



UNIVERSITY
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UC Admissions Outcomes During COVID-19 and Elimination of the SAT/ACT

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Research Questions

How did UC fall freshman admissions outcomes change in the era of COVID-19 and test-free admissions, compared to trends in recent years? Specifically, examine changes in:

- volume of applicants, admits, and new enrollees
- composition of applicants, admits, and new enrollees
- academic preparation of applicants, admits, and enrollees



Background

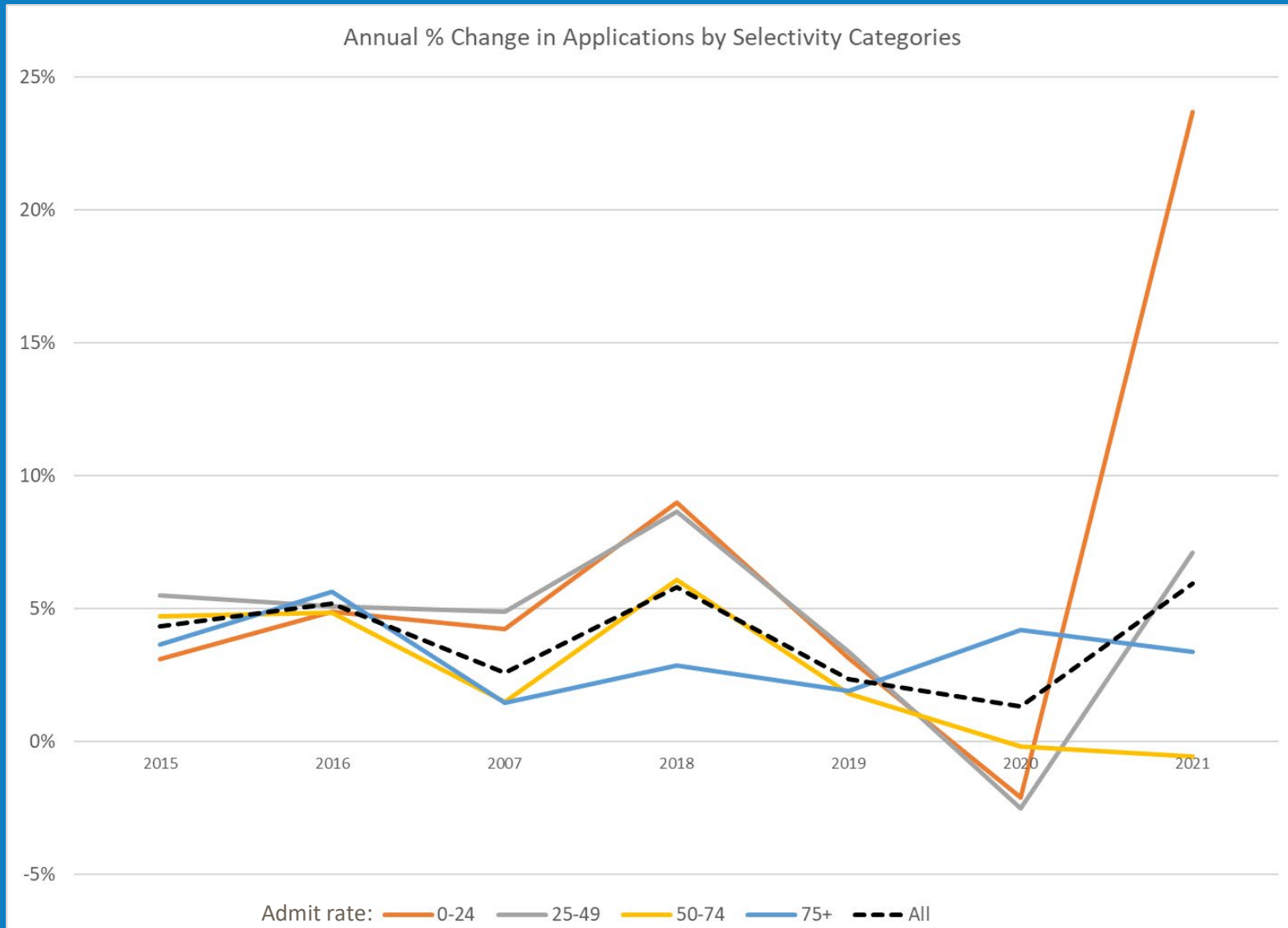
- October 2019: UC fall 2020 undergraduate admissions cycle begins
- March 2020: COVID-19 declared a pandemic
- May 2020: UC eliminates test scores for freshman admissions starting with the fall 2021 cycle
- October 2020: UC fall 2021 undergraduate admissions cycle begins
- COVID-19 affected part of the fall 2020 admissions cycle and all of the fall 2021 cycle; test-free was effective for the fall 2021 cycle
- This analysis focuses on fall 2019 and fall 2021 freshman admissions data



