



May/June Calendar

- * June 5– SAT Test
- * June 12– ACT test
- * Seniors– send final transcripts to selected college
- * Register early for Fall SAT tests



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UC Releases 2010 Admissions Statistics

The University of California recently released its 2010 admissions statistics. Again, it was a very competitive year for admission to a UC campus, especially in light of the fact that some campuses admitted a higher percentage of out of state and international applicants to alleviate some of the budget woes. Almost all campuses reported higher SAT scores, higher GPAs and a lower percentage accepted than last year, and there is some significant variation in the statistics from even 3 years ago. For instance, 3 years ago, Davis accepted almost 60% of applicants and Santa Cruz accepted almost 80%. Bear in mind that these average weighted GPAs are capped at 8 semesters of UC approved honors and AP courses, and without the cap, some of the average GPAs of students accepted are actually higher. For instance, the average uncapped weighted UCLA GPA was 4.37.

COLLEGE	AVG. SAT/ACT	AVG. GPA	% ACCEPTED
Berkeley	2031/29	4.19	19%
Davis	1902/28	4.02	44%
Irvine	1873/27	4.01	45%
Los Angeles	2020/29	4.18	21%
Merced	1623/23	3.57	78%
Riverside	1660/23	3.63	77%
San Diego	1972/29	4.10	37%
Santa Barbara	1909/27	4.10	42%
Santa Cruz	1790/26	3.77	65%

In addition to offering fewer students admission this year, the UC campuses waitlisted students for the first time, causing students more anxiety about where they ultimately will be accepted within the UC system. The only two campuses that did not waitlist were UCLA and Merced. While Berkeley only planned to waitlist a couple hundred students, Davis waitlisted about 5,000 students, accepting only 595 off the waitlist. Other waitlists included San Diego with 1,165 students, Santa Barbara with 2,400 students and Santa Cruz with 1,200 students. Each campus developed its own policy regarding the waitlists, and the prospects of getting off of most of the waitlists is very slim. While UCSB has generously used its waitlist because it purposely reduced acceptances to control enrollment, it appears that San Diego and Santa Cruz did not draw many, if any, from their waitlists.

Student Retention over Rankings

A factor commonly overlooked by students and families when searching for colleges is how many freshmen a college retains after the first year. In a recent study, very high retention rates were present at those colleges voted the “happiest colleges”. In other words, students were happiest at colleges who were able to retain students. Thus, rather than concentrate on magazine rankings which tend to have flaws in the ranking methodology, students should pay attention to retention rates, and ask probing questions when retention rates are low.



Understanding Transfer Admissions

The most important factor in transfer application evaluation is the transcript in transferable college courses. This factor tends to be more prominent in public institutions as they may not take into account as many of the other factors commonly associated with first year applications— e.g., test scores, high school curriculum, interviews, and personal essays. The factors may also change and be weighed differently in private institutions depending upon whether a student is transferring as a sophomore or junior. If a student is transferring only as a sophomore,

some colleges will place significant weight on the high school record of grades and test scores. Nevertheless, students can improve a past sketchy record with solid college grades. Oftentimes, a student transferring from a highly competitive four year university may be favored over a community college student (excluding the University of California whose mandate is to give priority to community college students), and a student taking a fulltime load will have an advantage over a part-time student.

Colleges Dealing with Over Enrollment

According to a just published Washington Post article, many colleges and universities across the country are overenrolled for next Fall.

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/college-admissions/many-colleges-overenrolled-for.html>

According to one viewpoint, this has happened because the economy has changed the way families handle college admissions. Waiting until the last minute to make deposits has made colleges nervous. Thus, they may have gone to their waitlists before the May 1 deadline, or perhaps some may have accepted more students, predicting less students would matriculate because of the economy.

While in some cases over-enrollment is a blessing for colleges, it presents its own challenges and will likely

have repercussions for next year’s applicants. Some of the challenges include finding enough dorm and classroom space, as well as faculty to teach the larger number of students.

The repercussions for next year’s students may be offering less admission acceptances and not rushing to use the waitlist. For instance, when UC Davis found itself over enrolled a few years back, it severely cut the number of students accepted the following year. While college admission is never too predictable, there were quite a few surprised counselors and students that following year when students were not admitted to Davis. Now that the UC has waitlists, it could deal with an under enrolled class by going to the waitlist.



Making fewer admission offers the following year also helps balance the total numbers at the college, allowing the college to better accommodate the entire student body unless a college is in a growth mode.

The continuing trend of record applications, the changing behavior of students and families, and the challenges posed by the economic times are certainly raising havoc with our universities’ long-standing models of predicting enrollment yields. As such, next year promises to be another interesting year in college admissions.

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