

# Helping a More Diverse Student Population Succeed in the Highly-Selective University:

## An Example from Writing Studies



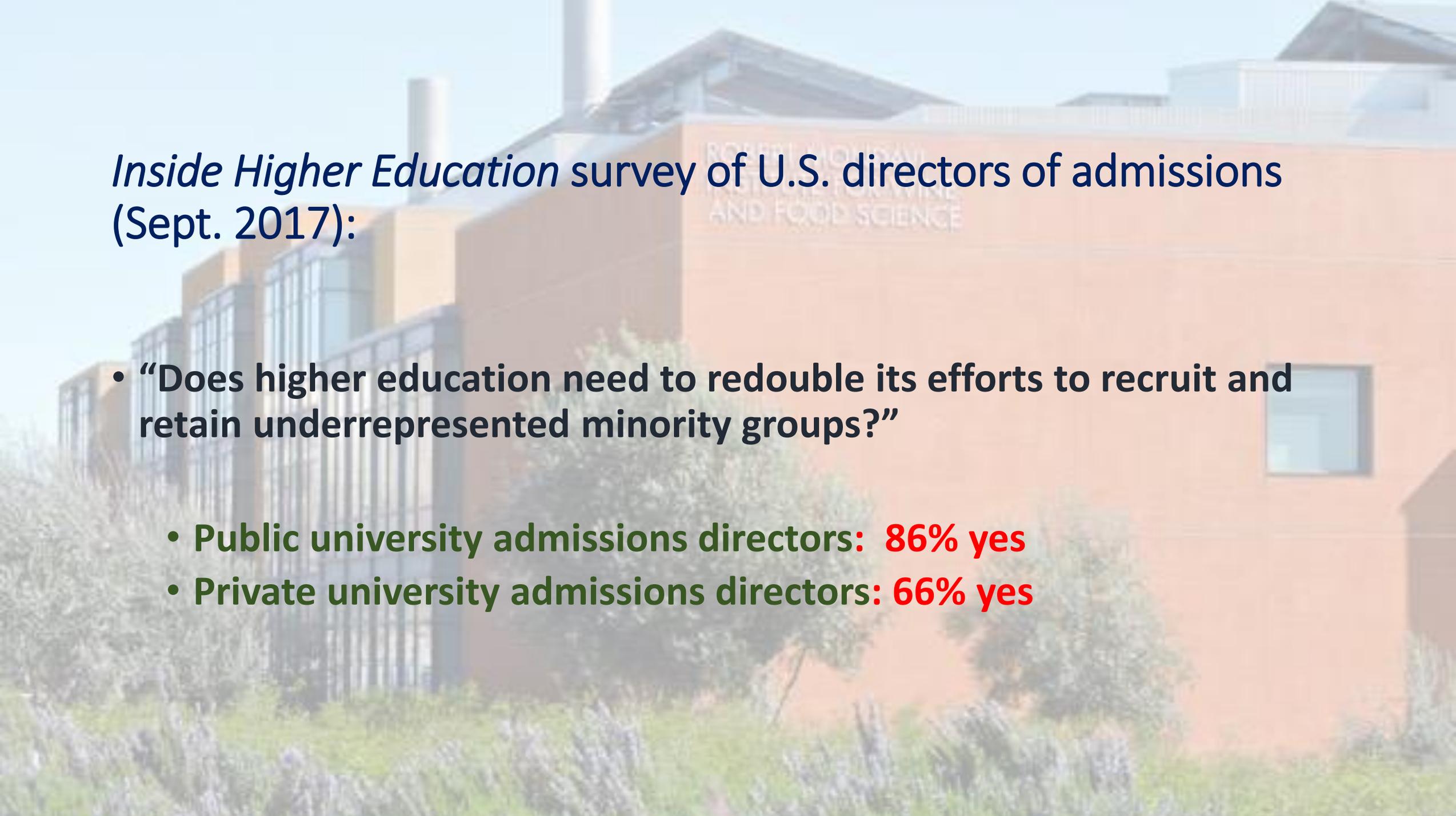
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*Inside Higher Education* (5 Sept. 2017) reported on the 2017 drop in international student enrollment in U.S. graduate and professional programs—sometimes “precipitous,” as at the University of Florida, where there was a 30% decline.

University of Florida President Kent Fuchs stated:

“My concern is that the U.S. risks losing its position as the destination of choice for the world’s very best graduate and professional students. We must, as a nation and university, tell the world that we welcome international students and that they have wonderful opportunities here. Our university’s future depends on this -- and so does our nation’s.”



