University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Performance Metrics

ADMISSIONS, STUDENT QUALIFICATIONS, AND TRANSFER ENROLLMENTS
UPDATES BY:
UNIVERSITY OFFICE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING
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REPORTED BY:
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Peer Group

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
University of California - Berkeley*
University of California - Los Angeles
University of California - San Diego
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill**
University of Texas - Austin**
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
University of Virginia

* No medical center.
** Medical center affiliated with the university, but owned by the state.
Admissions, Student Qualifications, and Transfer Enrollments
Our admit rate is above that of our peers, because we are among the highest of our peers and the Big Ten with regard admitting in-state residents. Illinois residents are admitted at almost twice the rate of international students. Reducing our admit rate, would likely mean diminished opportunities for Illinois residents and students from historically underrepresented backgrounds. These data should not be used to draw conclusions about overall selectivity in comparison to peers.
Two factors cause our yield to be lower than that of our peers:

1. Nonresident and international admits: students in these categories are applying to many schools around the country and around the world, and the yield rate for students in these categories is low at all schools.

2. Cost, lack of scholarships and stiff competition from top tier institutions in other states have led to a decline in our resident yield. Cost, by far, is the factor that drives yield. Students who decline their offer of admission do so because of total cost and/or scholarship offers elsewhere. We continue to combat this effect by growing our institutional aid, but we would benefit significantly from more merit- and need-based financial support. This is a point of emphasis in our capital campaign, and we also hope that the state will respond with additional support for students.
Standardized tests have been shown to strongly favor well-resourced students. A student who has access to complete “ACT prep” courses and has the financial means to take the ACT exam multiple times (we accept the highest score achieved) is significantly advantaged. As we have continued to emphasize holistic application review and provided more financial aid, we have grown our first generation, low income and underrepresented minority populations significantly. In doing so, our standardized test scores have flattened out, but this does not mean that the quality of our student body has deteriorated.

It is important to remember that an ACT score of 28 places a student in the top 10% nationally. A score of 30 places a student in the top 5% nationally. So, anyone who looks at this plot and attempts to claim that the overall quality of the incoming class at our peer institutions is stronger than ours is mistaken. The incoming freshman classes at Illinois and its peers are extremely strong.
ACT English scores of incoming freshmen at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are below the peer averages in Fall 2016.

Note: Fewer students at peer institutions submit ACT scores.
See slide 7.

ACT Math scores of entering freshmen at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are below the peer averages in Fall 2016.

Note: Fewer students at peer institutions submit ACT scores.
Different institutions have different strategies regarding transfer students. The strong community college system in California is reflected in Berkeley, UCLA and UCSD numbers. Our transfer class is a mix of students from Illinois community colleges and other four-year institutions.
We continue to grow our first generation, low income and underrepresented minority enrollment in the freshman class and in our incoming transfer students. Due in part to demographics, our peer group (e.g., UCLA, UCSD, Texas) tends to be quite strong in this respect. While our performance is extremely strong nationally, we are compared to the very, very best in this metric.
See previous slide.