

Tie-Breaking Procedures Freshman Selection Fall 2006 and Spring 2007

Background

In selecting freshman applicants for both fall and spring admission under the campus' comprehensive admission process, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (OUA) will first fill the available spaces for fall (except for the small portion filled on the basis of Augmented Review). As the distribution of comprehensive scores will not align neatly at the break point, OUA will very likely have more applicants with the same comprehensive score than there are remaining spaces available. As in past years, OUA will choose the remaining fall admits and spring admits from a single tie-break pool.

The tie-breaking process is critical as the decisions made at these edges of the admit pool often determine whether an applicant is admitted to fall, spring, or not admitted at all. Because of this, only experienced OUA internal readers serve as tie-break readers.

Tie-breaking

Readers will re-read applicant files using the same array of criteria as outlined in the Freshman Scoring Guidelines. Readers will estimate the relative academic strength of each applicant as well as that individual's level of achievement in non-academic areas and will consider the type of contribution that student would make to the overall intellectual, social, and cultural community at Berkeley. In addition, to help ensure that the admitted class is inclusive of all of California's communities, readers will be instructed to pay particular attention to the following information where relevant: whether the applicant attended a low API high school (1-4); comes from a low socioeconomic background or a home where English was not the primary language spoken ;or has a significant level of participation in an outreach program. For all applicants in the tiebreak pool, readers will also consider whether fewer than 5% of their high school's seniors apply to UC annually.

Readers will then sort applications to recommend them for fall admission, spring admission (as applicable by college) or denied admission.

Fall Admission

Applicants recommended for fall admission would, in general, demonstrate overall merit that, when viewed in context of all educational and personal circumstances are judged to be very high, relative to the rest of the tie-break pool.

Spring Admission

Applicants recommended for spring admission would, in general, demonstrate overall merit that, when viewed in context of all educational and personal circumstances are judged to be high, relative to the rest of the tie-break pool.

Denied Admission

Applicants not offered admission who, in the judgment of the reader, are qualified and could succeed at Berkeley, but whose overall merit is not sufficiently high relative to the rest of the tie-break pool to warrant admission.

Approved by the Admissions, Enrollment and Preparatory Education Committee April 22, 2005.

