

# Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education

*A crash course for UAB*

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# Overview

- Every year UC Berkeley enrolls about 7500 new students.
  - 5200 ± are freshman.
  - 2300 ± are transfers.
- To get to those numbers ...
  - ... OUA is given targets by Coord Board
    - ... based on an analysis from OPA (Pam Brown's office)
- For planning reasons, OUA has to hit the targets very closely.

# Overview

- Applications are read and files are selected to be offered admission ...
  - ... based on long experience about how many offers will be accepted and how many will actually show up.
    - This is known as **YIELD**.
      - Resident freshman yield has long been right around 42%.
    - Some small percentage of those who say they will come (SIR), don't.
      - This is known as **MELT**.
        - » Typically, about 2-3%

# The Selection Process

- To get an offer of admission from Berkeley ...
  - ... an applicant's file is read and given a score from 1 to 4.
    - 1 means in the top 5%
    - 2 means in the top 15%
    - 2.5 means in the top 25%
    - 3 means in the top 40%
- We use an explicit 2.5 score because that's near the cut off.
  - Note: We used to have 5's, but it wasn't worth discriminating at the bottom.

# The Selection Process

- Files with scores of 2, 2.5, and 3 are read twice, and the score is averaged.
  - Readers also designate a small number of files for a more in-depth read.
    - This is called **AUGMENTED REVIEW**.
      - Applicants in AR are offered the opportunity to provide more information in support of their application.
    - AR files are all read twice by senior readers and get a new score.

# Reading

- Files are read by a team of readers, most of whom are hired on contract.
  - Many are former educators.
  - They are extensively trained and they participate in norming.
  - They are managed by the senior readers who are regular employees of OUA.

# Reading

- Files are read holistically.
  - To get into Berkeley you have to bring more to the table than just good grades and sparkling SAT's.
    - We turn down students with 4.0's all the time.
    - Our applicant pool is that deep.

# Reading

- There are six categories that factor into a read.
  - Full record of achievement in college prep courses.
  - Personal qualities
    - leadership, drive, tenacity, responsibility, *et al.*
  - Likely contributions to the campus
  - Achievements in academic enrichment programs
  - Other evidence of achievements
    - esp. performance at national/international level, not just athletics



# Reading

- Files are read positively.
  - No minuses for lacks.
  - Only pluses for desirables.

# Reading

- In addition to readers participating in norming, there are quality control measures
  - Files that are flagged because of divergent reads will get a third read by a senior reader.
    - QCI (née the Leonard Index)
    - By High School review

Reading  $\neq$  Selection

# Selection

- Files are sorted by score and the cut-off score is established
  - Recently, 2.25-2.5
  - Files with that score are put into tie-break, re-read, and ranked.
- Selection for offer of admission is based on that ranking.

# Selection

- Admission to UC Berkeley is by College
  - so the cut-offs are slightly different for Engineering, Chemistry, L&S, CNR, and CED.
    - Engineering and Chemistry are more stringent
    - L&S, CNR, and CED are more or less the same.
    - Haas only admits juniors, mostly via COC from L&S
- Cut-offs are also more stringent for non-residents.

# Selection

- All reading and selection is governed by policies approved by the Divisional Senate.
  - These are reviewed every year  
... and amended as necessary.
  - This includes the athletic admission policy.

# Strength of Pool

- Unspoken assumption about Berkeley admissions.
  - Holistic reading (including esp. athletic admissions) leads us to offer admission to “unqualified” applicants at the expense of “qualified” applicants.

# Strength of Pool

- The truth
  - The applicant pool is self-selecting.
    - Almost everyone in our applicant pool would succeed at Berkeley, if we only had room for them.



