



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

February 26, 2025

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 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 Cain Diaz would be pleased to speak with you. Cain can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9350, or by e-mail at 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. Diego Lopez)
(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
Ms. Jessica Holmes, Department of Finance
Ms. Jessica Deitchman, 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’s Office

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt
Associate Vice Provost Cynthia Davalos
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Vice President Pamela Brown
Associate Vice President Cain Diaz
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fall 2024

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 (UC) Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is a writing proficiency expectation for first-year success. UC students must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in first-year 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 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 or grade approved by the committee on one of the following methods:

1. SAT, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
2. ACT, English Language Arts or English + Reading
3. Advanced Placement Examination in English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Seminar
4. Advanced Placement Assessment in Research
5. International Baccalaureate Higher or Standard Level English A
6. Successful completion of a transferable college-level course in English composition of three semester or four quarter units

Students may also satisfy the ELWR by completing the writing placement process at the campus where they will enroll.

Until 2022, the University administered a systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) to incoming California first-year students who had not satisfied the ELWR at the time of admission. The last administration of the exam was in the spring of 2022, for fall 2022 entrants.

This report summarizes the outcomes of the ELWR for first-year students who entered the University for the fall 2024 term and provides fall 2023 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 UC Information Center website (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/elwr>). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students. The 2024 ELWR performance results will be posted by March 2025.

Entry Level Writing Requirement data on entering first-year students

The attached tables display ELWR data for fall 2023 and 2024 entering first-year students from California public and private high schools.

The University of California admitted 15,575 more California first-year students for fall 2024 (209,115 compared with 193,540 in 2023) and 208 fewer California first-year students enrolled (42,007) compared with fall 2023 (42,215). Of the 42,007 fall 2024 first-year students who entered the University, 30,124 met the ELWR prior to their enrollment (71.7 percent). This is an increase in both the count and the percentage from fall 2023 (28,392 and 67.3 percent).

The percentage of all fall 2024 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2024, this ranged from a high of 90.0 percent at Los Angeles to 29.9 percent at Merced.

The following tables display information regarding the fulfillment of the ELWR for new entering first-year students from California high schools for fall 2024 and fall 2023.

Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) for New First-Year Students from California High Schools, Fall 2024						
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met ELWR Prior to Enrollment (Total)		Did Not Meet ELWR Prior to Enrollment	
			n	%	n	%
ALL STUDENTS						
Berkeley	10,649	5,216	4,245	81.4	971	18.6
Davis	24,908	5,342	3,332	62.4	2,010	37.6
Irvine	19,422	5,127	3,873	75.5	1,254	24.5
Los Angeles	8,715	5,221	4,700	90.0	521	10.0
Merced	24,623	2,051	613	29.9	1,438	70.1
Riverside	37,124	5,188	3,150	60.7	2,038	39.3
San Diego	23,024	5,724	4,649	81.2	1,075	18.8
Santa Barbara	24,558	4,119	3,440	83.5	679	16.5
<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>36,092</u>	<u>4,019</u>	<u>2,122</u>	<u>52.8</u>	<u>1,897</u>	<u>47.2</u>
Total	209,115	42,007	30,124	71.7	11,883	28.3

Source: University of California Office of the President, UC Data Warehouse
*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled first-years.

Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) for New First-Year Students from California High Schools, Fall 2023						
Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met ELWR Prior to Enrollment (Total)		Did Not Meet ELWR Prior to Enrollment	
			n	%	n	%
ALL STUDENTS						
Berkeley	10,916	5,261	3,854	73.3	1,407	26.7
Davis	23,985	5,311	3,026	57.0	2,285	43.0
Irvine	17,903	5,289	3,971	75.1	1,318	24.9
Los Angeles	8,482	5,164	4,707	91.2	457	8.8
Merced	24,015	2,396	680	28.4	1,716	71.6
Riverside	33,145	5,250	3,133	59.7	2,117	40.3
San Diego	20,764	5,557	3,804	68.5	1,753	31.5
Santa Barbara	21,067	4,015	3,332	83.0	683	17.0
<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>33,263</u>	<u>3,972</u>	<u>1,885</u>	<u>47.5</u>	<u>2,087</u>	<u>52.5</u>
Total	193,540	42,215	28,392	67.3	13,823	32.7

Source: University of California Office of the President, UC Data Warehouse
*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled first-years.

Contact Information:
Office of the President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607
<https://www.ucop.edu/>