

COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID Annual Report 2022-23

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) continued its annual work evaluating the outcomes of the prior admissions cycle and adapting to changing circumstances in shaping the class entering in fall 2022 and planning ahead for new modes of application evaluation for the 2023 cohort. As always, we worked closely with Undergraduate Education (UE), Enrollment Management (EM), and Undergraduate Admissions (UA), whose energy and creativity provided us with both information and options for setting policy.

I. WORK OF CAFA IN 2022-23

A. Changes in policy and practice

- ***Lower-Division Transfers.*** Before this cycle, UC Santa Cruz had not considered transfer (a.k.a. “advanced standing lower division applicants at the freshman or sophomore level”) applicants with fewer than 90 units if they had not yet met the seven-course pattern or major screening requirements. This practice excluded virtually all advanced standing freshman applicants. In an effort to maximize transfer access, CAFA revisited this practice and adopted a policy of considering all transfer applicants who met one of the four UC requirements for advanced standing applicants per UC Senate Regulation 476. Applicants who met the requirements for advanced standing freshman level and demonstrated ability to be successful were considered for admission in this cycle.
- ***Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admissions.*** CAFA approved the proposed amendments to SR 419, 428, 440, 450, 452, 464, and 465 and new SR 467 to align the regulations to recent policy actions by the Board of Regents related to standardized testing, particularly the removal of standardized test from the Comprehensive Review admission criteria.
- ***Alternate Major Consideration.*** The need to further limit enrollments to the Computer Science (CS) majors this cycle required decisions about whether to consider applicants for admission to their alternate major if they did not meet the first-round selection criteria for CS. To minimize enrollment pressures in courses shared by CS majors, frosh applicants to CS were considered for alternate majors *except* for Computer Engineering and Computer Science-Game Design. All CS transfer applicants were considered for their alternate majors if they were not selected for admission to CS.
- ***Holistic Review Scoring Rubric.*** In response to clarifying questions that arose in reader training, CAFA made the following edits to the Holistic Review Scoring Rubric and descriptions of the non-cognitive variables (NCV’s).
 - List of reasons for a score of DENY was expanded to include (i) an overall weighted capped GPA <2.0, and (ii) applications missing senior year in-progress and planned courses without a compelling explanation.
 - Criteria for scoring NCV “alignment of interests with proposed major” was expanded to include evidence of “intellectual curiosity” to allow flexibility for

proposed majors (e.g., English) for which additional coursework and activities may be limited.

- Criteria for scoring NCV “contribution to a diverse UC Santa Cruz community” was edited to allow greater flexibility and a broader definition of diverse populations.

B. Sub-Committee Efforts

- ***Appeals Subcommittee***

The Appeals Subcommittee continued to meet occasionally throughout the year to consider cases of cancellations of admission offers from the prior cycle and provide input into the appeals policy. The appeals policy was modified this year to ensure students who have completed their matriculation term have one more level of due process. This includes a referral to Campus Conduct in the event the Cancellation Appeals Review Committee denies an appeal of such a student.

- ***Data Subcommittee***

The Data Subcommittee (DSC) met regularly with staff from Enrollment Management, Undergraduate Admissions, and Institutional Research, Assessment and Policy Studies (IRAPS) in order to design selection criteria for each stage of admission offers (early, regular, and waitlist). This was the second year that IRAPS participated regularly in the work of the DSC, and they have provided extremely valuable support as CAFA implemented new screening procedures to adapt to removal of standardized test scores.

This year, the need to further limit enrollments to the Computer Science (CS) majors necessitated the use of separate selection criteria for CS applicants. It also required decisions on how to handle applicants who met the campus-wide selection criteria but were not offered first-round admission to CS. The work of the DSC benefited greatly from the participation of a CAFA member representing CS. The DSC presented several admission scenarios – including alternative options for CS majors – to the full CAFA for selection and approval.

C. Correspondence

CAFA commented through letters to the Board on Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) on two system-wide admissions issues: (i) the proposal for a new Ethnic Studies (“Area H”) requirement for UC eligibility, and (ii) the approval of introductory data science courses as advanced mathematics courses that can validate the advanced algebra requirement under Mathematics (Area C). CAFA also commented on UC Santa Cruz’s Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Enrollment Management Plan, UC Santa Cruz’s Strategic Planning reports, and two systemwide proposals to amend senate regulations. CAFA’s correspondence is summarized here very briefly; the interested reader should consult the formal correspondence for a more nuanced and more accurate representation.