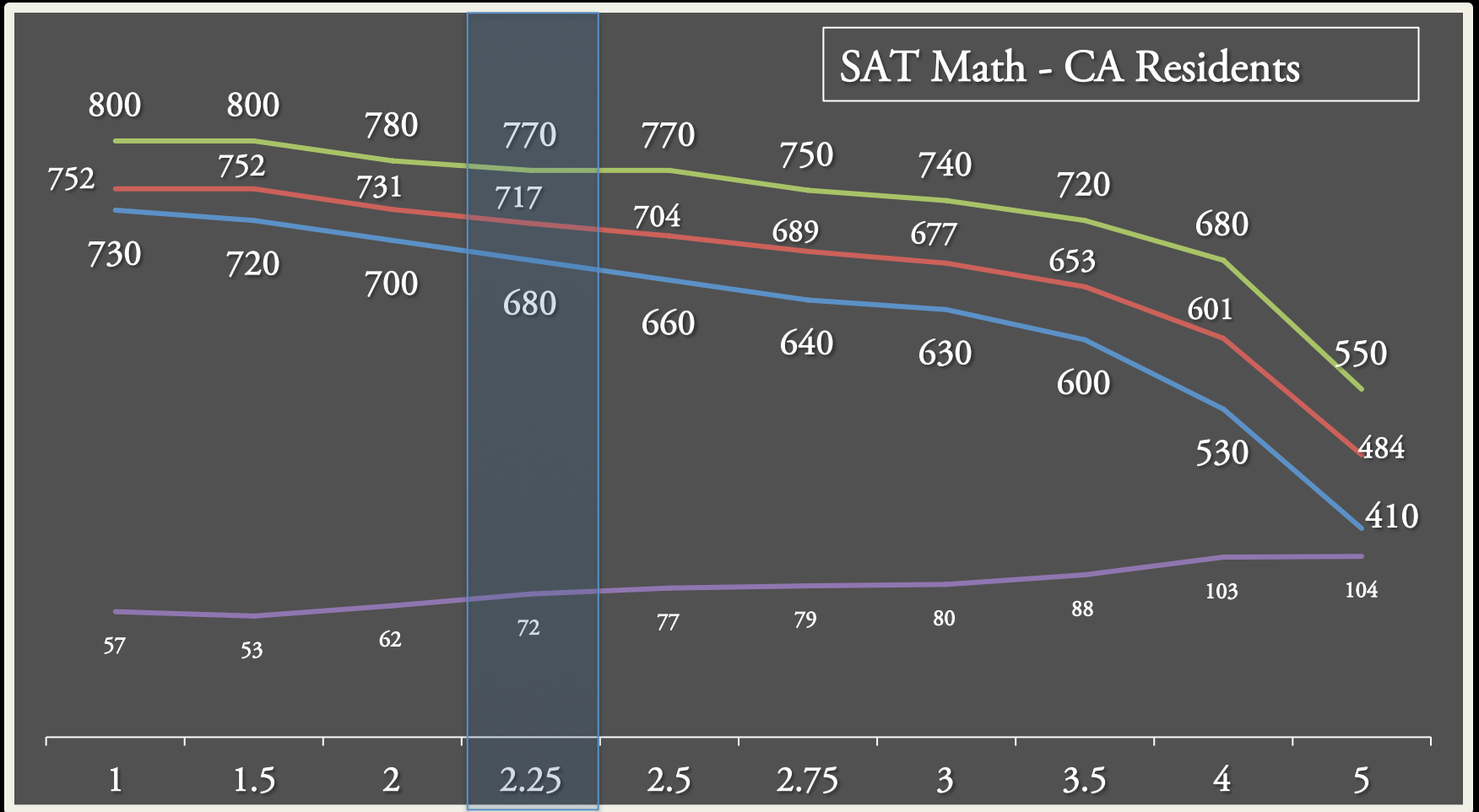
# Strength of Pool

- I have been an assistant or associate dean in L&S for 10 years, working with students in academic difficulty.
  - Even before I started serving on AEPE, I was saying there were vanishing few admissions mistakes.
  - When Berkeley students do not succeed, it is for ultimately non-academic reasons.

