
Graduate Division 2010–2011 Annual Report

Key Findings

Trends in Admissions and Enrollment¹

Size, selectivity, yield

UCLA's graduate programs are increasingly attractive and selective. Between Fall 2001 and Fall 2010, the number of applicants increased 19%, admits increased 10%, and new enrollees increased 7%. New enrollment has held steady for the past five years. The total of 2,604 new enrollees in 2010 was exceeded only in 2002 (2,663), 2003 (2,647) and 2007 (2,618). [Figure 1-1]

The selectivity (percent of applicants who are admitted) of UCLA graduate programs was 26% in 2010, which is within 1% of our ten-year average. Theater, Film & Television (TFT) continued to be the most selective, admitting fewer than one-in-eight applicants, and a substantial number of programs admitted fewer than one-in-five. For comparison, the International Institute, Education & Information Studies, Public Affairs and Public Health admitted more than 40% of their applicants.² Overall, UCLA's yield (% offers of admission that are accepted, a.k.a. "enrollment success") was 47% in 2010-11, comparable to our ten-year average. The yields in Nursing, TFT, Education & Information Studies, and Life Sciences topped 60%. [Table 1-12]

Program size

The total enrollment in Graduate Division programs in 2010 was 8,360, comparable to the ten-year average. When Law, Dentistry, Medicine and special fee programs are included, the total is 11,898, about 4% higher than the ten-year average. The increase in headcount over the past ten years occurred almost entirely in new and growing special fee programs. [Table 2-1] These programs, which represented only 7.9% of total enrollment in 2001-02, grew to 12.4% ten years later. [Table 2-6]

Proportionally, the enrollments in academic doctoral programs (38%) and professional degree programs (23%) were close to their ten-year averages. The percent enrolled in academic master's degree programs declined to 9.1% in 2010-11, the lowest point in ten years, but still close to the five-year average of 10.1%. [Table 2-6]

Underrepresented minorities

Table 1-2 shows the trends in applications, admissions and enrollment of underrepresented minorities (URM). In 2010, for the first time, applicants were allowed to choose multiple ethnicities and racial categories. The dramatic increases in URM applications (29%), admissions (27%) and new enrollment (15%) are at least partly attributable to this change in reporting methodology. The enrollment numbers

¹ The trends reported in this summary are for "Graduate Division" programs: that is, all graduate degree programs except the DDS in Dentistry, the JD, LLM and SJD in Law, and the MD in Medicine. See Overview pp 1-4 for a list of all degree programs.

² This synopsis does not capture the often-substantial variability between programs within a school or division. Also note that percentages can fluctuate significantly for small programs. For details by program, please see Appendix I.

reported in Table 2-3 pre-date this change. The number of enrolled domestic URM students did not change significantly from 2006 through 2010. Notably, in 2010, the enrollment of Black/African American and Chicano/Mexican American students combined increased more than 8% over the preceding year, while that of Latino/Other Hispanic students declined 13%.

Women

Women continue to make up roughly half (49%) of Graduate Division¹ new enrollment, virtually unchanged from 2001. At 20.5% of total enrollment, women are most underrepresented in Engineering, where their representation has increased only 2.5% since 2001. Women are most overrepresented in Nursing, at 88% of new enrollment; this represents a nearly 8% decrease since 2001. [Table 1-6]

International

In 2010, international students made up 34% of applicants, 23% of admits and 21% of new registrants. The yield rate is very high and substantially higher than for domestic students. Engineering had the highest percent international applications (65%), followed by Management (46%) and Physical Sciences (43%). [Table 1-7]

The percent international students among new enrollees increased steadily from 14% in 2004 to 21% in 2010, but remains below the peak of about 24% in the late 1990s. Compared with 2009-10, Life Sciences had the largest single-year increase (+41%), followed by Engineering (+19%). The International Institute, Education & Information Studies and Physical Sciences had the largest single-year decreases (-23, -15 and -11%, respectively). [Table 1-10]

