



UCSA Budget Priorities for FY 2021-22

UC SAPEP Programs (\$20 million ongoing)

UC's Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) are the primary vehicle of the University of California to increase the diversity of our student body and close access gaps for underrepresented and underserved communities across California. A \$20 million investment would bring the per-student funding levels for the SAPEP programs close to the 2008-09 levels, allowing the programs to continue serving students at the intended rates and close prevailing equity gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health Services (\$16.5 million ongoing)

The persistent need to expand access to mental health services has only been exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing prevalence of anxiety, depression, and other health concerns. In November 2020, the UC Board of Regents endorsed a budget priority of \$16.5 million that would fund new hires and the establishment of initiatives for trauma-informed prevention, early intervention, and a first episode psychosis program to improve early screening services and referral to treatment, especially for historically underserved populations. These services are critical for students who are experiencing mental health crises at record levels due to home confinement and pandemic-related issues.

Undocumented Student Financial Aid (\$15 million one-time)

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government passed the CARES Act, which provided \$130 million in direct aid to UC students. However, the Department of Education disqualified undocumented students from these resources, leaving thousands of students across the states without support. In this year's budget cycle, the Governor addressed this issue by approving \$15 million in one-time financial aid to undocumented students across the three higher education segments. This year, we request a renewal of that investment, which will provide nearly \$1 million in financial aid to undocumented students at the UC system.

Summer Financial Aid (\$10 million one-time)

The summer financial aid has been one of the most effective tools at increasing retention and timely graduation of students, and since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has helped thousands of low-income students across California navigate the impact caused by the pandemic and bring their academic trajectory back on track. The Governor's one-time investment of \$10 million in summer financial aid is set to expire at the end of this academic year. As such, we request a renewal of the aid, which provided \$4 million in summer financial aid to students across the UC.

Support for the University of California Budget for FY 2021-22

This past year, the University of California was left with nearly half a billion dollars in state budget reductions all while it was left to mitigate over 2 billion dollars in budget impact as a result of COVID-19. Given the latest fiscal outlook's strong projections of over \$26 billion in additional state revenues, the UCSA board endorses UC's budget request to the Governor and calls for restoration of all previous budget reductions to the UC, as well as new investments in order to help the UC navigate the impacts left by the pandemic.

Invest in Broadband and Digital Equity in Higher Education

As California continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, providing adequate broadband access to support our low-income college students is more important now than ever. With nearly 2 out of every 3 UC students reporting concerns of academic impact due to insufficient broadband and connectivity resources, we need a state investment to tackle the growing digital equity gaps facing our students.