

AEPE Policy on Nonresident Undergraduate Enrollment - 2015

Background

Until 2007, the percentage of nonresident undergraduate students at Berkeley had remained relatively stable for close to a quarter century, ranging from a low of 7% in 1983 to a high of 12% in 2000. The first formal policy for setting the level of nonresident enrollment at Berkeley was articulated by AEPE in 1999-2000. AEPE at that time believed it appropriate to have approximately 10% of undergraduate enrollment be nonresident. The committee explicitly did not want to set a numerical target, but wanted the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (OUA) to be responsive to the strength of the respective applicant pools. In 2007, however, concerns about global diversity, and subsequent concerns about fiscal necessity, led campus administration to call for a higher percentage, a call that Divisional Council (DIVCO) of the Academic Senate supported on October 26th, 2009, with the following conditions:

1. That the ratio of resident to nonresident students be reconsidered if and when state funding has been restored.
2. That all funds from increasing nonresident enrollment be used to protect the quality of undergraduate education.
3. That Divisional Council request an annual accounting report from the Chancellor detailing the deployment of these funds.

Since 2009, state funding has not been restored and targets for the percentage of enrolled nonresidents have been set in the context of an uncertain budget environment. By 2014, the percentage of nonresident enrollments rose to 23.9%.

Going forward, we want to reiterate that the admissions policy at the University of California is the purview of the Academic Senate and thus that the setting of resident, domestic nonresident, and international nonresident targets each year must be a collaborative process, one that proceeds via mutual consultation among AEPE, the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Director of Planning and Analysis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Enrollment, Director of OUA, and the deans of the colleges.

AEPE's position on nonresident undergraduate enrollment is guided by the following underlying principles.

Underlying Principles

It has long been recognized that incorporating a number of international students within the UC Berkeley student body brings a diversity of background and experience to the classroom and the campus that enriches the educational, cultural, and social experience of all students. Just as Berkeley values its students studying abroad, it also values the presence of international students on campus. The increasing flow of people, culture, goods, capital, and technology across national boundaries makes a global perspective an important element in contemporary higher education. Similarly, incorporating a number of

domestic out-of-state students into the Berkeley student body also serves to enrich the college experience for all students.

At the same time, UC Berkeley, as a state-supported institution, has a responsibility to serve the people of California and to provide educational opportunities to California's young people. As a land-grant institution, UC Berkeley has a long-standing commitment to serving the public good. Admission to Berkeley is a much sought after public resource, and reserving most of the places at Berkeley for California residents is a sound public policy goal.

The challenge is to find the proper balance between these policy objectives, for though they complement one another, attending to one makes achieving the other more difficult. In seeking to determine this balance, while upholding the value placed on access, affordability, equity, and quality by the Master Plan, AEPE affirms the following principles:

1. While we seek to make a Berkeley education available to as many students as possible, we must not expand the number of students to the point that the quality of education is compromised;
2. We must seek to serve as many California residents as possible;
3. We must uphold the value of a diverse student population;
4. We must admit individual students without considering their ability to pay (i.e., we must admit students on a so-called "need blind" basis).

Policy

While these principles guide our thinking, they are not specific enough given the fiscal pressure to increase nonresident admissions and enrollment. AEPE therefore further maintains that, for admission to a given college or major (as appropriate) at UC Berkeley, the academic and personal qualifications of accepted nonresident applicants as reflected by the outcome of their holistic review must not be weaker than those of resident applicants accepted in that admissions cycle.

In practice, this policy will enable us to maintain the excellence and global diversity of our undergraduate population while continuing to provide access to as many qualified California residents as possible. This policy also permits the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to remain responsive to the depth of both the resident and nonresident applicant pools, while also accommodating the campus's fiscal needs. AEPE further stipulates that in the setting of resident, domestic nonresident, and international nonresident targets each year, both for the campus as a whole and for each college, the consultations among AEPE, the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Director of Planning and Analysis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Enrollment, Director of OUA, and the deans of the colleges will take into consideration the depth of the various applicant pools in determining the appropriate targets for that cycle.

Approved by the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), 02/13/15.