



BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS) SYSTEMWIDE “COMPARE FAVORABLY” REPORT FOR 2025 JUNE 2026

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 admissions activities and outcomes for each campus 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 2025. Also note that BOARS conducted a more comprehensive assessment of the policy in 2017 and issued a report that includes additional analyses related to the University’s efforts to monitor compliance.³

Table 1 summarizes systemwide data for average high school unweighted grade point average (GPA) for California residents, domestic nonresidents, and international nonresidents admitted for fall 2025; average first-year UC GPA for students who first enrolled in fall 2024; the persistence rate of UC students who completed the 2024–25 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2025; and the academic notice rate of fall 2024 entering students with a UC first-year GPA below 2.0.

TABLE 1: ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF UC FRESHMAN ADMITS & ENROLLED FRESHMAN STUDENTS BY RESIDENCY STATUS

	Average High School GPA⁴	Average First-Year UC GPA⁵	Persistence Rate⁶	Academic Notice Rate⁷
California Residents	3.67	3.30	93.7%	4.7%
Domestic Nonresidents	3.83	3.53	90.4%	1.8%
International	3.79	3.45	90.3%	4.2%

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

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https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/RMA_MGYreBOARSresolutiononevalofresidents_non-residents_FINAL.pdf

³ https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/Compare-Favorably-Report-to-President-July-2017.pdf

⁴ Academic indicator for students admitted for fall 2025.

⁵ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2024.

⁶ Percent of students who completed the 2024–25 academic year and re-enrolled in fall 2025.

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

The data show that on a systemwide basis, average high school GPAs are higher for admitted domestic and international nonresidents. GPAs for incoming domestic nonresidents and international nonresidents were about 0.16 and 0.12 points higher, respectively, 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 2024 entering class indicate that, on average, domestic nonresidents and international students performed somewhat better academically in their first year at UC compared to California residents. California residents earned average first-year UC GPAs of 3.30, compared to 3.45 for international students, and 3.53 for domestic nonresidents. Data also show that domestic nonresidents and international students have lower academic notice rates (1.8 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively) than California residents (4.7 percent). However, California resident students, despite their slightly lower academic performance, were somewhat more likely to persist to a second year than nonresident students.

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

The campus-specific data for 2025 show that campuses generally comply with the Compare Favorably policy based solely on the quantitative metrics. High school GPA results varied by campus, with nonresident domestic students and international students admitted with higher mean GPAs than California residents at five campuses and one campus with only international students admitted with higher mean GPAs.

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 four campuses that do not completely meet the Compare Favorably standard for GPA in 2025, the largest difference between California residents and domestic or international nonresidents is 0.05 at the Santa Cruz campus for international admits. Six 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 Compare Favorably standard within the context of a competitive, Comprehensive Review-based admissions process.

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. Also, 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

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

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. Although GPA is an important component of this assessment, high school GPA in isolation provides an incomplete picture of an applicant's strengths and preparedness. Lastly, educational context 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 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 an academically strong and deserving group of students who can go on to thrive and succeed at UC.

Appendix: Campus-level Data on Average High School Indicators and College Outcomes, by Residency

Table A: Academic Indicators of UC Freshman Admits & Enrolled Freshman Students, by Campus & Residency Status, Fall 2025⁹

Campus & Residency Status¹⁰	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA¹¹	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA¹²	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate¹³	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate¹⁴
Systemwide California Residents	3.67	41,990	N/A	N/A	N/A
Systemwide Out-of-State Domestic	3.83	4,753	N/A	N/A	N/A
Systemwide International	3.79	5,866	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berkeley California Residents	3.92	4,996	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berkeley Out-of-State Domestic	3.94	926	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berkeley International	3.93	765	N/A	N/A	N/A
Davis California Residents	3.87	5,455	N/A	N/A	N/A
Davis Out-of-State Domestic	3.84	398	N/A	N/A	N/A
Davis International	3.88	952	N/A	N/A	N/A
Irvine California Residents	3.89	4,873	N/A	N/A	N/A
Irvine Out-of-State Domestic	3.91	454	N/A	N/A	N/A
Irvine International	3.90	1,096	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles California Residents	3.94	4,967	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles Out-of-State Domestic	3.97	1,017	N/A	N/A	N/A
Los Angeles International	3.98	567	N/A	N/A	N/A
Merced California Residents	3.58	1,945	N/A	N/A	N/A

⁹ Data as of 5/7/2026

¹⁰ Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission.