The number of new and continuing international graduate students reached an all-time high of 1,747 in 2010, capping a steady recovery from the dip in 2004-05. International students represented 21% of enrollment, significantly higher than the national average of 16%. [Tables 1-7, 2-7] Of these, 72% were from Asia, including 29% from China alone. [Table 2-5]

Time-to-degree

The Degree Progress data section of the Annual Report contains longitudinal time-to-degree data. The aggregation by division and school can mask important trends. Data for individual degree programs are provided in the Appendix Tables 3 and 4 (master's degrees) and 7 (doctoral degrees). Floating bar charts comparing time-to-degree across fields, along with program-specific time-to-degree histograms and tables, were provided at the Fall 2012 department chairs' meetings and are available upon request.

Campus-wide, the median time-to-degree for doctoral programs is 6.00 years, and has been exactly the same since 2002-03. Differences between 2009-10 and 2010-11 appear to be consistent with year-to-year fluctuations around the ten-year average. [Table 3-5] The median time for women (6.33) exceeds that of men (6.00). The median for URM students (6.33 yrs.) is also higher than the overall average. [Table 3-6]

Support

Merit-based support includes fellowships, teaching and research assistantships, and excludes loans, need-based aid and other employment. In 2010-11, UCLA graduate students received \$196.5M in merit-based support, a more than 10% increase over the previous year. This amount corresponded to \$26,823 per person (+3% per capita). Of this, \$166.5M went to doctoral students, amounting to \$32,981 per person, or 4% more per capita than the previous year [Table 4-1].

The relative amounts of merit- and need-based support differ significantly by field [Figures 4.4 – 4.7]. Overall, approximately 49% of graduate student support is merit-based. The percentage is lower for URM students (43%) and women (48%), and higher for international students (86%) and men (50%). Loans represent a slightly higher fraction of the financial support for URM students than for other domestic students (45 vs. 43%). [Table 4-3] At the campus level, these differences likely reflect demographic differences in the disciplines coupled with differences in the availability of extramural support. Field-based data are provided in the Appendix (Table 8). *To ensure that support packages are equitable, departments are encouraged to contact the Graduate Division to request a more detailed analysis of student support by gender, ethnicity and citizenship.*

Students in the College and Engineering represented 51% of the Graduate Division enrollment in 2010-11, but held more than 70% of all teaching assistantships. In Graduate Division programs, 35% of students held teaching appointments. Not surprisingly, the percentage was highest in the Humanities (65%), followed by Physical Sciences (58%), Social Sciences (55%), Arts & Architecture (47%), Life Sciences and TFT (both 45%). [Table 4-8 and 4-9]

The following table shows that the availability of TAships relative to the number of enrolled graduate students has increased since 2004-05, but has been fairly stable over the last three years. The Life Sciences represent the only area in which there has been a significant net decline relative to 2004-05.

Division or school	Number of TA-ships as % enrollment			
	2010-11	2008-09	2006-07	2004-05
Humanities	65%	64%	62%	64%
Physical Sciences	58%	63%	62%	57%
Social Sciences	55%	54%	54%	52%
Arts & Architecture	47%	46%	48%	37%
Life Sciences	45%	47%	47%	51%
Theater, Film, & Television	45%	46%	45%	37%
Engineering & Applied Science	33%	32%	29%	26%
Management	24%	21%	18%	12%
Public Health	15%	16%	18%	14%

The availability of graduate research apprenticeships varies substantially by field, with Engineering and the Life, Physical and Academic Health Sciences accounting for 77% of graduate student researcher (GSR) positions in 2010-11. As the table below shows, the percent of students supported at least partly as GSRs has not changed significantly over the past eight years. [Tables 4-8 and 4-9 and prior annual reports; note the Humanities 2004-05 number is atypical]

Division or school	Number of grad researchers as % enrollment			
	2010-11	2008-09	2006-07	2004-05
Academic Health Sciences	68%	68%	65%	68%
Physical Sciences	62%	61%	59%	59%
Life Sciences	52%	53%	53%	56%
Engineering	50%	52%	54%	53%
Public Health	32%	33%	N/A	N/A
Humanities	30%	30%	26%	43%
Social Sciences	30%	28%	27%	30%
Education & Information Studies	23%	22%	23%	24%
Public Affairs	21%	21%	24%	22%

