The Reality of Race Neutral Admissions for Minority Students at the University of California:

Turning the Tide OR Turning Them Away?

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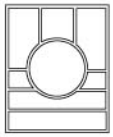

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 20,1995, the University of California (UC) Board of Regents approved Resolution SP-1. Titled *Policy Ensuring Equal Treatment Admissions*, the resolution asserted in its official language that its goal of a diverse student body was the impetus behind the adoption of this policy. Critics of SP-1 saw it as an anti-affirmative action initiative, one that took place in a highly politically charged climate in California's civic history[1]. The SP-1 resolution was the precursor to Proposition 209 — the California state initiative approved by voters in 1996, which eliminated race, ethnicity and gender considerations in admissions, hiring, and contracts in public institutions. SP-1 was put into effect for undergraduate admissions during the 1998 academic year and lasted four years. In May 2001, the UC Regents voted unanimously to repeal SP-1, though it was largely symbolic as Proposition 209 was still in effect statewide.

We are now at a point in time where the pre-SP-1 era, the SP-1 era and the post-SP-1 era can be evaluated in whole. This report assesses the impact of SP-1 as well as the immediate impact of its repeal.

In addition to analyzing data from the California Department of Education and the U.S. Census Bureau, the key sources of data analyzed in this report are freshman applications, acceptance rates (number admitted as a share of total number of applicants) and the ratio of ethnic representation for each UC campus as reported by the University of California Office of the President. While gains in underrepresented minority[2] student enrollment at the UC are often reported in terms of raw numbers of admissions, this report takes the point of view that examining simply the raw numbers can be misleading and often portrays an inaccurate picture; undergraduate applications and their corresponding acceptance rates are also needed to gain a complete understanding of minority student representation.

While Latino and African American[3] students admitted to the UC has indeed increased, so too have the number of applications by these students. Our analysis indicates that although their admissions are increasing, they are a decreasing percentage of the overall UC freshman student body, and therefore their proportionate representation continues to decrease on campuses. In comparing the racial and ethnic backgrounds of the UC student body in the pre-SP-1 and post-SP-1 eras, it becomes clear that White non-Hispanic and Asian students have made the most gains. For example, at UC Berkeley — the University of California's flagship campus — White non-Hispanic freshmen accounted for 31 percent of all acceptances in 1997, growing to 33 percent in 2002 and Asian students

1 Lydia Chávez, *The Color Bind*, University of California Press, 1998.

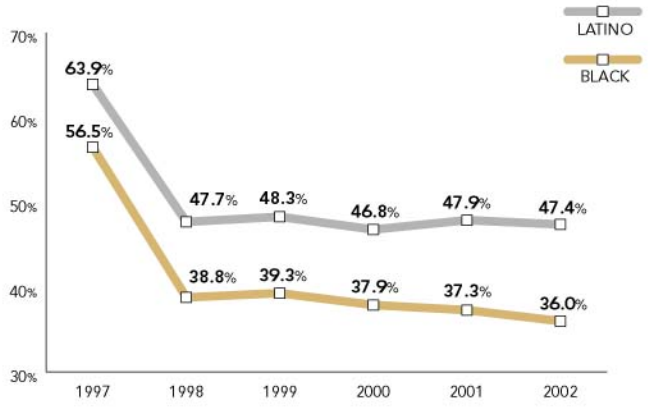
2 Underrepresented minorities are defined as Native Americans, African Americans and Latinos, however for this report we will consider Black and Latino students only.

3 TRPI uses the terms "African American" and "Black", and "Hispanic" and "Latino" interchangeably in this report.

grew from 35 percent to 40 percent during that same time period. However, Latinos and Blacks continue to lag behind: Latinos consisted of 14.6 percent of all freshman acceptances at UC Berkeley in 1997, but only 13.0 percent in 2002, while Blacks fell from 7.8 to 3.9 percent during the same period. Combining all eight UC campuses, Latino acceptance rates have fallen sharply from 64 to 47 percent and Black rates dropped by more than 20 points — from 57 to 36 percent (Figure 1). While it is getting more difficult for all students to gain admission to the University of California, the acceptance rate for White and Asian students has only fallen by three to four percentage points. The yearly marks reveal by and large, no improvement has been made for minority acceptances in terms of percentages.

FIGURE 1

COMBINED UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AGGREGATE ACCEPTANCE RATES: 1997 - 2002[4]



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

In fact, if the system-wide acceptance rate in 2002 for Latinos had decreased at a similar rate to White and Asian students since 1997 (from 64% to 59%), 19,673 Latino applications would have been accepted to UC schools, rather than 15,831; this suggests that in 2002 alone, 3,842 fewer Latino applications were accepted in the University of California system. Using the same formula and the same calculations for 1998–2002, 18,238 Latino applications have been rejected from UC schools following the implementation of SP-1 that might have otherwise been accepted.

Similarly, if the acceptance rate in 2002 for African Americans had decreased only marginally since 1997 (from 57% to 52%), 4,664 Black applications would have been accepted to UC schools, rather than 3,221; based on this, in 2002 alone 1,443 fewer Black applications were accepted in the University of California system. Using the same formula and the same calculations for 1998–2002, 6,133 Black applications have been rejected from UC schools following the implementation of SP-1 that might have otherwise been accepted.

Taken together, 24,371 Black and Latino freshman applications for admittance have been turned away from the University of California since the passage of SP-1. As a point of comparison, in the fall of 2001, the enrolled undergraduate student body at UC Berkeley was 23,269 and 25,328 at UCLA.

4 Combined rate divides the total number of offers of admission by the total number of applications filed at all UC campuses for each year.

INTRODUCTION

An Overview of the University of California's Admission Policies

In 1995, the University of California (UC) Board of Regents eliminated affirmative action guidelines in college acceptances when it enacted Resolution SP-1. In 1996, California voters approved Proposition 209, which eliminated race, ethnicity and gender considerations in admissions, hiring, and contracts in public institutions. The impact of these policies introduced new race-neutral guidelines that went into effect for freshman applicants in the fall of 1998 and continue to be in place today.

