



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

James B. Milliken
President

March 26, 2026

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

universityofcalifornia.edu

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Laird:

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,

James B. Milliken
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 Lena Gonzalez, Chair
- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
- (Attn: Mr. Diego Lopez)
- (Attn: Mr. Kirk Feely)
- The Honorable David A. Alvarez, Chair
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
- (Attn: Mr. Christian Griffith)
- (Attn: Mr. Tobias Wolken)
- 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
- Ms. Florence Bouvet, Legislative Analyst’s Office
- Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
- Vice President and Vice Provost Yvette Gullatt

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

Associate Vice Provost Cynthia Davalos
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
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 2025

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 (taken prior to March 2024)
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 2025 term and provides fall 2024 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 2025 ELWR performance results will be posted by March 2026.

Entry Level Writing Requirement data on entering first-year students

The attached tables display ELWR data for first-year students from California public and private high schools entering fall 2024 and 2025.

The University of California admitted 33,474 more California first-year students for fall 2025—242,589 compared with 209,115 in 2024—and 335 more California first-year students enrolled (42,342) compared with fall 2024 (42,007). Of the 42,342 fall 2025 first-year students who entered the University, 29,885 met the ELWR prior to their enrollment (70.6 percent). This is a decrease in both the count and the percentage from fall 2024 (30,124 and 71.7 percent).

The percentage of all fall 2025 students who fulfilled the ELWR prior to enrolling varies by campus. In 2025, this ranged from a high of 94.3 percent at San Diego to 29.4 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 2025 and fall 2024.

| Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) for New First-Year Students from California High Schools, Fall 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Campus | Admitted* | Enrolled | Met ELWR Prior to Enrollment (Total) | | Did Not Meet ELWR Prior to Enrollment | |
| | | | n | % | n | % |
| ALL STUDENTS | | | | | | |
| Berkeley | 9,788 | 4,970 | 3,861 | 77.7 | 1,109 | 22.3 |
| Davis | 25,720 | 5,455 | 3,526 | 64.6 | 1,929 | 35.4 |
| Irvine | 19,256 | 4,980 | 4,075 | 81.8 | 905 | 18.2 |
| Los Angeles | 8,517 | 4,938 | 4,489 | 90.9 | 449 | 9.1 |
| Merced | 41,804 | 1,942 | 570 | 29.4 | 1,372 | 70.6 |
| Riverside | 53,759 | 6,457 | 2,880 | 44.6 | 3,577 | 55.4 |
| San Diego | 21,769 | 5,555 | 5,236 | 94.3 | 319 | 5.7 |
| Santa Barbara | 24,296 | 3,811 | 3,094 | 81.2 | 717 | 18.8 |
| <u>Santa Cruz</u> | <u>37,680</u> | <u>4,234</u> | <u>2,154</u> | <u>50.9</u> | <u>2,080</u> | <u>49.1</u> |
| Total | 242,589 | 42,342 | 29,885 | 70.6 | 12,457 | 29.4 |

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 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.

Contact Information:
Office of the President
University of California
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