



“Six Californias” Initiative and the UC System

Executive Summary

The “Six Californias” initiative would divide the current state of California into six smaller states. In this scenario, students of the University of California could be forced to pay out-of-state tuition rates if they were to attend a campus in a different state as established by the Initiative.

Based on current attendance statistics at UC, the Six Californias plan would reclassify more than 109,000 California residents currently paying in-state tuition as out-of-state students. Nearly two out of every three current UC students from California would be stripped of their in-state tuition classification.

If the UC were to charge out-of-state tuition to these students, the total additional cost to these students and their families would be more than \$2.5 billion per year.

Methodology

As noted in the LAO’s fiscal analysis of the proposed initiative, the UC system would have campuses in five of the six new states. Notably, the proposed state of Jefferson would not have a UC campus, meaning all students from this state would pay out-of-state tuition to attend a UC.

Distribution of UC Campuses Among the Six Proposed States	
New State	UC Campuses
Central California	Merced
Jefferson	
North California	Davis
Silicon Valley	Berkeley, Santa Cruz, San Francisco
South California	Irvine, Riverside, San Diego
West California	Los Angeles, Santa Barbara

Source: “[Six Californias](#) Initiative,” Legislative Analyst’s Office, January 31, 2014

According to data published on the UC website, a majority (65.1%) of undergraduate freshmen attending any of the nine UC campuses would become “nonresidents” under the Six California plan ([University of California](#)).¹

¹ The Six Californias map differs from the residency map provided by UC by including Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties as part of North California as opposed to Silicon Valley. As a result we shifted 20% of the total number of Silicon Valley students (the relative proportion of the population of these four counties to the total population of the SF Bay Area) to North California.

UC California Resident Freshmen Reclassified as Out-of-State				
UC Campus ²	# of CA resident freshmen in same state	# of CA resident freshmen in a new state	Total UC California Resident Freshmen	% of students to potentially pay out-of-state tuition
Berkeley	1,140	2,242	3,382	66.3%
Davis	824	2,935	3,759	78.1
Irvine	1,255	2,177	3,432	63.4
Los Angeles	1,589	1,953	3,542	55.1
Merced	253	673	926	72.7
Riverside	1,611	2,090	3,701	56.5
San Diego	975	2,245	3,220	69.7
Santa Barbara	1,516	2,376	3,892	61.0
Santa Cruz	1,051	1,802	2,853	63.2
TOTAL:	10,215	18,492	28,707	65.1%

Source: [“Where do UC’s California Resident Freshmen Come From?”](#) University of California; [“Six Californias.”](#) LAO, January 31, 2014; Forward Observer calculations.

The UC website does not provide detailed residency information for its entire undergraduate population of nearly 180,000 students. To estimate the total number of current UC undergraduates who would be at risk of paying out-of-state tuition, we applied the percentages of freshmen reclassified as out-of-state to the total California resident population of each UC. We find that breaking California into six states would create more than 109,000 new out-of-state students who formerly paid in-state tuition.

² Note: UC San Francisco is a medical school that exclusively serves graduate students, and has thus been excluded from the remainder of this analysis.

Total UC California Resident Students Reclassified as Out-of-State according to Six Californias Initiative			
UC Campus	CA Resident Students (2010)	% Reclassified as Out-of-State	Students Reclassified as Out-of-State
Berkeley	22,307	66.3%	14,788
Davis	23,956	78.1	18,702
Irvine	21,347	63.4	13,541
Los Angeles	23,126	55.1	12,751
Merced	4,109	72.7	2,986
Riverside	18,069	56.5	10,204
San Diego	22,064	69.7	15,383
Santa Barbara	18,387	61.0	11,225
Santa Cruz	15,407	63.2	9,730
TOTAL:	168,772	65.1%	109,310

Source: "[Undergraduate Fall Headcount Enrollment by Campus and Residency \(2000-2010\)](#)," University of California; Forward Observer calculations. Note: rounded percentages shown; student calculations made with complete percentages.

According to the admissions office at the University of California, all UC undergraduates pay a base tuition of \$12,192 plus an average of \$1,008 in fees, for a total of \$13,200. Nonresident undergraduates pay an additional \$22,878 in "nonresident supplemental tuition" ([University of California](#)). If implemented, the Six Californias plan would thus create a burden on formerly in-state students totaling more than \$2.5 billion across the UC System annually.

Increased Tuition and Fees For New "Out-of-State" Students		
UC Campus	Students Reclassified as Out-of-State	Additional tuition paid
Berkeley	14,788	\$338,319,864
Davis	18,702	427,864,356
Irvine	13,541	309,790,998
Los Angeles	12,751	291,717,378
Merced	2,986	68,313,708
Riverside	10,204	233,447,112
San Diego	15,383	351,932,274
Santa Barbara	11,225	256,805,550
Santa Cruz	9,730	222,602,940
TOTAL:	109,310	\$2,500,794,180

Source: "[Undergraduate Fall Headcount Enrollment by Campus and Residency \(2000-2010\)](#)," University of California; Forward Observer calculations.