

UCSB admits more transfers

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More community college students than ever before have been admitted to UCSB and to the University of California system, the UC Office of the President announced last week.

Of those admitted to UCSB, 19.5 percent were underrepresented minorities: African American, American Indian, Chicano/Latino. That was up from 17.1 percent in 1997, the last year the school was allowed to consider race in admissions.

UCSB also admitted more transfer students than any other UC campus.

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Minority admissions increase

■ UNIVERSITY

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All schools are working to cooperate better with community colleges. They have a goal of increasing transfers from community colleges by 6 percent every year through the 2005-06 school year.

"It's a good sign that we will move toward meeting our goal of admitting more community college students," said Bill Villa, special assistant to the chancellor for admissions at UCSB. "We're impressed with the fact that we're able to attract them here."

UCSB accepted more transfer students because the percentage who actually will register is lower in Santa Barbara than at schools that are near a larger urban area, like UCLA, Villa said.

It is considered more difficult for transfer students, who are older and have stronger ties to their area, to move away for college, Villa said. And few of UCSB's students are from the area.

The numbers are significant because in the past there have been glitches in getting community college

courses to count at universities. And there have been misunderstandings in admission standards between the two institutions.

The word of these problems spread among students and perhaps dissuaded some from transferring, officials say. Better communication and written agreements between individual institutions are improving that, they say.

"This is really the best news we've had on transferring in a long time," said Christopher Cabaldon, vice chancellor of California Community Colleges. "We expect this will just be the beginning of change as students' expectations about the health and vitality of the community colleges in California grows and they see it as a college of choice in addition to giving some students a second chance."

While transfer students still had until Friday to decide whether they will attend UCSB, admitted freshmen had to notify the school by May 1.

Of admitted students who notified the school that they will enroll in the fall as freshmen, 20.9 percent are underrepresented minorities. That's even higher than in 1997, when it

Community college transfers admitted to UC

1997 was the last year of affirmative action

	All students	Percent of underrepresented minorities
2001		
All UCs	13,134	19.5%
UCSB	4,026	19.0%
1997		
All UCs	11,558	17.1%
UCSB	3,036	16.3%

Source: UC Office of the President

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was 19.4 percent.

Though the school is not allowed to admit students on the basis of race, at least some applicants may be admitted based on the challenges they had to overcome to achieve their grades and SAT scores: poverty, a poorly performing high school or other factors. And though UC admissions officers are not allowed to know the race of students, all schools work hard to seek minority applicants and to encourage minorities who are accepted to attend.

"It's nice to know we're back, but now we're going to have to keep trying to do better," Villa said.