¹¹ Average High School GPA: Unweighted high school GPA of students admitted in fall 2025. There are statistically significant differences by residency at the 1% level, systemwide and for each campus.

¹² UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2025.

¹³ Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2025 and were still enrolled in fall 2026.

¹⁴ Percent of students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

Campus & Residency Status¹⁰	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA¹¹	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA¹²	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate¹³	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate¹⁴
Merced Out-of-State Domestic	3.62	14	N/A	N/A	N/A
Merced International	3.62	23	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside California Residents	3.64	6,387	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside Out-of-State Domestic	3.61	78	N/A	N/A	N/A
Riverside International	3.60	217	N/A	N/A	N/A
San Diego California Residents	3.91	5,418	N/A	N/A	N/A
San Diego Out-of-State Domestic	3.92	948	N/A	N/A	N/A
San Diego International	3.92	1,435	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara California Residents	3.91	3,767	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara Out-of-State Domestic	3.89	676	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara International	3.91	638	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Cruz California Residents	3.75	4,182	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Cruz Out-of-State Domestic	3.72	242	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Cruz International	3.70	173	N/A	N/A	N/A

TABLE B: ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF UC FRESHMAN ADMITS & ENROLLED FRESHMAN STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS AND RESIDENCY STATUS, FALL 2024¹⁵

Campus & Residency Status¹⁶	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA¹⁷	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA¹⁸	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate¹⁹	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate²⁰
Systemwide California Residents	3.70	41,696	3.30	93.7%	4.7%
Systemwide Out-of-State Domestic	3.83	4,130	3.53	90.4%	1.8%
Systemwide International	3.78	4,796	3.45	90.3%	4.2%
Berkeley California Residents	3.92	5,247	3.48	97.6%	1.9%
Berkeley Out-of-State Domestic	3.94	643	3.57	94.1%	1.6%
Berkeley International	3.94	382	3.60	94.0%	2.6%
Davis California Residents	3.86	5,332	3.16	93.6%	4.4%
Davis Out-of-State Domestic	3.87	367	3.27	88.0%	3.8%
Davis International	3.89	1,068	3.35	89.6%	4.3%
Irvine California Residents	3.88	4,992	3.36	94.7%	2.8%
Irvine Out-of-State Domestic	3.90	595	3.46	88.7%	1.8%
Irvine International	3.89	1,149	3.39	88.8%	5.4%
Los Angeles California Residents	3.94	5,250	3.53	97.9%	1.5%
Los Angeles Out-of-State Domestic	3.97	866	3.68	94.3%	0.8%
Los Angeles International	3.97	494	3.71	92.9%	1.0%
Merced California Residents	3.50	2,058	2.80	85.0%	16.1%
Merced Out-of-State Domestic	3.61	13	3.25	84.6%	0.0%
Merced International	3.60	22	2.89	81.8%	18.2%

¹⁵ Data as of 5/7/2026

¹⁶ Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2024.

¹⁹ Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2024 and were still enrolled in fall 2025.

²⁰ Percent of students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

Campus & Residency Status¹⁶	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA¹⁷	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA¹⁸	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate¹⁹	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate²⁰
Riverside California Residents	3.65	5,133	2.91	88.4%	13.1%
Riverside Out-of-State Domestic	3.60	92	2.87	73.9%	17.4%
Riverside International	3.59	197	2.81	80.7%	19.3%
San Diego California Residents	3.89	5,642	3.30	95.3%	4.1%
San Diego Out-of-State Domestic	3.93	869	3.59	92.5%	0.6%
San Diego International	3.94	820	3.58	92.9%	2.1%
Santa Barbara California Residents	3.91	4,100	3.46	94.5%	1.3%
Santa Barbara Out-of-State Domestic	3.93	455	3.60	86.8%	0.4%
Santa Barbara International	3.93	453	3.52	89.2%	2.0%
Santa Cruz California Residents	3.77	3,942	3.40	90.3%	3.2%
Santa Cruz Out-of-State Domestic	3.74	230	3.38	79.1%	4.8%
Santa Cruz International	3.62	211	3.42	92.4%	5.2%

TABLE C: ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF UC FRESHMAN ADMITS & ENROLLED FRESHMAN STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS AND RESIDENCY STATUS, FALL 2023²¹