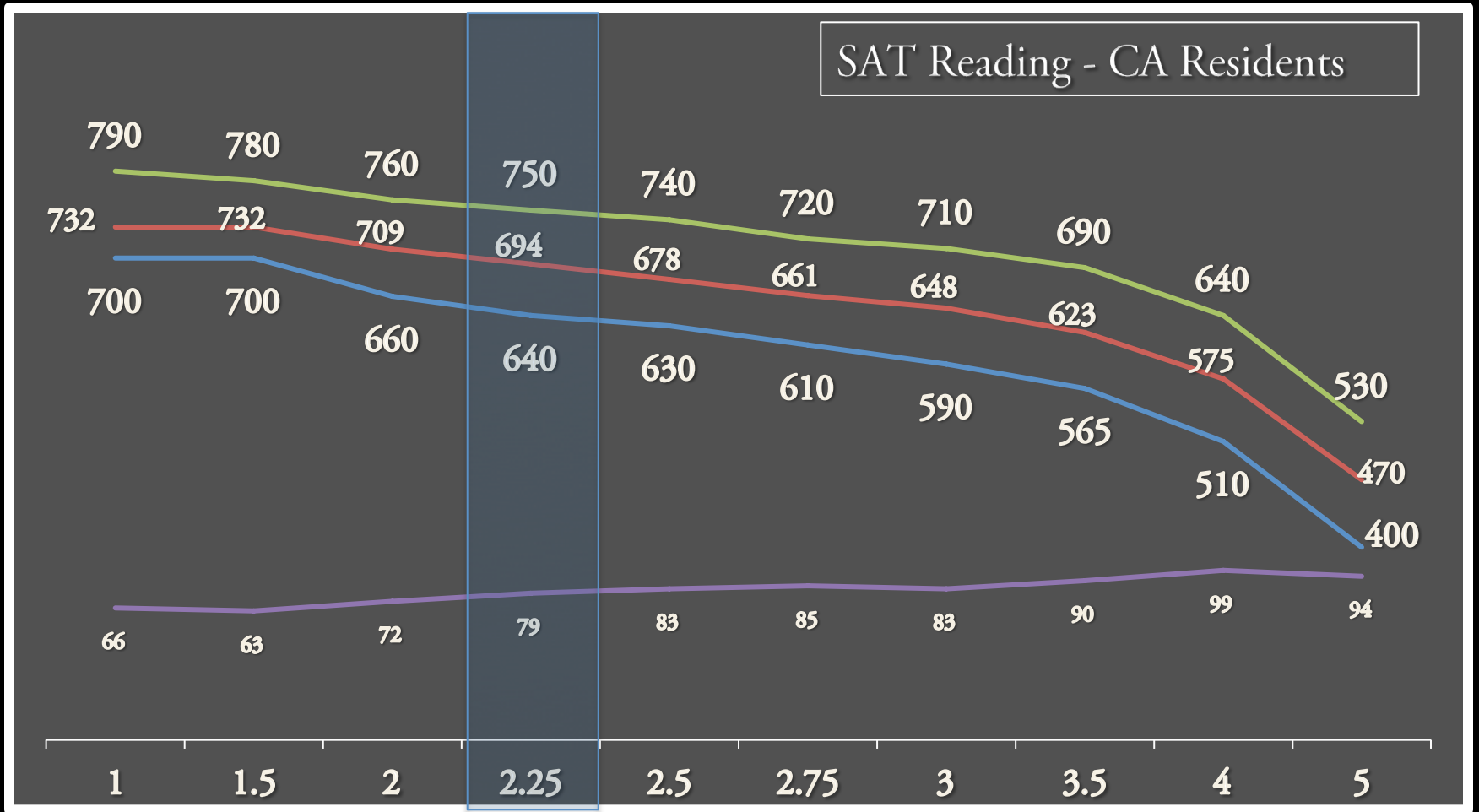
# Strength of Pool

- The following slides show the numbers for 2012 admits
- Notice how little fall off there is from the tie-break score (under the blue stripe) out to 3.5.
- Notice in particular how little difference there is in HS gpa.
  - HS gpa is the best indicator of success in college.