In November 2001, the Regents voted to repeal SP-1 allowing the individual campuses within the UC system more flexibility in interpreting and instituting admissions guidelines beginning in the fall 2002 academic year. The repeal of SP-1 gave birth to an admissions process called comprehensive review[5]. Although Proposition 209 is still in effect statewide and continues to limit consideration of race, ethnicity and gender in admissions, comprehensive review does allow supplemental criteria to be considered. With comprehensive review, all application information is examined rather than a narrow range of quantitative factors[6]. The 2002 academic school year represents the first glance at the post-SP-1 era for California and therefore deserves close scrutiny.

Six-year longitudinal Examination and Analysis

This Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) report examines applications, admissions, and minority representation in the University of California for Latino and African American freshman students between 1997 and 2002. 1997 was the last year that affirmative action was in place in California admission considerations and therefore serves as the base year of comparison when SP-1 was not in effect; next, 1998–2001 are the four years that SP-1 guidelines were in place; and finally, 2002 is the first academic year in which SP-1 has been repealed. This six-year longitudinal data set helps assess the effect that SP-1 had on Latino and African American students. The question remains, were minority students more, or less, disadvantaged in college admissions under SP-1's race neutral guidelines? Moreover, what impact, if any, has the repeal of SP-1 had on minority (African American and Latino) admissions?

5 On November 15, 2001, the UC Board of Regents, acting on the recommendation of UC's faculty, approved a modified selection process for freshman admissions which allowed individual campuses to consider a broad variety of academic and personal qualifications.

6 For more information see http://www.ucop.edu/news/comprev/welcome.html

THE CONTEXT OF THE DATA

Because the goal of SP-1 was to ensure that students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds had an opportunity to achieve success in the University of California, it is important to frame this report in the appropriate context of California's growing racial and ethnic diversity. We will briefly review the changing demographics in California with particular attention to the pool of qualified applicants graduating from high school. In addition, we will consider the UC application including self-reported ethnicity information.

DEMOGRAPHICS: CALIFORNIA'S DIVERSITY

According to the original language in SP-1, Section 9, the intent of the resolution was to help better reflect the state's diversity:

> *Believing California's diversity to be an asset, we adopt this statement: Because individual members of all of California's diverse races have the intelligence and capacity to succeed at the University of California, this policy will achieve a UC population that reflects this state's diversity through the preparation and empowerment of all students in this state to succeed rather than through a system of artificial preferences.*

According to official statistics from the 2000 Census, California is now a majority minority population state. Currently, Latinos comprise 32 percent of the population, Asians 11 percent, Blacks 7 percent, and Whites 47 percent (with 1% Native American and 2% Other). Further, minority populations are expected to grow rapidly over the next 20 years and comprise over 60 percent of the state population (Latino 40%, White 39%, Asian 14%, Black 6%, Other 1%).

According to the University of California Office of the President, system-wide, Latinos comprised 14 percent of the freshman class in 2002, African Americans comprised 3 percent, Whites 36 percent and Asians 38 percent. Diversity at the University of California is in stark contrast to the actual diversity of the state of California. Recent figures from the 2000 Census report that 44 percent of people age 18–20 in California are Latino, 7 percent are Black, 37 percent are White non-Hispanic and 12 percent are Asian (Figure 2).

However, a better point of reference than the overall population is high school graduates. Here, 33 percent of all graduates in California in 2001 were Latino, 7 percent

Black, 44 percent White and 15 percent Asian (Figure 2). Again, these numbers are considerably different from the diversity of the freshman class in the UC system.

The Pool of Qualified Applicants

As not all high school graduates are eligible for admissions to UC schools, the best measure of diversity at the University of California is high school graduates that have completed the State of California "A–G" requirements for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) eligibility. To satisfy the UC/CSU Subject Requirement for Admission, prospective freshmen must complete a series of high school courses. The A–G requirements[8] include 15 units of high school courses, 7 units of which must be taken in the last two years of high school. An examination of the California Department of Education[9] high school graduation rates finds that 112,469 graduating seniors completed the A–G required courses in 2001. Of these students, 21 percent were Latino, 5 percent were Black, 50 percent were White non-Hispanic and 23 percent were Asian (Figure 2).

The number of Latinos that are completing the A–G required courses have been steadily increasing every year. In 1996, 17,529 Latino high school graduates in California had completed these requirements and by 2001, this number grew to 23,772 students, an increase of 36 percent, the fastest growth rate of any ethnic group in California[10] (Figure 3). However, it is important to note that not all students would be eligible for UC admission by simply completing the A–G requirements. They must also achieve a minimum competitive GPA and standardized test scores.

Ethnicity Information

Ethnicity information provided in this report is based on self-reported statistics from freshman applicants. In Section XII, "Statistical Information," of the official UC application form[11] applicants are offered the opportunity to voluntarily identify their ethnicity. We were unable to

8 The A–G requirements can be summarized as follows:
(A) History / Social Science –Two years required; (B) English –Four years of college preparatory English; (C) Mathematics –Three years of college preparatory mathematics; (D) Laboratory Science –Two years of laboratory science; (E) Language other than English –Two years of the same language other than English; (F) Visual & Performing Arts –One year, including dance, drama/theater, music, and/or visual art; (G) College Preparatory Elective — In addition to those courses required in "A–F" above, one year (two semesters) of college preparatory electives are required, chosen from visual and performing arts, history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, and language other than English. For more visit: http://pathstat1.ucop.edu/ag/a-g/a-f_reqs.html

9 Numbers obtained from DataQuest website: http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/

10 Whites completing the UC/CSU requirements grew by 18%, Asians by 29%, and Blacks by 8% between 1996–2001.

11 University of California Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships Section XII, Question 136.
See http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/ucapp_0304_form.pdf

classify responses in the "unknown" (aka "decline to state") and "other" categories, though each has grown considerably since 1997 from 5.5 percent to 7.1 percent in 2002, which represents over 15,750 applications at the eight campuses combined.

No data were available explaining the increase in the "unknown" and "other" categories and we cannot speculate as to the race or ethnicity of these applicants. Whatever the case for marking these categories, we focus only on those respondents that have indicated their race/ethnicity, which is a large majority.

