



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

James B. Milliken
President

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Los Alamos

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

August 12, 2026

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

Dear Senator Laird:

Pursuant to Section 68052.1 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on *Data on Nonresident Student Admission, Fall 2025*.

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

Enclosure

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
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom

Senior Vice President Meredith Turner

Vice President Pamela Brown

Associate Vice President Caín Díaz

Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton

University of California Data on Nonresident Student Admission Fall 2025

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.”¹ 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.²

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.³ 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 2025 was the fifth 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)

¹ http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/DS_MGY_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf

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

³ <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/committees/boars/documents/guidelines-implementation-of-ug-admission.pdf>

as one of the only remaining quantitative measures of academic preparation. 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 2025, 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 2025

Residency Status	# of Freshman Admits	Mean HS GPA	Median HS GPA
California Resident	100,571	3.67	3.76
Out-of-State Domestic	26,189	3.83	3.92
International	21,936	3.79	3.90

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, and the challenges of applying the complex Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive and internally dynamic admissions process.

Table 2. University of California High School GPA of UC Freshman Admits, Fall 2025¹

Campus	Residency Status ²	# of Freshman Admits	Mean High School GPA ³	Median High School GPA ³
Systemwide	C	100,571	3.67	3.76
	D	26,189	3.83	3.92
	I	21,936	3.79	3.90
Berkeley	C	9,878	3.92	3.96
	D	3,131	3.94	4.00
	I	1,439	3.93	4.00
Davis	C	25,641	3.87	3.92
	D	8,332	3.84	3.91
	I	11,700	3.88	3.94
Irvine	C	18,873	3.89	3.95
	D	7,764	3.91	3.95
	I	9,021	3.90	3.95
Los Angeles	C	8,589	3.94	4.00
	D	3,544	3.97	4.00
	I	1,526	3.98	4.00
Merced	C	41,448	3.58	3.66
	D	1,244	3.62	3.69
	I	3,873	3.62	3.68
Riverside	C	53,276	3.64	3.70
	D	2,801	3.61	3.69
	I	5,235	3.60	3.67
San Diego	C	21,542	3.91	3.95
	D	9,771	3.92	3.96
	I	7,144	3.92	4.00
Santa Barbara	C	23,972	3.91	3.96
	D	9,237	3.89	3.93
	I	8,885	3.91	3.95
Santa Cruz	C	37,345	3.75	3.79
	D	5,968	3.72	3.79
	I	4,809	3.70	3.76

Table Notes:

1. Systemwide admit counts are “unduplicated,” meaning that each student is counted only once, even if they were admitted to multiple campuses. As a result, the systemwide counts are not the sum of the individual campus counts and the systemwide means are not the average of individual campus means.
2. 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.
3. High School GPA: Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2025.

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