

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- 1868** Organic Act set pluralistic goals that would form the basis for admissions policy including:
1. The admission of students should be free of sectarian influences.
  2. Admissions, and all other aspects of University management, should be free of political partisanship.
  3. The University of California should be tuition-free to all residents of the state.
  4. The University should draw students from all parts of the state.
  5. University admissions should be selective, admitting students who have the ability to successfully complete a degree. [Note: Selective admissions distinguished UC from most land-grant universities and colleges, which were open to nearly anyone who applied.]
  6. Women should be admitted into the University on equal terms with men.
- 1869 – 81** Oral interviews conducted at Berkeley by faculty in specific subject areas, exceptions in selected subject areas granted by authority of the faculty.
- 1881** Written examinations in all required subject areas were offered in schools outside the Bay Area.
- 1884** The Regents formally recognize the authority of the Academic Senate to set admissions policy, subject to Regental approval, including the development and administration of examinations and the accreditation of California's high school curriculum to substitute for written and oral examinations. Two general paths for freshman admission: (1) regular admission based on course requirements, high school graduation, and the recommendation of the principal; and (2) "admission by exception" to recognize the differing programs and quality of the state's developing high schools, and to provide greater geographic and socioeconomic diversity in the student body.
- 1919** Agreement with high school representatives allows for any graduate of an accredited high school, "with satisfactory scholarship record," to be admitted "unconditionally" on the basis of the recommendation of the high school principal. Ends subject requirements for these students.
- 1920** Academic Senate reorganizes its four existing committees vested by The Regents to set admissions policy into one: the Board of Admissions. The Senate retains the Committee on Schools to accredit high schools. BOARS had wide authority to set admissions criteria and to oversee the activities of admissions officers.

- 1928** Prerequisite subject areas reestablished with a uniform requirement for all students seeking admission to the University.
- 1939** Academic Senate merges the functions of the Committee on Schools into the Board of Admissions, creating the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS).
- 1955** The Committee for the Restudy of the Needs of California in Higher Education estimates that the top one-fifth (20 percent) of public high school students are eligible for UC based on interviews with high school principals (no statistical analysis). This report also shows that by this time, UC recognized the principle of “admission by examination by permitting students who have completed all prescribed subjects with grades of C or better, but are deficient in scholarship average, to qualify by making at least average scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and on three achievement tests of the College Entrance Examination Board examination.”
- 1957** The *Study of the Need for Additional Centers of Public Higher Education in California* report finds 11.4 percent of California public high school graduates eligible for UC and 44 percent eligible for CSU. The study concludes that further raising standards for admission to restrict enrollment at UC would be counterproductive because “the qualities of leadership so important to success in business and the professions are not necessarily confined” to a smaller percentage of the high school graduating class.
- 1959** University requires SAT for all students from non-UC accredited schools and experimentally tests all freshmen.
- 1960** Master Plan for Higher Education proposes reduction in proportion of students eligible for UC to 12.5 percent and for CSU to 33.3 percent. (A 1959 study undertaken as part of the Master Plan process had indicated the University’s admissions requirements resulted in approximately the top 15 percent of public high school graduates being eligible for UC while about 50 percent of public high school graduates were eligible for CSU.)
- 1961** Master Plan’s Technical Committee on Selection and Retention of Students analyzes high school records of 15,600 students from the class of 1961 and finds 14.8 percent eligible for UC and 43.4 percent eligible for CSU.
- 1962** New UC admissions standards put in place to implement Master Plan reduction from 15 percent to 12.5 percent. Primarily these standards

eliminate alternative methods for becoming eligible, including a “highest 10 percent in class” path to admission.