*Inside Higher Education* survey of U.S. directors of admissions  
(Sept. 2017):

- “Does higher education need to redouble its efforts to recruit and retain underrepresented minority groups?”
  - **Public university admissions directors: 86% yes**
  - **Private university admissions directors: 66% yes**

DACA is important to us in higher education—many of those eligible for DACA are among our students.

- Those at UC Davis have met our admissions criteria, and have come to us either directly from secondary school or have transferred from the two-year community or city colleges.
- In all but immigration status, they are truly Californians, fluent in English and many multi-lingual.
- “UC Davis is home to a dedicated community of DACA students from across the globe. Turning our backs on these students is not who we are. At UC Davis, we open our doors to the world and give the best and brightest a chance to shine, no matter where they happened to be born.” –Chancellor Gary S. May (UC Davis *Dateline*, 9/11/17)

# Diversity at UC Davis

Our undergraduates include many *first-generation* students: those who come from families in which they are the first member to attend college.

In addition, UC Davis is always ranked in the top ten among U.S. universities for *recruiting and graduating low-income students*.

## Undergraduate Enrollment at UC Davis:

- Asian and Asian-American 45%
- Anglo and Other European-American 27%
- Latino 21%
- African-American 5%
- Native American and Pacific Islander 2%



## UC Davis PhD Students in Writing, Rhetoric, and Composition Studies

- Most come with teaching experience in writing studies.
- Ambitions for academic careers vary—
  - University Writing Programs
  - Teacher Education
  - Multilingual Writing Programs
  - Community College Writing Programs
- Research foci vary—
  - Second-Language Writing
  - Writing in Disciplines
  - Childhood Development
  - Writing and Technologies
  - Writing Program Design, etc.



## UC Davis PhD Students in Writing, Rhetoric, and Composition Studies

They all share the dedication to *educational access* for people  
of *all backgrounds*...

which is the environment in which they teach as grad  
students in our Davis undergraduate writing courses.



# UC Davis “Principles of Community”

<https://occr.ucdavis.edu/poc/index.html>

“UC Davis reflects and is committed to serving the needs of a global society comprising all people and a multiplicity of identities.”

*Diversity and anti-discrimination* are defined and elaborated in the Principles.



## Diversity in University of California Admissions:

On the undergraduate admissions website, 14 categories of achievement are listed for the UC, including this statement about “life experiences”:

“Academic accomplishments in light of your life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status.”

## Transfer Students in the University of California:

- An increasing proportion of our students—about 30%--come to us through transfer from a California community college.
- Our transfer students must complete a basic range of courses at the community college across disciplines before applying.
- They have performed overall above a 3-point out of 4 level in those courses in order to apply.
- It says on the Univ. of California admissions page for transfer students:

“ We give California community college students first priority over other transfer applicants, and many campuses offer guaranteed admission for well-prepared transfer students. “

# Financial Aid for UC Students

- UC education is not inexpensive for California students—who make up more than 85% of our undergraduates
- It is roughly twice as expensive for out-of-state and international undergraduate students.
- Including tuition, fees, housing, and food, the cost for a California student is roughly 25,000 US dollars per year.
- But the great majority of students receive at least some financial aid, depending on need:

“In fact, more than half of our undergraduate students pay no tuition at all. Over two-thirds of UC undergraduates receive grants and scholarships, with an average award of around \$16,300.”



## Typical Components of U.S. Writing Programs in Diverse Universities

- At least one *required* writing course in the first year
- Most universities require *more than one course in this discipline*. More and more frequently, the second course is offered in a later year than the first year.
- Most universities have a *writing center*, in which tutors, most often fellow students, have been trained to give feedback to those who visit the center.
- At least 50% of universities also have some form of a *writing-across-the-curriculum* or *writing-in-the-disciplines* program
- A high percentage of these universities also have what is called a “*writing intensive*” course requirement
- Of special note: Many universities, especially those which admit many international students and students whose first language is other than English, will also offer what are called “*developmental*” courses in writing in English.

At both George Mason University and UC Davis, the writing curriculum is what is called a “vertical curriculum,” which serves students throughout their years in the university. it consists of

- *required writing courses (two), one in the first year and one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year*
- *a writing center* offering tutoring sessions and workshops available to all students
- *a WAC/WID program that includes workshops for teachers across disciplines and “writing-intensive” courses in many disciplines.*
- UC Davis also offers a “*minor*” in professional writing (five elective courses, including an internship), which gives students a credential listed on their diplomas. All in all, both universities offer students the opportunity to take courses or use tutoring services throughout their years in the university.

