

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of January 19, 2023

IMPLEMENTING THE CCC-UC TRANSFER TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TWO AND SIX AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2022, the California Community College (CCC)-University of California (UC) Transfer Task Force issued its final report, including eight recommendations for improving and strengthening the CCC-to-UC transfer pipeline. The report was a requirement of 2018's *Enhancing Student Transfer—A Memorandum of Understanding between the California Community Colleges and the University of California* between the two segments.

This item provides an update to the Regents on implementing these two recommendations for access and affordability:

- Increase the percentage of CCC students who apply, gain admission to, and enroll at UC in alignment with segment-specific goals (Recommendation Two).
- Create and promote cost-saving financial incentives for UC-bound CCC students. These students can benefit from a fully integrated and streamlined transfer process. This includes cross-enrollment opportunities between the two systems, more robust financial support and resources for transfer (scholarships, financial literacy education), and specific messaging on how to finance a UC education as a transfer student (Recommendation Six).

Other recommendations will be discussed at future meetings.

BACKGROUND

The University of California Office of the President (UCOP) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) monitored the provisions of *Enhancing Student Transfer—A Memorandum of Understanding between the California Community Colleges and the University of California*. This memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in 2018 amidst renewed interest in strengthening California public postsecondary transfer, in particular the CCC-to-UC pipeline.

The CCC-UC Transfer Task Force reviewed CCC-to-UC transfer data as well as UC's concerted efforts to help improve the transfer process and better support transfer-bound CCC students during the MOU period. In summer 2022, the task force issued its final report, with eight joint recommendations (see Attachment 1). The report was presented to and accepted by the Regents at its September 2022 meeting. The task force believes that UC and CCC administrators and faculty can contribute to and meet broader State goals to close equity gaps, as well as specific segmental goals for students' increased educational access and degree completion going forward by, in part, following its eight recommendations.

UC Transfer Priorities

UC has identified three overarching, systemwide priorities for improving access, preparation, and student outcomes. These priorities will guide the implementation of strategies to achieve CCC-UC Transfer Task Force recommendations:

1. Increase the number of students in the annual CCC transfer applicant pool who are Pell Grant recipients, first-generation college students, or members of groups that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The task force wants to know that such increases are a result of growing transfer-support services in the Central Valley and Inland Empire.
2. Expand quality academic-major preparation by doubling the number of students with UC transfer admissions guarantees.
3. Expand support for students' attainment of success across the full student journey—from pre-admissions through post-transfer to earning a UC baccalaureate degree.

In keeping with task force recommendations, the University would like to see a larger percentage of transfer-ready students advancing along the CCC-UC transfer pathway. Ideally, these students' backgrounds would depict the increased diversity and inclusion that are more reflective of the State's current population, in particular, students who are Pell Grant recipients, first-generation college students, and from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Geographically, UC enrolls CCC transfer students from all over the state. However, proportionally, two-thirds of UC transfers come from the Bay Area (28 percent), Los Angeles metro (28 percent), and Orange County CCCs (12 percent), compared with 52 percent of CCC students who are enrolled in these locations. Alternatively, the Central Valley and Inland Empire comprise 19 percent of CCC populations and only nine percent of UC transfer enrollments. These areas also have lower-than-average bachelor's degree attainment rates.

Additionally, student transfer in California has been described as a confusing maze of options that is difficult to navigate. This has prompted a push toward transfer streamlining that prioritizes the standardization of transfer options at the expense of the richness of educational opportunities available to students. Rather than follow a one-size-fits-all approach, the University prefers to embrace the differences that distinguish areas of emphasis within popular, significant UC disciplines. As such, UC aims for full transfer transparency while keeping high standards for all students in support of their capacity for success.

Finally, student success is often defined by two traditional measures: graduation rates and time-to-degree. UC has seen transfer students' two- and four-year graduation rates increase significantly from 1999 through the last few years.¹ Moreover, the average time-to-degree was 2.39 years for the 2013 cohort, an improvement over 2.58 years for the 1999 cohort.

