

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
Resolution on Admissions Selection Criterion #14
And Statement on Geographical Preferences
October 15, 2004

RESOLUTION: The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) affirms the goals of Selection Criterion #14 of the *Guidelines for Implementation of University Policy on Undergraduate Admissions*: to "provide for geographical diversity in the student population" and to support the inclusion of students from "a wide variety of educational environments." The reference in Criterion # 14 to geographic location should not be construed to permit preferences that advantage students on the basis of geographic proximity to a campus.

Statement on Geographical Preferences

BOARS recognizes that campuses have special relationships with the regions and communities in which they are embedded. Those relationships should be nurtured and maintained and, for this reason, BOARS underscores the need to support academic preparation programs that allow campuses to reach out to schools in their local areas. In addition, BOARS recognizes that geographical location can present challenges that should be considered in the evaluation that each individual applicant receives as part of the campus comprehensive review process. For example, the fact that one student may have to travel very far across an urban area to attend a magnet school, that another lives in a neighborhood with high rates of poverty or crime that limit the opportunities available to her, or that another may have circumstances that would effectively prohibit attending a campus far away from home, are important contextual factors that campuses should consider in the selection process. However, after careful consideration, BOARS concludes that local campus policies with the intent to favor students from a specific geographic region, such as the campus's immediate area, without regard to the principles of inclusion and diversity that are intended in this criterion, raise basic fairness questions in that they disadvantage students of similar backgrounds who are from other geographic areas. Policies having that intent are not consistent with Criterion #14 and should be discontinued as quickly as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
UNIVERSITY POLICY ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
Issued 2001*

SELECTION CRITERIA #14

Location of the applicant's secondary school and residence. These factors shall be considered in order to provide for geographic diversity in the student population and also to account for the wide variety of educational environments existing in California.

* Complete text can be found in the Final Report of the UC Eligibility and Admissions Study Group Appendix C-4, issued April 2004.