

## **Freshman Eligibility In The Local Context (ELC)**

On March 18, 1999, The Regents approved a new path to freshman eligibility as recommended by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and adopted by the Assembly of the Academic Senate on February 25, 1999.

The new path to freshman eligibility, Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) was designed to expand UC's eligibility pool beginning with the Class of 2001. The 1996 eligibility study by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) found that 11.1 percent of California public high school graduates satisfy UC eligibility criteria. The California Master Plan for Higher Education recommended, and the University adopted as policy, that UC select first-time freshmen from the top 12.5 percent of all graduates of California public high schools. ELC is a way of returning to the 12.5 percent figure. The new local-context path to eligibility was developed to bridge the gap and make approximately 3,600 high school students eligible while not displacing any other student from the eligibility pool.

ELC students must complete a specified pattern of required courses by the end of their junior year. Based on their grade point average (GPA) through their junior year, students in the top four percent of their graduating class are deemed UC Eligible in the Local Context. The program affirms that superior scholarship identified in every high school in the state is a basis for eligibility and the program fosters equal opportunity for students from all parts of California, regardless of their socio-economic background or the richness of educational opportunities available to them.

Students identified as UC Eligible in the Local Context must apply for admission, and their admission to UC is contingent on satisfactory completion of the course pattern and all tests required of other students eligible for UC.

The Office of the President is responsible for implementing ELC, with special efforts aimed at minimizing the additional workload for the high schools. It should be noted that the process for offering students a Dual Admissions Program (DAP) option is built into the process by which students are evaluated for the ELC program. To identify DAP-eligible students, high schools send up to 12.5 percent of their graduates' transcripts for UC review and classification. All students are simultaneously evaluated for ELC and DAP. Like the ELC program, DAP does not change existing admission paths to UC, including the traditional transfer path. The freshman or transfer paths continue to be available to all qualified students.