



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

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CAMPUSES

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

MEDICAL CENTERS

Davis
Irvine
UCLA
San Diego
San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Lawrence Berkeley
Lawrence Livermore
Los Alamos

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

July 25, 2025

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N. Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 94814

Dear Senator Wiener:

Pursuant to Section 92618 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Compliance.

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

Enclosure

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: 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
Mr. Ian Klein, Legislative Analyst's Office

Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine S. Newman
Senior Vice President Meredith Turner
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom
Vice President Theresa A. Maldonado
Associate Vice President and Director Kathleen Fullerton
Associate Vice President and Cain Diaz
Executive Director Kathleen Erwin

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Report to the State Legislature on California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Compliance

The University of California provides the following annual report in response to Article 2.9, Section [92618](#), of the California Education Code, “California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Compliance,” which [states](#):

(a) As used in this article, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Act” means the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 2001 established pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 8010) of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) “Institution” means a campus of the University of California.

(b) On or before June 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the University of California is strongly urged to report each institution’s progress towards completing repatriation pursuant to the act.

(c) The office of the President of the University of California is strongly urged to provide available funding to sufficiently support each institution’s efforts towards completing repatriation pursuant to the act.

(d) The University of California is strongly urged to prohibit use of any Native American human remains or cultural items for purposes of teaching or research at the University of California.

Executive Summary

Although substantial work remains, the University of California (UC) has made significant progress in returning Native American human remains and cultural items to tribes, as required by state and federal laws. Since June 2024, UC campuses have repatriated more than 2,800 individuals and nearly 80,000 funerary objects, bringing the total repatriated to more than half of all human remains and over 40 percent of associated funerary items in their collections. Additionally, to date UC has returned more than 17,000 unassociated funerary objects, 1,700 sacred objects, and nearly 32,000 other objects of cultural importance. The UC is following state recommendations, has responded to feedback from the April 2025 audit, and is working closely with tribes. With new funding of nearly \$9 million, UC plans to further accelerate repatriation and complete all inventories, increase tribal outreach, and repatriate all claimed items by the end of 2028.

I. Background

The University of California (UC) is committed to fully implementing the requirements of both the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ([NAGPRA](#)) and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ([CalNAGPRA](#)). [AB 226](#), passed on Oct. 12, 2023, strongly urged UC to submit annual progress reports on repatriation compliance, and required two more audits by the California State Auditor (CSA), in addition to those required in 2019 and 2021.

II. UC Repatriation Progress

A. Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects (Inventories)

Native American human remains and associated funerary objects are reported to the National NAGPRA program, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and potentially culturally affiliated tribes in **inventories**. Inventories are *itemized lists* that provide detailed information about each Native American individual and associated funerary object held by an institution.

A.1. Federal Register Notices Published

Since UC's last report to the legislature in June 2024, UC campuses completed cultural affiliation and submitted 18 NAGPRA Notices of Inventory Completion (NICs) for 2,973 individuals and 34,961 associated funerary objects, representing 17.2% of individuals and 7.4% of known associated funerary objects in UC collections. Cumulatively, UC has published NICs for 76.8% of individuals and 78.4% of known associated funerary objects. Submitting NICs is an important step in the repatriation process, because once an NIC is published and after a 30-day waiting period, institutions may repatriate the human remains or associated funerary objects to tribes that have already submitted claims, or may receive and consider new claims.

A.2. Repatriation

Repatriation is defined by NAGPRA as legal transfer of control to tribes. Since June 2024, UC campuses repatriated an additional 2,884 individuals and 79,139 associated funerary objects, which represents 16.7% of individuals and 16.7% of known associated funerary objects in UC collections. These results mean that UC has now repatriated 50.6% of individuals and 42.2% of known associated funerary objects. After repatriation is complete, any physical transfer, reburial, or continued storage at an institution is at the discretion of the controlling tribe.

A.3. Campus Data

Tables 1 and 2 below break down the repatriation status of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects by campus, respectively. These tables, along with additional information, can be found on the [UC Repatriation Dashboard](#). Note that:

- Columns 2 and 3 of both tables indicate human remains or associated funerary objects where legal control has not yet been transferred to tribes.
 - Column 2: The “Not Submitted to Federal Register” column indicates human remains or associated funerary objects that have been reported to tribes and are either under consultation or awaiting consultation.
 - Column 3: The “Submitted to Federal Register” column indicates human remains or associated funerary objects that have been submitted to the National NAGPRA Program and are either published in the Federal Register or are awaiting publication. Once published, there is a 30-day waiting period after which campuses may repatriate to tribes who submit claims.
- Column 4: The “Repatriated” column indicates human remains or associated funerary objects where legal control has been transferred to tribes. All remains and items in the “Repatriated”

column were previously published in the Federal Register. Once repatriated, the counts move from the “Submitted in the Federal Register” column to the “Repatriated” column.

- Table 2 only includes *identified* associated funerary objects. It does not include items that might potentially belong to this category. UC defers to tribal traditional knowledge in the identification of cultural items. As consultation on potential cultural items continues, we expect counts of associated funerary objects to continue to increase.

Table 1. Cumulative campus breakdown of the repatriation status of Native American human remains.

Campus ¹	Not Yet Submitted to Federal Register	Submitted to Federal Register	Repatriated	Total
UC Berkeley	2,952	4,483	5,442	12,877
UC Davis	253	8	274	535
UC Irvine	-	-	-	-
UCLA	10	4	2,065	2,079
UC Merced	1	0	0	1
UC Riverside	2	28	24	54
UC San Diego	472	0	486	958
UC San Francisco	-	-	-	-
UC Santa Barbara	313	0	417	730
UC Santa Cruz	1	0	29	30
Systemwide Total	4,004	4,523	8,737	17,264

Table 2. Cumulative campus breakdown of the repatriation status of associated funerary objects.