Broad Context

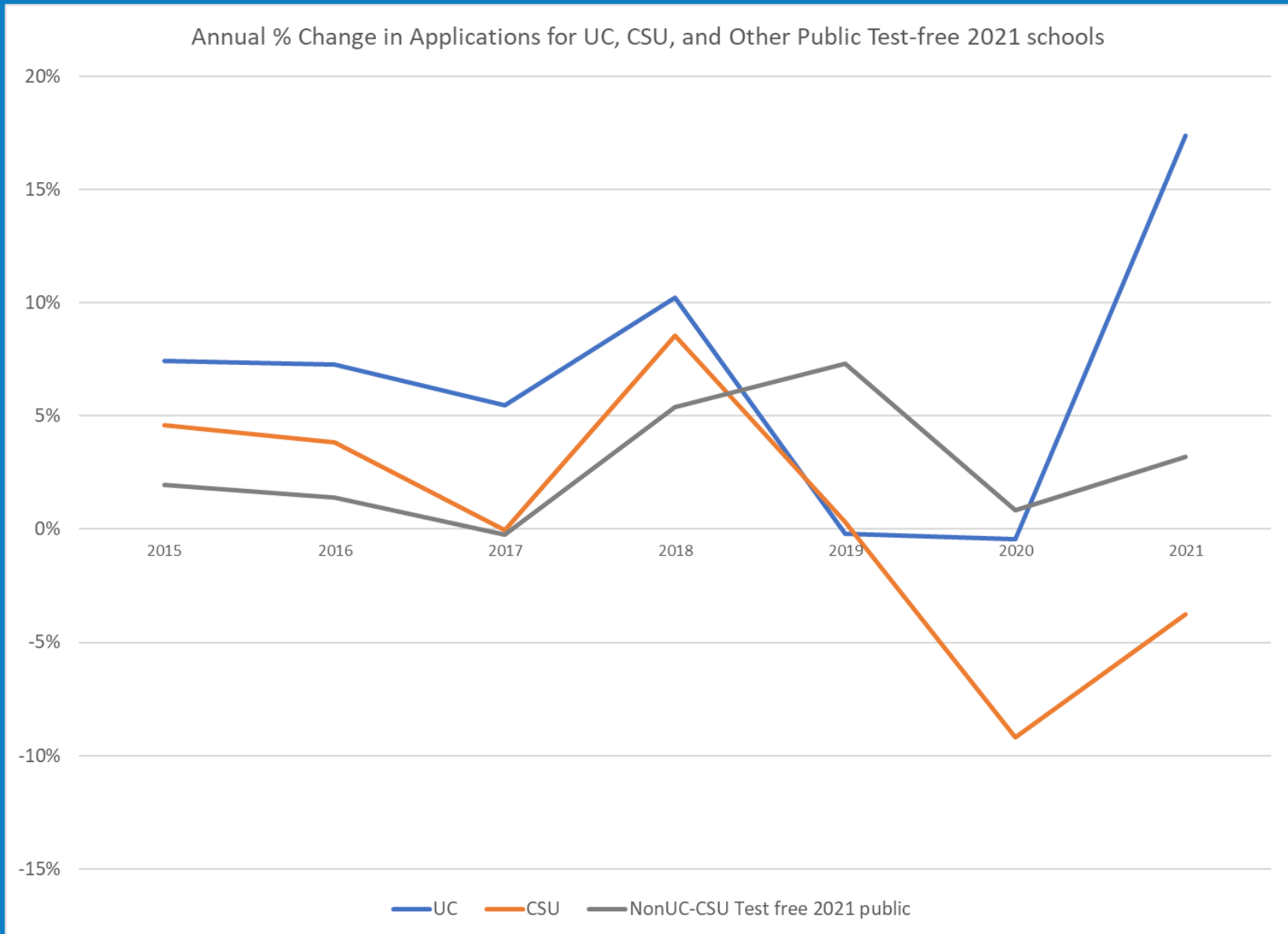
- Look at UC application volume vs. CSU and other test-free publics
 - Data from IPEDS for all first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates
 - Data counts applicants who apply to more than one institution within a group multiple times (UC campuses are separate institutions in IPEDS)

Broad Context



Accredited Bachelor's-granting colleges in 50 states plus DC with first-time full-time students (open admission excluded).

Broad Context



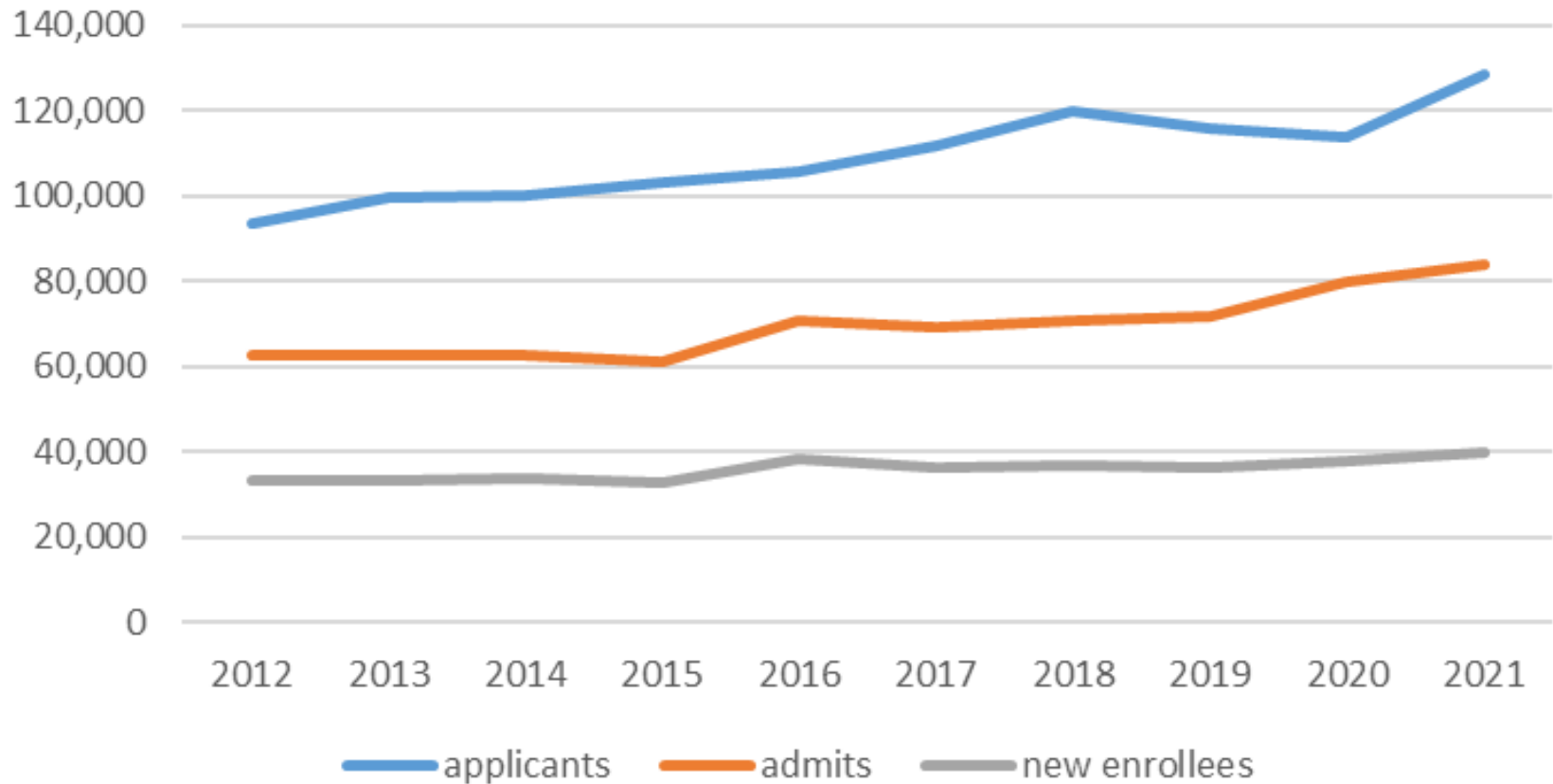


UC Admissions Outcomes

- Look at applicants, admits, and new enrollees by race/ethnicity, low income, first generation, academic preparation
- Data in this section are not directly comparable to the prior section but differences are small
 - Focus on California resident students
 - Race/ethnicity is based on UCOP categories