- ***Area H/Ethnic Studies.*** Regarding the Ethnic Studies course criteria and guidance: CAFA found that the revisions addressed the main concerns raised by last year’s CAFA, and no new concerns were raised about the content or wording. Regarding implementation: several members felt they could not support an Area H requirement without seeing a more complete assessment of the costs and benefits. CAFA was particularly concerned that implementation challenges at under-resourced schools

could make it harder for students at these schools to complete A-G requirements. Concerns were also raised about the plan to allow cross-listing of Area H courses with courses in any other A-G subject.

- ***Area C/Data Science.*** members expressed strong concerns about revisions to the Mathematics (Area C) course policy that BOARS approved in October 2020 and the way these revisions have been implemented. The primary concern is that introductory data science courses with little algebra content have been approved by UCOP as courses that may substitute for Algebra II/Math III in fulfillment of the required third year of math. CAFA noted that students who pursue such alternative math pathways will face significant barriers should they choose to pursue a degree in STEM or other quantitative majors – including data science – and that groups who are already under-represented in these fields are most likely to be steered into the alternative pathways.
- ***Computer Science and Engineering Enrollment Management Plan.*** CAFA indicated support for the proposal by Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) to further limit undergraduate enrollments in the CS majors as a short-run solution to the problems posed by the tremendous growth in demand for CSE’s undergraduate programs. However, CAFA believes that those problems would be better addressed in the long-run by an appropriate shift of resources to CS and other departments that serve CS majors.
- ***Strategic Planning.*** CAFA commented on the draft reports and recommendations of two of UC Santa Cruz’s five Leading the Change strategic planning committees: “Unparalleled Undergraduate Education and Student Experience” and “Inclusive and Thriving Campus Community.” A suggestion related to both reports is that their goals could be better served if resource allocation across majors and programs were more responsive to changes in applicant demand. CAFA also noted that UCSC’s strategic plan could be better aligned with the UC’s 2022 multi-year compact.
- ***Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 479 (Cal-GETC).*** CAFA supported the creation of the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) – a lower-division general education pathway for transfer to either a CSU or UC campus – and had no significant concerns about the proposed changes to current requirements.
- ***Systemwide Senate Review of Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force Report and Recommendations.*** CAFA supported proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 636 specifying options for students to fulfill the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) in light of UC’s August 2021 decision to discontinue use of the Analytical Writing Placement Exam. CAFA supported the recommendation that all campuses collect and report on ELWR placement data in the coming years. CAFA also echoed the concern that eliminating the use of standardized test scores as a way to fulfill ELWR would require significant resources.

II. ISSUES FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

A. Holistic Review Rubric

Analysis of first-year outcomes for Fall 2022 frosh cohort should inform decisions about which non-cognitive variables should be collected going forward and how they should be used.

B. Area H/Ethnic Studies

A revised proposal is expected to be submitted by BOARS for system-wide review during the next cycle. CAFA should continue to play an active role as the discussion progresses. Depending on the nature and timing of subsequent policy changes, issues that may affect CAFA's work include the possibility that many non-resident applicants as well as some California applicants who attended private high schools or under-resourced public schools may not have had access to Are H-approved Ethnic Studies courses.

C. Area C/Data Science

BOARS will be reviewing the criteria for advanced mathematics courses to validate advanced algebra (Algebra II/Mathematics III) and may submit a proposal for system-wide review in the next cycle. CAFA should continue to play an active role as the discussion progresses. Depending on subsequent policy changes, CAFA may then need to consider the implications of a growing number of applicants who will have satisfied the Area C requirement without taking advanced algebra.

D. Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action

For now, per system guidance, CAFA does not need to change any existing practices in response to the ruling. CAFA should consult Campus Counsel with any questions that arise during the next cycle. The system is expected to provide updated guidance to the 2015 published guidance to incorporate this new ruling.

