

**Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
Systemwide “Compare Favorably” Report for 2024
July 2025**

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 Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs, and the Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning.

The following is BOARS’ summary assessment of UC’s Compare Favorably outcomes for 2024. Also note that BOARS conducted a more comprehensive assessment of the policy eight years ago in response to a request from then-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) for California residents, domestic nonresidents, and international nonresidents admitted for fall 2024; average first-year UC GPA for students who first enrolled in fall 2023; the persistence rate of UC students who completed the 2023–24 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2024; and the academic notice rate of fall 2023 entering students with a UC first-year GPA below 2.0.

	Average High School GPA⁴	Average First-Year UC GPA⁵	Persistence Rate⁶	Academic Notice Rate⁷
CA Residents	3.70	3.27	92.9%	5.2%
Domestic Nonresidents	3.83	3.52	91.4%	1.8%
International	3.78	3.47	91.3%	3.1%

The data show that on a systemwide basis, average high school GPAs are higher for admitted domestic and international nonresidents. The GPAs for incoming domestic nonresidents were about 0.13 points higher than California residents and GPAs for incoming international nonresidents were 0.08 points higher than California residents.

BOARS also considers how well enrolled students in each residency category perform at UC in terms of average first-year UC GPA and first-year rates of persistence and academic notice. Data from the fall 2023 entering class indicate that domestic nonresidents and international students performed somewhat better academically in their first year at UC compared to California

¹ https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/BOARS-NR-Principles-June-2011.pdf

² https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/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 2024.

⁵ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2023.

⁶ Percent of students who completed the 2023–24 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2024.

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

residents. California residents earned average first-year UC GPAs of 3.27, compared to 3.47 for international students, and 3.52 for domestic nonresidents. Data also show that domestic nonresidents and international students have lower academic notice rates (1.8 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively) than California residents (5.2 percent). However, California resident students, despite their slightly lower academic performance, were slightly more likely to persist to a second year than nonresident students, 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. The appendix of this report provides campus-by-campus information on average high school indicators and college outcomes by residency group.

The campus-specific data for 2024 show that campuses generally comply with the Compare Favorably policy. The high school GPA results varied by campus, with nonresident domestic students and international students admitted with higher mean GPAs than California residents at seven campuses.

The GPA results are nuanced. As BOARS noted in its detailed 2017 report to then President Napolitano,⁸ the campus-specific differences are often minor. Among the two campuses that do not completely meet the Compare Favorably standard for GPA in 2024, the largest difference between California residents and domestic or international nonresidents is 0.15 at the Santa Cruz campus for international admits. While BOARS does not wish to ignore such differences it also does not wish to suggest that such differences express widespread or willful disregard of the policy. Holistic evaluation of applications including the grades of students from other states and countries can be particularly challenging because campuses lack the detailed, contextual information about school environments and curricula that they can bring to bear while assessing California residents. Since grading standards can vary markedly across states and internationally, it is difficult to judge whether small differences are meaningful.

Taking these data collectively, all but two UC undergraduate campuses meet one or both standards for the Compare Favorably policy. The degree of compliance across the University is very high, especially when one considers the volume of applications received by the University, the extraordinary level of achievement presented by virtually all applicants, and the challenges of applying the complex Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive, Comprehensive Review-based admissions process.

While variances do concern BOARS and suggest a need for further examination, although BOARS does not necessarily consider them to be violations of the Compare Favorably policy for several reasons. First, while a comparison of the average GPAs 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 multiple factors in addition to GPA in the broad assessment of merit they use to admit students. Though GPA is an important component of this assessment, student GPA in isolation provides an incomplete picture of an applicant's strengths and preparedness. Furthermore, educational context is also a key component of comprehensive review, but admissions personnel do not, in general, have access to the same

⁸ https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/Compare-Favorably-Report-to-President-July-2017.pdf

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. For example, overall campus GPAs, while relevant, do not account for different grading standards across UC colleges and departments, nor for any tendencies for domestic non-residents and international students to be concentrated in certain majors. Persistence rates are also a problematic comparative tool because they are influenced by multiple factors in addition to the "quality" of the student. Persistence is a particularly acute consideration for international students who often need to adjust to a new culture and educational environment.

