

Interest in UC Merced remains steady

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MERCED -- The University of California at Merced is listed among the most popular institutions where California high school students sent their college admission test scores last spring.

The college's standing on the lists held steady for both the ACT and SAT exams when compared to the high school class of 2008.

While there was a modest increase in the number of ACT scores transmitted to the school this year, the number of SAT scores passed along has fallen, according to information released this month.

UC Merced leaders said they were happy with the level of student interest in the 5-year-old campus and have known the number of test scores forwarded since the students finished the tests last spring.

"They're here now and we're thrilled," said Kevin Browne, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management. "Enrollment is exactly where we wanted to be two years ago for the fall of 2009."

SAT

UC Merced came in as the 22nd-most popular choice for seniors in the class of 2009 who took the exam and had their scores forwarded.

UC Merced received scores from 10,249 students, or 6.3% of the total number of California students who forwarded their scores to any institution.

Last year, UC Merced also ranked 22nd, but more students sent their scores to the school then. In 2008, the college received the scores of 10,536 students, or 6.6% of total score senders.

Of the 212,239 students in California who took the exam, 163,386 had their score reports sent to at least one school, according to the College Board. Students may designate more than one institution to receive their scores. The list included only the 45 institutions that received the most score reports. A total of 2,857 institutions received scores from state students.

ACT

In the graduating class of 2009, 81,494 state students took the ACT exam. Students can send their results to one or more campuses, and more than 147,000 score reports were sent to the 30 most popular institutions.

UC Merced came in 25th, the same position it held in 2008.

The number of students forwarding their scores to Merced increased slightly to 1,388 from 1,318 last year.

Of the test takers this year, 228 students indicated that UC Merced was their first-choice school.

UCLA was the most popular choice among test-takers for both exams.