E. Assembly Bill 1749/Associates Degrees for Transfer

This bill is not yet final and it has been opposed by the UC. However, if something like the current version becomes law, CAFA should begin considering and planning for the impact on transfer applications, admissions, and student success. The current draft of the bill (as of August 2023) would require the UC to guarantee admission to community college students who earn an associate degree for transfer and meet certain requirements – and also to give them priority over other transfer applicants. The requirement would apply first to UC Los Angeles beginning in 2025-26 and would then apply to UC Santa Cruz, UC Merced and UC Riverside beginning in 2027-28.

F. Compare Favorably

In the absence of standardized test scores, the requirement (per state law and Regent's policy) that admitted nonresident students "compare favorably" (CF) on average with California admits has become harder to demonstrate. High schools outside of the US attended by all types of applicants (California, out of state and international students) – often have grading systems that are not comparable with those in California or other US states. One potential solution being considered by BOARS is a measure that adjusts for GPA differences across different types of high schools. BOARS has made progress toward developing such a metric and will continue to discuss with UCOP during the next cycle. CAFA should continue to advocate for the use of an alternative CF metric.

G. Lower-Division Transfers.

This was the first cycle that UC Santa Cruz considered and admitted lower-division transfer applicants who had not yet met the seven-course pattern or majors screening requirements. CAFA and the DSC should examine student success data for lower-division transfers as it

becomes available and work with EM and UA to refine procedures for screening these applicants as appropriate.

III. ADMISSIONS FALL 2023 AND WINTER 2024 COHORTS AND FINANCIAL AID FOR AID YEAR 2022-2023

A. Admissions¹

A brief summary of UC Santa Cruz admissions outcome data provided by the Division of Undergraduate Education's Office of Enrollment Management is outlined below. Admissions is dynamic, and data, such as residency or enrollment estimates, may change.

UC Santa Cruz received 79,991 fall 2023 applications. Frosh applications totaled 68,751 (CA = 54,821, out of state = 7,533, and international = 6,397) and transfer applications totaled 11,240 (CA = 10,236, out of state = 388, and international = 616). As with last year, the campus was open for winter transfer applications in selected majors. The campus opened again for winter 2024, transfer students only. The campus received 452 applications for winter 2024 as of August 2, 2023; last winter was 782. The campus relies heavily on this pool to maximize opportunities to achieve the state mandate to enroll one new California transfer student for every two new California first-year students, commonly referred to as 2:1. The Jack Baskin School of Engineering and in the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences continue to open many majors for winter.

UC Santa Cruz admitted 43,215 frosh for fall 2023 & winter 2024, including 33,176 California, 6,107 out of state and 3,932 international. The frosh admission rate was 62.9%. The average high school GPA of admitted frosh was 4.01 (on a 4.4 weighted scale), compared to 4.08 in fall 2022. Waitlist strategies were utilized to manage enrollment outcomes within an ever-changing environment. The established Computer Science capacity constraints were met. The aforementioned frosh admit number includes 1,086 alternate offers for winter 2024 to ensure maximum access and to address capacity constraints.

UC Santa Cruz admitted 7,248 lower division and upper division transfer students, including 6,750 California, 137 out of state and 361 international. The admission rate for all transfers was 64.5%. The total number of admits increased by 1.7% and California admits increased by 3.4% from last year. In an effort to maximize transfer access for students meeting the [UC Regulation 476](#), all advanced standing pathways (lower and upper division) were opened. Lower division freshman level applicants who met freshman standing requirements and demonstrated ability to be successful were admitted. Lower division sophomore transfer applicants with fewer than 60 credits met freshman standing requirements and completed math, English, two breadth areas and started major preparation, if required, were admitted, unless they were proposed computer science majors. Lower division sophomore transfer applicants with more than 60 credits who met the same course requirements and (where applicable) major preparation requirements as

¹ Data from UC Santa Cruz Data Warehouse (InfoView- AIS-Daily) and IRAPS Internal Admissions Dashboard and SIR & Melt Tracking Dashboards

upper division transfer students, but had fewer than 90 units for transfer, were admitted. All upper division transfers who met major UC requirements and major preparation, if needed, were admitted, with the exception of computer science, which is impacted. Eligible students not admitted to computer science or their screening major due to lack of major preparation, were offered their alternate major or a non-screening major.