UC Systemwide

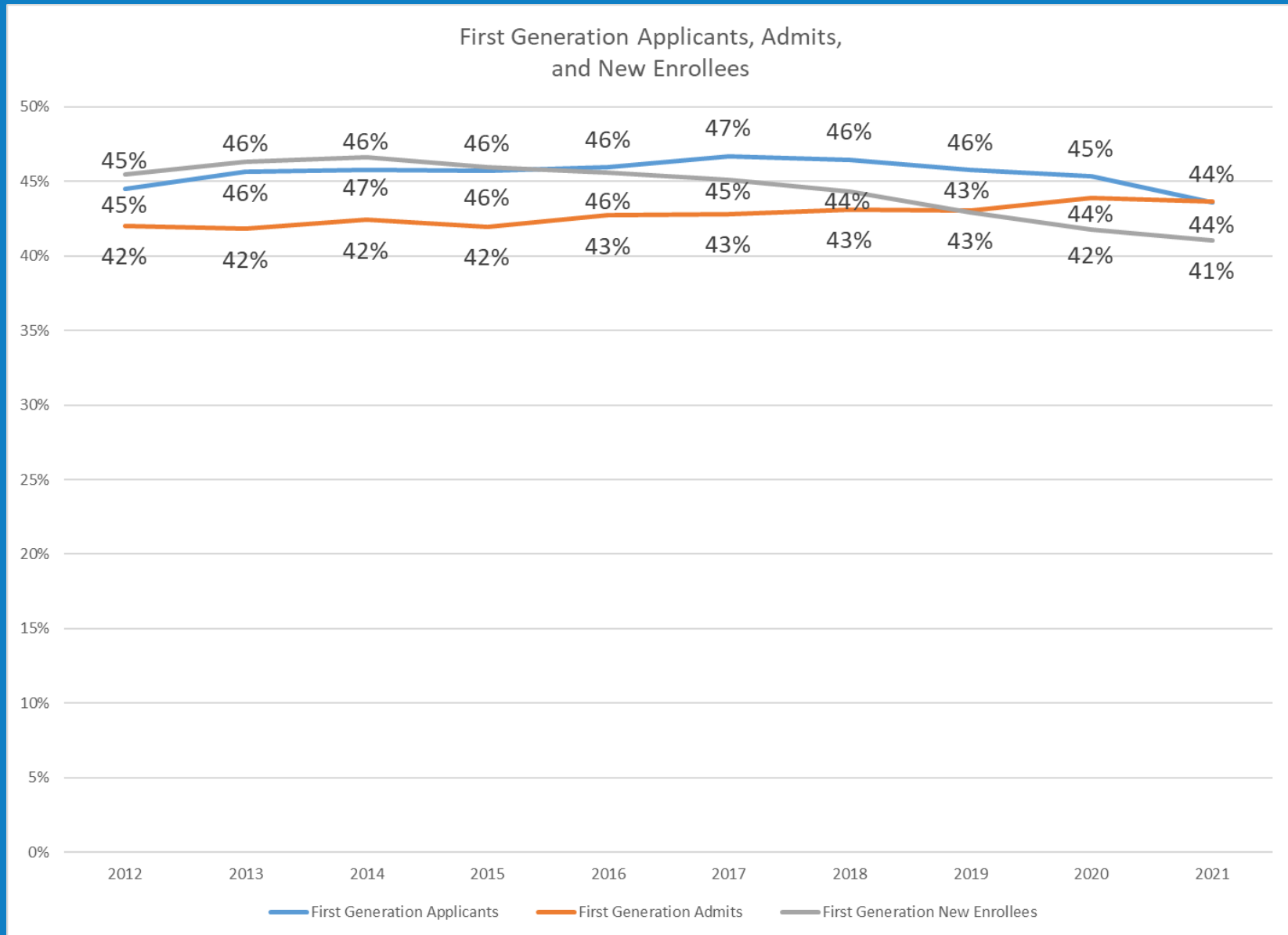
Applicants, Admits, New enrollees



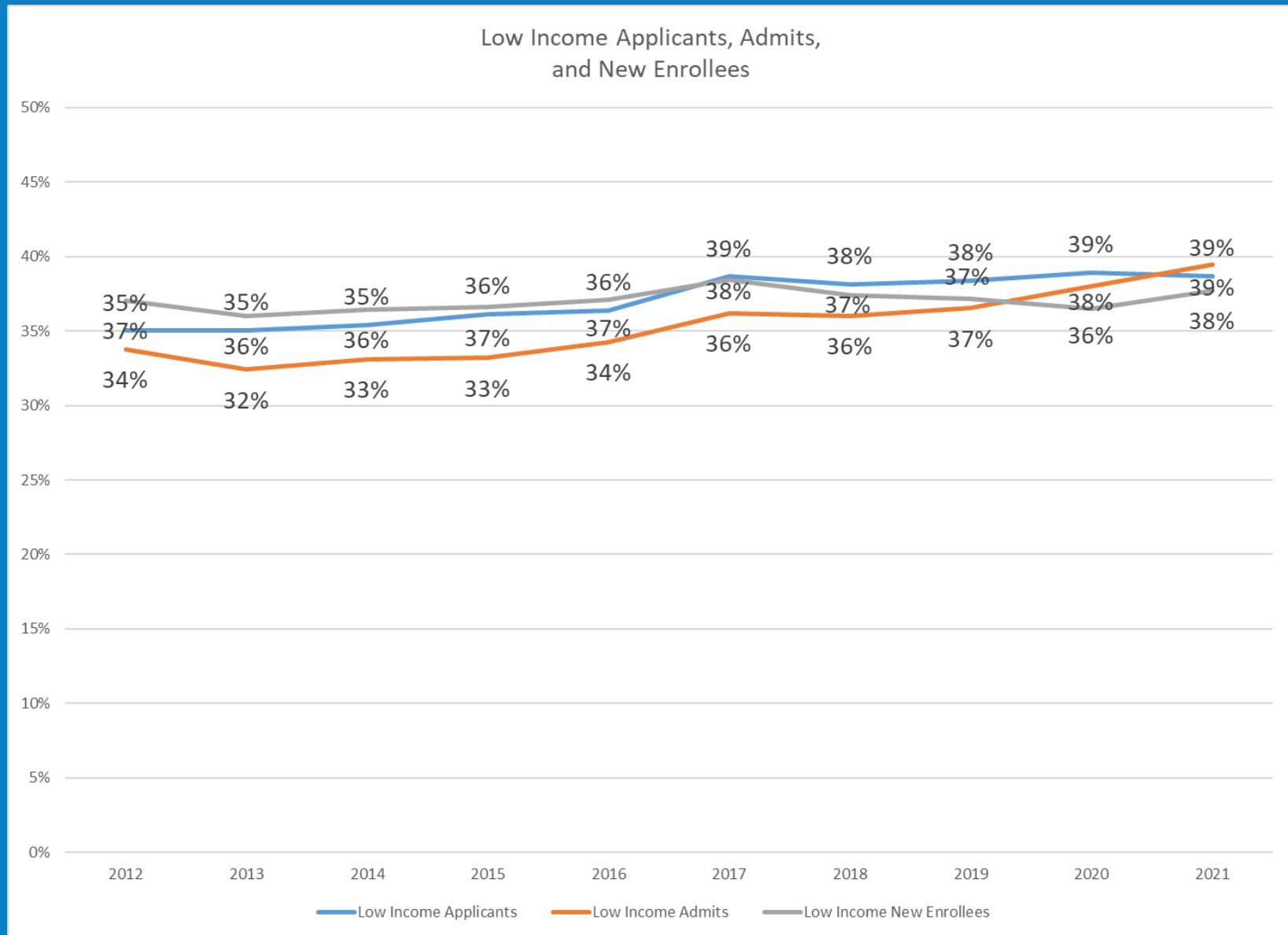
UC Applicants by Campus

| Campus | 2019 rank | Annual % change | | Difference |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| | Average HSGPA | 2012-2019 | 2019-2021 | |
| Berkeley | 2 | 3% | 11% | 9 pct pts |
| UCLA | 1 | 4% | 10% | 6 pct pts |
| San Diego | 3 | 5% | 8% | 3 pct pts |
| UC (unduplicated) | n/a | 3% | 5% | 2 pct pts |
| Davis | 5 | 4% | 5% | 1 pct pts |
| Santa Cruz | 7 | 6% | 5% | -1 pct pts |
| Irvine | 6 | 6% | 5% | -1 pct pts |
| Santa Barbara | 4 | 5% | 4% | -1 pct pts |
| Riverside | 8 | 7% | 3% | -4 pct pts |
| Merced | 9 | 9% | 3% | -6 pct pts |