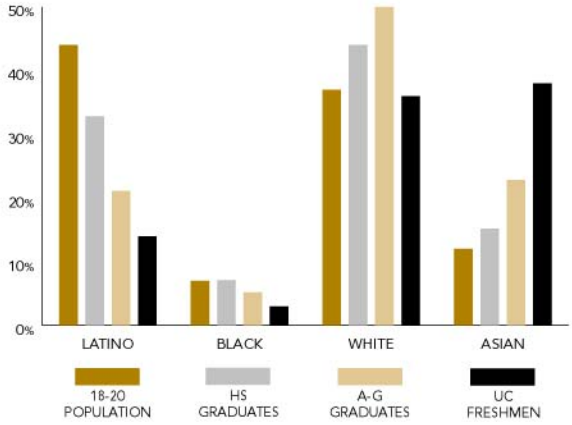
As the University of California system contains two separate ethnic identifiers for Hispanic applicants, "Chicano" and "Latino", for the purposes of this report we have combined the Chicano and Latino numbers and refer to them collectively as Latino freshman applicants.

TYPES OF UC APPLICATION DATA

It is important to understand the two types of application data available on prospective students: "university-wide unduplicated" and "campus specific".

FIGURE 2

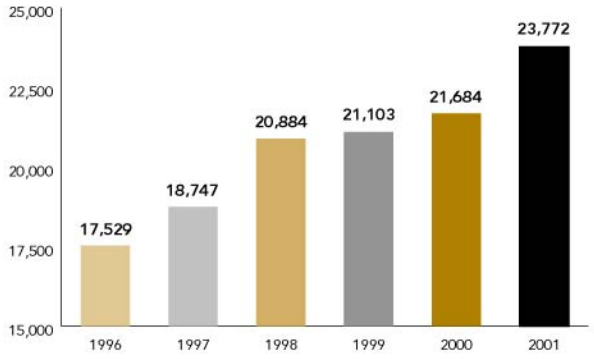
CALIFORNIA'S DIVERSITY: 2001 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COMPARED TO 2002 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ENROLLED FRESHMEN



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

FIGURE 3

GROWTH IN LATINO GRADUATES COMPLETING UC/CSU REQUIREMENTS: 1996 - 2001



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

Over 24,000 Black and Latino freshman applications have been turned away from the University of California since the passage of SP-1

Both types of data, which the UCOP makes publicly available, come from a single application form. When a student decides to apply to one or more UC campus, they fill out a single admission form and check the boxes for which schools they are seeking admittance. Campus specific application data is applicable only at the individual school while the unduplicated data refers to the UC system as a whole. Campus specific applications are important because they are the best measure for comparing acceptance rates and admittances from one campus to another and for comparing rates at one campus over time.

Unduplicated application data can be misleading because it does not report to which or how many campuses the prospective student was accepted or rejected. As long as one campus maintains similar acceptance levels for minority applicants, it makes it difficult to compare system-wide numbers over time. For example, if a Latino student applies to Berkeley, UCLA, Irvine and Riverside in 1997 and is accepted at all four campuses the unduplicated data reports this as one student admitted out of one that applied or 100%. However, if a Latino student applies to the same four campuses in 2002 but is only accepted at Riverside, the unduplicated data still reports this as one student admitted out of one that applied or 100%. By using the campus specific application data, a clearer picture of University of California admissions emerges.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

TERMINOLOGY

The key data analyzed in this report are the APPLICATIONS, ACCEPTANCE RATE, COMBINED ACCEPTANCE RATE, UNDUPLICATED SYSTEM-WIDE ACCEPTANCE RATE and THE RATIO OF ETHNIC REPRESENTATION for each UC campus. These are defined as follows:

- **APPLICATIONS** are simply the total number of students that apply to a given institution.

- **THE ACCEPTANCE RATE** is the percent of students that are admitted to a particular university out of all students that apply ("admissions" and "acceptances" are used interchangeably). This number illuminates how selective the eight campuses are.

- **COMBINED ACCEPTANCE RATE** pools the applications and admittances across all eight campuses for an overall UC system total. The combined acceptance rate is the total number of combined admittances offered divided by the total number of combined applications that were filed in the UC system. This measure is important because it allows observers to differentiate the combined UC acceptance rate from the unduplicated system-wide acceptance rate.

- **UNDUPLICATED SYSTEM-WIDE ACCEPTANCE RATE** is a measure used by the University of California Office of the President and counts only whether or not a student was accepted at one campus. For example, if a student applies to four campuses: Berkeley, UCLA, Irvine, and Riverside and is accepted only at Riverside, they count for one full acceptance despite being rejected by three campuses. Using the combined acceptance rate, all four applications and all four acceptances/rejections would be included in the formula.

- **THE RATIO OF ETHNIC REPRESENTATION** compares what percent of the total freshman body is comprised by each ethnic group, from one year to the next. For example, if there are 20 Latino freshmen accepted in school X in 1997 out of 100 total freshmen, then Latinos make up a 20 percent ratio of admits to the freshman class. If the number of Latino admitted freshmen rises to 25 in 2002 and the total number of admitted freshmen rises to 150, then Latinos are now only 17 percent of the accepted freshman class and their "representation" has decreased despite an increase in raw numbers. By focusing on percentages, one gains a better understanding of the progress, or lack thereof, of minority admissions.

Data from the University of California Office of the President

- Data were gathered from the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) for first-time freshman applications, admissions, and representation at each of the eight UC campuses: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz from 1997–2002. Data were also obtained from each of the UC institutions to verify and crosscheck the numbers received from the UCOP.

- The data include the total number of applications filed and students admitted, sorted by ethnicity for Fall 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 terms. This allows for a comparison across time for each of the campuses in three key periods:

  1. during affirmative action (1997)
  2. during SP-1 (1998–2001)
  3. post-SP-1 (2002)

Data from the California Department of Education and the U.S. Census Bureau

- Data gathered from the California Department of Education allows an examination of High School graduation rates and A–G course completion rates[7] by ethnicity to assess the growth of the pool of eligible minority students applying for admittance into the University of California.

- Additional population figures and statistics were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Current Population Survey, providing a context of the overall state diversity.