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, 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 a 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 deficiencies and improve future outcomes. BOARS will work 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 Academic Notice Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**
By Campus and Residency Status Fall 2024
(updated on 6/5/2025)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2024	Enrolled Students in Fall 2024			
		High School GPA ²	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ³	First Year Persistence Rate ⁴	Academic Notice Rate ⁵
		Average				
Systemwide	C	3.70	41,696	DATA NOT AVAILABLE		
	D	3.83	4,130			
	I	3.78	4,796			
Berkeley	C	3.92	5,247			
	D	3.94	643			
	I	3.94	382			
Davis	C	3.86	5,332			
	D	3.87	367			
	I	3.89	1,068			
Irvine	C	3.88	4,992			
	D	3.90	595			
	I	3.89	1,149			
UCLA	C	3.94	5,250			
	D	3.97	866			
	I	3.97	494			
Merced	C	3.50	2,058			
	D	3.61	13			
	I	3.60	22			
Riverside	C	3.65	5,133			
	D	3.60	92			
	I	3.59	197			
San Diego	C	3.89	5,642			
	D	3.93	869			
	I	3.94	820			
Santa Barbara	C	3.91	4,100			
	D	3.93	455			
	I	3.93	453			
Santa Cruz	C	3.77	3,942			
	D	3.74	230			
	I	3.62	211			

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; I=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2024. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2024. 4. **Persistence Rate:** Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2024 and were still enrolled in fall 2025. 5. **Academic Notice Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00. 6. '-' means the number was not calculated due to small cell size.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Academic Notice Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**
By Campus and Residency Status Fall 2023
(updated on 6/5/2025)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2023	Enrolled Students in Fall 2023			
		High School GPA ²	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ³	First Year Persistence Rate ⁴	Academic Notice Rate ⁵
		Average				
Systemwide	C	3.73	41,903	3.27	92.9%	5.2%
	D	3.85	4,477	3.52	91.4%	1.8%
	I	3.81	4,586	3.47	91.3%	3.1%
Berkeley	C	3.92	5,289	3.41	97.1%	2.8%
	D	3.94	737	3.56	94.4%	1.6%
	I	3.94	615	3.60	95.9%	1.3%
Davis	C	3.88	5,194	3.20	92.9%	3.9%
	D	3.88	413	3.28	89.8%	2.7%
	I	3.89	970	3.34	91.9%	3.5%
Irvine	C	3.89	5,172	3.34	94.8%	3.1%
	D	3.92	684	3.43	90.1%	1.9%
	I	3.93	940	3.44	92.0%	3.3%
UCLA	C	3.94	5,210	3.54	98.1%	1.3%
	D	3.97	922	3.69	96.2%	0.5%
	I	3.97	453	3.72	90.9%	0.2%
Merced	C	3.54	2,401	2.78	81.9%	17.0%
	D	3.67	8	-- ⁶	--	--
	I	3.66	7	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.72	5,162	2.92	87.9%	13.2%
	D	3.64	101	2.73	73.3%	14.9%
	I	3.60	258	2.79	82.6%	13.6%
San Diego	C	3.90	5,499	3.27	94.5%	4.8%
	D	3.94	827	3.61	91.8%	1.2%
	I	3.95	679	3.59	92.9%	1.9%
Santa Barbara	C	3.90	4,029	3.42	93.6%	1.7%
	D	3.93	470	3.61	91.1%	0.6%
	I	3.92	545	3.58	87.3%	2.2%
Santa Cruz	C	3.76	3,947	3.35	88.2%	4.4%
	D	3.75	315	3.37	81.6%	2.9%
	I	3.72	119	3.39	87.4%	5.0%

