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## Campus Receives Record Number of Applications for 10<sup>th</sup> Academic Year

*Newest UC campus anticipates most talented and diverse class in  
the campus's history next fall*

MERCED, Calif. — As the 10<sup>th</sup> campus in the UC system approaches the start of its 10<sup>th</sup> academic year, the University of California, Merced, has received a record number of applications for undergraduate admission this fall.

According to [admissions data](#) released today (Jan. 17) by the UC Office of the President, undergraduate applications to enroll in Fall 2014 hit 17,469, a 1.6 percent increase compared to Fall 2013 applications.

“Our growth reflects strong demand and increasing awareness of UC Merced as an excellent choice for students throughout the state who seek a UC-quality education in a small-campus environment,” Chancellor Dorothy Leland said.

Overall, 15,264 freshmen applied for admission, which represents a 2 percent increase over Fall 2013. Transfer applications remained steady with 2,205 this year compared to 2,225 last year.

“As we begin the selection process, we expect to enroll the most academically talented and diverse class in our 10-year history,” Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management J. Michael Thompson said. “It is going to be an extremely competitive year as more students vie for fewer seats.”

### Quick Facts

- Undergraduate applications for Fall 2014 — UC Merced's 10<sup>th</sup> academic year — rose 1.6 percent to 17,469.
- Enrollment for 2014-2015 is expected to reach 6,360, with a net increase of 165 new students.
- UC Merced is continuing its trend of attracting and supporting the largest percentage of first-generation, low-income and minority students within the University of California system.

The distribution of undergraduate applications by California region has remained relatively constant with 28.9 percent from Los Angeles, 21.8 percent from the Central Valley and 25.1 percent from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Even though the campus continues to see strong growth in applications, space constraints will limit its Fall 2014 enrollment increase to 165 additional students, for a total student body of about 6,360. Last fall, the campus welcomed its largest class of incoming freshmen — 1,653 students — while the coming year's freshman class is expected to be about 1,440.

As announced last year, the campus is moderating undergraduate enrollment growth to keep pace with construction of new classrooms, laboratories and housing. Construction of the Science and Engineering Building 2 is on track to open this fall. Funding for the Classroom and Office Building 2 was secured last May, and construction began in the fall. The building is scheduled to open in Spring 2016. The Student Services Building opened in the fall, adding space for lectures and classes.

"We've strategically and decisively slowed our enrollment growth until our physical space can keep up with the continued interest in the campus," Leland said.

The university's near-term enrollment goal is to reach 10,000 students by 2020.

Again this year, the campus leads the UC system in applicants who come from low-income households at 57 percent, and whose parents didn't receive a four-year degree at 65 percent.

Despite the drop in California high school graduates, applications to the UC system as a whole were up nearly 5 percent over last year. Of the 183,272 high school seniors and transfer students showing interest, applications from the Central Valley region held steady at 7 percent.

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*UC Merced opened Sept. 5, 2005, as the 10th campus in the University of California system and the first American research university of the 21st century. Situated near Yosemite National Park, the campus significantly expands access to the UC system for students throughout the state, with a special mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. It also serves as a major base of advanced research, a model of sustainable design and construction, and a stimulus to economic growth and diversification throughout the region.*