Campus & Residency Status²²	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA²³	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA²⁴	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate²⁵	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate²⁶
Systemwide California Residents	3.73	41,903	3.27	92.9%	5.2%
Systemwide Out-of-State Domestic	3.85	4,477	3.52	91.4%	1.8%
Systemwide International	3.81	4,586	3.47	91.3%	3.1%
Berkeley California Residents	3.92	5,289	3.41	97.1%	2.8%
Berkeley Out-of-State Domestic	3.94	737	3.56	94.4%	1.6%
Berkeley International	3.94	615	3.60	95.9%	1.3%
Davis California Residents	3.88	5,194	3.20	92.9%	3.9%
Davis Out-of-State Domestic	3.88	413	3.28	89.8%	2.7%
Davis International	3.89	970	3.34	91.9%	3.5%
Irvine California Residents	3.89	5,172	3.34	94.8%	3.1%
Irvine Out-of-State Domestic	3.92	684	3.43	90.1%	1.9%
Irvine International	3.93	940	3.44	92.0%	3.3%
Los Angeles California Residents	3.94	5,210	3.54	98.1%	1.3%
Los Angeles Out-of-State Domestic	3.97	922	3.69	96.2%	0.5%
Los Angeles International	3.97	453	3.72	90.9%	0.2%
Merced California Residents	3.54	2,401	2.78	81.9%	17.0%
Merced Out-of-State Domestic	3.67	8	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
Merced International	3.66	7	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted

²¹ Data as of 6/5/2025

²² Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission.

²³ 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.

²⁴ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2023.

²⁵ Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2023 and were still enrolled in fall 2024.

²⁶ Percent of students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

Campus & Residency Status²²	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA²³	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA²⁴	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate²⁵	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate²⁶
Riverside California Residents	3.72	5,162	2.92	87.9%	13.2%
Riverside Out-of-State Domestic	3.64	101	2.73	73.3%	14.9%
Riverside International	3.60	258	2.79	82.6%	13.6%
San Diego California Residents	3.90	5,499	3.27	94.5%	4.8%
San Diego Out-of-State Domestic	3.94	827	3.61	91.8%	1.2%
San Diego International	3.95	679	3.59	92.9%	1.9%
Santa Barbara California Residents	3.90	4,029	3.42	93.6%	1.7%
Santa Barbara Out-of-State Domestic	3.93	470	3.61	91.1%	0.6%
Santa Barbara International	3.92	545	3.58	87.3%	2.2%
Santa Cruz California Residents	3.76	3,947	3.35	88.2%	4.4%
Santa Cruz Out-of-State Domestic	3.75	315	3.37	81.6%	2.9%
Santa Cruz International	3.72	119	3.39	87.4%	5.0%

TABLE D: ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF UC FRESHMAN ADMITS & ENROLLED FRESHMAN STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS AND RESIDENCY STATUS, FALL 2022²⁷

Campus & Residency Status²⁸	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA²⁹	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA³⁰	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate³¹	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate³²
Systemwide California Residents	3.73	39,709	3.28	93.1%	5.1%
Systemwide Out-of-State Domestic	3.87	4,422	3.49	91.2%	2.0%
Systemwide International	3.80	4,457	3.45	91.3%	3.5%
Berkeley California Residents	3.92	5,232	3.43	96.9%	2.5%
Berkeley Out-of-State Domestic	3.95	820	3.56	95.6%	1.3%
Berkeley International	3.94	674	3.57	96.3%	1.8%
Davis California Residents	3.90	4,794	3.25	94.3%	3.1%
Davis Out-of-State Domestic	3.87	540	3.20	87.4%	3.9%
Davis International	3.87	1,065	3.34	91.5%	3.8%
Irvine California Residents	3.89	4,592	3.30	94.6%	3.5%
Irvine Out-of-State Domestic	3.93	474	3.44	91.1%	1.7%
Irvine International	3.91	598	3.43	89.6%	2.8%
Los Angeles California Residents	3.95	4,980	3.52	97.0%	1.8%
Los Angeles Out-of-State Domestic	3.97	1,028	3.65	95.7%	0.6%
Los Angeles International	3.96	454	3.68	95.8%	0.9%
Merced California Residents	3.54	2,378	2.86	82.7%	13.9%
Merced Out-of-State Domestic	3.69	4	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
Merced International	3.64	10	3.20	90.0%	0.0%

²⁷ Data as of 5/28/2024

²⁸ Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2022.

³¹ Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2022 and were still enrolled in fall 2023.

