

**Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
Systemwide “Compare Favorably” Report for 2016
July 2017**

In June 2011, BOARS adopted a policy¹ that requires nonresident domestic and international students admitted to a UC campus to be at least as qualified, on average, as California residents admitted to the same campus. BOARS also established procedures² that ask the nine undergraduate campuses to report annually to BOARS on the extent to which they are meeting this “Compare Favorably” standard. Each year, to help it assess both campus and systemwide outcomes for the Compare Favorably policy, BOARS reviews detailed information about each campus’s admissions activities and outcomes along with data from the UC Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning.

The following is BOARS’ summary assessment of UC’s Compare Favorably outcomes for 2016. Also note that BOARS conducted a more comprehensive assessment of the policy this year in response to a request from President Napolitano, and BOARS’ report to her includes additional analyses related to the University’s efforts to monitor compliance.³

The table below summarizes systemwide data for average high school unweighted grade point average (GPA) and SAT score for California residents, domestic nonresidents, and international nonresidents admitted in fall 2016; average first-year UC GPA for students who enrolled in fall 2015; the persistence rate of UC students who completed the 2015-16 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2016; and the probation rate of students with a first year GPA below 2.0.

	Average High School GPA⁴	Average Total SAT Score	Average First Year UC GPA⁵	Persistence⁶	Probation Rate⁷
CA Residents	3.62	1815	3.07	93.8%	5.2%
Domestic Nonresidents	3.77	2036	3.22	91.4%	3.6%
International	3.71	1960	3.18	93.1%	5.2%

The data show that on a systemwide basis, average SAT score and average high school GPA are higher for admitted domestic and international nonresidents. Domestic nonresidents’ incoming GPAs are about 0.15 points higher than California residents, and nonresidents’ SAT scores exceed that of residents by over 200 points (international scores fall in the middle on both measures).

¹ http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/DS_MGY_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf

² http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/reports/RMA_MGYreBOARSresolutiononevalofresidents_non-residents_FINAL.pdf

³ <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/committees/boars/Compare-Favorably-Report-to-President-July-2017.pdf>

⁴ Academic indicator for students admitted for fall 2016. ACT equivalents are factored into this analysis for students who completed the ACT exam.

⁵ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2015.

⁶ Percent of students who completed the 2015-2016 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2016.

⁷ Refers to the percent of students at UC with a first-year GPA below 2.00.

BOARS also considers how well admitted students in each residency category perform at UC in terms of average first-year UC GPA and first-year rates of persistence and probation. Data from the 2015–16 academic year entering class indicate that domestic nonresidents and international students performed somewhat better academically at UC than California residents. Domestic nonresidents earned first-year UC GPAs of 3.22, compared to 3.18 for international students, and 3.07 for California residents. Data also show that domestic nonresidents have a lower academic probation rate (3.6 percent) than California residents (5.2 percent), and that the probation rate for international students is on par with Californians. However, California resident students, despite their slightly lower academic performance, were somewhat more likely to persist to a second year, which is not surprising given the additional financial, social, and logistical burdens faced by nonresident students.

The policy also requires individual UC campuses to meet the Compare Favorably standard. Appendix A of this report provides campus-by-campus information on average high school indicators and college outcomes by residency group.

The campus-specific data for 2016 show that campuses generally comply with the Compare Favorably policy, although there are anomalies that require additional discussion. International and domestic nonresidents entered UC with higher GPAs than California residents at six of the nine undergraduate campuses and with higher SAT scores than California residents at eight campuses.

The SAT results are compelling. Each of the eight campuses who are successfully meeting compare favorably has an average score difference of at least 53 points between residents and nonresidents, and in many cases the differences are much higher. These differences are not only statistically significant, but according to the College Board represent a substantive difference in test performance. BOARS recognizes that as limited and imperfect a measure as it is, the SAT is a standardized benchmark that allows direct comparison between California residents and students from other states and countries, which have differing standards for grading and coursework.

The GPA results are more nuanced. As BOARS notes in the report to President Napolitano, the campus-specific differences are often minor – some are as small as one or two one-hundredths of a point (0.01 and 0.02), trivial variances when one considers that the difference between the letter grade of “A” and “A-” is three-tenths of a point (0.3). Among the three campuses that do not meet the Compare Favorably standard for GPA in 2016, the largest difference between California residents and nonresidents is .07. BOARS does not wish to ignore such differences, but also does not wish to suggest that such differences express widespread or willful disregard of the policy. To a fair-minded judge, BOARS believes that such differences would be seen as measurement noise inherent in any metric used to measure human behavior and institutional accountability. Moreover, evaluating the grades of students from other states and countries can be particularly challenging because campuses lack the kind of detailed information about schools that they can bring to bear while assessing California residents.

