UC's Commitment to Serve those who Have Served

UC currently enrolls more than 2,000 veteran and military status students – about 1,600 undergraduates and more than 400 professional and academic graduate students. UC San Diego and UC Irvine have the highest share of veteran students (19 and 17 percent, respectively), followed by UCLA, UC Davis and UC Berkeley (16 to 13 percent).

The undergraduate admission pipeline for many veterans is through the California Community College system.
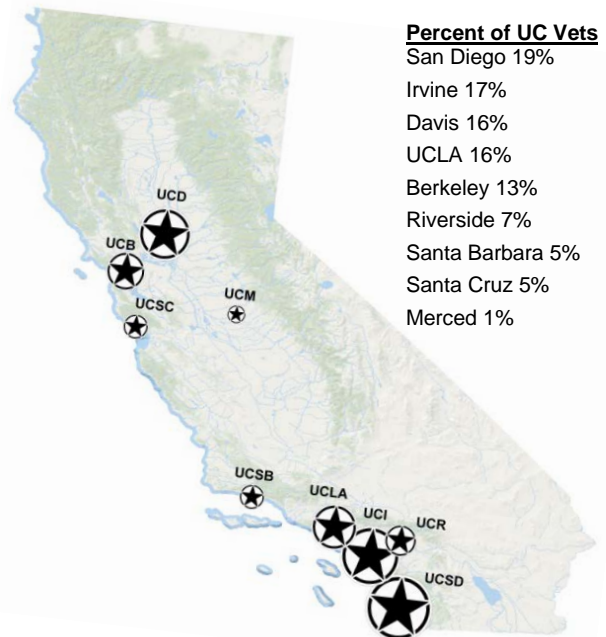
Over 60 percent of UC's veteran students for academic year 2013-14 were admitted as undergraduate transfers from California Community Colleges. In May 2014, UC President Janet Napolitano outlined a comprehensive strategy to streamline the transfer admission process, and assist veterans interested in attending UC as transfer students.

The transfer pathway initiative is a crucial means by which undergraduates, particularly those from low-income households and those who will be the first in their families to attend college, can gain access to the university.

This effort to simplify the information UC gives student about how to transfer, and to increase outreach at community colleges around the state, will enhance veteran students' access to a UC education.

The veteran student profile differs from the traditional UC student.

- Veteran students are typically male, 77 percent, compared to 47 percent for all undergraduates.

Percent of UC Vets
San Diego 19%
Irvine 17%
Davis 16%
UCLA 16%
Berkeley 13%
Riverside 7%
Santa Barbara 5%
Santa Cruz 5%
Merced 1%

- The racial/ethnic composition of veteran students is 34 percent Caucasian, 31 percent Asian and 24 percent Chicano/Latino. By comparison, among all undergraduates, 27 percent are Caucasian, 44 percent are Asian, and 17 percent are Chicano/Latino. About 12 percent are from other groups or of unknown race/ethnicity.

- The median age of an undergraduate veteran student for academic year 2013-14 is 28 years old. By comparison, among all undergraduates the median age is 21.

- The most popular majors for undergraduates are in Physical Science or Social Science disciplines. This is true for both veterans and non-veterans.