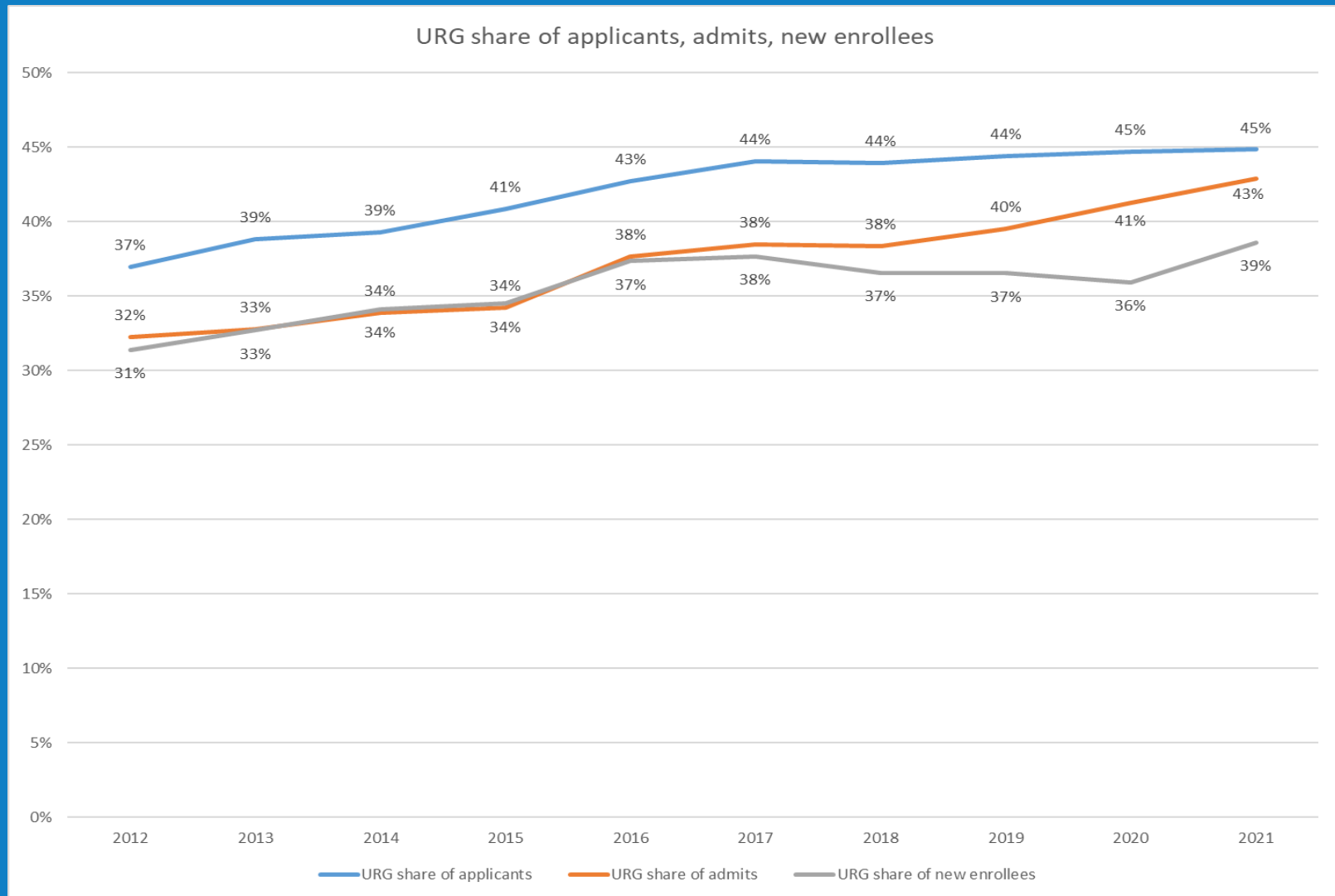
UC First Generation



UC Low Income

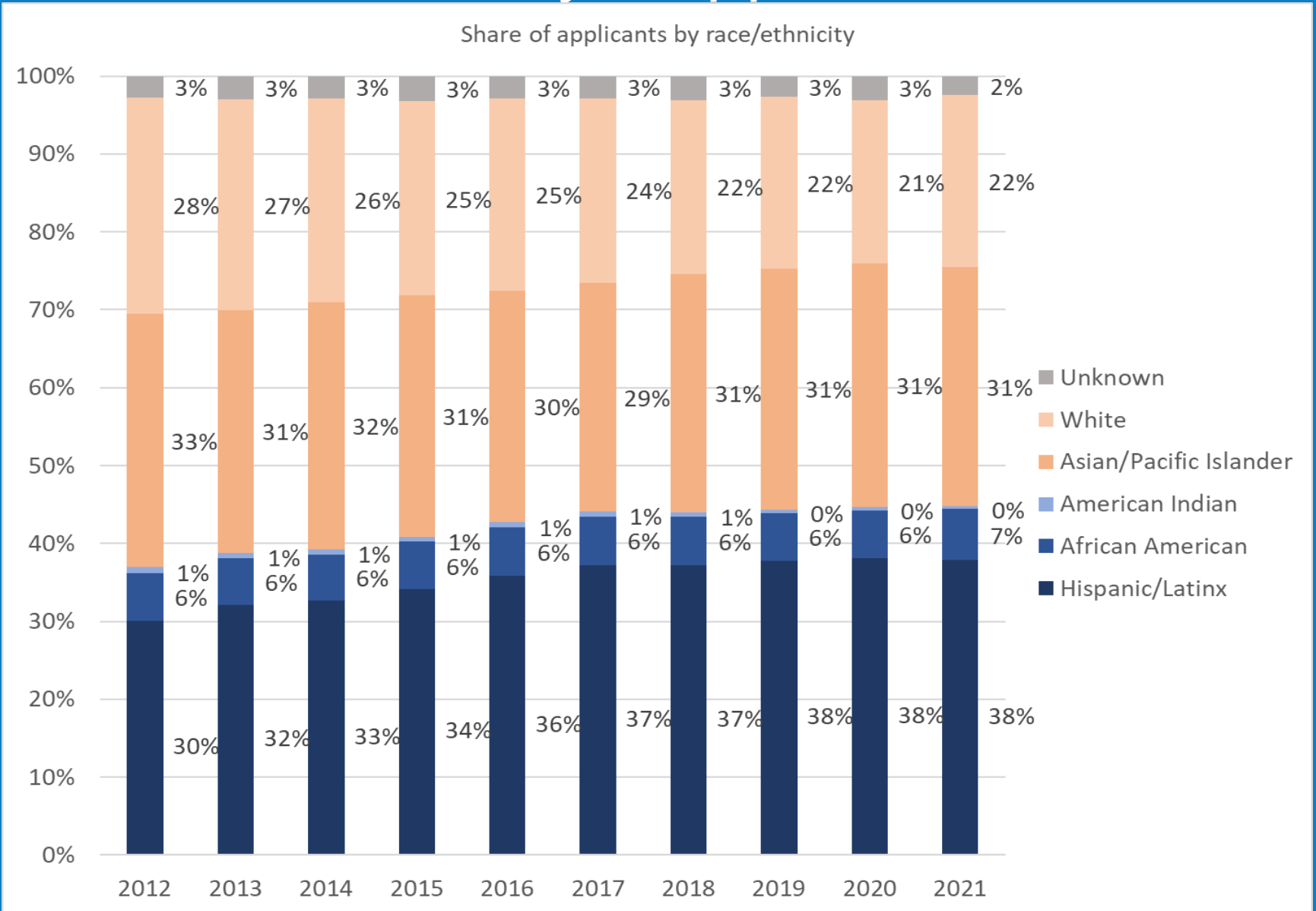