Taking these data collectively, all but one UC campus meets one or both standards for the Compare Favorably policy. The degree of compliance across the University is very high, especially when one considers both the volume of applications received by the University, the extraordinary level of achievement presented by virtually all applicants, and the difficulty of

meeting the exacting Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive, internally-dynamic admissions process.

Variances do concern BOARS and suggest a need for further examination, although BOARS does not consider them *necessarily* to be violations of the Compare Favorably policy for several reasons. First, while a comparison of the average GPAs and test scores of admitted students can provide a first indication of whether a campus has met the policy, such narrow academic indicators are imperfect measures for the assessment, given the use of comprehensive review on all campuses, which requires campus admissions professionals to consider 14 factors in the broad assessment of merit they use to admit students. GPA and SAT are important components of this assessment, but are only two components, and as such they provide an incomplete picture. Furthermore, educational context also is a key component of comprehensive review, but admissions personnel do not, in general, have access to the same information about educational context for nonresident applicants that they have for California residents.

BOARS also recognizes difficulties in comparing students' outcomes after they matriculate to UC. Overall campus GPAs, while relevant, for example, do not take into account different grading standards across UC colleges and departments and any tendencies for international students to become over-represented in certain majors. Persistence rates are also a problematic comparative tool because they are influenced by factors other than the "quality" of the student, a problem particularly acute for international students who must try to succeed in school while adjusting to a new culture.

BOARS established the Compare Favorably policy to communicate a clear message to campuses about its expectation that nonresidents have stronger qualifications than residents. BOARS allows campuses to focus on aspects of the evaluation process they feel are most relevant to meeting the policy, and BOARS is confident that all campuses are making a concerted effort to do so. BOARS understands that campuses may establish enrollment targets for California residents and nonresidents based on major, capacity, space, state funding, and other considerations; however, enrollment targets do not preclude campuses from having to meet the Compare Favorably standard and BOARS expects these targets not to influence the quality or outcome of campus's Compare Favorably assessment. BOARS includes the attached tables to provide a transparent, objective, quantitative assessment of the policy. The data make clear to campuses what BOARS will measure and what steps, if any, they need to take to overcome any deficiencies and improve future outcomes. BOARS will be working with campuses on strategies for further refining their processes and ensuring a fair assessment.

The Compare Favorably policy provides flexibility for campuses while ensuring that the University's responsibility to California students remains paramount. BOARS states unequivocally its absolute commitment to maintaining admissions standards that favor California residents, to preserving access for Californians under the University's Master Plan obligation to state-funded residents, and to preserving the University's comprehensive review policy, which has served the state extraordinarily well in terms of access for low-income and first-generation California residents. As always, BOARS will continue to monitor campus compliance with this policy, report outcomes on an annual basis, and as data warrant, suggest adjustments to the policy that maximize fairness to residents and that enable UC to admit and enroll the most deserving, diverse, and academically strong group of students who can go on to thrive and succeed at UC.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Probation Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**

By Campus and Residency Status

Fall 2016 (updated on 2/22/2017)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2016		Enrolled Students in Fall 2016		
		Average High School GPA ²	Average Total Test Score ³	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ⁴	First Year Persistence Rate ⁵
Systemwide	C	3.62	1815	38,313		
	D	3.77	2036	3,194		
	F	3.71	1960	5,902		
Berkeley	C	3.89	2098	4,663		
	D	3.92	2221	870		
	F	3.90	2200	649		
Davis	C	3.82	1918	4,599		
	D	3.75	1981	290		
	F	3.75	1999	873		
Irvine	C	3.79	1910	4,857		
	D	3.80	1963	242		
	F	3.81	1939	1,452		
UCLA	C	3.89	2043	4,869		
	D	3.91	2174	940		
	F	3.90	2172	736		
Merced	C	3.40	1605	2,032		
	D	3.59	1835	3		
	F	3.55	1765	13		
Riverside	C	3.49	1732	5,176		
	D	3.54	1839	45		
	F	3.53	1785	137		
San Diego	C	3.85	2002	4,130		
	D	3.83	2093	414		
	F	3.83	2091	1,202		
Santa Barbara	C	3.76	1977	4,224		
	D	3.80	2063	224		
	F	3.83	2055	548		
Santa Cruz	C	3.61	1869	3,763		
	D	3.58	1885	166		
	F	3.56	1810	292		