7 The A–G completion rates are *estimates* compiled by each school and then aggregated by the California Department of Education. They do not necessarily reflect the actual number of students completing these course requirements, but there is no reason to suspect that the numbers are over-estimated in one year but not another. Therefore, for the purpose of assessing the growth in qualified Latino students, they are still quite accurate.

ANALYSIS

Three levels of analysis are presented in this section to fully assess the impact of SP-1 and the rollback of affirmative action on the UC system. First, a simple comparison of 2001 and 2002 provides a glimpse at minority representation in the first year that SP-1 was not in effect. Next, an assessment of the three different eras: pre-SP-1 (1997), during SP-1 (1998–2001), and post-SP-1 (2002). Finally, a six-year examination from 1997 to 2002 is presented to compare 1997, the benchmark year when affirmative action was still in place, to subsequent years.

Minority Acceptance Rates: 2001 vs. 2002

What is readily apparent is that the repeal of SP-1, after one year, did not appear to boost Latino and Black acceptance rates in the UC. Even if the raw number of Latino and Black students admitted is increasing, they are a decreasing percentage of the overall freshman student body, and therefore their proportionate representation continues to decrease on campus. Nonetheless, this basic distinction between a "rate" and a "raw number" has been lost in the popular media.

Recent headlines in the two largest newspapers in the state provide an example. On April 5, 2002 the *Los Angeles Times* ran a story with the headline, "Minority Levels Rebound at UC," and the same day the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran the headline, "UC Admitting More Minority Applicants," both based on a UC press release. The articles went on to quote:

"UC officials expressed satisfaction with the rebounding minority figures, which they said reflected not only the shifting demographics of the state but concerted efforts by the university to reach out to underrepresented students.

'We've been seeing steady progress in this regard and that's very good news,' said Dennis Galligani, UC's associate vice president for student academic services."

However, the official numbers from the UC Office of the President do not seem to reflect this "good news." While the number of Latino students admitted to the UC has increased, so too have the number of Latino students applying, and their acceptance rate has remained far below the 1997 levels. For example, in 2001 UC Berkeley admitted 963 Latino freshmen for an acceptance rate of 26.7 percent and in 2002 the number grew by only one single student to 964 while the acceptance rate fell to 24.7 percent. Despite an increase of almost 300 additional Latino applications in 2002, only one additional student was admitted to UC Berkeley. While Latino admittances increased by over 100 at UCLA, they did not keep pace with applications and the Latino acceptance rate fell from 23.6 percent to 22.4 percent. At Irvine, fewer Latinos were admitted in 2002 than in 2001, despite impressive increases in the number of applications (Table 1A).

TABLE 1A

Change in Latino Admittances in 2002 by Campus

Campus	2001 Applied	2001 Admit	2001 Acc Rate	2002 Applied	2002 Admit	2002 Acc Rate	CHANGES 2001-2002 Admittances	CHANGES Acceptance Rate
Berkeley	3,610	963	26.7%	3,899	964	24.7%	1	-2.0
Davis	2,951	1,884	63.8%	3,037	1,901	62.6%	17	-1.2
Irvine	3,958	2,062	52.1%	4,373	2,060	47.1%	-2	-5.0
Los Angeles	5,134	1,213	23.6%	5,894	1,322	22.4%	109	-1.2
Riverside	3,290	2,661	80.9%	3,692	2,944	79.7%	283	-1.2
San Diego	4,348	1,465	33.7%	4,892	1,939	39.6%	474	5.9
Santa Barbara	4,616	2,269	49.2%	4,731	2,482	52.5%	213	3.3
Santa Cruz	2,757	2,162	78.4%	2,911	2,219	76.2%	57	-2.2

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

TABLE 1B

Change in African American Admittances in 2002 by Campus

Campus	2001 Applied	2001 Admit	2001 Acc Rate	2002 Applied	2002 Admit	2002 Acc Rate	CHANGES 2001-2002 Admittances	CHANGES Acceptance Rate
Berkeley	1,225	293	23.9%	1,347	290	21.5%	-3	-2.4
Davis	850	404	47.5%	923	416	45.1%	12	-2.4
Irvine	886	415	46.8%	1,065	390	36.6%	-25	-10.2
Los Angeles	1,468	265	18.1%	1,661	316	19.0%	51	0.9
Riverside	865	567	65.5%	1,010	647	64.1%	80	-1.4
San Diego	1,082	232	21.4%	1,243	330	26.5%	98	5.1
Santa Barbara	1,012	413	40.8%	1,037	441	42.5%	28	1.7
Santa Cruz	630	398	63.2%	652	391	60.0%	-7	-3.2

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

TABLE 2A

Change in Latino Freshman Representation in 2002 by Campus

Campus	2001 Applied	2001 Admit	2001 Acc Rate	2002 Applied	2002 Admit	2002 Acc Rate	CHANGES 2001-2002 Admittances	CHANGES Repre-sentation
Berkeley	7,601	963	12.7%	7,393	964	13.0%	1	0.3
Davis	16,006	1,884	11.8%	16,970	1,901	11.2%	17	-0.6
Irvine	16,113	2,062	12.8%	16,164	2,060	12.7%	-2	-0.1
Los Angeles	9,609	1,213	12.6%	9,350	1,322	14.1%	109	1.5
Riverside	12,981	2,661	20.5%	13,985	2,944	21.1%	283	0.6
San Diego	15,226	1,465	9.6%	16,338	1,939	11.9%	474	2.3
Santa Barbara	14,882	2,269	15.2%	16,143	2,482	15.4%	213	0.2
Santa Cruz	14,239	2,162	15.2%	14,943	2,219	14.8%	57	-0.4

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

TABLE 2B

Change in African American Freshman Representation in 2002 by Campus

Campus	2001 Applied	2001 Admit	2001 Acc Rate	2002 Applied	2002 Admit	2002 Acc Rate	CHANGES 2001-2002 Admittances	CHANGES Repre-sentation
Berkeley	7,601	293	3.9%	7,393	290	3.9%	-3	0.0
Davis	16,006	404	2.5%	16,970	416	2.5%	12	0.0
Irvine	16,113	415	2.6%	16,164	390	2.4%	-25	-0.2
Los Angeles	9,609	265	2.8%	9,350	316	3.4%	51	0.6
Riverside	12,981	567	4.4%	13,985	647	4.6%	80	0.2
San Diego	15,226	232	1.5%	16,338	330	2.0%	98	0.5
Santa Barbara	14,882	413	2.8%	16,143	441	2.7%	28	-0.1
Santa Cruz	14,239	398	2.8%	14,943	391	2.6%	-7	-0.2

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

Despite an increase of almost 300 additional Latino applications in 2002, only one additional Latino student was admitted to UC Berkeley

Only two schools, UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara demonstrated an increase in Latino admittances and acceptance rates in 2002. For San Diego this is particularly impressive, as the acceptance rate for Latinos had declined considerably in each year since 1997 when SP-1 went into effect.

