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.
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.
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 ≠ 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

SAT Math - CA Residents
Strength of Pool

SAT Writing - CA Residents

Graph showing SAT Writing scores for CA residents.
Strength of Pool

GPA unweighted - CA Res
• 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

A: SAT1 Verbal 566, SAT1 Math 605, SATII Math 586, SATII Write 573
B: SAT1 Verbal 503, SAT1 Math 533, SATII Math 530, SATII Write 510
C: SAT1 Verbal 470, SAT1 Math 499, SATII Math 500, SATII Write 390
H: SAT1 Verbal 663, SAT1 Math 679, SATII Math 657, SATII Write 644
AR: SAT1 Verbal 532, SAT1 Math 566, SATII Math 559, SATII Write 548
Athletes vs. AR’s

GPA by Ath Cat & AR 2002/03 Admits

- A: GPA Unwgt 3.38, GPA Wgt 3.58
- B: GPA Unwgt 3.01, GPA Wgt 3.11
- C: GPA Unwgt 2.51, GPA Wgt 2.51
- H: GPA Unwgt 3.92, GPA Wgt 4.34
- AR: GPA Unwgt 3.52, GPA Wgt 3.82

Legend:
- GPA Unwgt
- GPA Wgt
Time to degree

- Augmented Rev Cohort=339
  - <=4 years: 44%
  - in 4.5 years: 16%
  - in 5 years: 21%
  - in 5.5 or 6 years: 12%
  - Total in 6 years: 80%

- Athlete A Cohort=141
  - <=4 years: 41%
  - in 4.5 years: 16%
  - in 5 years: 23%
  - in 5.5 or 6 years: 12%
  - Total in 6 years: 83%

- Athlete B Cohort=43
  - <=4 years: 23%
  - in 4.5 years: 16%
  - in 5 years: 31%
  - in 5.5 or 6 years: 7%
  - Total in 6 years: 74%

- Athlete C Cohort=13
  - <=4 years: 8%
  - in 4.5 years: 31%
  - in 5 years: 8%
  - in 5.5 or 6 years: 15%
  - Total in 6 years: 83%

- Ath Not Tagged Cohort=12
  - <=4 years: 17%
  - in 4.5 years: 17%
  - in 5 years: 8%
  - in 5.5 or 6 years: 6%
  - Total in 6 years: 50%
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

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