



March 2005
FS 05-03

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Are they Going? University Enrollment and Eligibility for African Americans and Latinos

The university eligibility of African American and Latino high school graduates in California has increased significantly in recent years. The Commission's most recent eligibility study showed that the percentage of African American high school graduates who met the minimum admission requirements of the University of California more than doubled between 1996 and 2003. The eligibility rate for Latinos also increased sharply.

These gains are a very welcome development, but eligibility in itself is not a complete measure of access to public universities. The desired outcome of efforts to broaden access is that students from all ethnic backgrounds are actually entering and completing degrees at public universities. However, recent gains in eligibility have not been matched by gains in enrollments at UC and CSU.

Entry rates for UC

University entry rates for African Americans and Latinos have increased in recent years, but to a much smaller degree than eligibility rates for these ethnic groups. In the late 1980s, 4 to 5 percent of the African American graduates of California public high schools entered UC as freshmen (see graphs on page 3). Entry rates began to fall in the 1990s, and dropped sharply between 1997 and 1998 when Proposition 209 ended the ability of UC to give preference to any race or ethnic group.

Entry rates and eligibility rates for California public high school graduates

	University of California		California State University	
	Entry Rate	Eligibility Rate	Entry Rate	Eligibility Rate
African American				
1990	4.0%	5.1%	9.6%	18.6%
1996	3.6	2.8	10.5	13.2
2003	3.4	6.2	9.0	18.6
Latino				
1990	3.7	3.9	7.2	17.3
1996	3.2	3.8	7.6	13.4
2003	3.3	6.5	7.0	16.0

See page 2 for definitions of entry rates and eligibility rates

In 2000, entry rates began to increase, but the recent advance is much less than the increase in eligibility. In 2003, the latest year for which data was available, 820 African Americans, or 3.4 percent of African American graduates, entered UC from California public high schools.

Entry rates for Latinos have shown a similar trend, but with less variation over time. Entry rates for Latino high school graduates were about 4 percent in the late 1980s and then fell gradually, reaching 2.8 percent in 1998 and 1999. The entry rate for Latinos then began to increase, reaching 3.3 percent in 2003.

Entry rates for CSU

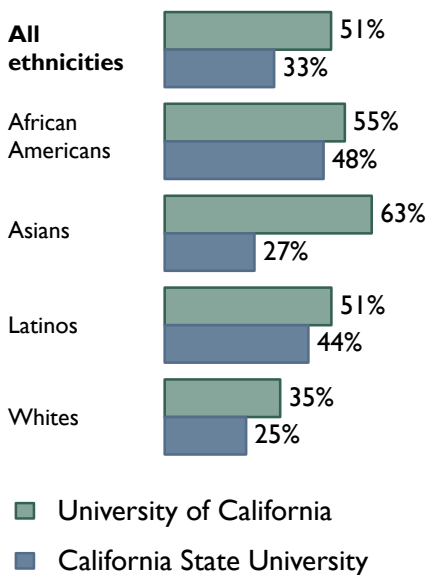
The CSU entry rate for African Americans increased in the 1980s, but then began to fluctuate, with downturns in 1991–93 and 1996–98. In 2003, 9 percent of African American public high school graduates entered CSU, about the same percentage as in the mid 1990s.

Entry rates for Latinos also increased in the 1980s but then stalled. The downturns in the early and late 1990s were less strong than for African American graduates, but there has been no significant advance in CSU's entry rates for Latinos in the last several years.

Participation

Although university entry rates for African Americans and Latinos remain low, participation by the graduates who are eligible is comparable to that of other ethnic groups. In 2003, about half of the African Americans and Latino high school graduates eligible for UC actually entered, about the same as the average over all ethnic groups.

Participation by eligible high school graduates, 2003



At CSU, about one third of the eligible public high school graduates actually enroll. Participation by African Americans and Latinos is higher than participation for Asians and Whites, with 48 percent of eligible African Americans and 44 percent of eligible Latinos entering CSU in 2003.

Definitions

The **eligibility rate** is the percentage of California public high school graduates who meet the minimum admission requirements of each system. Estimates are from the Commission's studies in 1986, 1990, 1996, and 2003.