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; I=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2023. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2023. 4. **Persistence Rate:** Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2023 and were still enrolled in fall 2024. 5. **Academic Notice Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00. 6. '--' means the number was not calculated due to small cell size.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Academic Notice Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**
By Campus and Residency Status Fall 2022
(updated on 5/28/2024)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2022	Enrolled Students in Fall 2022			
		High School GPA ²	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ³	First Year Persistence Rate ⁴	Academic Notice Rate ⁵
		Average				
Systemwide	C	3.73	39,709	3.28	93.1%	5.1%
	D	3.87	4,422	3.49	91.2%	2.0%
	I	3.80	4,457	3.45	91.3%	3.5%
Berkeley	C	3.92	5,232	3.43	96.9%	2.5%
	D	3.95	820	3.56	95.6%	1.3%
	I	3.94	674	3.57	96.3%	1.8%
Davis	C	3.90	4,794	3.25	94.3%	3.1%
	D	3.87	540	3.20	87.4%	3.9%
	I	3.87	1,065	3.34	91.5%	3.8%
Irvine	C	3.89	4,592	3.30	94.6%	3.5%
	D	3.93	474	3.44	91.1%	1.7%
	I	3.91	598	3.43	89.6%	2.8%
UCLA	C	3.95	4,980	3.52	97.0%	1.8%
	D	3.97	1,028	3.65	95.7%	0.6%
	I	3.96	454	3.68	95.8%	0.9%
Merced	C	3.54	2,378	2.86	82.7%	13.9%
	D	3.69	4	-- ⁶	--	--
	I	3.64	10	3.20	90.0%	0.0%
Riverside	C	3.73	5,162	2.96	88.8%	12.1%
	D	3.64	104	2.85	76.9%	13.5%
	I	3.56	307	2.69	76.5%	19.9%
San Diego	C	3.89	5,281	3.25	94.2%	5.5%
	D	3.96	664	3.56	91.6%	0.9%
	I	3.95	602	3.62	93.2%	0.8%
Santa Barbara	C	3.89	3,857	3.37	92.6%	3.0%
	D	3.94	513	3.54	88.7%	1.8%
	I	3.93	596	3.60	89.1%	1.8%
Santa Cruz	C	3.81	3,433	3.38	90.3%	3.5%
	D	3.78	275	3.38	78.2%	5.1%
	I	3.72	151	3.45	92.7%	4.0%

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; I=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2022. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2022. 4. **Persistence Rate:** Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2022 and were still enrolled in fall 2023. 5. **Academic Notice Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00. 6. '--' means the number was not calculated due to small cell size.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Academic Notice Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**
By Campus and Residency Status Fall 2021
(updated on 5/16/2022)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2021	Enrolled Students in Fall 2021			
		High School GPA ²	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ³	First Year Persistence Rate ⁴	Academic Notice Rate ⁵
		Average				
Systemwide	C	3.68	39,648	3.24	92.0%	6.1%
	D	3.80	6,071	3.42	90.4%	3.1%
	I	3.75	6,008	3.41	92.0%	3.7%
Berkeley	C	3.90	4,875	3.36	96.0%	3.2%
	D	3.92	1,160	3.50	95.4%	1.5%
	I	3.92	896	3.54	95.4%	1.2%
Davis	C	3.86	5,562	3.19	92.5%	4.9%
	D	3.75	499	2.97	85.2%	10.2%
	I	3.77	1,421	3.15	90.9%	6.1%
Irvine	C	3.86	4,601	3.17	92.3%	6.9%
	D	3.80	971	3.23	86.4%	5.3%
	I	3.86	917	3.37	91.2%	3.7%
UCLA	C	3.94	4,545	3.59	97.0%	1.5%
	D	3.96	1,354	3.70	95.1%	0.6%
	I	3.96	685	3.72	95.5%	0.1%
Merced	C	3.45	2,397	2.74	81.7%	17.6%
	D	3.65	5	-- ⁶	--	--
	I	3.61	8	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.65	4,987	2.95	87.2%	12.4%
	D	3.58	51	2.76	76.5%	17.6%
	I	3.54	165	2.56	78.2%	25.5%
San Diego	C	3.90	5,199	3.30	94.3%	4.5%
	D	3.87	1,235	3.41	88.8%	2.8%
	I	3.90	1,109	3.51	93.7%	2.2%
Santa Barbara	C	3.88	3,678	3.35	92.7%	3.2%
	D	3.91	566	3.49	92.0%	0.7%
	I	3.91	654	3.57	89.9%	1.7%
Santa Cruz	C	3.75	3,804	3.30	88.7%	5.5%
	D	3.70	230	3.25	72.6%	6.5%
	I	3.63	153	3.26	85.6%	7.8%