As the table below shows, the percent of students awarded fellowships has increased steadily over the past seven years. More than 70% of students in eight broad fields received some type of fellowship (Graduate Division, Departmental, Federal or Private). Together the Life Sciences and Social Sciences account for more than 27% of all fellowships awarded, about equally divided between the two fields. [Table 4-8]

Division or school	Number of students awarded fellowships as % enrollment			
	2010-11	2008-09	2006-07	2004-05
Academic Health Sciences	87%	85%	60%	54%
Physical Sciences	80%	83%	78%	65%
Life Sciences	79%	50%	52%	43%
Engineering	78%	80%	76%	75%
Public Health	78%	76%	78%	72%
Humanities	77%	55%	57%	51%
Social Sciences	76%	74%	69%	64%
Education & Information Studies	72%	56%	64%	59%
Public Affairs	56%	72%	67%	48%

Degrees Awarded

UCLA awarded 4,045 graduate and professional degrees in 2010-11, about the same as in the three previous years. The 681 Ph.D. degrees awarded is comparable to the number awarded in 2005-06 and 2006-07, but is well below the 719 that were awarded on average over the past three years. [Figure 5-1] Professional master's degrees, the most popular, represented approximately 40% of all degrees awarded, a consistent percentage since 2003.

2010-11 showed a continued decline in the percent of doctoral degrees awarded to international students. At 21.8 %, it was well below the peak of 38.7% in 2004-05. Although it is close to the 24.4% awarded in 2001-02, it represents the lowest percentage since 1998-99 (19.0%). [Table 5-2, Figure 5-5 and archived Annual Reports]

Comparison of 2009-10 UCLA data with the 2009-10 U.S. Survey of Earned Doctorates shows that women were equally represented among doctoral degree recipients nationally (47%) and locally (46%). UCLA awarded a smaller percent of doctoral degrees to international students (24% vs. 30% nationally), but larger percentages to Asian Americans (18% vs. 9% nationally, and 21% at UCLA in 2010-11) and to Chicano/Hispanic students (9% vs. 6%). [Table 5-15]

Placement

A positive finding was that the employment prospects of our doctoral recipients have not diminished since the ongoing economic recession began in 2008. Table 5-6 shows that the percent of graduates hired at 4-year colleges or universities, at other academic institutions, at private non-academic institutions, and at non-academic public institutions has not changed significantly over the past four years. Unemployment remains very low (2%). There have been two significant shifts: an increase in the percent who are employed in postdoctoral fellow or trainee appointments, from 16% in 2006-07 to an all-time high of 34% in 2010-11, and a decrease in the percent whose employment status is "unknown." [Table 5-6]

Doctoral Exit Survey

The UCLA doctoral exit survey asks students to characterize their graduate experience. If they were to start their graduate careers over, 71% said they would choose UCLA again and 79% would choose the same field of study; both are higher than any time in the past 10 years. 72% percent would choose the same dissertation advisor, slightly ahead of the ten-year average and 4% higher than the previous year. [Fig. 5-7]

Postdoctoral Fellows & Visiting Scholars

The 1,144 postdoctoral scholars in 2010-11 is 1.4% fewer than in the previous year. Nearly 58% were from outside the U.S., 17% from China alone. The Professional Health Sciences (primarily Medicine and Dentistry), Academic Health Sciences, Life Sciences, and Basic Biomedical Sciences together accounted for 56% of all postdoctoral fellows. Research Centers hosted 19%, Physical Sciences 14%, and Engineering 9%.

The demographics of the 389 Visiting Scholars were similar to those of postdocs, but there were 18% more of them in 2010-11 than in 2009-10. [Table 6-1] Approximately one third were hosted by research centers, including the Center for the Study of Women, the Center for Korean Studies, and the Center for Latin American Studies, among others. [Tables 6-1 and 6-2]