- 1963** BOARS agrees to end UC accreditation of California high schools at the request of school officials and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- 1964** Applications for UC diverted from the Office of the President to the first choice campus of the applicant. BOARS grants significant powers to campus admissions officers to make individual decisions.
- 1965** Nation’s first “Educational Opportunity Program” established at Berkeley to help recruit and retain students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 1966** Coordinating Council for Higher Education (CCHE) analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1966 and finds 14.6 percent eligible for UC and 35.2 percent eligible for CSU.
- 1968** UC introduces a new policy that requires all freshman applicants to submit scores from the SAT and three Achievement tests (now called SAT II: Subject Tests): one in English composition, one in math, and one in social studies or foreign language. Applicants with ‘a-f’ GPAs of 3.1 or above are considered qualified while applicants with GPAs between 3.00 and 3.09 are required to have a minimum total test score of 2500 on the SAT and three Achievement tests.
- 1970** Legislature enacts statute on UC and CSU admission priorities that gives higher priority to community college transfers than to entering freshmen. UC tells legislature that its policies are designed to accommodate all “qualified” applicants, though not necessarily to “the campus of the applicant’s first preference.” UC adopts common date for accepting applications and procedures for redirecting applications to “campuses of alternate choice.”
- 1974** The goal of wide representation of Californians within the undergraduate population of the University leads to endorsement by the Academic Senate and formal approval by The Regents of the principle that “Undergraduate admissions of the University should reflect the general ethnic, sexual and economic composition of California high school graduates.”
- 1976** California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1975 and finds 14.8 percent eligible for UC and 35 percent eligible for CSU.
- 1979** Beginning with the Class of 1979, a sliding scale “Eligibility Index” based on ACT or SAT scores is introduced. The index requires a minimum ACT

or SAT test score for applicants with an 'a-f' GPA between 2.78 and 3.29. Although test scores are required of all students, no minimum test score is required for students with a GPA of 3.3 or higher.

**1983** By 1983 the University had increased the English subject requirement from three to four years. Additionally, the University revised the SAT II requirement to include one examination in writing, one in mathematics, and a third examination in an area of the applicant's choice: English literature, science, social studies, or language other than English.

**1983** CPEC analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1983 and finds 13.2 percent eligible for UC and 29.6 percent eligible for CSU. This finding incorporates a new definition that includes for the first time students who have met all of the course and GPA requirements but do not have a full test pattern. Of the 13.2 percent defined as "eligible," 7 percent meet the traditional definition of eligible and 6.2 percent are identified as "potentially" eligible although they have not taken one or more of the required exams.

**1986** CPEC analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1986 and, using the same definitions as in the 1983 study, finds 14.1 percent eligible for UC and 27.5 percent eligible for CSU. Of the 14.1 percent eligible for UC, 9.1 percent are "fully" eligible, and 5 percent are "potentially" eligible. The higher eligibility rate results exclusively from the increase in the proportion of graduates who are eligible and completed all of the admission test requirements. By 1986, the University introduced more rigorous course requirements: the Mathematics subject requirement was raised from two to three years, the number of approved electives was expanded from one to two years, and students were required to complete at least seven of the 15 mandatory courses in the final two years of high school.

*NOTE: CPEC Study reports prior to 1990 do not use the terms "fully" and "potentially" eligible to classify students. The categories are shown in 1986 as "Eligible with all requirements completed" and "Eligible but missing test results," respectively. In 1983, the categories were listed as "Eligible and admissible" vs. "Eligible but not directly admissible because of no test results."*

**1988** In May, The Regents, upon the recommendation of the University president and BOARS, adopt new UC policy on undergraduate admissions that formally articulates UC's "historic commitment to provide places within the University to all eligible applicants who are residents of California." It says that UC seeks to enroll a student body that "demonstrates high academic achievement or exceptional personal talent, and that encompasses the broad diversity of cultural, racial, geographic, and socioeconomic backgrounds characteristic of California." Policy directs each campus to develop procedures for selection from eligible

applicants that are consistent with these principles. Selection guidelines published by OP in July specify 40-60 percent of admitted students should be selected on the basis of “academic” criteria and remaining freshmen at each campus selected on the basis of a combination of “academic” and “supplemental” criteria. Guidelines also include provisions for those who cannot be accommodated (alternative major, deferred admission, community college alternative, and referral to another campus).

