



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

July 31, 2024

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

universityofcalifornia.edu

Dear Senator Wiener:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

Pursuant to Section 680052.1 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California’s annual report to the Legislature on Data on Nonresident Student Admission, Fall 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Interim Associate Vice President and Director Caín Díaz would be pleased to speak with you. Caín can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by e-mail at [Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

Enclosure

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Mr. Christopher Francis)  
(Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)  
The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair  
Assembly Education Finance Subcommittee #3  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Sarah Haynes)  
Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Ms. Gabriela Chavez, Department of Finance  
Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office  
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office  
Mr. Ian Klein, Legislative Analyst Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
Interim Senior Vice President Meredith Turner  
Vice President Pamela Brown  
Interim Associate Vice President and Director Caín Díaz  
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Data on Nonresident Student Admission**  
**Fall 2023**

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 68052.1 of the Education Code, which states:

The University of California is requested to comply with both of the following:

- (a) By July 1, 2018, the University of California, in collaboration with the Academic Senate of the University of California, is requested to ensure that implementation of any admissions policy it adopts regarding admission of nonresident undergraduate students shall include guidance that ensures that the academic qualifications for admitted nonresident undergraduate students generally exceeds, on average, the academic qualifications of resident undergraduate students admitted at each campus.
- (b) The University of California is requested to report to the Legislature annually regarding implementation of this policy, including, but not limited to, the mean and median scores on academic indicators of admitted resident and nonresident undergraduate students at each campus.

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

### Background

Adopted in 2011, the University of California policy on the admission of nonresident domestic and international students states that “[n]on-resident domestic and international students admitted to a campus should compare favorably to California residents admitted at that campus.”<sup>1</sup> The University’s Academic Senate faculty committee, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), monitors each campus’s compliance with this “Compare Favorably” policy and produces an annual summary report.<sup>2</sup>

Under the University’s guidelines regarding the admission of undergraduate students—referred to as the Comprehensive Review policy—faculty have identified multiple factors that may be used by campuses to assess the achievements of California resident and nonresident applicants alike.<sup>3</sup> Almost all of these thirteen factors are qualitative in nature, and there is no statistically valid way to report mean and median scores for these factors.

Fall 2023 was the third year in which standardized test scores from the SAT/ACT were eliminated from the University’s comprehensive review process, leaving high school grade point average (GPA) as the only remaining quantitative measure of academic preparation. Additionally, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the University made temporary adjustments to admission requirements. This included suspending

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<sup>1</sup> [http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/DS\\_MGY\\_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf](http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/DS_MGY_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/boars/reports.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/committees/boars/documents/guidelines-implementation-of-ug-admission.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/documents/guidelines-implementation-of-ug-admission.pdf)

the letter-grade requirement for high school classes taken between spring 2020 and summer 2021, which affected GPAs.<sup>4</sup> Thus, while a comparison of the GPAs of admitted students can provide a rough indication of whether a campus has met the Compare Favorably policy, such a narrow academic indicator is an imperfect measure, given the use of comprehensive review on all campuses, which requires campus admissions professionals to consider multiple factors in the broad assessment of merit they use to admit students.

### Data Summary

Tables 1 and 2 summarize systemwide and campus data for unweighted high school GPA. The values range from 0–4.0.

Among all freshman students admitted to the University for fall 2023, Table 1 shows that domestic and international nonresident students had higher mean and median unweighted GPAs than California residents.

**Table 1: High School (HS) GPA of UC Freshman Admits, Systemwide, Fall 2023**

<b>Residency Status</b>	<b># of Freshman Admits</b>	<b>Mean HS GPA</b>	<b>Median HS GPA</b>
California Resident	90,058	3.73	3.82
Out-of-State Domestic	23,697	3.85	3.93
International	17,422	3.81	3.92

The GPA results shown in Table 2 varied by campus. The campus-specific GPA differences are often minor—some are as small as one or two one-hundredths of a point (0.01 and 0.02), trivial variances when one considers that the difference between the letter grade of “A” and “A-” is three-tenths of a point (0.3). Evaluating the grades of students from other states and countries can be particularly challenging, as the records are often more complex. There is also wide variation in curricula and grading standards.

In sum, the degree of compliance across the University is very high, especially when one considers the increasingly large volume of applications that are received by the University, the extraordinary level of achievement presented by virtually all applicants, the challenges of applying the complex Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive and internally dynamic admissions process, and the effects of a global pandemic.

<sup>4</sup> <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html>

**Table 2**  
**University of California**  
**High School GPA of UC Freshman Admits, Fall 2023**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Residency Status<sup>1</sup></b>	<b># of Freshman Admits</b>	<b>Mean High School GPA<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Median High School GPA<sup>2</sup></b>
Systemwide	C	90,058	3.73	3.82
	D	23,697	3.85	3.93
	I	17,422	3.81	3.92
Berkeley	C	11,003	3.92	3.96
	D	2,536	3.94	4.00
	I	1,177	3.94	4.00
Davis	C	23,657	3.88	3.93
	D	6,904	3.88	3.93
	I	8,839	3.89	3.94
Irvine	C	17,574	3.89	3.95
	D	7,285	3.92	3.95
	I	6,097	3.93	4.00
Los Angeles	C	8,587	3.94	4.00
	D	2,840	3.97	4.00
	I	1,309	3.97	4.00
Merced	C	23,799	3.54	3.59
	D	1,022	3.67	3.73
	I	1,777	3.66	3.73
Riverside	C	32,667	3.72	3.77
	D	2,440	3.64	3.72
	I	4,651	3.60	3.66
San Diego	C	20,685	3.90	3.95
	D	7,583	3.94	4.00
	I	3,793	3.95	4.00
Santa Barbara	C	21,029	3.90	3.95
	D	6,006	3.93	3.96
	I	3,769	3.92	3.97
Santa Cruz	C	33,066	3.76	3.83
	D	5,993	3.75	3.82
	I	3,995	3.72	3.79

Notes:

1. Residency Status: Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; I=International.

2. High School GPA: Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2023.

**Contact Information:**  
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