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

Notes: 1. **Residency Status:** Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; F=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2016. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average Total SAT Score:** highest score of SAT Reasoning (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing) or ACT equivalent (Composite and English with Writing) of fall 2016 admits. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 4. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2016. 5. **Persistence Rate:** Percent students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2016 and were still enrolled in fall 2017. 6. **Probation Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Probation Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**

By Campus and Residency Status

Fall 2015 (updated on 2/22/2017)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2015		Enrolled Students in Fall 2015			
		Average High School GPA ²	Average Total Test Score ³	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ⁴	First Year Persistence Rate ⁵	Probation Rate ⁷
Systemwide	C	3.64	1847	32,630	3.07	93.8%	5.2%
	D	3.76	2020	3,467	3.22	91.4%	3.6%
	F	3.71	1960	5,459	3.18	93.1%	5.2%
Berkeley	C	3.90	2088	3,945	3.34	97.1%	2.2%
	D	3.92	2196	918	3.42	96.6%	2.0%
	F	3.89	2151	687	3.43	95.7%	2.0%
Davis	C	3.84	1939	4,071	3.01	93.5%	6.2%
	D	3.76	1964	346	2.92	87.5%	9.8%
	F	3.77	1992	952	3.11	92.4%	5.4%
Irvine	C	3.79	1904	4,272	2.95	92.9%	6.3%
	D	3.73	1922	289	2.93	86.1%	6.2%
	F	3.77	1918	1,195	2.87	91.5%	11.0%
UCLA	C	3.90	2052	4,086	3.27	97.8%	2.4%
	D	3.90	2145	956	3.33	94.2%	1.3%
	F	3.88	2167	636	3.45	95.9%	1.7%
Merced	C	3.43	1650	1,776	2.72	86.1%	14.8%
	D	3.61	1813	5	-- ⁶	--	--
	F	3.58	1798	7	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.52	1777	3,889	2.86	92.5%	9.5%
	D	3.54	1802	43	2.89	82.1%	11.6%
	F	3.56	1799	97	2.79	88.5%	10.3%
San Diego	C	3.87	2055	3,638	3.15	96.5%	2.7%
	D	3.83	2083	392	3.20	92.3%	3.3%
	F	3.81	2083	1,262	3.30	93.6%	2.5%
Santa Barbara	C	3.77	1965	3,841	3.07	92.9%	4.2%
	D	3.76	2015	298	3.16	84.9%	2.0%
	F	3.78	2029	335	3.23	93.1%	3.9%
Santa Cruz	C	3.66	1878	3,112	3.19	91.1%	3.4%
	D	3.52	1860	220	2.99	80.9%	7.3%
	F	3.54	1803	288	3.02	87.8%	6.9%

Notes: 1. **Residency Status:** Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; F=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2015. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average Total SAT Score:** highest score of SAT Reasoning (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing) or ACT equivalent (Composite and English with Writing) of fall 2015 admits. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 4. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2015. 5. **Persistence Rate:** Percent students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2015 and were still enrolled in fall 2016. 6. "--" means the number was not calculated due to small cell size. 7. **Probation Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Probation Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**