- 1990** CPEC analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1990 and finds 12.3 percent are “fully” eligible and 6.5 percent are “potentially” eligible. Given that the practice of working with students in the latter category to help them achieve full eligibility has been discontinued, CPEC acknowledges that the appropriate pool of graduates from which the University should be drawing its freshmen is the fully eligible pool, not the combination of the fully and potentially eligible pools. UC eligibility is thus determined to be 12.3 percent. To preserve comparability with the two reports issued in the 1980s using a different definition, CPEC coins the term “historical” eligibility rate to describe the 18.8 percent combined pool of fully and potentially eligible graduates.
- 1990** UC increases course requirements for laboratory science and history/social science, effective for students entering fall 1994.
- UC adopts new policy on admission by exception in response to Master Plan recommendation. Allows up to 6 percent to be admitted by exception to eligibility requirements (1989 Master Plan revision designated at least 4 percent for underrepresented minority students).
- 1992** The UC freshmen eligibility index revised to require students to achieve a minimum GPA of 2.82 instead of 2.78.
- 1996** CPEC analyzes high school transcripts from the graduating class of 1996 and finds 11.1 percent fully eligible for UC and 29.6 percent eligible for CSU. In addition, 9.4 percent are identified as “potentially” eligible for UC. Increases in the proportion of students who have completed the course pattern with acceptable grades but have not taken the necessary admission tests reflects changes made to CSU course requirements that bring them into alignment with UC requirements.
- 1996** New policy on undergraduate admission adopted to conform with SP-1. “Academic” admissions criteria to be used to admit 50 to 75 percent of each class and “supplemental” admissions criteria to be used in conjunction with the academic criteria to admit the remaining 25 to 50 percent of each entering class. Supplemental criteria altered to eliminate race and ethnicity.

- 1996** UC modifies policy on “admissions by exception” to conform with SP-1. Up to 6 percent of the admitted class may be admitted by exception, with up to 4 percent drawn from “disadvantaged students” and up to 2 percent from other students. Disadvantaged students defined as “students from low socioeconomic backgrounds or students having experienced limited educational opportunities.”
- 2000** Three changes made to UC’s eligibility requirements including the addition of one year of required coursework in the Visual and Performing Arts (effective for the fall 2003 entering freshmen class); adjustments to the Eligibility Index to include SAT II scores in the Index and to weigh them more heavily relative to the ACT/SAT I scores; and the adoption of the Eligibility in the Local Context policy, designed to bring UC’s eligibility rate back up to 12.5 percent by reaching out to very high achieving students from schools that may not traditionally have sent substantial numbers of applicants to UC.
- 2001** The Regents rescind SP-1 and reaffirm “that the Academic Senate shall determine the conditions for admission to the University, subject to the approval of The Regents, as provided in Standing Order 105.2. Pending any changes that The Regents might approve, the provisions for admission shall be those outlined in the Guidelines for Implementation of University Policy on Undergraduate Admissions, which were adopted in July 1996 and revised in May 2000.”
- 2001** Regents, upon recommendation of the faculty and the President, adopt “comprehensive review.” Comprehensive review changes the way in which campuses select their students from the UC-eligible pool, allowing all students to be considered on the basis of a single, comprehensive set of selection criteria.
- 2003** BOARS recommends and The Regents adopt new testing policy authorizing the use of new admissions tests under development by ACT Inc. and the College Board, together with three SAT II tests to be taken from different subject areas represented in the UC “a-g” requirements. Test scores to be weighted evenly relative to one another in the test score portion of the Eligibility Index.
- 2003** CPEC, with the assistance of UC and CSU, conducts an eligibility study on the class of 2003.