UC Underrepresented Groups

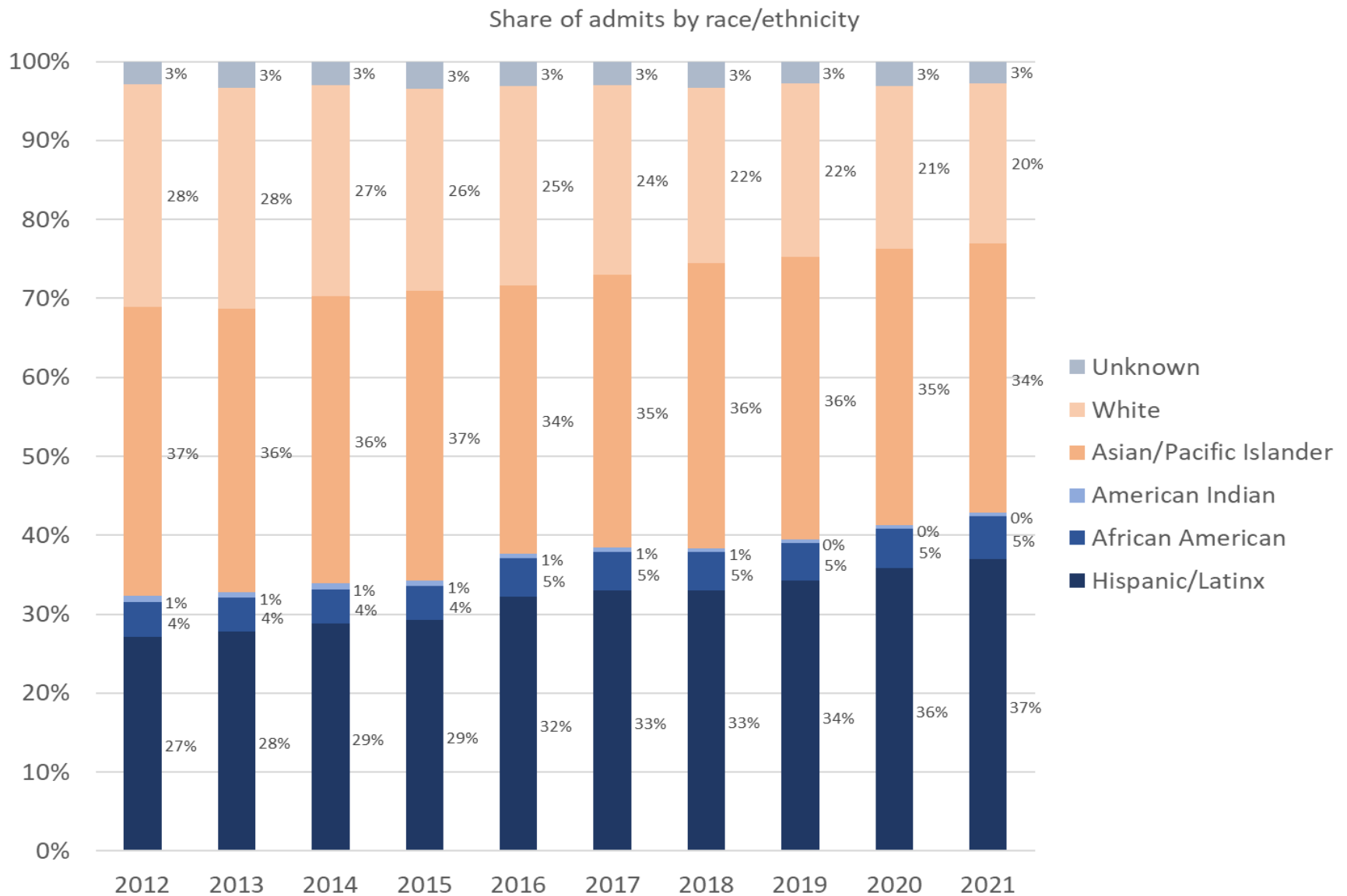


Race/ethnicity is based on UC categories.

