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February 9, 2018

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Mitchell:

Pursuant to Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the *Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by e-mail at [David.Alcocer@ucop.edu](mailto:David.Alcocer@ucop.edu).

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Janet Napolitano'.

Janet Napolitano  
President

Enclosure

cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)  
(Attn: Ms. Cheryl Black)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Katie Sperla)  
Ms. Jennifer Troia, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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Mr. Danny Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Diane Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance  
Mr. Jack Zwald, Department of Finance  
Ms. Tina McGee, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Brown  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Vice Provost & Chief Outreach Officer Yvette Gullatt  
Vice President Robin Holmes-Sullivan  
Associate Vice President Elizabeth Halimah  
Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty  
Chief Policy Advisor and Executive Director Jenny Kao  
Chief of Staff to the Chief Financial Officer Oren Gabriel

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2017

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.

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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 2017 term and provides fall 2016 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/](http://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/](http://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 2016 and 2017 entering freshmen.

The University of California enrolled fewer California freshmen for fall 2017 (36,989) compared to fall 2016 (38,823), which is proportionately reflected in the 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 2016. For fall 2017, the new SAT had not yet been approved as a method of satisfying the requirement, thus disrupting past trends for meeting the requirement “through other means” and impacting the number of students taking the AWPE. The new SAT was subsequently approved as a method of satisfying ELWR beginning with fall 2018 enrollees.

Of the 36,989 fall 2017 freshmen who entered the university, 26,807 (72.5 percent) met the ELWR prior to their enrollment. This rate is a slight decrease from the fall 2016 outcome of 75.6 percent (29,335) for newly enrolled freshmen. The percent of fall 2017 freshmen who fulfilled the ELWR includes students who successfully passed the AWPE (6,593, or 17.8 percent) as well as students who met the requirement through other means – 54.6 percent of entrants (20,214).

Slightly fewer enrolled students, proportionally and in number, took the AWPE in 2017; 39.3 percent took the 2017 exam (14,550 out of 36,989 enrollees) compared to 40.9 percent of the 2016 cohort (15,890 out of 38,823 enrollees). The AWPE pass rate was also lower for fall 2017 at 45.3 percent (6,593 out of 14,550 examinees) from 49.2 percent the previous year (7,814 out of 15,890 examinees). The proportion of students who met the

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ELWR through other means prior to enrolling decreased from 55.4 percent (21,521) in 2016 to 54.5 percent (20,214) in 2017. The number of students required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the university in 2017 increased in both absolute number and as a percent of the total; 10,182 (27.5) in 2017, compared to 9,488 (24.4 percent) in 2016.

The percentage of students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling differs by UC eligibility status. For fall 2017, the completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees was 72.7 percent or 26,705, while the completion rate for students admitted by exception was 38.1 percent (102 students). The ELWR completion rate for regularly admitted enrollees dropped from 75.8 percent in 2016 to 72.7 in 2017. The rate also dropped for students admitted by exception than the prior year's rate of 42.3 percent (or 118 students).

The percentage of all fall 2017 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2017, this ranged from a high of 90.4 percent at Los Angeles to 36.2 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 2017 and fall 2016.

**Table 1**

<b>Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2017</b>												
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	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
Berkeley	8,962	4,408	3,507	79.6	822	437	9.9	3,070	69.6	901	20.4	
Davis	19,102	4,386	3,081	70.2	1,896	883	20.7	2,198	50.3	1,305	29.8	
Irvine	20,728	5,350	3,875	72.4	2,462	1,157	21.6	2,718	50.8	1,475	27.6	
Los Angeles	9,225	4,322	3,940	91.2	959	536	12.4	3,404	78.8	382	8.8	
Merced	14,840	2,262	818	36.2	1,665	429	19.0	389	17.2	1,444	63.8	
Riverside	22,139	4,426	2,754	62.2	2,479	1,002	22.6	1,752	39.6	1,672	37.8	
San Diego	18,728	4,411	3,221	73.0	1,453	716	16.2	2,505	56.8	1,190	27.0	
Santa Barbara	18,748	3,723	3,080	82.7	1,053	575	15.4	2,505	67.3	643	17.3	
Santa Cruz	19,482	3,433	2,429	70.8	1,622	813	23.7	1,616	47.1	1,004	29.2	
Total	151,954	36,721	26,705	72.7	14,411	6,548	17.8	20,157	54.9	10,016	27.3	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
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	831	18	6	33.3	8	2	11.1	4	22.2	12	66.7	
Los Angeles	64	60	23	38.3	31	14	23.3	9	15.0	37	61.7	
Merced	110	26	10	38.5	17	4	15.4	6	23.1	16	61.5	
Riverside	207	56	13	23.2	27	2	3.6	11	19.6	43	76.8	
San Diego	36	16	10	62.5	6	4	25.0	6	37.5	6	37.5	
Santa Barbara	29	16	5	31.3	10	3	18.8	2	12.5	11	68.8	
Santa Cruz	332	76	35	46.1	40	16	21.1	19	25.0	41	53.9	
Total	1,609	268	102	38.1	139	45	16.8	57	21.3	166	61.9	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
Berkeley	8,962	4,408	3,507	79.6	822	437	9.9	3,070	69.6	901	20.4	
Davis	19,102	4,386	3,081	70.2	1,896	883	20.7	2,198	50.3	1,305	29.8	
Irvine	21,559	5,368	3,881	72.3	2,470	1,159	21.6	2,722	50.7	1,487	27.7	
Los Angeles	9,289	4,382	3,963	90.4	990	550	12.6	3,413	77.9	419	9.6	
Merced	14,950	2,288	828	36.2	1,682	433	18.9	395	17.3	1,460	63.8	
Riverside	22,346	4,482	2,767	61.7	2,506	1,004	22.4	1,763	39.3	1,715	38.3	
San Diego	18,764	4,427	3,231	73.0	1,459	720	16.3	2,511	56.7	1,196	27.0	
Santa Barbara	18,777	3,739	3,085	82.5	1,063	578	15.5	2,507	67.3	654	17.3	
Santa Cruz	19,814	3,509	2,464	70.2	1,662	829	23.6	1,635	46.6	1,045	29.8	
Total	153,563	36,989	26,807	72.5	14,550	6,593	17.8	20,214	54.6	10,182	27.5	
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.												
**The new SAT was not an approved a method for satisfying ELWR for Fall 2017.												

**Table 2**

<b>Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2016</b>												
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	%
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
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	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
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	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
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.												

**Contact Information:**

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