	23.8	2,089	47.5	1,267	28.8	
Los Angeles	9,338	4,051	3,631	89.6	1,008	531	13.1	3,100	76.5	420	10.4	
Merced	10,877	1,772	725	40.9	1,347	400	22.6	325	18.3	1,047	59.1	
Riverside	19,380	3,898	2,465	63.2	1,943	815	20.9	1,650	42.3	1,433	36.8	
San Diego	16,449	3,744	3,368	90.0	939	517	13.8	2,851	76.1	376	10.0	
Santa Barbara	17,570	3,820	3,120	81.7	1,379	723	18.9	2,397	62.7	700	18.3	
Santa Cruz	17,565	3,083	2,140	69.4	1,638	786	25.5	1,354	43.9	943	30.6	
Total	135,038	32,900	25,309	76.9	12,846	5,978	18.2	19,331	58.8	7,591	23.1	
ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION												
Berkeley	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Davis	5	5	2	40.0	2	0	0.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	
Irvine	40	19	5	26.3	13	4	21.1	1	5.3	14	73.7	
Los Angeles	55	50	16	32.0	31	13	26.0	3	6.0	34	68.0	
Merced	63	10	3	30.0	5	1	10.0	2	20.0	7	70.0	
Riverside	73	26	6	23.1	13	1	3.8	5	19.2	20	76.9	
San Diego	9	6	6	100.0	0	0	0.0	6	100.0	0	0.0	
Santa Barbara	33	29	7	24.1	11	5	17.2	2	6.9	22	75.9	
Santa Cruz	166	22	11	50.0	12	3	13.6	8	36.4	11	50.0	
Total	444	167	56	33.5	87	27	16.2	29	17.4	111	66.5	
ALL STUDENTS												
Berkeley	8,710	3,934	3,651	92.8	639	370	9.4	3,281	83.4	283	7.2	
Davis	16,253	4,201	3,076	73.2	1,676	790	18.8	2,286	54.4	1,125	26.8	
Irvine	18,941	4,421	3,140	71.0	2,292	1,050	23.8	2,090	47.3	1,281	29.0	
Los Angeles	9,393	4,101	3,647	88.9	1,039	544	13.3	3,103	75.7	454	11.1	
Merced	10,940	1,782	728	40.9	1,352	401	22.5	327	18.4	1,054	59.1	
Riverside	19,453	3,924	2,471	63.0	1,956	816	20.8	1,655	42.2	1,453	37.0	
San Diego	16,458	3,750	3,374	90.0	939	517	13.8	2,857	76.2	376	10.0	
Santa Barbara	17,603	3,849	3,127	81.2	1,390	728	18.9	2,399	62.3	722	18.8	
Santa Cruz	17,731	3,105	2,151	69.3	1,650	789	25.4	1,362	43.9	954	30.7	
Total	135,482	33,067	25,365	76.7	12,933	6,005	18.2	19,360	58.5	7,702	23.3	
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.												