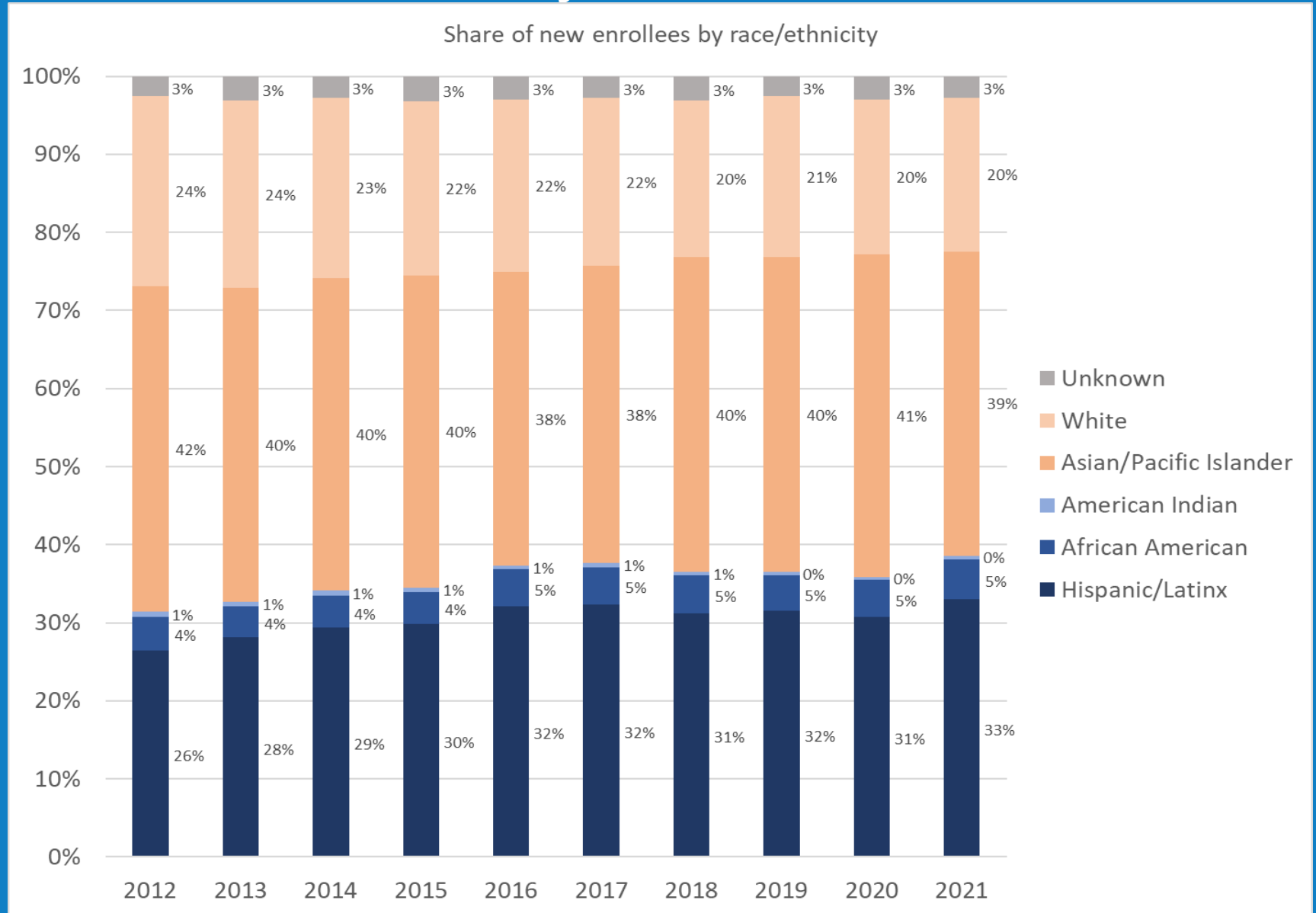
UC Race/ethnicity - Applicants



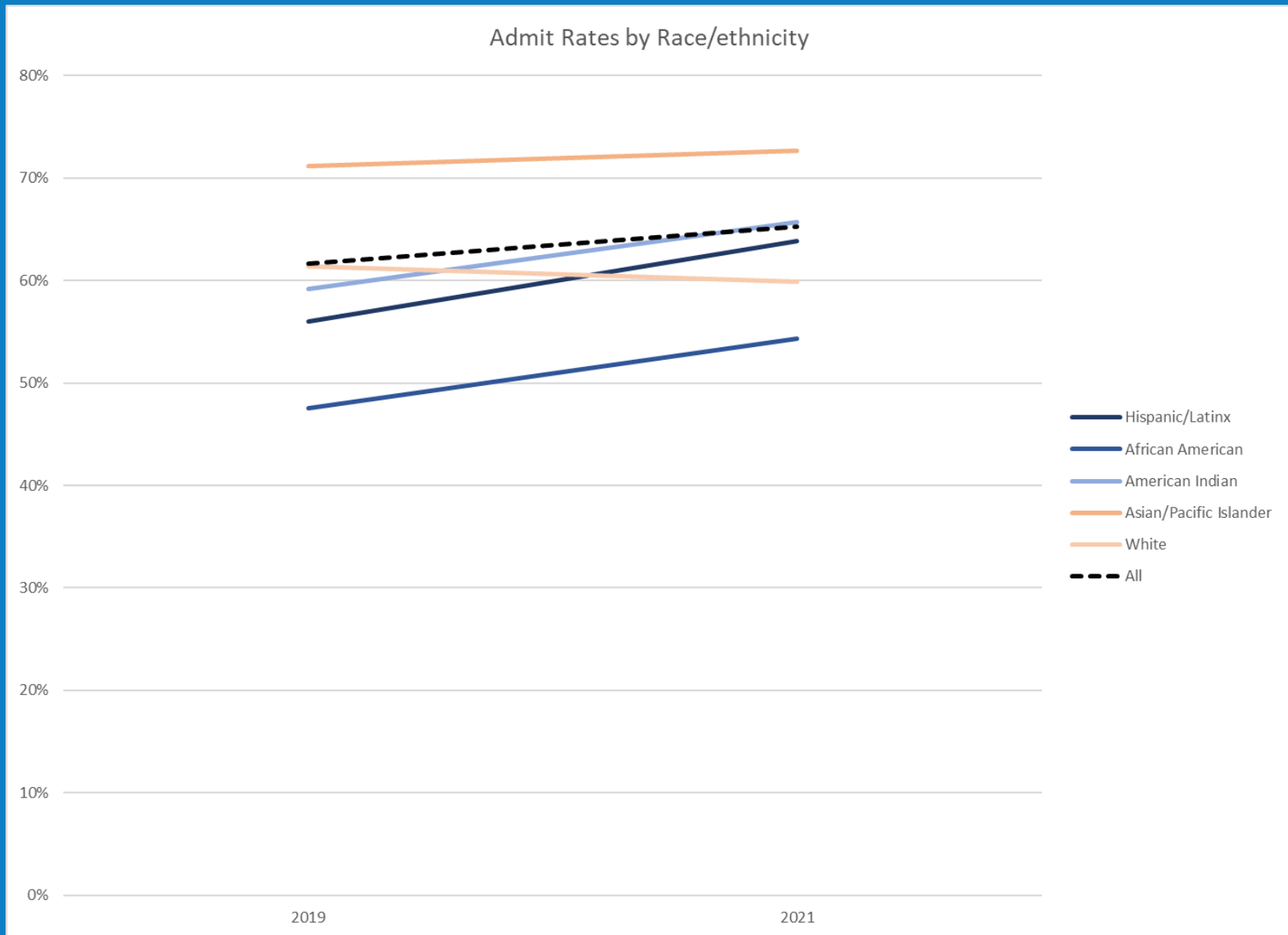
UC Race/ethnicity - Admits



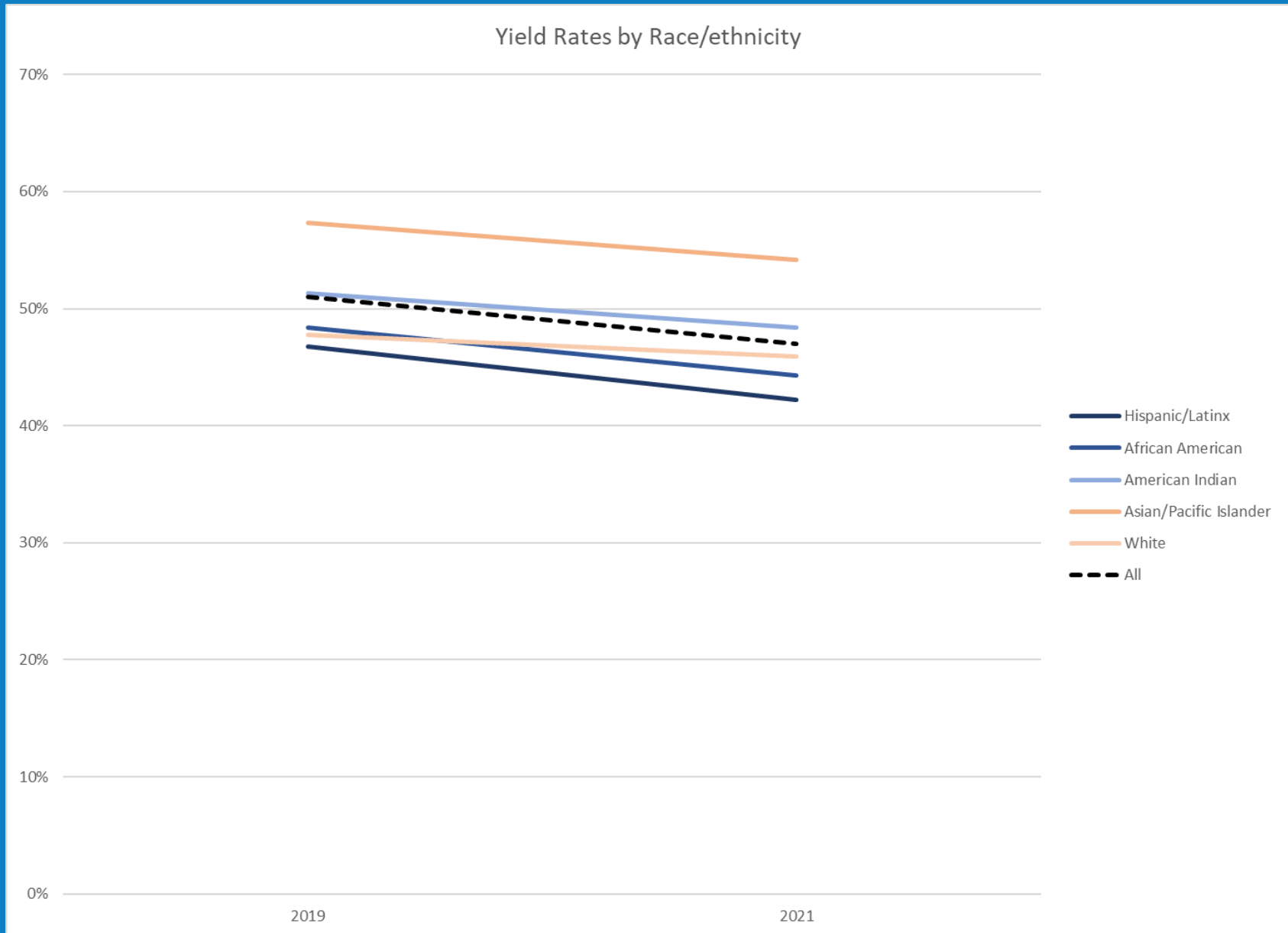
UC Race/ethnicity – New Enrollees



UC Race/ethnicity – Admit Rates



UC Race/ethnicity – Yield Rates

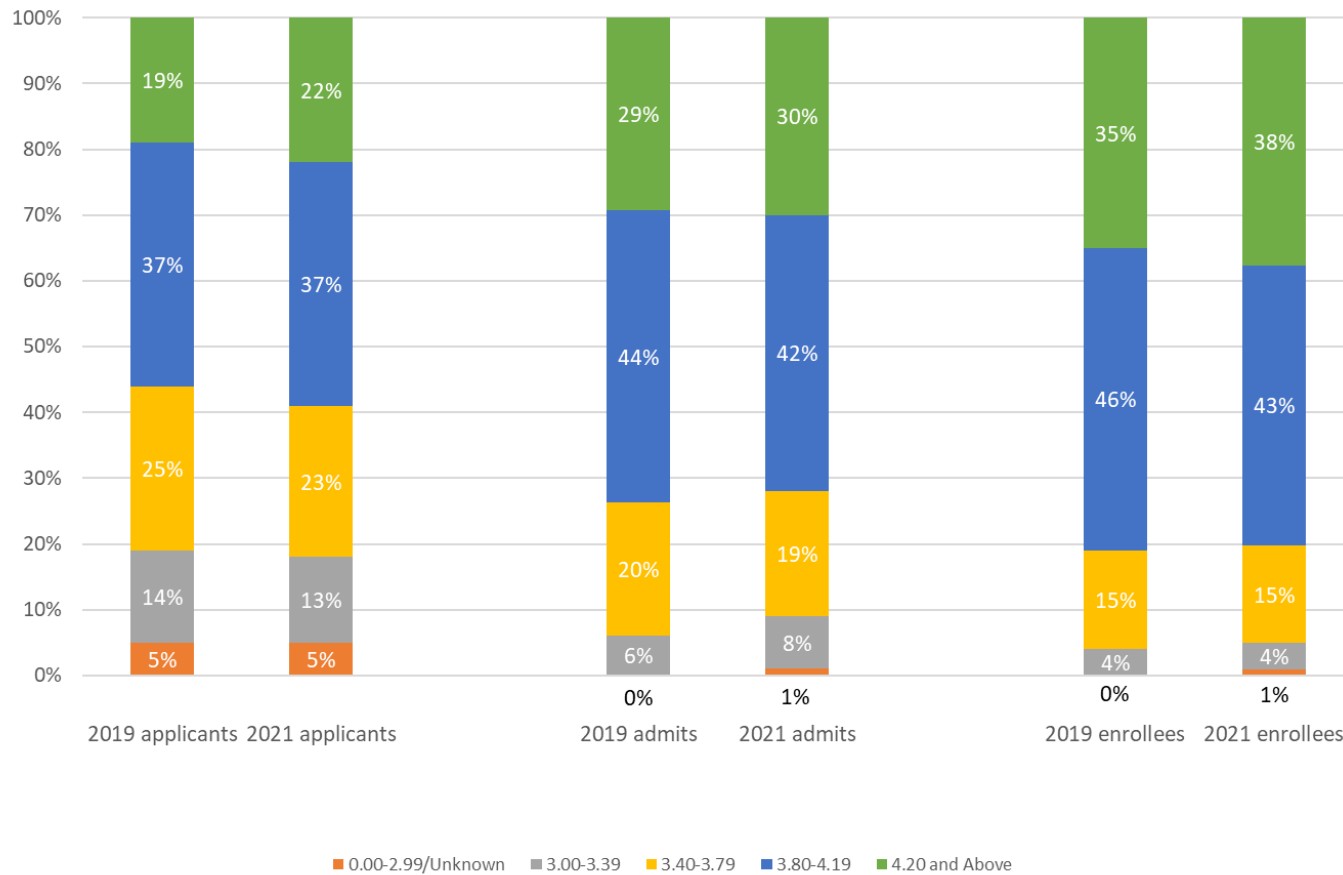


Academic Preparation

| Fall | Avg. # of A-G courses | | | Avg. HSGPA (weighted, capped) | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| | Applicants | Admits | Enrollees | Applicants | Admits | Enrollees |
| 2012 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 3.68 | 3.85 | 3.88 |
| 2013 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 3.69 | 3.89 | 3.92 |
| 2014 | 47 | 48 | 47 | 3.71 | 3.90 | 3.94 |
| 2015 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 3.71 | 3.93 | 3.97 |
| 2016 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 3.72 | 3.89 | 3.94 |
| 2017 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 3.73 | 3.93 | 3.97 |
| 2018 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 3.76 | 3.96 | 4.01 |
| 2019 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 3.79 | 3.96 | 4.02 |
| 2020 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 3.81 | 3.93 | 4.00 |
| 2021 | 48 | 49 | 49 | 3.81 | 3.96 | 4.04 |

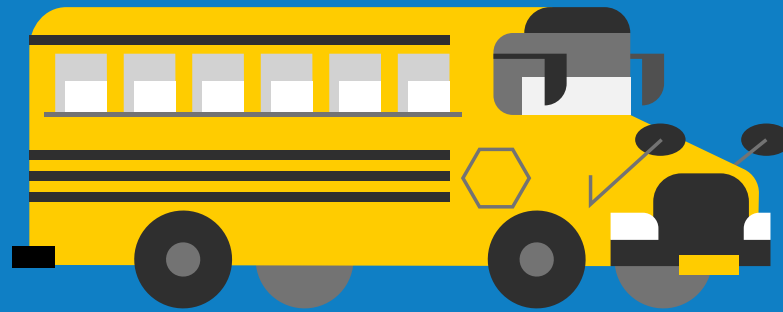
Academic Preparation

Distribution of HSGPAs for
applicant, admits, new enrollees



Academic Preparation

- Due to COVID-19 students could elect P/NP for any high school courses from Spring 2020 through Summer 2021
 - Weighted capped HSGPA is based on 10th/11th grade A-G courses
 - For fall 2021 applicants this affected second half of 11th grade only
- For fall 2021 applicants with 11th grade courses:
 - 74% had no courses with “P/NP” grades
 - 13% had some courses with at least one “P/NP” grade
 - 13% had all courses with at least one “P/NP” grade
- Also:
 - Grading standards may have been different during “Zoom school”
 - Hard to measure “learning loss” for fall 2021 cohort
 - Even broad context from K12 tests (NAEP, SBAC) not available due to COVID cancelations



High School to UC Pipeline

- Application rates overall and by race/ethnicity
- Race/ethnicity gaps between high school graduates and UC applicants, admits, new enrollees
- Data in this section are not directly comparable to the prior section but differences are small
 - Students from California public schools (instead of California residents)
 - Race/ethnicity is based on IPEDS categories (vs. UCOP categories) to more closely match CDE data for high school graduates.

Gap Analysis – Race/ethnicity

| Race/ethnicity* | Share of: | 2019 | 2021 Gap (vs. HS grads) | 2019 | 2021 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Hispanic/Latinx | HS grads | 52% | 53% | | |
| | Applicants | 41% | 42% Applicants | 11 pct pts | 11 pct pts |
| | Admits | 37% | 40% Admits | 15 pct pts | 12 pct pts |
| | New enroll | 34% | 35% New enrollees | 19 pct pts | 17 pct pts |
| African American/Black | HS grads | 6% | 5% | | |
| | Applicants | 4% | 3% Applicants | 2 pct pts | 2 pct pts |
| | Admits | 3% | 3% Admits | 3 pct pts | 2 pct pts |
| | New enroll | 2% | 2% New enrollees | 3 pct pts | 3 pct pts |
| URG | HS grads | 58% | 58% | | |
| | Applicants | 45% | 45% Applicants | 13 pct pts | 13 pct pts |
| | Admits | 40% | 43% Admits | 18 pct pts | 15 pct pts |
| | New enroll | 36% | 38% New enrollees | 22 pct pts | 20 pct pts |