Although overall graduation rates have increased for all transfer students, there are still opportunity gaps in transfer subgroups, namely, low-income students (Pell Grant recipients), students from groups traditionally underrepresented on campuses, and first-generation students. All of these subgroups have slightly lower-than-average two-year graduation rates compared to the overall transfer population of the 2018 entering cohort (56.1 percent, 56.3 percent, and 58.9 percent versus 60.9 percent, respectively). Sustainable progress toward UC's 2030 goals to improve transfer graduation rates for these populations will require a redefinition of student success. Success measures will have to go beyond graduation rates to include the full transfer student journey—from pre-admissions through post-transfer to attainment of a UC baccalaureate degree.

Updated and scaled transfer efforts are getting support from new, ongoing funding to UC through its Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) programs. This is particularly the case with UC Transfer Preparation services provided to CCC students by UC academic preparation and admissions professionals, in collaboration with CCC counselors and transfer center directors.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

Task Force Recommendation Two

Both the UC and CCC systems have transfer attainment goals. At the CCC, Vision for Success goals include increasing transfers to UC and CSU campuses. UC 2030 goals include increasing the proportion of transfer students who are from first-generation, underrepresented, or low-income backgrounds; are Pell recipients; or who begin their college careers at CCCs in underrepresented regions that have not historically sent large percentages of students to UC.

Task Force Recommendation Two, "*Increase the percentage of CCC students who apply, are admitted to, and enroll at UC in alignment with segment-specific goals*" aligns with UC's 2030 goals.

To implement this recommendation, UC has identified 65 community colleges that have 1) a high proportion of low-income students or 2) an existing partnership through UC Transfer Preparation programs to serve as a focus of UC's transfer outreach efforts (see Appendix 1). The low-income measure used is the colleges' reported proportion of students receiving College

¹ UC transfer students' two-year graduation rate has gone from 41.3 percent for the 1999 entering cohort to 60.9 percent for the 2018 cohort; the most recent four-year graduation rate for transfers (2016 entering cohort) is 88.5 percent, an increase of almost seven percentage points since 1999.

Promise Grants (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver), which waives per-unit enrollment fees for eligible students.

UC's steps to implementation include developing deeper partnerships and offering expanded services at the targeted 65 CCCs. Transfer Preparation and other SAPEP outreach programs have developed relationships with community colleges over the years, focusing on elements like the diversity of the student population and unrealized transfer potential. University of California campuses will be using \$2.5 million of new ongoing SAPEP funding to expand and deepen their partnerships with these colleges.

They will also use SAPEP funds to increase support for transfer planning and preparation, for the Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG), and for UC Transfer Pathways information and advising. The University will develop and offer more information about financing a UC education, more general financial aid information, and more direct help with applying for financial aid. Last, but not least, more information and help will be made available for all students applying to UC.

To help improve transfer opportunity more broadly for students, UC is launching Dual Admission in spring 2023, a pilot program that could help thousands more California students successfully transfer to a UC campus.² Dual Admission will offer a new transfer path available for California high school students who apply to UC but do not meet freshman eligibility requirements because of curricular limitations at their high school or those who face financial or geographic barriers.

During the pandemic, California resident community college applications for fall 2022 declined by 11 percent compared to the prior year. The decline is not altogether surprising in light of the larger decline (18 percent) in 2020–21 CCC new student enrollments. In fall 2022, most UC campuses enrolled fewer incoming California resident transfer students than they had planned to enroll, resulting in a systemwide freshman-to-transfer ratio between 2.0 and 2.1 (excluding Merced). Since this metric is measured based on a combination of fall, winter, and spring enrollment, actual results will not be known until later in the academic year. While Recommendation 2 is aimed at increasing the breadth of community college representation in UC's enrollment, the broader goal for the University over the next several years is to bolster the transfer pipeline and contribute to the recovery of CCC enrollments and opportunity to transfer back to pre-pandemic levels.

Task Force Recommendation Six

The University's goals also include eliminating gaps in graduation rates between different student populations and improving overall time-to-degree, resulting in less financial burden and more swift entry into the workforce.