This pattern of meager advances in acceptances is consistent for African American freshman applicants, as shown in Table 1B. Both UC Berkeley and UC Irvine admitted fewer Black students in 2002 despite increases in applications, contributing to a decline in acceptance rates. At Berkeley, an additional 120 African American students applied for admittance, yet the number admitted to the freshman class dropped from 293 to 290. At Irvine, applications by Blacks grew by 180 while the number admitted dropped by 25 from 415 in 2001 to 390 in 2002. The drop in acceptance rates for Black freshmen was also found at UC Davis, Riverside and Santa Cruz.

Again, UC San Diego and Santa Barbara demonstrated an increase in Black admittances and acceptance rates. This evidence suggests that with the repeal of SP-1, it is possible to make small strides in minority acceptance rates, but that most campuses continue to witness declines in the acceptance rates of Latino and African American freshman students.

Numbers for representation tell a similar story. Here, Latinos and Blacks have made some, albeit small, gains in representation in 2002. Tables 2A and 2B report the total number of students admitted, and the number of Latino and Black students admitted at each campus in 2001 and 2002. This allows us to calculate what percentage each group represents of the total number

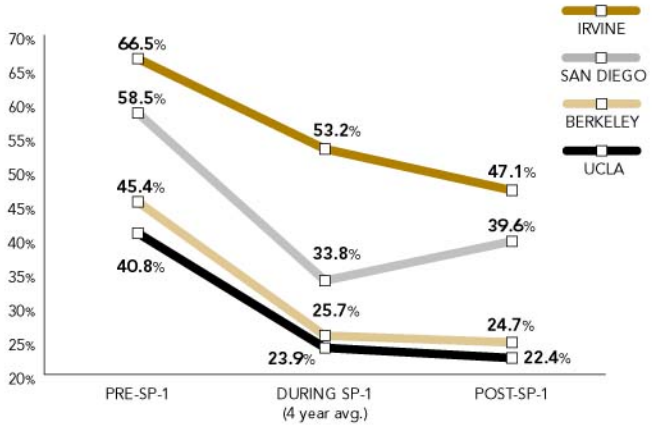
of acceptances. For both groups, UC Davis, Irvine, and Santa Cruz reveal drops in representation suggesting that the presence of minorities on campus at these schools is further dropping. Elsewhere, marginal increases were evident. At Berkeley, for example, Latinos grew from 12.7 percent of all students accepted to 13.0 percent and at UCLA they grew from 12.6 to 14.1 percent. UC San Diego witnessed the largest increase with Latinos growing from 9.6 to 11.9 percent of all freshmen accepted in 2002.

An Assessment of the Three Different Eras: Pre-, During, and Post-SP-1

The next set of figures and tables examine the acceptance rate of Latino and African American students in the six-year period ranging from 1997 to 2002. This allows us to compare three distinct time frames: pre-SP-1 (1997), during SP-1 (1998–2001), and post-SP-1 (2002), and to assess how acceptance rates have changed through the UC system. Figures 4 and 5 display the acceptance rates for Latino and Black freshman applicants during these three time frames for selected campuses. The middle point, when SP-1 was in effect, represents the four-year average of the years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001. Turning to Figure 4, it is clear that only UC San Diego appears to have made any strides in Latino acceptance rates in

FIGURE 4

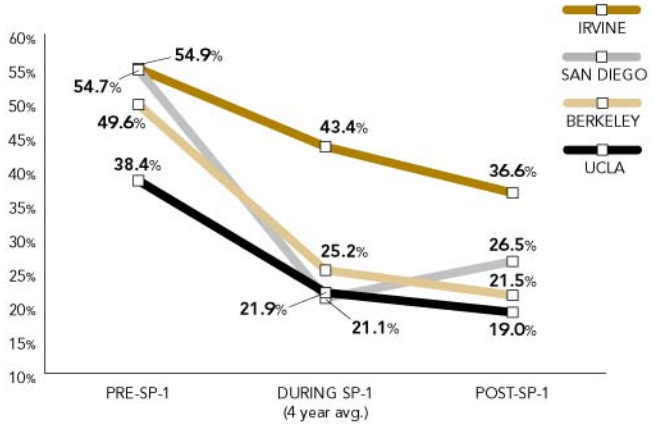
Change in Latino Acceptance Rates for Selected Campuses: 1997 - 2002



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

FIGURE 5

Change in African American Acceptance Rates for Selected Campuses: 1997 - 2002



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

At UC Irvine fewer Latinos were admitted in 2002 than in 2001, despite impressive increases in the number of Latino applications

2002. For all the schools reported here, the acceptance rate during the SP-1 era was considerably lower than in 1997. This trend has continued for UC Irvine, Berkeley and UCLA where acceptances are lower again in 2002 despite the repeal of SP-1. The trend is consistent for Blacks where only UC San Diego shows an increase in acceptance rates in 2002, as shown in Figure 5.

1997 as a Benchmark: A Six-year Comparative Analysis

The number of freshmen being admitted to the UC system as a whole has grown considerably from 38,000 in 1997 to 48,000 in 2002. However, starting in 1998 Latino and Black students witnessed declining acceptance rates. While White non-Hispanic and Asian students have made the most gains. For example, at UC Berkeley White non-Hispanic students in 1997 represented 31 percent of all admittances, growing to 33 percent in 2002 and Asian students grew from 35 percent to 40 percent during that same time period. However, Latinos and Blacks continue to lag behind: Latinos consisted of 14.6 percent of all freshman admittances at UC Berkeley in 1997, but only 13.0 percent in 2002, while Blacks fell from 7.8 to 3.9 percent during the same period. At UCLA, Latinos were 15.8 percent of all admitted freshmen in 1997, but only 14.1 percent in 2002, and Blacks dropped from 5.6 to 3.4 percent.