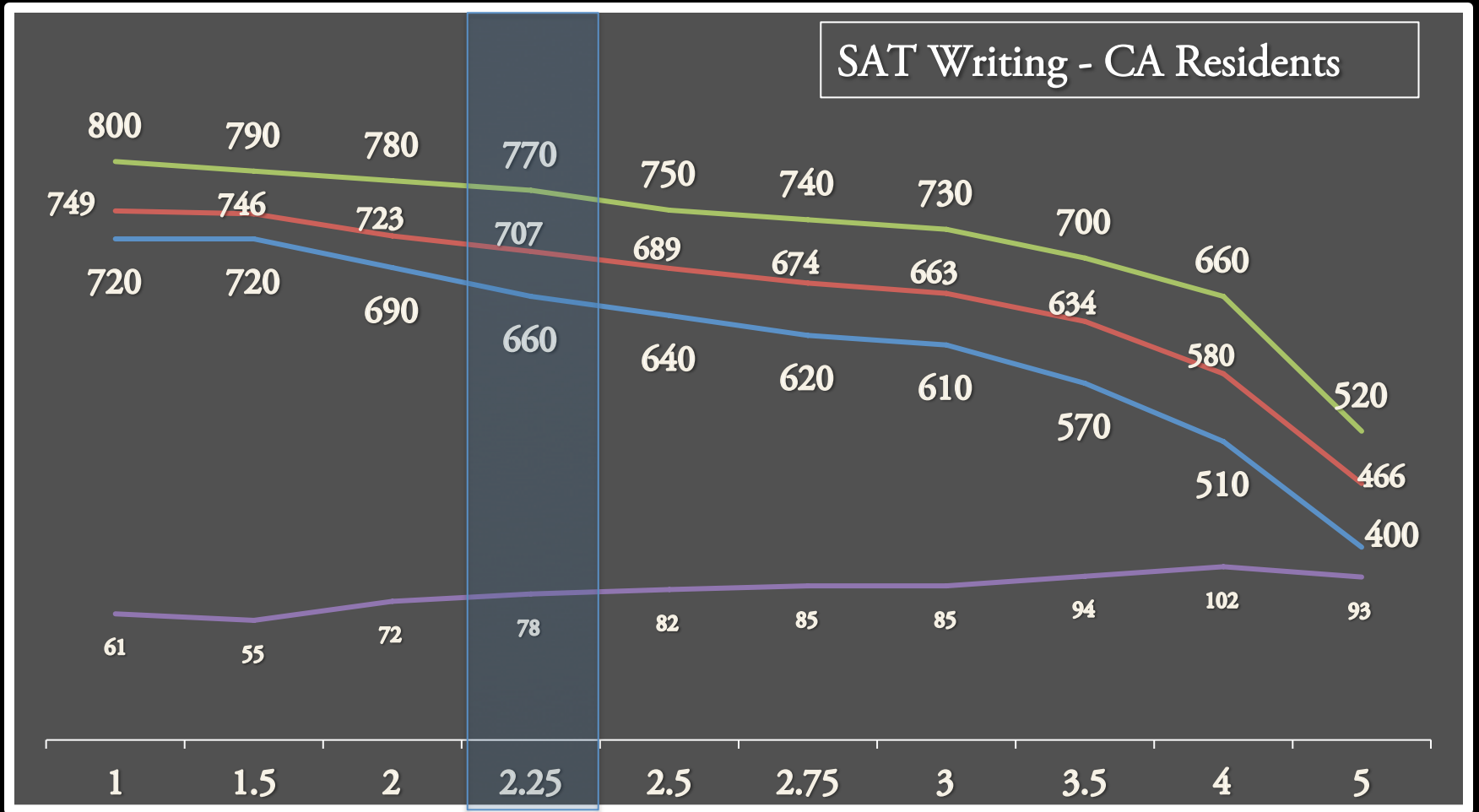
# Strength of Pool



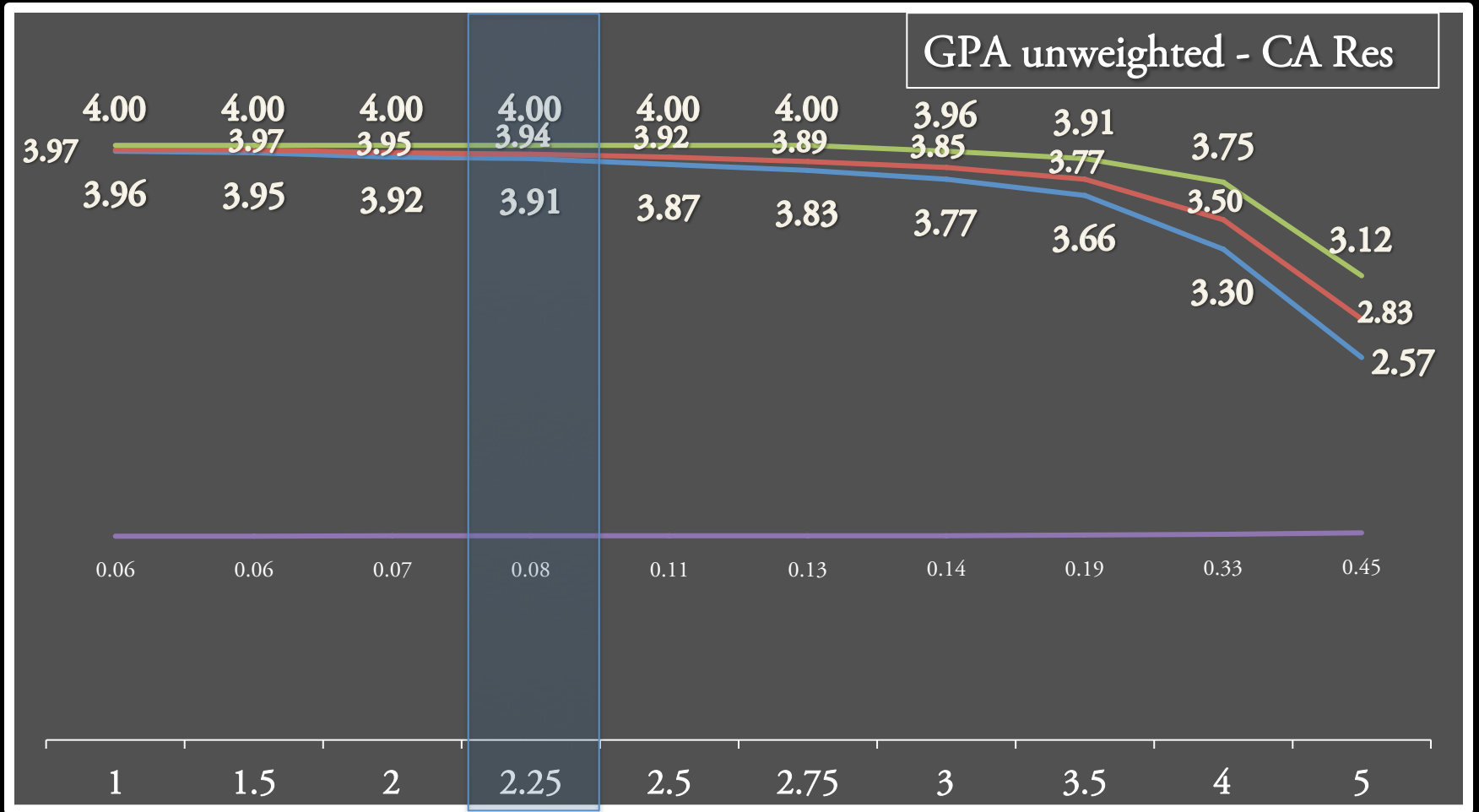
# Strength of Pool



# Strength of Pool



# Strength of Pool



# Athletic admissions

- Athletic admissions fall under the general policy for offering admission to applicants on the basis of special talent.
  - *Other evidence of achievement:* This criterion will recognize exemplary, sustained achievement in any field of intellectual or creative endeavor; accomplishments in the performing arts and athletics; employment; leadership in school or community organizations or activities; and local, national, military, or international service.

# Athletic admissions

- NCAA recruiting cycles do not mesh with UC admissions cycles
- ... so there is a separate but parallel policy governing athletic admissions.



# Athletic admissions

- The athletic admission policy establishes direct faculty oversight through a separately appointed admissions committee (SAAC)
  - Most of the voting members of SAAC are Faculty Senate.
    - Two AEPE members, L&S UG Dean, FAR
  - *All* off-cycle athletic admissions are done by SAAC.
  - This committee also pre-approves recruiting for prospects with weak academic profiles.

# Athletic admissions

- Athletes are admitted in three categories according to the strength of their academic profile.
  - Gold
    - UC eligible and have strong academic indicators
  - Blue
    - not UC eligible, but have indicators strongly suggesting that they will be successful Berkeley students.
  - Red
    - academically at-risk, analogous to the weakest AR admits

# Athletic admissions

- There are special rules around Gold.
  - International students who are university-eligible in their home country are Gold by policy.
    - Long experience has shown such students are very successful.
  - Advanced standing (i.e., junior) transfers must be Gold.
- Prospects may be recruited and admitted as Reds or Blues, ...

... but if they qualify as Gold or Blue at the point of matriculation, they count as Gold or Blue, respectively.