First-year fall 2023 Statements of Intent to Register (SIRs) total 5,405, including 4,804 California, 427 out of state and 174 international students. California SIRs from students identifying as African American reached 4.8%, increasing from 4.7% in fall 2022 but decreasing from 5.9% in fall 2021; Hispanic/ Latino reached 28.3%, decreasing from 31.4% in fall 2022 and 32.5% in fall 2021. First-year Winter 2024 SIRs (from fall 2023 alternate offers) total 162, including 148 California, 9 out of state and 5 international students.

Transfer SIRs total 1,444, including 1,388 California, 27 out of state and 29 international students. California SIRs from students identifying as African American reached 21.4%, slightly decreasing from 23.9% in fall 2022; Hispanic/ Latino reached 19.5%, decreasing from 23.3% in fall 2022; American Indian/ Alaskan Native reached 27.8%, increasing from 19.4% in fall 2022. Continued close collaboration among Admissions, EM, UE, CAFA, Committee on Educational Policy (CEP), programs and the disciplinary divisions helped to maximize transfer admission offers to qualified transfer applicants. UC Santa Cruz expects to fall short of 2:1 again this year as a result of increasing the California first-year target in support of UC's increased annualized FTE enrollment goals, currently estimated at 3.33:1. Had the California frosh target not been increased, it would have been 2.8:1.

B. Financial Aid and Scholarships

In 2022-23, the Division of Undergraduate Education's Financial Aid and Scholarships Office provided support to 13,537 undergraduate students (77% of undergraduate population) and 1,968 graduate students (99.6% of graduate population). The types of aid provided included grants, scholarships, fellowships, loans and/or work-study assistance.

Award Program Updates

At a federal level, the primary impact to students remains with the Federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) funding. After 3 separate rounds of funding since March 2020: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the campus has received a total of \$44,692,560 for direct distribution to students as grant aid. As of June 2023, the campus has disbursed \$44,692,560 (100%) of the funds to a total population of 13,506 undergraduate and graduate students. At a state and institutional level, there have been many new programs introduced or implemented over the past calendar year or in the coming year.

Federal Policy Updates

FAFSA Simplification: The 2024-25 federal financial aid application and need analysis will experience the most significant changes in at least twenty-five years, largely as a result of the FAFSA Simplification Act. The application itself is changing, which introduces outreach and administrative challenges for colleges and universities, including a shortened

filing period in its first year from January 1st. to March 2nd. Removal of the number of family members in college from the eligibility calculation. The possibility for an SAI (Student Aid Index formerly known as Expected Family contribution (EFC)) to be a negative number, with a minimum SAI of -\$1,500 instead of zero.

University Policy Updates

- Tuition Stability Plan: In July of 2021, the Board of Regents approved a multi-year tuition plan that includes different tuition levels by cohort. The entering cohort for Fall 2023 will be the third cohort with this tuition plan.
- Debt Free UC: UC rolled out a model providing a debt free path for a subset of students in 2022-23 as a first step toward the Governor’s goal of every undergraduate debt free by 2030, both through UC and State financial aid programs. (See MCS 2.0 below.) In 2023-24 phase two of this program will provide a debt free path to all new California students with a \$0 Expected family Contribution (EFC) and continuing students who were debt free in the prior year. The estimated investment of \$38M is expected to benefit nearly 15,000 UC students who will have a loan and/or work expectation (self-help) of \$7,900.
- Native American Opportunity Plan: Starting in fall 2022, the University of California provided \$2.3M in financial aid to 211 students to ensure that in-state-systemwide mandatory tuition and fees are fully covered for California residents who are members of federally recognized Native American, American Indian and Alaska native Tribes.
- Residence Determination Process Improvement: UCOP is continuing to work with campuses to implement an earlier residence determination process, letting students know before they need to accept an offer of admission if they are residents for tuition purposes.

State Policy Updates

The State of California has many expanded and new programs:

- Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) 2.0: The Middle-Class Scholarship Program is being expanded significantly. MCS funding for the 2021-222 academic year was \$38M program serving 11,700 UC students.

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) estimated the program funding will grow to a \$248M program serving 94,374 UC students in 2023-24.

As of June 2023, UC Santa Cruz had paid \$12,914,760 in MCS awards for the 22-23 academic year to 6,635 students. Final figures are pending reconciliation in Sep 2023. Each award requires file exchanges with CSAC. Provides awards without regard to EFC, which significantly complicates coordination with federal student aid rules.

