

## **CPEC Eligibility Study for Class of 2003**

California's Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) conducts studies every few years to determine the degree to which graduates of California's public high schools are achieving eligibility to UC and CSU. In the past, when these studies have shown a significant difference between UC's eligibility rate and the 12.5 percent specified in California's Master Plan, BOARS has recommended adjustments to UC's eligibility criteria to bring the two into closer alignment.

CPEC is currently studying eligibility rates for the graduating class of 2003 with results expected in late spring 2004. The last eligibility study was done in 1996. CPEC initiated but did not complete a class of 2001 study. Because many changes in eligibility requirements had been implemented after 2001, UC supported the decision to focus instead on the class of 2003.

In addition, UC has increased efforts to obtain more accurate high school course lists for use in admissions. Since June 2001, the University has approved approximately 16,280 courses; the addition of these courses is expected to have a positive impact on increasing eligibility rates in 2003 and beyond. For 2003, CPEC's study design has been significantly upgraded, including the use of electronic transcripts derived from a carefully selected sample of schools, which allows for more detailed analysis of eligibility using more complete data.

The study findings will reveal the academic and demographic profiles of students who do or do not meet CSU and UC eligibility requirements. BOARS expects that any adjustments would be recommended no earlier than the 2004–05 academic year and implemented at a later date in order to give high schools and potential applicants time to adjust. While any action based on the results of the new study must wait until its release, BOARS will continue to review and analyze current data regarding changes in high school preparation, demographics, college choice, etc. through next spring.