³² Percent of students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

Campus & Residency Status²⁸	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA²⁹	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA³⁰	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate³¹	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate³²
Riverside California Residents	3.73	5,162	2.96	88.8%	12.1%
Riverside Out-of-State Domestic	3.64	104	2.85	76.9%	13.5%
Riverside International	3.56	307	2.69	76.5%	19.9%
San Diego California Residents	3.89	5,281	3.25	94.2%	5.5%
San Diego Out-of-State Domestic	3.96	664	3.56	91.6%	0.9%
San Diego International	3.95	602	3.62	93.2%	0.8%
Santa Barbara California Residents	3.89	3,857	3.37	92.6%	3.0%
Santa Barbara Out-of-State Domestic	3.94	513	3.54	88.7%	1.8%
Santa Barbara International	3.93	596	3.60	89.1%	1.8%
Santa Cruz California Residents	3.81	3,433	3.38	90.3%	3.5%
Santa Cruz Out-of-State Domestic	3.78	275	3.38	78.2%	5.1%
Santa Cruz International	3.72	151	3.45	92.7%	4.0%

TABLE E: ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF UC FRESHMAN ADMITS & ENROLLED FRESHMAN STUDENTS, BY CAMPUS AND RESIDENCY STATUS, FALL 2021³³

Campus & Residency Status³⁴	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA³⁵	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA³⁶	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate³⁷	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate³⁸
Systemwide California Residents	3.68	39,648	3.24	92.0%	6.1%
Systemwide Out-of-State Domestic	3.80	6,071	3.42	90.4%	3.1%
Systemwide International	3.75	6,008	3.41	92.0%	3.7%
Berkeley California Residents	3.90	4,875	3.36	96.0%	3.2%
Berkeley Out-of-State Domestic	3.92	1,160	3.50	95.4%	1.5%
Berkeley International	3.92	896	3.54	95.4%	1.2%
Davis California Residents	3.86	5,562	3.19	92.5%	4.9%
Davis Out-of-State Domestic	3.75	499	2.97	85.2%	10.2%
Davis International	3.77	1,421	3.15	90.9%	6.1%
Irvine California Residents	3.86	4,601	3.17	92.3%	6.9%
Irvine Out-of-State Domestic	3.80	971	3.23	86.4%	5.3%
Irvine International	3.86	917	3.37	91.2%	3.7%
Los Angeles California Residents	3.94	4,545	3.59	97.0%	1.5%
Los Angeles Out-of-State Domestic	3.96	1,354	3.70	95.1%	0.6%
Los Angeles International	3.96	685	3.72	95.5%	0.1%
Merced California Residents	3.45	2,397	2.74	81.7%	17.6%
Merced Out-of-State Domestic	3.65	5	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted
Merced International	3.61	8	Redacted	Redacted	Redacted

³³ Data as of 5/16/2022

³⁴ Residency status in this analysis is determined based on the residency status at the time of admission.

³⁵ 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.

³⁶ UC grade point average for students first enrolling in fall 2021.

³⁷ Percent of students who started as freshman entrants in fall 2021 and were still enrolled in fall 2022.

³⁸ Percent of students with first year UC GPA below 2.00.

Campus & Residency Status³⁴	Freshman Admits Average High School GPA³⁵	Enrollment Count	Enrolled Students Average First Year UC GPA³⁶	Enrolled Students First Year Persistence Rate³⁷	Enrolled Students Academic Notice Rate³⁸
Riverside California Residents	3.65	4,987	2.95	87.2%	12.4%
Riverside Out-of-State Domestic	3.58	51	2.76	76.5%	17.6%
Riverside International	3.54	165	2.56	78.2%	25.5%
San Diego California Residents	3.90	5,199	3.30	94.3%	4.5%
San Diego Out-of-State Domestic	3.87	1,235	3.41	88.8%	2.8%
San Diego International	3.90	1,109	3.51	93.7%	2.2%
Santa Barbara California Residents	3.88	3,678	3.35	92.7%	3.2%
Santa Barbara Out-of-State Domestic	3.91	566	3.49	92.0%	0.7%
Santa Barbara International	3.91	654	3.57	89.9%	1.7%
Santa Cruz California Residents	3.75	3,804	3.30	88.7%	5.5%
Santa Cruz Out-of-State Domestic	3.70	230	3.25	72.6%	6.5%
Santa Cruz International	3.63	153	3.26	85.6%	7.8%