

## Enhancing Community College Transfer

The University of California is deeply committed to helping the state's community college students attain a UC education. This commitment, spelled out in California's Master Plan for Higher Education, is unique among the nation's top research universities.

- Almost a third of UC undergraduates have transferred from a California community college.
- Roughly 15,000 such students transfer to UC every year. By comparison, most selective public and private universities serve far fewer community college transfer students.
- Transfer helps increase social mobility in the state by serving large numbers of economically diverse students. In 2013, 52 percent of incoming transfers were among the first in their families to attend college and 55 percent of transfers were from low-income families.
- Transfer students perform well at UC: Eighty-six percent go on to successfully earn their degree, a rate that slightly exceeds that of incoming freshmen.

### A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE TRANSFER PROCESS

The university is committed to doing more for transfer students. UC President Janet Napolitano, in one of her first acts as president, appointed a transfer action team to recommend strategies to make the process easier and more transparent, and to attract students across a broader range of the state's community colleges.

Napolitano and other UC leaders are working with the California State University and California Community College systems on transfer issues as part of shared efforts to meet California's growing workforce needs and promote opportunity for its residents.

### KEY TRANSFER ACTION TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Working in consultation with UC faculty, staff and students, the Transfer Action Team made the following recommendations:

#### **Improve communication and outreach to California community college students**

- Develop a targeted system of reaching out to prospective transfer students to let them know that UC is attainable and affordable, and to provide resources to assist them on their path through the higher education system.

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- Develop easy technological tools to help students prepare and apply, including a student-focused portal that combines academic planning, application assistance and financial aid information.

## **Improve the diversity of UC transfer students by drawing from a broader array of California community colleges**

- Establish a “CCC to UC Pipeline Initiative” in partnership with 30 community colleges that do not send large numbers of students to UC.
- Increase UC’s presence at every California Community College campus and offer more academic preparation programs and training.

## **Strengthen and streamline transfer pathways**

- Develop transfer-oriented curriculum pathways that clearly map courses students need to be eligible for transfer into their desired major.
- Make it easier for students to prepare for and apply to multiple UC campuses by making pre-major pathways more consistent across the system.

## **Support incoming transfers with a package of services that enable them to transition smoothly and successfully.**

- Provide each new transfer student with a “Transfer Success Kit,” to include such elements as guaranteed housing, earlier transfer credit evaluations, orientation and mentoring.

## **Work in partnership with CCC and CSU to increase enrollment capacity**

UC must balance its goals for transfer with its obligations to support the growing demand for freshman enrollment. To increase transfers while continuing to meet its obligations to those who have earned their shot for admission as freshmen, UC will need additional resources from the state.

- Work jointly with CCC and CSU to plan for long-term enrollment needs, engage the public and advocate for state support to increase capacity among the three segments.
- Recommit UC to enrolling at least 33 percent transfers both systemwide and by campus.