# Athletic admissions

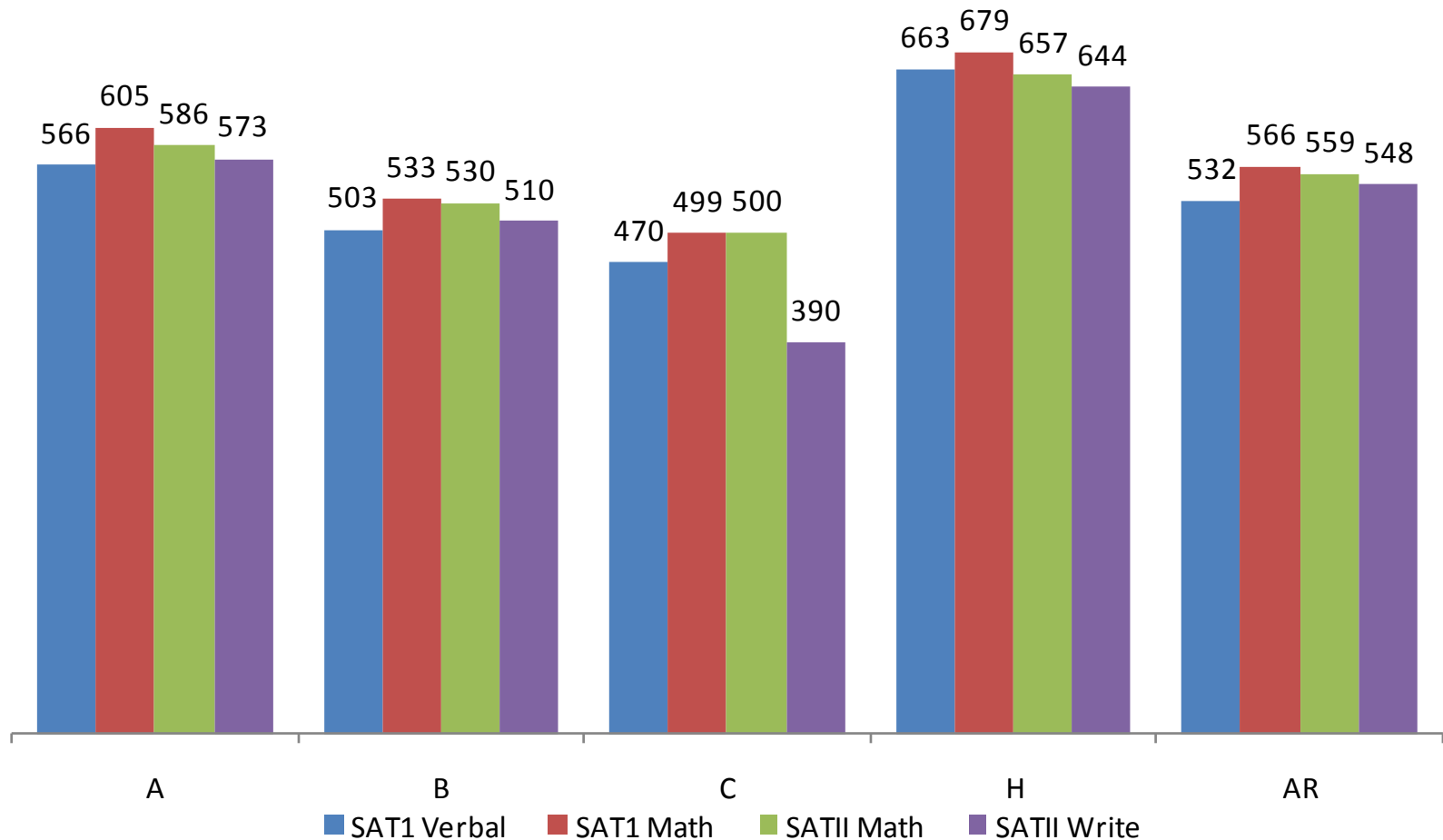
- Athletic admits are limited to 300 per year.
  - IA is allotted at most
    - 20 Reds
    - 80 Blues
  - IA determines which sports may recruit Reds.
  - Reds and Blues are admission by exception.
    - Some Blues may have comparatively weak indicators (in the rarified air of Berkeley),
    - ... but only Reds are academically at-risk.

# Athletic admissions

- Berkeley has long admitted some academically at-risk students.
  - OUA holds 100 slots for at-risk AR's.
    - Low 100's
  - For various reasons, previous directors of OUA didn't track the performance of the low 100's, but there are plenty of success stories.
    - Some years back a student from the very bottom of the Low 100's ended up winning the Berkeley Medal.
  - Reds are comparable to Low 100's.