Tables 3A and 3B detail the year-by-year acceptance rates for Latino and Black freshman applicants at each campus. While 1998 experienced the biggest drop in acceptance rates for both groups, the levels remained

TABLE 3A

Latino Acceptance Rates by Campus: 1997 - 2002

Campus	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	Rate Change
Berkeley	45.4%	20.8%	27.9%	27.5%	26.7%	24.7%	-20.7
Davis	87.6%	67.0%	62.3%	60.5%	63.8%	62.6%	-25.0
Irvine	66.5%	58.1%	54.6%	48.0%	52.1%	47.1%	-19.4
Los Angeles	40.8%	24.5%	25.2%	22.3%	23.6%	22.4%	-18.4
Riverside	82.4%	75.9%	81.7%	82.0%	80.9%	79.7%	-2.7
San Diego	58.5%	36.0%	33.5%	32.1%	33.7%	39.6%	-18.9
Santa Barbara	78.0%	59.1%	52.2%	46.9%	49.2%	52.5%	-25.5
Santa Cruz	81.4%	74.8%	73.4%	80.5%	78.4%	76.2%	-5.2
UC Total	63.9%	47.7%	48.3%	46.8%	47.9%	47.4%	-16.6

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

TABLE 3B

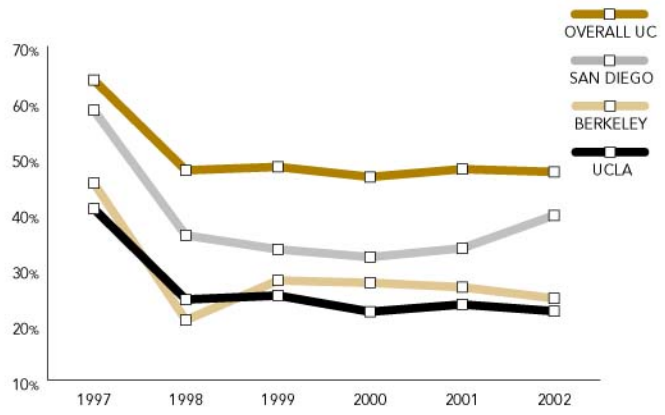
African American Acceptance Rates by Campus: 1997 - 2002

Campus	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	Rate Change
Berkeley	49.6%	20.3%	28.3%	28.4%	23.9%	21.5%	-28.1
Davis	74.0%	51.9%	51.0%	46.2%	47.5%	45.1%	-28.9
Irvine	54.9%	47.6%	44.4%	34.8%	46.8%	36.6%	-18.3
Los Angeles	38.4%	23.6%	24.0%	22.0%	18.1%	19.0%	-19.4
Riverside	69.2%	62.8%	69.6%	69.7%	65.5%	64.1%	-5.1
San Diego	54.7%	27.8%	19.8%	19.5%	21.4%	26.5%	-28.2
Santa Barbara	70.4%	54.3%	42.7%	37.9%	40.8%	42.5%	-27.9
Santa Cruz	72.2%	64.6%	62.2%	69.7%	63.2%	60.0%	-12.2
UC Total	56.5%	38.8%	39.3%	37.9%	37.3%	36.0%	-20.5

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

FIGURE 6

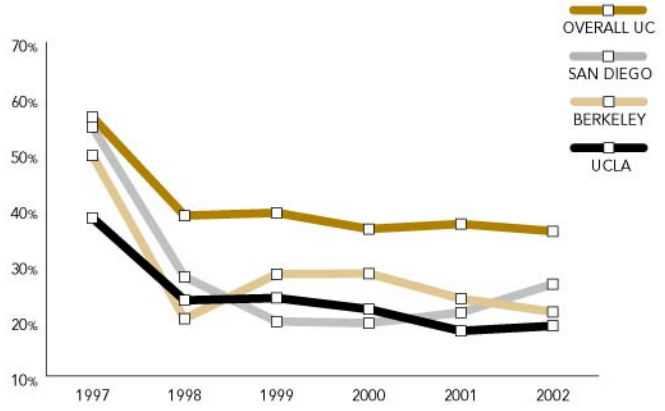
Latino Acceptance Rates: 1997 - 2002



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

FIGURE 7

African American Acceptance Rates: 1997 - 2002



Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

low for subsequent years, and have not returned anywhere near the 1997 levels. Overall, Latino acceptance rates have fallen sharply from 64 to 47 percent and Black rates dropped by more than 20 percentage points — from 57 to 36 percent. The yearly marks reveal by and large, no improvement has been made for minority acceptances in terms of percentages.

The specific campus rates also show that in every instance the acceptance rates for both Latinos and Blacks is well below 1997 levels, with only Riverside being able to close the gap to single digits. Santa Barbara, which saw an increase in acceptance rates from 2001 to 2002, is still over 25 percentage points lower than in 1997 for Latinos and Blacks. Berkeley, after an increase in acceptance rates in 1999, has decreased every year and stands over 20 percentage points lower in 2002 than in 1997 for Latino freshman applicants; Black students have seen their acceptance rates fall every year except for the 0.1 percentage point increase from 1999 to 2000, losing more than 20 percentage points from 1997–2002. As Figures 6 and 7 indicate, the acceptance rates for Latino and Black freshman applicants in 2002 continue to be well below their 1997 levels for the top three institutions in the UC system. The year-by-year trend suggests that an increase in one year is offset by decreased acceptance rates in the next year. None of the schools have rebounded to their pre-SP-1 acceptance rate levels.