By Campus and Residency Status

Fall 2014 (Added Probation Rate on 1/26/2017)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2014		Enrolled Students in Fall 2014			
		Average High School GPA ²	Average Total Test Score ³	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ⁴	First Year Persistence Rate ⁵	Probation Rate ⁷
Systemwide	C	3.63	1834	33,824	3.04	93.3%	6.2%
	D	3.76	2016	3,129	3.19	91.2%	3.5%
	F	3.70	1946	4,615	3.19	92.3%	6.4%
Berkeley	C	3.89	2060	3,851	3.25	96.5%	3.3%
	D	3.92	2182	867	3.33	95.5%	2.0%
	F	3.87	2126	748	3.41	96.0%	2.7%
Davis	C	3.81	1941	4,498	2.99	92.8%	7.2%
	D	3.77	1984	282	2.93	89.3%	5.3%
	F	3.77	1977	597	3.03	91.9%	9.0%
Irvine	C	3.78	1887	4,407	2.92	93.9%	7.1%
	D	3.75	1913	200	2.82	83.9%	8.5%
	F	3.76	1899	828	2.89	91.2%	10.1%
UCLA	C	3.89	2050	4,143	3.26	97.4%	2.2%
	D	3.88	2129	920	3.31	94.1%	1.1%
	F	3.86	2161	701	3.45	93.8%	2.0%
Merced	C	3.40	1656	1,547	2.64	84.0%	15.4%
	D	3.55	1796	3	-- ⁶	--	--
	F	3.56	1774	1	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.50	1760	4,056	2.86	92.4%	11.8%
	D	3.57	1838	78	2.86	89.2%	14.1%
	F	3.54	1775	146	2.77	80.6%	24.0%
San Diego	C	3.86	2026	3,644	3.16	95.4%	2.9%
	D	3.83	2090	310	3.18	91.0%	3.9%
	F	3.80	2069	968	3.35	93.6%	4.2%
Santa Barbara	C	3.74	1948	4,153	3.09	93.0%	3.9%
	D	3.76	2016	245	3.20	89.0%	2.4%
	F	3.80	1987	340	3.34	93.8%	2.9%
Santa Cruz	C	3.60	1818	3,525	3.04	88.7%	7.5%
	D	3.51	1851	224	2.99	74.4%	8.9%
	F	3.49	1759	286	2.71	82.5%	12.9%

Notes: 1. **Residency Status:** Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; F=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2014. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average Total SAT Score:** highest score of SAT Reasoning (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing) or ACT equivalent (Composite and English with Writing) of fall 2014 admits. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 4. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2014. 5. **Persistence Rate:** Percent students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2014 and were still enrolled in fall 2015. 6. "--" means the number was not calculated due to small cell size. 7. **Probation Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
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By Campus and Residency Status

Fall 2013 (Added Probation Rate on 1/26/2017)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2013		Enrolled Students in Fall 2013			
		Average High School GPA ²	Average Total Test Score ³	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ⁴	First Year Persistence Rate ⁵	Probation Rate ⁷
Systemwide	C	3.61	1824	33,135	3.00	93.0%	6.7%
	D	3.76	1997	2,789	3.18	91.2%	3.2%
	F	3.71	1935	4,060	3.18	93.2%	5.6%
Berkeley	C	3.89	2062	3,091	3.29	96.2%	3.2%
	D	3.92	2165	767	3.40	96.6%	1.2%
	F	3.87	2126	848	3.36	95.3%	3.3%
Davis	C	3.81	1923	4,428	2.98	93.2%	6.1%
	D	3.79	1961	182	2.85	87.8%	7.7%
	F	3.78	1931	503	3.06	94.8%	6.2%
Irvine	C	3.76	1877	4,518	2.86	92.7%	7.5%
	D	3.76	1903	159	2.82	90.4%	9.4%
	F	3.75	1850	783	2.88	91.0%	10.0%
UCLA	C	3.89	2040	4,107	3.18	97.7%	2.9%
	D	3.87	2101	940	3.23	94.5%	1.7%
	F	3.85	2137	650	3.41	95.5%	2.9%
Merced	C	3.38	1650	1,651	2.61	82.7%	18.2%
	D	3.64	1808	1	-- ⁶	--	--
	F	3.47	1779	2	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.47	1736	4,084	2.76	90.3%	15.0%
	D	3.55	1790	28	2.72	70.4%	14.3%
	F	3.53	1760	89	2.56	83.1%	29.2%
San Diego	C	3.85	2008	4,072	3.12	96.0%	2.9%
	D	3.78	2016	349	3.00	85.1%	6.6%
	F	3.77	2031	807	3.24	92.5%	3.6%
Santa Barbara	C	3.73	1939	4,141	3.08	92.7%	4.0%
	D	3.73	1983	225	3.17	84.4%	1.3%
	F	3.78	1950	258	3.38	92.2%	1.6%
Santa Cruz	C	3.60	1818	3,043	3.02	89.7%	6.9%
	D	3.56	1847	138	3.07	75.2%	4.3%
	F	3.52	1775	120	2.85	86.7%	10.8%

Notes: 1. **Residency Status:** Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission. C=California Resident; D=Out-of-State Domestic; F=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2013. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average Total SAT Score:** highest score of SAT Reasoning (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing) or ACT equivalent (Composite and English with Writing) of fall 2013 admits. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 4. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2013. 5. **Persistence Rate:** Percent students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2013 and were still enrolled in fall 2014. 6. "--" means the number was not calculated due to small cell size. 7. **Probation Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.