² "New Dual Admission pilot program will help more students transfer to UC," *UC Newsroom*, September 16, 2022, <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/new-dual-admission-pilot-program-will-help-more-students-transfer-uc>

Task Force Recommendation 6 aligns with the University’s goals: “*Create and promote cost-saving financial incentives for UC-bound CCC students. CCC students can benefit from a fully integrated and streamlined CCC-UC transfer process that includes cross-enrollment opportunities, more robust transfer financial support and resources (scholarships, financial literacy education), and specific messaging on how to finance a UC education as a transfer student.*”

Strategies for implementing this recommendation include new ideas about online education, which can support CCC students’ academic preparation, and the expansion of UC’s Path to Debt-Free program.

During the pandemic, UC faculty, lecturers, and graduate student instructors relied on expertise and support from campus Teaching and Learning Centers to rapidly convert traditional classes to remote instruction. Many of these centers began with a focus on introducing technology in the classroom and have since expanded to hubs of pedagogical innovation that adapt to the still-shifting needs of instructors, students, and campuses, including the move during the pandemic to remote instruction.

Moving forward after the pandemic, campuses have begun to institutionalize these new approaches to online education. UC Online and UC Santa Cruz’s Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning will work with UC faculty to redesign large, high-demand prerequisite courses for online delivery that will facilitate greater cross-enrollment opportunities.

In further support of timely degree completion, UC has committed to developing technology, educator, healthcare, and climate-action pathways in a “2+2” model for transfer students interested in entering these fields. This is part of UC’s multiyear Compact with Governor Newsom.

Finally, under the Compact, UC will expand its Pathway to Debt-Free UC Program. The program started in 2022–23 by providing augmented financial aid award packages to incoming students with a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from low-resourced community colleges identified under Recommendation Two.

Beginning in 2023–24 and beyond, the Path to Debt-Free UC Program will offer augmented financial aid awards to qualifying low-income students with a zero EFC from all community colleges. As the program expands with help from the State’s Middle Class Scholarship Program in the coming years, even more students will be able to graduate debt free. UCOP will work with the CCCCO to make sure students and counselors are aware of the debt-free options at the University.

KEY TO ACRONYMS

CCC	California Community College
CCCCO	California Community College Chancellor's Office
EFC	Expected Family Contribution
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
UCOP	University of California Office of the President

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment 1: CCC-UC TRANSFER TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT](#)

APPENDIX 1. TARGETED CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CCC	REGION	CCC	REGION
Allan Hancock College	Central	Lassen Community College	North
American River College	Central	Long Beach City College	South
Antelope Valley College	South	Mendocino College	North
Bakersfield College	Central	Merced College	Central
Barstow Community College	South	Merritt College	North
Berkeley City College	North	Modesto Junior College	Central
Butte College	North	Moorpark College	South
Cerritos College	South	Moreno Valley College	South
Cerro Coso Community College	Central	Mount San Jacinto College	South
Chaffey College	South	Norco College	South
Clovis Community College	Central	Oxnard College	South
Coastline Community College	South	Palo Verde College	South
College of Alameda	North	Porterville College	Central
College of the Desert	South	Reedley College	Central
College of the Redwoods	North	Rio Hondo College	South
College of the Sequoias	Central	Riverside City College	South
College of the Siskiyous	North	Sacramento City College	Central
Columbia College	Central	San Bernardino Valley College	South
Compton College	South	San Diego City College	South
Copper Mountain College	South	San Joaquin Delta College	Central
Cosumnes River College	Central	Santa Ana College	South
Crafton Hills College	South	Shasta College	North
Cypress College	South	Sierra College	North
Feather River College	North	Solano Community College	North
Folsom Lake College	Central	Southwestern College	South
Fresno City College	Central	Taft College	Central
Grossmont College	South	Ventura College	South
Hartnell College	Central	Victor Valley College	South
Imperial Valley College	South	West Hills College-Coalinga	Central
LA Southwest College	South	West Hills College-Lemoore	Central
LA Trade Tech College	South	West LA College	South
Laney College	North	Yuba College	North
Las Positas College	North		