

COLLEGE PREFERENCES / COLLEGE ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW

The following summary outlines how newly admitted students would indicate their UCSC college preferences, as well as the process used by the Office of Admissions in making the college assignments.

How College Preferences are Captured

Admitted students, as a part of their accepting their offer of admission, indicate their UCSC college preferences as one step in a multi-step process. The page where students indicate their college preferences offers the students two choices:

1. List five unique college preferences (with 1 being their top preference); or
2. Select “No Preference,” meaning that any of the 10 colleges would be fine

An image of that page can be found at:

https://admissions.sa.ucsc.edu/discover/parents/portal_preview.cfm

Step three of the acceptance process is where the college preferences are indicated.

All students that meet their Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) deadline are considered equally for their UCSC college assignment.

How College Assignments are Made

The Office of Admissions, with direction from the UCSC College Provosts, performs the actual assignment of students to UCSC colleges. The current process has been in place for many years.

Each college has agreed to a certain allocation for the number of students that will be assigned to their college. College allocations take into account available housing, advising impacts, and overall college size. Allocations are established between the Housing Office and the Colleges (including any overbooking strategies). Admissions use these allocations in devising an assignment plan.

The first step would be to determine the gender percentages of the SIRed population. This percentage becomes a target for the gender balance to achieve in the assignment process for all UCSC colleges. The next step is to look at the total demand of first preferences by each college. That information allows Admissions to determine how many males/females may be added (if demand is low) or displaced to a non-first preference college (if demand is too high).

Once that is determined, the individual students' displacements would be determined. Students that have indicated a less-popular college as a higher preference are normally displaced in an effort to maximize the higher college preferences of the students. There are a small number of

students that are guaranteed their first-preference college (Regents Scholars), and they would not be displaced in this process.

All assignments are made within five working days of the SIR deadline. Some students may choose to appeal their college assignment, and that process is overseen by the Housing Office, but determined by the colleges (both those that would have to release the student and the college the student is seeking to change).

NOTE: College assignments are made without regard to race/ethnicity, but gender is taken into account because of the university housing aspect of the assignments.