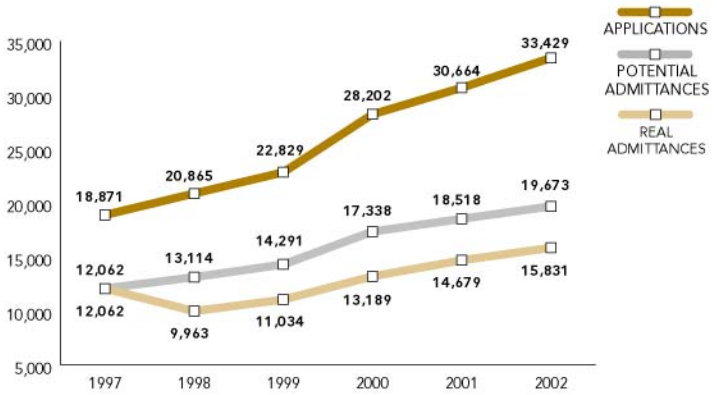
While Latino acceptances have grown between 1997 and 2002 from 10,618 to 15,831, Latino applications have nearly doubled from 18,871 to 32,681. In percentage terms, this means that applications have increased by 73 percent while acceptances have grown by only 31 percent. This translates into a declining and stagnate acceptance rate for Latinos that stands at 47 percent university-wide, 17 percentage points lower than the rate of 64 percent in 1997 (Figure 6).

While Black applications have increased by 55 percent, from 5,783 in 1997 to 8,938 in 2002, admittances have grown by only 11 percentage points from 2,895 to 3,221, during this same time period. This translates into a declining acceptance rate for Blacks that stands at 36 percent university-wide, 21 percentage points lower than the rate of 57 percent in 1997 (Figure 7).

Over the past six years it has become more difficult to gain admittance to the University of California, however it has disproportionately impacted Latino and African American applicants. If the acceptance rate in 2002 for Latinos had declined at the same rate as for Whites since 1997 (rather than the 17 percentage point drop) it would have stood at 59 percent in 2002 and 19,673 Latino applications would have been admitted to UC schools, rather than 15,831. This suggests that in 2002 alone, 3,842 fewer Latino freshman applications were accepted in the University

FIGURE 8

NUMBER OF LATINO APPLICATIONS & ADMITTANCES TO UC SCHOOLS COMBINED: 1997 - 2002

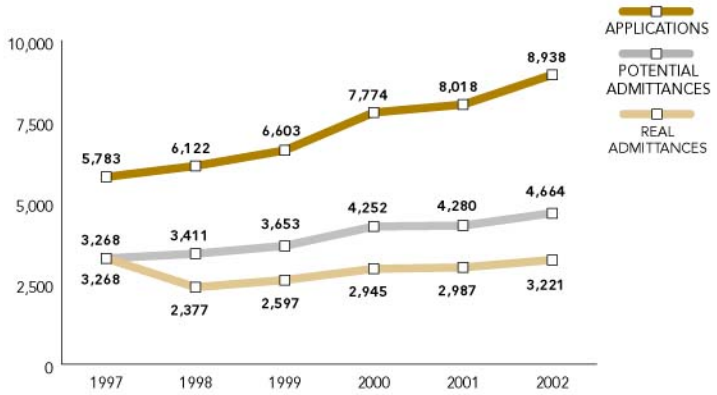


Source:
TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President Application and Admittance data 1997-2002.

Note: Full data on Latino applications and admissions from 1997 - 2002, including campus-by-campus breakdowns are provided in Appendix A.

FIGURE 9

NUMBER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN APPLICATIONS & ADMITTANCES TO UC SCHOOLS COMBINED: 1997 - 2002



Source:
TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President Application and Admittance data 1997-2002.

Note: Full data on African American applications and admissions from 1997 - 2002, including campus-by-campus breakdowns are provided in Appendix B.

Over the past six years it has become more difficult to gain admittance to the University of California, however it has disproportionately impacted Latino and African American applicants

of California system (Figure 8). Using the same formula and the same calculations for 1998–2002 combined, 18,238 Latino applications have been rejected from UC schools following the implementation of SP-1 that might have otherwise been accepted.

Similarly, if the acceptance rate in 2002 for African Americans had declined at the same rate as for Whites since 1997 it would have stood at 52 percent in 2002 and 4,664 Blacks would have been admitted to UC schools, rather than 3,221. Based on this, in 2002 alone 1,443 fewer Black freshman applications were accepted in the University of California system (Figure 9). Using the same formula and the same calculations for 1998–2002, 6,133 Black applications have been rejected from UC schools following the implementation of SP-1 that might have otherwise been accepted.

Taken together, 24,371 Black and Latino applications have been turned away from University of California campuses since the passage of SP-1. As a point of comparison, in the fall of 2001, the total enrolled undergraduate student body at UC Berkeley was 23,269 and 25,328 at UCLA.

While this number is quite large, the university-wide estimates reflect applications and not students. For example, a student might have had their application rejected from San Diego but accepted at Santa Cruz. For estimates on the number of students turned away, we can examine the campus specific admittances for 1998–2002. Again, using 1997 as the base, and applying the same decrease in acceptance rate to minority students as for White students by campus, we can estimate the number of Latino and Black students that

TABLE 4

Latino and African American Total Potential Admittances vs. Total Actual Admittances 1998-2002[12]

	LATINO APPLICANTS			AFRICAN AMERICAN APPLICANTS		
Campus	Potential Applications	Actual Admits	Turned Away	Potential Applications	Actual Admits	Turned Away
Berkeley	7,254	4,163	-3,091	2,904	1,451	-1,453
Davis	10,481	7,932	-2,549	2,831	1,919	-912
Irvine	10,783	8,566	-2,217	2,080	1,631	-449
Los Angeles	8,578	5,680	-2,898	2,372	1,515	-857
Riverside	13,362	12,252	-1,110	3,171	2,839	-332
San Diego	10,321	6,771	-3,550	2,502	1,154	-1,348
Santa Barbara	12,168	10,140	-2,028	2,403	1,903	-500
Santa Cruz	9,987	9,192	-795	1,999	1,715	-284

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

Note: System-wide totals cannot be reported as this level of analysis requires access to individual student data that are not made public by the University of California.

would have been admitted to each campus in the following five years. The average yearly decrease in the acceptance rate for White applicants ranged from three-tenths of one percentage point at Berkeley to a yearly drop off of 4.9 percentage points at Santa Barbara and an increase of 1.6 percentage points per year at Riverside. These same rates were applied to Latino and Black acceptances, assuming that SP-1 had not gone into effect in the fall of 1998.

