

# BEYOND THE NUMBERS: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The University of California has a strong commitment to admitting and enrolling a student body that is both highly qualified and diverse. We read all applications with a sensitive awareness to the applicant's personal experiences, family background and potential to add to the rich and dynamic texture of our campuses. We recognize individual circumstances and consider the unique educational contexts and life experiences of all students.

## COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

Using a process called comprehensive review, the nine University of California undergraduate campuses look beyond grades to evaluate students' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to them, and their demonstrated capacity to contribute to the vitality and intellectual life at UC.

Since UC campuses receive more qualified applicants than they can admit and enroll, campuses look for students who go above and beyond UC's minimum admissions requirements (completing the UC subject requirements in high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average). Comprehensive review allows campuses to evaluate students within their own applicant pools and select the applicants who would be best suited to their campuses.

To guide the campuses in their comprehensive review of applicants, faculty from across the UC system developed 14 factors that campuses may consider when reading freshman applications. Based on campus-specific institutional goals and needs, the specific evaluation process and weight given to each factor differ from campus to campus, year to year. The admissions website for each campus has information on its specific selection process.

## PREPARATION

UC has established a set of minimum requirements to ensure students are prepared for college-level work. However, when there are more applicants meeting those minimum requirements than there are spaces available at a given campus, students whose work exceeds the minimum have a better chance of being admitted.

### What can students do to increase their chances at admission?

- Take a challenging course schedule and perform well
- Take advantage of other academic opportunities
- Take initiative in pursuing passions and interests
- Get involved in activities at school and in the community
- Explore leadership opportunities at school, in activities, in the family and in the community

Given the comprehensive review process, it is important that students use the personal insight questions and other portions of the application to explain their unique individual circumstances.



## HOLISTIC REVIEW

Most of the UC campuses employ a method of comprehensive review called holistic review, whereby campus admissions offices evaluate applications based on the totality of factors present. In other words, no single factor plays a deciding role in how an applicant is evaluated.

## APPLY BROADLY

Prospective students are encouraged to apply to multiple campuses with varying selectivity in the University of California system. This will help increase their chances of being admitted to the system. All of our campuses — without exception — provide outstanding opportunities for them to learn and grow.

The statistics provided should be used as a general guide to selectivity, not as an absolute predictor of a student's chance of admission.

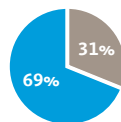
## Freshman admission profile

### Fall 2020

CAMPUS	ADMIT RATE
Systemwide	69%
Berkeley	18%
Davis	47%
Irvine	30%
Los Angeles	14%
Merced	85%
Riverside	66%
San Diego	38%
Santa Barbara	37%
Santa Cruz	65%

### Systemwide

Applications . . . 172,308  
 Admissions . . . 119,054  
 Admit Rate . . . . . 69%



### Admitted California residents include:

First-Generation College . . . . . 45%  
 Low Family Income . . . . . 44%

## THE 14 FACTORS THE UC SYSTEM CONSIDERS

1. Grade-point average
2. Test scores, if submitted
3. Performance in and number of courses beyond minimum a-g requirements
4. UC-approved honors courses and advanced courses
5. Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) – CA residents only
6. Quality of senior-year program of study
7. Academic opportunities in California high schools
8. Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas
9. Achievements in special projects
10. Improvement in academic performance
11. Special talents, achievements and awards
12. Participation in educational preparation programs
13. Academic accomplishment in light of life experiences
14. Geographic location

*Note: No single factor determines admission.*

Systemwide admissions information is available at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Apply at [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)