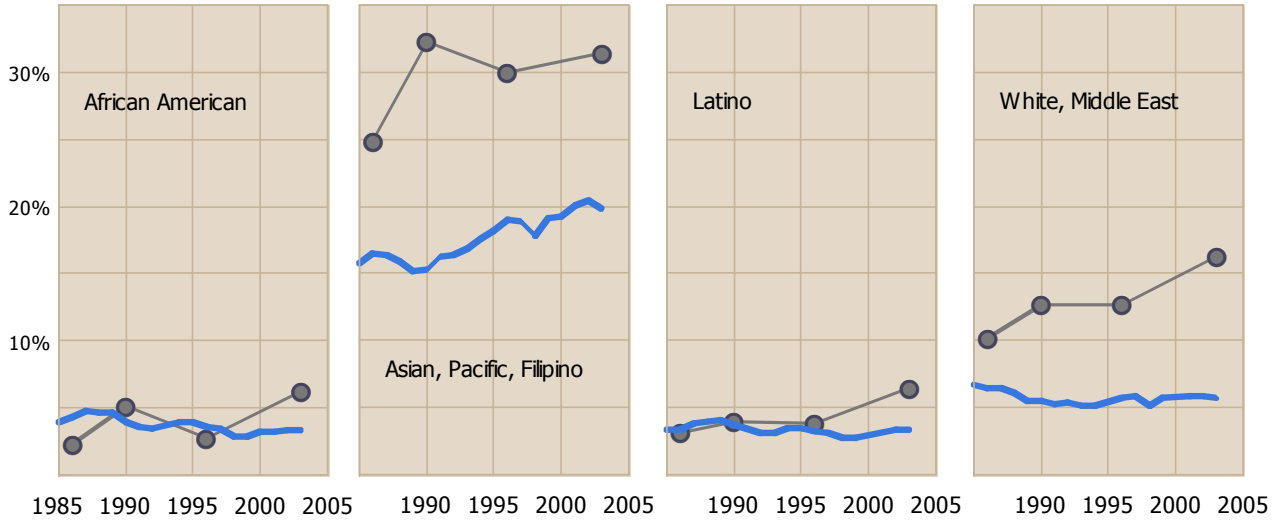
The **entry rate** is the number of entering freshmen from California public high schools as a percentage of the total number of graduates of California public high schools in that year.

Participation is the number of entering freshmen from California public high schools as a percentage of eligible high school graduates of California public high schools.

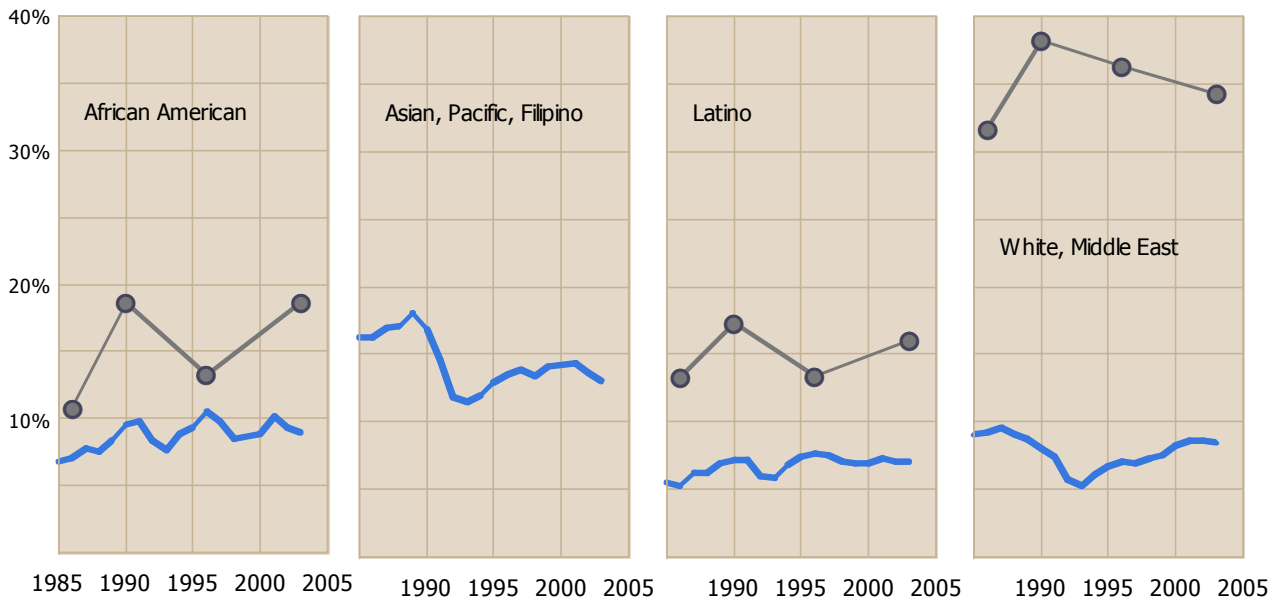
Public high schools are defined in the same way as in the Commission's past eligibility studies. All data and derived figures are for California public comprehensive, alternative, and continuation schools.

Eligibility and enrollment for California public high school graduates

University of California



California State University



- Eligibility rate
- Entry rate

The CSU eligibility rates for Asians exceeded 40% in all years and are off the scale for these graphs. See page 4 for actual values.