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; I=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2021. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average First Year UC GPA:** UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2021. 4. **Persistence Rate:** Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2021 and were still enrolled in fall 2022. 5. **Academic Notice Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00. 6. '--' means the number was not calculated due to small cell size.

**High School GPA and Test Score of UC Freshman Admits &
First Year UC GPA, Persistence Rate, and Academic Notice Rate of Enrolled Freshman Students**
By Campus and Residency Status Fall 2020
(updated on 4/26/2022)

Campus	Residency Status ¹	Freshman Admits in Fall 2020		Enrolled Students in Fall 2020			
		Average High School GPA ²	Average Total Test Score ³	Enrollment	Average First Year UC GPA ⁴	First Year Persistence Rate ⁵	Academic Notice Rate ⁷
Systemwide	C	3.66	1264	37,972	3.36	92.5%	4.8%
	D	3.80	1405	3,648	3.57	93.1%	2.1%
	I	3.75	1393	5,089	3.48	88.8%	3.9%
Berkeley	C	3.90	1404	4,530	3.50	96.1%	2.6%
	D	3.93	1489	867	3.68	97.1%	0.7%
	I	3.92	1495	720	3.70	93.6%	1.3%
Davis	C	3.85	1337	4,790	3.25	91.6%	4.7%
	D	3.77	1375	276	3.15	86.2%	5.8%
	I	3.78	1397	1,078	3.28	86.5%	6.0%
Irvine	C	3.84	1374	4,523	3.36	95.1%	3.1%
	D	3.83	1398	263	3.36	85.6%	4.2%
	I	3.86	1414	979	3.39	87.9%	4.6%
UCLA	C	3.93	1424	4,789	3.66	97.6%	1.7%
	D	3.94	1490	1,117	3.75	96.2%	0.9%
	I	3.95	1502	480	3.78	91.9%	0.4%
Merced	C	3.45	1127	1,941	2.97	78.5%	12.9%
	D	3.66	1278	6	-- ⁶	--	--
	I	3.61	1292	4	--	--	--
Riverside	C	3.60	1249	4,703	3.05	88.3%	10.4%
	D	3.59	1279	26	2.74	69.2%	23.1%
	I	3.56	1295	128	2.78	78.1%	18.8%
San Diego	C	3.88	1397	4,753	3.47	95.8%	3.0%
	D	3.85	1442	586	3.54	94.0%	1.7%
	I	3.86	1458	1,110	3.55	91.6%	2.8%
Santa Barbara	C	3.85	1384	4,014	3.40	92.1%	4.2%
	D	3.83	1420	406	3.46	88.4%	2.5%
	I	3.87	1466	427	3.52	83.8%	3.3%
Santa Cruz	C	3.67	1305	3,929	3.30	89.1%	5.7%
	D	3.65	1324	101	3.21	82.2%	8.9%
	I	3.59	1325	163	3.27	80.4%	5.5%

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; I=International. 2. **Average High School GPA:** Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2020. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus. 3. **Average Total Test Score:** Highest score of SAT Reasoning (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing), (new) SAT with Essay (Evidence Based Reading and Writing, Math) or ACT equivalent (Composite) of fall 2020 admits, using the new SAT scale. 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 2020. 5. **Persistence Rate:** Percent students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2020 and were still enrolled in fall 2021. 6. '--' means the number was not calculated due to small cell size. 7. **Academic Notice Rate:** % Students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.