

**Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)**  
**Systemwide “Compare Favorably” Report**  
**April 2014**

In June 2011, BOARS adopted a policy<sup>1</sup> that non-resident undergraduates admitted to a campus must compare favorably to the California residents admitted to that campus, and asked each campus to report annually to BOARS on the extent to which they are meeting the standard. The nine undergraduate campuses have submitted their 2013 nonresident “compare favorably” reports to BOARS. The reports indicate that all campuses have carefully analyzed their admissions and enrollment data, and that they are admitting nonresident students who compare favorably to residents.

In their responses, campuses reported applying a vigorous, methodical comprehensive review processes involving multiple reads of both their resident and nonresident applications. They endeavor to use the same process to select all freshman applicants, inclusive of California resident and nonresidents.

However, many of the reports noted the inherent difficulty of attempting to use quantitative, easily accessible but narrow academic indicators, such as high school grade point average or scores on standardized tests, to make a “compare favorably” determination, when admissions are based on the comprehensive review of each application. It is particularly difficult in the case of international applicants, for whom the campuses know relatively little about their local context, including their high school grading policy. Thus, some of the campuses looked not only at academic indicators of the applicants, but also the performance of the students once they enrolled at UC.

Campus reports also noted that the admit rate<sup>2</sup> is not a meaningful measure to assess whether nonresident admits compare favorably to residents. Admit rates provide no information about the strength of the various pools of applicants. Further, the yield<sup>3</sup> of admitted students differs substantially among the different residency categories, so proportionally more students must be admitted in a category with low yield (non-residents) than in a category with a high yield (residents) in order to achieve a specific enrollment target.

With the above limitations of simple metrics of quality acknowledged, a systemwide summary of the most recent data for both average academic indicators and UC grade point average is given in Table 1 for California resident, domestic nonresidents, and international students. These data clearly show that California resident admits have significantly lower high school grades and test scores than nonresident admits, and that their performance in their first year at UC is also below that of the nonresidents who enroll at one of the campuses. The lower persistence rate among domestic nonresidents does not appear to be related to academic issues, nor does it appear to be related to the academic qualifications of these students available on their applications, but is of some concern and should be monitored in the future.

	Average High School GPA <sup>4</sup>	Average Total SAT Score <sup>4</sup>	Average First Year UC GPA <sup>5</sup>	Persistence <sup>6</sup>
CA Residents	3.61	1822	2.99	92.9%
Domestic Nonresidents	3.76	1997	3.17	88.6%
International	3.71	1927	3.16	91.1%

BOARS established the compare favorably reporting procedure to ensure that campuses meet the standard as they admit and enroll nonresident students. BOARS is satisfied that campuses are meeting the compare favorably standard, but will continue to monitor campus practices and outcomes to ensure that campuses continue to do so.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/DS\\_MGY\\_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/DS_MGY_LPBOARSNRPrinciple6.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Admit rate is the number of admits divided by the number of applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Yield is the percentage of students who accept an offer of admission

<sup>4</sup> Academic indicators for students admitted for fall 2013.

<sup>5</sup> UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Percent of students who completed the 2012-2013 academic year and enrolled in fall 2013.