Entry rates may exceed the eligibility rate because entrants includes special admits who do not meet UC's eligibility requirements

The table on page 4 shows the data used for these graphs.

More information on the Commission's eligibility study is in the Commission report *University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2003*.

See www.cpec.ca.gov/eligibility for links to this report and other publications on eligibility issues.

University entrants from California public high schools, 1985–2003

		Public high school graduates	University of California			California State University		
			Entering freshmen	Entry rate	Eligibility rate	Entering freshmen	Entry rate	Eligibility rate
All ethnicities	1985	224,580	15,910	7.1%	–	21,360	9.5%	–
	1990	235,170	16,000	6.8	12.3%	23,230	9.9	34.6%
	1995	253,600	18,060	7.1	–	22,300	8.8	–
	1996	257,440	18,870	7.3	11.1%	24,270	9.4	29.6%
	1997	266,920	19,220	7.2	–	24,930	9.3	–
	1998	280,020	20,140	7.2	–	26,110	9.3	–
	1999	295,510	21,180	7.2	–	28,570	9.7	–
	2000	305,450	22,350	7.3	–	29,970	9.8	–
	2001	311,970	23,670	7.6	–	32,070	10.3	–
	2002	321,070	24,330	7.6	–	32,450	10.1	–
2003	335,660	24,420	7.3	14.4%	32,390	9.6	28.8%	
African American	1985	18,910	750	3.9%	–	1,290	6.8%	–
	1990	17,300	690	4.0	5.1%	1,660	9.6	18.6%
	1995	18,670	740	3.9	–	1,740	9.3	–
	1996	19,200	700	3.6	2.8%	2,020	10.5	13.2%
	1997	20,470	720	3.5	–	2,000	9.8	–
	1998	20,740	600	2.9	–	1,770	8.5	–
	1999	21,550	620	2.9	–	1,880	8.7	–
	2000	21,860	690	3.2	–	1,950	8.9	–
	2001	21,920	710	3.2	–	2,220	10.1	–
	2002	22,800	780	3.4	–	2,130	9.3	–
2003	24,140	820	3.4	6.2%	2,160	9.0	18.6%	
Asian	1985	22,350	3,530	15.8%	–	3,630	16.2%	–
	1990	32,790	5,020	15.3	32.2%	5,520	16.8	61.5%
	1995	36,920	6,740	18.2	–	4,770	12.9	–
	1996	37,320	7,080	19.0	30.0%	5,050	13.5	54.4%
	1997	39,290	7,410	18.9	–	5,420	13.8	–
	1998	42,430	7,530	17.8	–	5,670	13.4	–
	1999	43,710	8,360	19.1	–	6,150	14.1	–
	2000	45,200	8,680	19.2	–	6,400	14.2	–
	2001	46,610	9,380	20.1	–	6,650	14.3	–
	2002	47,780	9,730	20.4	–	6,480	13.6	–
2003	48,410	9,580	19.8	31.4%	6,300	13.0	47.5%	
Latino	1985	41,720	1,390	3.3%	–	2,280	5.5%	–
	1990	54,880	2,050	3.7	3.9%	3,930	7.2	17.3%
	1995	75,950	2,690	3.5	–	5,590	7.4	–
	1996	78,010	2,510	3.2	3.8%	5,930	7.6	13.4%
	1997	81,230	2,480	3.1	–	6,060	7.5	–
	1998	86,600	2,380	2.8	–	6,160	7.1	–
	1999	93,990	2,660	2.8	–	6,460	6.9	–
	2000	98,850	2,950	3.0	–	6,820	6.9	–
	2001	102,210	3,270	3.2	–	7,490	7.3	–
	2002	107,040	3,610	3.4	–	7,530	7.0	–
2003	114,320	3,720	3.3	6.5%	8,030	7.0	16.0%	
White	1985	139,780	9,410	6.7%	–	12,740	9.1%	–
	1990	128,310	7,110	5.5	12.7%	10,230	8.0	38.2%
	1995	119,800	6,570	5.5	–	7,990	6.7	–
	1996	120,630	7,020	5.8	12.7%	8,600	7.1	36.3%
	1997	123,610	7,240	5.9	–	8,510	6.9	–
	1998	127,440	6,620	5.2	–	9,300	7.3	–
	1999	132,920	7,600	5.7	–	10,020	7.5	–
	2000	136,040	7,850	5.8	–	11,100	8.2	–
	2001	137,640	8,110	5.9	–	11,850	8.6	–
	2002	138,780	8,230	5.9	–	11,940	8.6	–
2003	142,830	8,150	5.7	16.2%	12,180	8.5	34.3%	

Data for other years is available at www.cpec.ca.gov.