- *Other New or Expanded State Financial Aid Programs:*

NEW: Community College Cal Grant Entitlement Program

NEW: One-time \$15M in State emergency grants

NEW: Dreamer Service Incentive Grant

NEW: Augmented Cal Grants for student parents and former foster youth

EXPANDED: Augmented MCS for former foster youth

EXPANDED: Golden State Teachers Grant Program

Current Financial Aid Funding Model and Data

The UC Education Finance Model (EFM), which uses approximately 33% return-to-aid (RTA) from tuition and fees to support low income students, continues to be closely reviewed by the system-wide EFM committee. This model will be changing with cohort tuition, with subsequent increases to tuition levels having a 45% RTA. The UCOP EFM committee meets quarterly regarding issues that affect the determination of the Cost-of-Attendance and the cross-campus allocation of aid funds.

When tuition and campus fees are combined with other elements of the student budget, such as housing/dining and health care, the average cost for new UC Santa Cruz CA resident students living on campus in 2023-24 will be \$41,283, the 4th highest in the system. Non-residents will have an additional \$32,574 tuition charges, bringing the non-resident on-campus budget to \$73,857. Under EFM, 2023-24 UC Santa Cruz undergraduates who qualify for need-based assistance must pay approximately the first \$12,450 of their need from loan and/or work resources. Debt Free UC eligible students will have to pay approximately \$7,900 from loan and/or work resources. After subtracting the loan/work expectation and the family contribution (from FAFSA/DREAM App data), grant aid can help pay the remainder of the total estimated total cost.

The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan guarantees that students from families with incomes under \$80,000 will receive enough gift aid (from all sources) to pay UC tuition and fees. Virtually all students in this category already receive enough gift aid to meet this commitment. However, under the Plan some students who would not normally receive gift aid (due to high asset equity) receive gift aid.

In 2022-23 the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office administered \$298 million in financial assistance to about 77% of our undergraduates, as compared to \$295 million / 77% in 2021-22. (See table.)

2022-23 Source of Aid	Percent of Undergraduates	Aid Distributed	Average Award
Gift Aid (all sources)	63%	\$ 222,573,237	\$ 20,308
UCSC Scholarships*	14%	\$10,096,464	\$ 3,999
Federal Pell Grants*	34%	\$ 32,934,876	\$ 5,614
Student/Parent Loans	33%	\$64,463,921	\$11,096
Federal Work-Study	4%	\$ 1,517,557	\$ 2,156
MCS	37%	\$12,914,760	\$2,003
Cal Grant	35%	74,575,621	\$12,357
* Included in gift aid			

Of the UC Santa Cruz students receiving bachelor’s degrees in 2021-22, 43% of those who originally enrolled as first-year students borrowed student loans while attending. Those students have an average debt of \$20,895. However, the debt can be as high as \$57,500 on an individual basis, which is the federal cumulative maximum amount an undergraduate student may borrow. Nationally, 62% of seniors graduating in 2019 had student loan debt, with an average of \$20,191 per borrower (<https://ticas.org/our-work/student-debt/>). National Data for students graduating in 2020-2021 and 2021-22 is not yet available.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education calculates cohort default rates for loans by campus. The national 3-Year average was 2.3% for 2019 (per Dept. of Ed.). The rate for the campus has been exceptionally low in recent years.

UCSC Year	3-Year Draft Default Rate	3-Year Official Default Rate
2017	2.9%	2.9%
2018	2.9%	2.9%
2019	1.3%	1.3%

Campus undergraduate scholarship programs are administered by various campus departments as well as by the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office. Listed below are data for major scholarship programs administered by the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office:

2022-23 Scholarship Program	Recipients	Amount Received	Average Award
Regents Scholarships	176	\$ 836,714	\$4,754
Campus Merit Scholarships	167	\$ 315,381	\$1,889
Pister Leadership Opportunity Awards	25	\$ 174,890	\$6,996

While issues relating to financial aid are also in CAFA’s purview, most issues are governed by state and federal law and Regental policy, so there is seldom any issue that comes before the committee, and there was none in this cycle. The Office of the President maintains numerous reports regarding student financial support on the following website:

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter>

Respectfully submitted,

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