Campus ²	Not Yet Submitted to Federal Register	Submitted to Federal Register	Repatriated	Total
UC Berkeley	90,967	25,016	36,405	152,388
UC Davis	1,723	1,179	59,216	62,118
UC Irvine	-	-	-	-
UCLA	6	2,831	51,640	54,477
UC Merced	-	-	-	-
UC Riverside	2	142,884	39,961	182,847
UC San Diego	0	0	481	481
UC San Francisco	-	-	-	-
UC Santa Barbara	9,666	0	12,246	21,912
UC Santa Cruz	0	0	29	29
Systemwide Total	102,364	171,910	199,978	474,252

B. Unassociated Funerary Objects, Sacred Objects, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony (Summaries)

All Native American collections are reported to the National NAGPRA Program, NAHC, and potentially culturally affiliated tribes in **summaries**. As required by law, unlike object-by-object inventories, summaries are *written descriptions of collections* that may contain unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Tribal consultation is needed to identify whether an object belongs to one of the three categories of summary items. UC considers all Native American objects not yet consulted on to be potential cultural items.

¹ UC Irvine and UC San Francisco do not have anything to report.

² UC Irvine, UC Merced, and UC San Francisco do not have anything to report.

B.1. Federal Register Notices Published

Since UC's last report to the legislature in June 2024, UC campuses have submitted 16 NAGPRA Notices of Intended Repatriation (NIRs) for 1,960 unassociated funerary objects, 47 sacred objects, and 395 objects of cultural patrimony. In accordance with the regulations, NIRs are only submitted when a tribe has submitted a claim for a cultural item. Once an NIR is published and after a 30-day waiting period, institutions may repatriate the cultural item to the claimant tribe.

B.2. Repatriation

Since June 2024, UC campuses have repatriated an additional 12,711 unassociated funerary objects, 11 sacred objects, and 4,656 objects of cultural patrimony. As with human remains, repatriation of cultural items is defined in the law as legal transfer of control to tribes. After repatriation is complete, any physical transfer, reburial, or continued storage at an institution is at the discretion of the controlling tribe.

B.3. Campus Data

Table 3 reflects the numbers of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony repatriated by each campus. Note that:

- Campuses hold hundreds of thousands of Native American items that have not been included in this table. UC considers all Native American items as potential cultural items, which must be identified by tribes through consultation. UC defers to tribal traditional knowledge and preferences in identifying and counting cultural items.
- Counts of potential cultural items cannot be reliably reconciled as UC campuses have not physically counted each individual item that they hold. Summaries do not require object-by-object counts to discourage unnecessary handling of collections, and both NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA require institutions to consult with tribes before handling.
- Written descriptions of campus holdings can be found on the [UC Repatriation Dashboard](#), which include counts that are based on each campus's records, e.g. individual items, boxes, drawers, accessions, etc.

Table 3. Cumulative campus breakdown of the repatriation of identified unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

Campus ³	Unassociated Funerary Objects Repatriated	Sacred Objects Repatriated	Objects of Cultural Patrimony Repatriated
UC Berkeley	118	1,671	1,660
UC Davis	163	7	25
UC Irvine	-	-	-
UCLA	4,625	20	3
UC Merced	-	-	-
UC Riverside	144	0	29,510
UC San Diego	12,567	4	339
UC San Francisco	-	-	-
UC Santa Barbara	0	4	0

³ No potential cultural items have been identified at UC Irvine, UC Merced, and UC San Francisco.

UC Santa Cruz	0	0	0
Systemwide Total	17,617	1,706	31,537

III. State Audit

On April 15, 2025, the California State Auditor (CSA) released an audit on UC compliance with NAGPRA and CalNAGPRA. CSA made observations on several areas where UC may improve campus repatriation practices and systemwide oversight. UC will implement each of CSA’s recommendations. As an initial step, UC President Michael V. Drake has issued a letter to campus Chancellors with directives to begin addressing areas of concern identified by CSA, such as reviewing all campus areas to determine whether there are any undiscovered remains and items, recalling all loans of ancestral remains and cultural items, updating repatriation implementation plans, establishing measurable goals, and providing quarterly updates regarding those goals. President Drake also articulated an expectation that campuses accelerate repatriation, as described below. Provost Newman has sent a follow up letter to campus Chancellor’s Designees providing greater detail on these directives and UCOP’s expectations. The [UC Repatriation Dashboard](#) and ongoing revisions to the UC NAGPRA policy have also been updated to incorporate recommendations from CSA. UCOP will continue to work with campuses, tribes, and other stakeholders to ensure full implementation of CSA’s recommendations.

IV. Acceleration Plan

President Drake has made a new commitment of \$8.84M over three years to further accelerate repatriation. By December 31, 2028, UC aims to:

- Complete and publish all inventories of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, and repatriate all claimed remains and items
- Accelerate repatriation of cultural items by proactively increasing outreach to all tribes, preparing for consultation on all summary collections, and repatriate all claimed cultural items

These funds will allow campuses to hire additional staff; provide additional resources to consulting tribes; contribute towards tribal reburial costs, as appropriate; support tracking and monitoring of repatriation activity; and explore the development of UC programs, courses, or other offerings that can help train repatriation experts.

Contact Information:
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