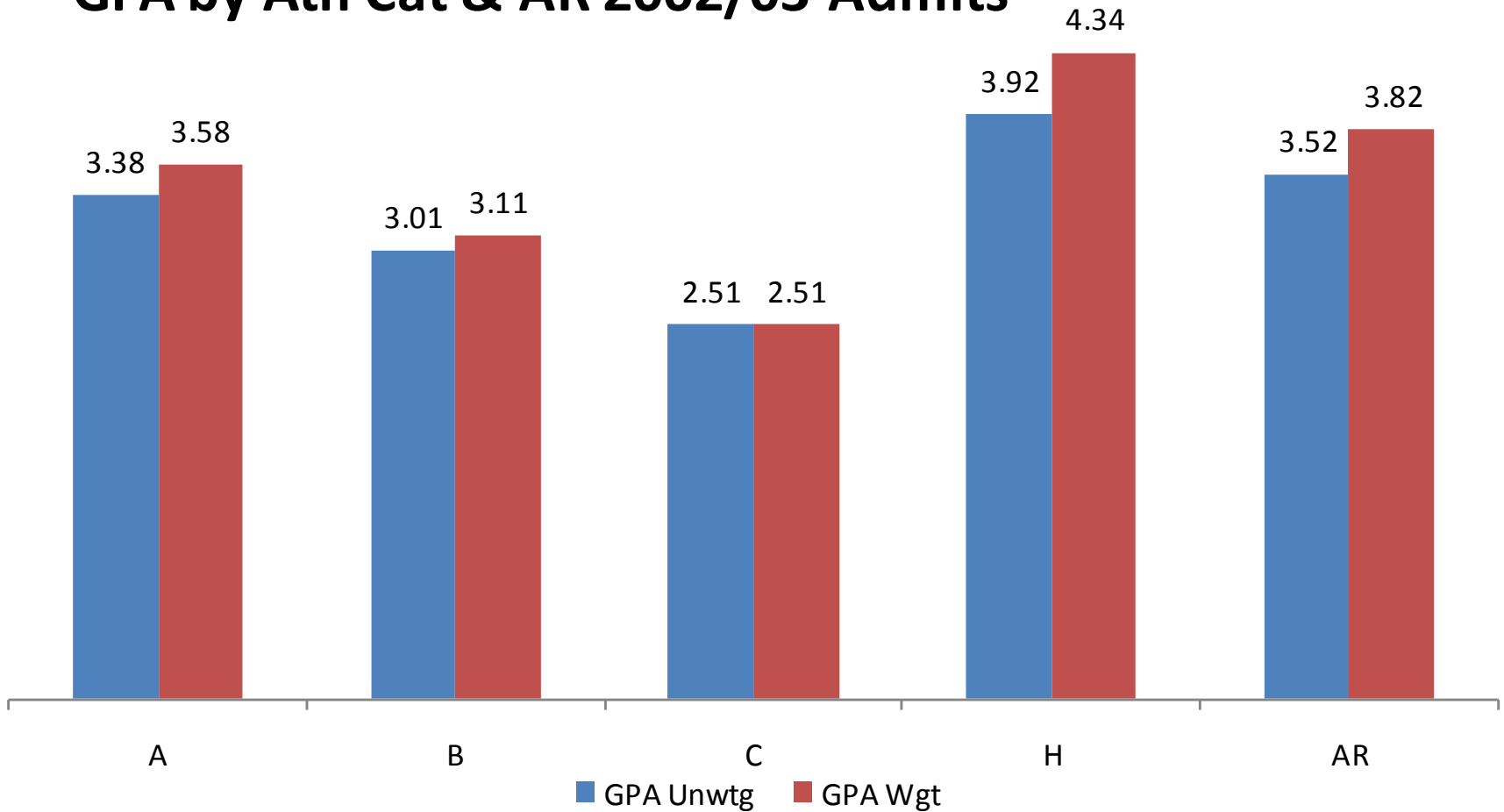
# Athletes vs. AR's

## SAT by Ath Cat & AR 2002/03 Admits

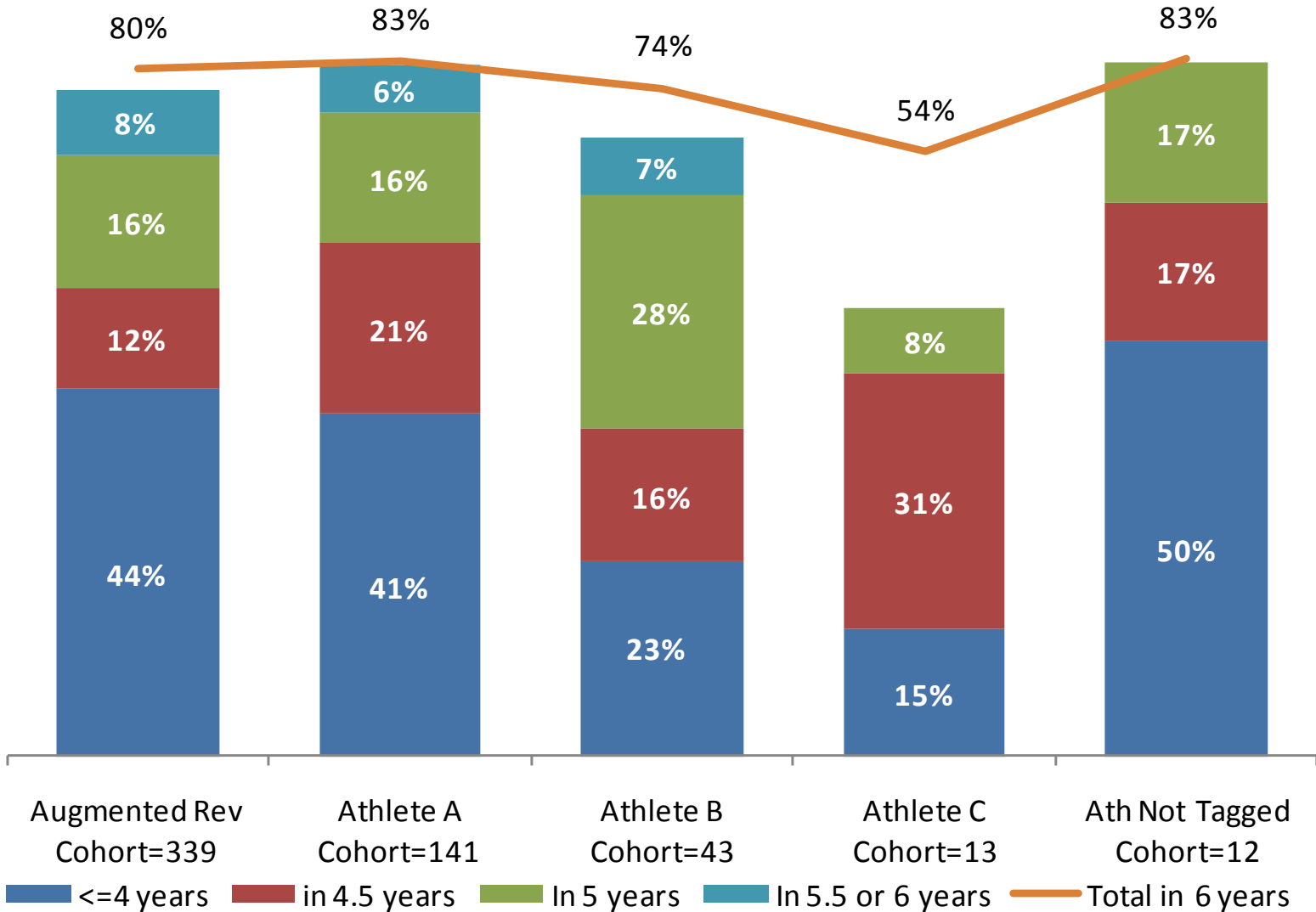


# Athletes vs. AR's

## GPA by Ath Cat & AR 2002/03 Admits



# Time to degree





# Admission-by-exception

- Term of art,
  - it doesn't really mean what you think
    - Specifically it doesn't imply that the a-by-e admit is *academically* underqualified
    - It means the applicant is not technically eligible

# Admission-by-exception

- Eligibility is defined technically
  - College prep courses categorized *a* through *g*.
    - The applicant must complete:
      - 15 year-long high school courses with a grade of C or better
      - at least 11 of them prior to the senior year.
  - Residents:
    - in top 9% statewide, or ...
    - ... in top 9% in graduating class
      - Eligible in Local Context (ELC)
  - Grades and test score minimums for non-residents
    - ... including no SAT below 580.

# Admission-by-exception

- Some small percentage of students who are selected turn out not to be technically eligible.
  - Variety of reasons
    - Lack of a certifiable gpa
      - By policy all home-schooled admits are a-by-e
    - Lacking a semester of an *a* through *g*.
      - Most common in non-resident applicants, esp. foreign etc., etc.
- NB: We select for admission first, and only check for eligibility after we know we want them.

# Admission-by-exception

- By policy we may enroll up to 6% as *a-by-e*
  - We usually have below 3%.
  - Athletic admissions only account for about half of *a-by-e* admits.
    - Most *a-by-e* athletes have adequate numbers, but lack something in *a* through *g*.
    - Only Reds are at-risk admissions.

# Admission-by-exception

- Fall 2012
- Total Freshman SIR 4,200
  - SIR a-by-e 48
    - 1.1% of frosh class
  - a-by-e Athletic admits 29
    - 60.4% of all a-by-e
    - 0.7% of frosh class
  - Reds (at-risk) 9
    - 0.2% of frosh class

# Athletic Admissions 2013-14

Fall	<i>Allowed</i>	<i>Used</i>
Gold (Freshman)	175	199
Gold (Adv. Standing)	25	10
Blue	80	26
Red	20	10
Spring		
Gold (Freshman)		5
Gold (Adv. Standing)		1
Total	300	241

