

## California Community College Transfer Policy and Enrollment

In 1960, UC and the California community colleges helped win approval for California's Master Plan for Higher Education. The Master Plan requires UC (and the California State University) to admit all eligible students from California's 109 community colleges through the transfer pathway.

Strengthening the transfer pathway is critical since over 400,000 new high school graduates will be ready to start postsecondary education in California by 2010. Although UC and the California State University will enroll many of these students, the vast majority will need to be accommodated at California community colleges.

In the late 1990s, UC pledged to increase by 50 percent the number of students that it enrolled to 15,500 students by 2005-06.<sup>1</sup> This was the first time in UC's history in which an explicit enrollment goal had been established for transfer students.

Since its public commitment in 1997 to increase the number of transfer students that reach its campuses, UC has met or is close to meeting all of its enrollment objectives:

- The University is on track to match the enrollment target of 15,300 transfer students by 2005-06.
- The growth rate in enrollment of students from California community colleges in the past five years is twice the historical UC growth rate for this group.

Students that transfer to UC from a California community college perform well academically. Compared to students who began as freshmen at UC, transfer students earn similar GPAs and complete their degrees in about the same amount of time. (For additional details, see *Community College Transfer Students at the University of California: 2002 Annual Report*.)

In September 2000, UC President Atkinson proposed the Dual Admissions Program (DAP). Under this plan, high school students in the top 4 percent to 12.5 percent of their class would be offered admission to a UC campus so long as they successfully completed their lower-division requirements at a California community college.

The University gives it highest transfer admissions priority to students who apply from California community colleges. Last year, nearly 90 percent of all transfer students enrolling at UC came from a California community college.

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<sup>1</sup> The University agreed to significantly increase transfer enrollment as part of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the California community colleges in 1997 and extended this commitment as part of its partnership agreement with the Governor in 2000.