* American Indian/Alaska Native students are also part of the URG category but are not broken out due to small cell sizes.

Application rates – race/ethnicity

| Application rates | 2019 | 2021 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| All | 23% | 26% |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 18% | 20% |
| African American/Black | 15% | 17% |
| URGs | 18% | 20% |



Summary

How did UC fall freshman admissions outcomes change in the era of COVID-19 and test-free admissions, compared to trends in recent years?

- Changes in volume of applicants, admits, and new enrollees?
 - UC CA resident applicants, admits, and new enrollees increased faster than in recent years
 - Broad context for application volume:
 - increased faster after slower growth for two prior years, especially at more selective colleges

- Changes in composition of applicants, admits, and new enrollees?
 - No substantial increase in diversity of applicants
 - Changes in line with recent trends with possible exception of shares of African Americans
 - Diversity of admits increased (first generation, low income, URG)
 - Changes were in line with recent trends with exception of Hispanic/Latinx students
 - Mixed changes for diversity of new enrollees
 - First Generation down slightly
 - Lower Income up slightly
 - URG up slightly
 - Changes in line with recent trends

- Changes in academic preparation of applicants, admits, and enrollees?
 - Average HSGPA and # of A-G courses did not change much for applicants, admits, enrollee; changes observed continued recent trends
 - Distribution of HSGPAs shows increasing share 4.20 or above
 - Applicants: shift upward
 - Admits and new enrollees: shift outward

Questions?

Thanks for coming!

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