## “Vertical” Writing Curricula at UC Davis and George Mason University

Year in Univ.	Courses in Writing Program	Services	WAC/WID Courses	Credential (UC Davis)	Credential (George Mason)
4-5	Writing in Disciplines & Professions (UCD & GMU)	Writing Center	Writing-Intensive in Majors (UCD, GMU)	Writing Minor	Concentration in English Major
3	Writing in Disciplines & Professions (UCD & GMU)	Writing Center	Writing-Intensive in Majors (UCD, GMU)	Writing Minor	Concentration in English Major
2		Writing Center			
1	Writing in Genres (Argument, Essay)+ “Developmental” Options	Writing Center			

Table: A “Vertical” Writing Curriculum

In my “Writing in Science” course, students **read** much science writing, **write** diverse projects, and **offer workshop commentary** to fellow students. Projects include:

- Proposals for each project
- Rhetorical analyses of research papers they read in peer-reviewed journals
- A formal review of research on a topic they choose from their research field
- **A “popular” adaptation of this research for a very different audience and in a different mode—a brochure, a video, a website, etc.—that requires them to use photography, video, drawing, and other visual tools**
- An oral-visual presentation, usually PowerPoint, on their research, given to the class
- **An autobiographical history of their growth as writers and scientists, with projection into the future.**

### Important Remaining Questions

- 1) Why tissue engineering research has yet to translate to the bedside?
- 2) What are the ramifications if tissue engineered valves do come fruition (societal)?
- 3) If it's going to be years before it works, how do we change bioprosthetics to be more kid friendly?



## THE SOUR TRUTH ABOUT OUR OCEAN

**Ocean Acidification**

The ocean has become 30% more acidic since 1980. This is due to the ocean taking up a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. World leaders and scientists have agreed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to help slow down the rate of ocean acidification. However, the world is still producing a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> and the ocean is still becoming more acidic.

**Why is this a problem?**

As the ocean becomes more acidic, it becomes harder for many marine organisms to build their shells and skeletons. This can lead to the death of these organisms, which can have a big impact on the food chain. For example, if the organisms that eat phytoplankton die, then the phytoplankton will not be eaten, and the food chain will be disrupted.

**What can we do?**

We can reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by using renewable energy, driving less, and recycling. We can also support organizations that are working to protect the ocean and its resources.

### QUANTUM WAVE FUNCTION

**What if you can TELEPORT?**

Quantum teleportation is a process by which the state of a quantum system is transferred from one location to another. This is done by using entanglement and classical communication. It is a key concept in quantum computing and quantum cryptography.

**PROBABILITY**

Probability is a measure of the likelihood of an event occurring. It is often represented by a number between 0 and 1. In quantum mechanics, probability is used to describe the behavior of particles.

**Did you know...?**

Quantum mechanics is a branch of physics that deals with the behavior of particles at the atomic and subatomic level. It is a very strange and counterintuitive theory, but it has led to many important discoveries in science and technology.

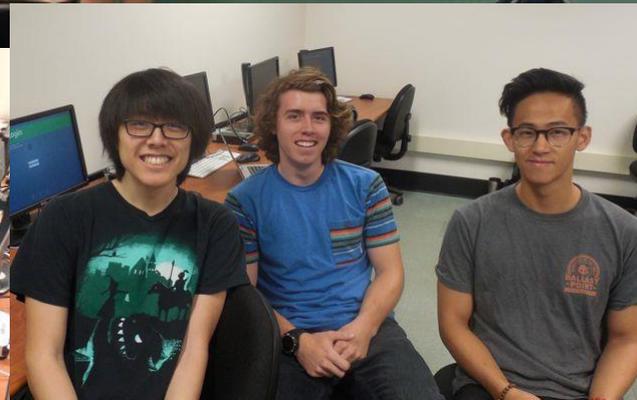


### Key Regulatory Pathway: PGC-1α

Kohlmann et al., (2006) Eur. J. Physiol. 422, 135-136



### Key Regulatory Pathway: PGC-1α



### Epigenetic Process: M

**DNA Methylation**  
Adding or removing methyl groups to turn genes on or off.

**Histone Modification**  
Chromatin are made up of histones and any the histone leads to altering chromatin structure.

**Genomic Imprinting**  
Phenomenon by which certain genes are expressed in a parent-specific manner. If the allele inherited from the mother is silenced and the only allele from the father is expressed.

Timmy and his mom say good-bye to Dr. Wilson and stop at a supermarket on the way home to pick up some yogurt and vegetables. And bananas! Timmy is happy to know that bananas feed good bacteria to help them grow too.