Table 4 reports the differences in potential admittances and actual admittances by campus for both Latino and African American students. At UC Berkeley, more than 3,000 Latino students and nearly 1,500 African American students have been turned away since SP-1 went into effect. At UC San Diego 3,550 Latino applicants were turned away in the past five years, while at UCLA 2,898 fewer Latinos were offered admittance. For African Americans, 1,348 were turned away from San Diego and 857 at Los Angeles. Even Riverside and Santa Cruz that had stable acceptance rates for minority students would have admitted more Latino and African American students absent SP-1. The implication of this table is clear: throughout the UC system, fewer minority students were offered admittance following the elimination of affirmative action, with the flagship campuses turning the most students away.

[12] Potential admittances are calculated by using the decrease in acceptance rate by campus for each among White freshman applicants rather than the sharp decreases in acceptance rate for minority students. The actual admittances reflect the real number of minority students admitted to each campus following the introduction of SP-1. For example, White applicants felt a yearly decrease of 0.3 percentage points at UC Berkeley each year between 1997–2002. We apply this same decrease to minority applicants at UC Berkeley to determine the potential admittances had SP-1 not gone into place.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has detailed the representation of Latino and Black freshmen in the University of California from 1997–2002. Specifically, this research has examined the effect of race-neutral admissions guidelines under SP-1 that were in effect from 1998–2001. By comparing the official acceptance and admission data across six years, it becomes clear that SP-1 had a lasting impact on minority representation in the UC system. Contrary to the "rebound" theory that the UC Office of the President and news outlets have suggested, the acceptance rate for Latino and Black students has continued to decline and is well below 1997 levels. At the same time, the number of minority high school graduates in California completing UC requirements has increased steadily.

The year 2002 indicates that some campuses, notably UC San Diego, have been able to make some progress in increasing freshman minority student acceptances. Unfortunately, this cannot be said for all eight UC campuses and more research is needed in 2003 to document further the effects of outreach efforts. Moreover, applications, admissions, and enrollment should continue to be monitored at all UC campuses into the future, to assess levels of minority representation in the University of California system in an era of race-neutral admissions guidelines.

The University of California is a world class system of higher education, publicly supported by California taxpayers in an increasing ethnically diversified state. In order for the UC to maintain its established standing among California policy makers and opinion leaders, the following actions are recommended.

- The UC should conduct independent evaluations on a campus-by-campus basis of outreach programs and efforts to increase student diversity and publicly report these findings on an annual basis to the UC Board of Regents as well as to the California State Legislature.

- Since present funding has not proven adequate for current diversity outreach, the California State Legislature should consider significant increases and continuous funding for UC outreach programs.

- The University of California should analyze and report to the UC Board of Regents the factors and the implications for UC student diversity associated with the increasing number of freshman applications that are not listing their ethnicity. Are these applications from multi-racial/ethnic applicants or from applicants who perceive negative consequences of self-describing their ethnic background? What are the implications of the increase in this category to evaluate current efforts to increase student diversity?

- Extrapolations of present and future student diversity among UC campuses should be undertaken to assess the potentials of perceived stratification of UC campuses among racial/ethnic lines.

REFERENCES

Application and admissions data were collected from the following sources:

http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/fall2002app.htm

http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/fall2002adm.html

http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/2002/admissions_ethnicity.pdf

http://www.ucop.edu/news/factsheets/flowfrc9501.pdf

The websites above were accessed in January 2003.

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APPENDIX A:
LATINO APPLICATIONS AND ADMITTANCES: 1997 - 2002

Latino Applications Submitted by Campus

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Berkeley	2,742	2,977	2,621	3,214	3,610	3,899
Davis	1,800	1,966	2,080	2,535	2,951	3,037
Irvine	2,086	2,357	2,751	3,275	3,958	4,373
Los Angeles	3,619	3,960	4,071	5,174	5,134	5,894
Riverside	1,685	2,137	2,757	3,380	3,290	3,692
San Diego	2,467	2,736	3,345	3,939	4,348	4,892
Santa Barbara	2,845	2,923	3,351	4,080	4,616	4,731
Santa Cruz	1,627	1,809	1,853	2,605	2,757	2,911
UC Total	18,871	20,865	22,829	28,202	30,664	33,429

Latino Admittances by Campus

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Berkeley	1,246	619	732	885	963	964
Davis	1,576	1,318	1,295	1,534	1,884	1,901
Irvine	1,387	1,370	1,502	1,572	2,062	2,060
Los Angeles	1,476	969	1,024	1,152	1,213	1,322
Riverside	1,389	1,623	2,252	2,772	2,661	2,944
San Diego	1,444	984	1,119	1,264	1,465	1,939
Santa Barbara	2,219	1,727	1,749	1,913	2,269	2,482
Santa Cruz	1,325	1,353	1,361	2,097	2,162	2,219
UC Total	12,062	9,963	11,034	13,189	14,679	15,831

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

APPENDIX B:
AFRICAN AMERICAN APPLICATIONS AND ADMITTANCES: 1997 - 2002

African American Applications Submitted by Campus

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Berkeley	1,099	1,164	1,040	1,190	1,225	1,347
Davis	666	668	698	857	850	923
Irvine	548	595	642	742	886	1,065
Los Angeles	1,272	1,247	1,311	1,480	1,468	1,661
Riverside	516	605	843	944	865	1,010
San Diego	682	770	886	1,042	1,082	1,243
Santa Barbara	626	683	773	918	1,012	1,037
Santa Cruz	374	390	410	601	630	652
UC Total	5,783	6,122	6,603	7,774	8,018	8,938

African American Admittances Submitted by Campus

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Berkeley	545	236	294	338	293	290
Davis	493	347	356	396	404	416
Irvine	301	283	285	258	415	390
Los Angeles	488	294	315	325	265	316
Riverside	357	380	587	658	567	647
San Diego	373	214	175	203	232	330
Santa Barbara	441	371	330	348	413	441
Santa Cruz	270	252	255	419	398	391
UC Total	3,268	2,377	2,597	2,945	2,987	3,221

Source: TRPI analysis of UC Office of the President application and admittance data.

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