

New Eligibility Rules for the University of California?

The Effects of New Science Requirements

February 7, 2020

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Changes to eligibility rules can have wide-reaching effects on admissions

- The state's four-year institutions are considering changing their admission requirements
 - UC: may increase science requirements (area D), drop SAT/ACT
 - CSU: may add quantitative reasoning requirements
- These proposals have equity implications

UC's proposed changes would increase and broaden current science requirements

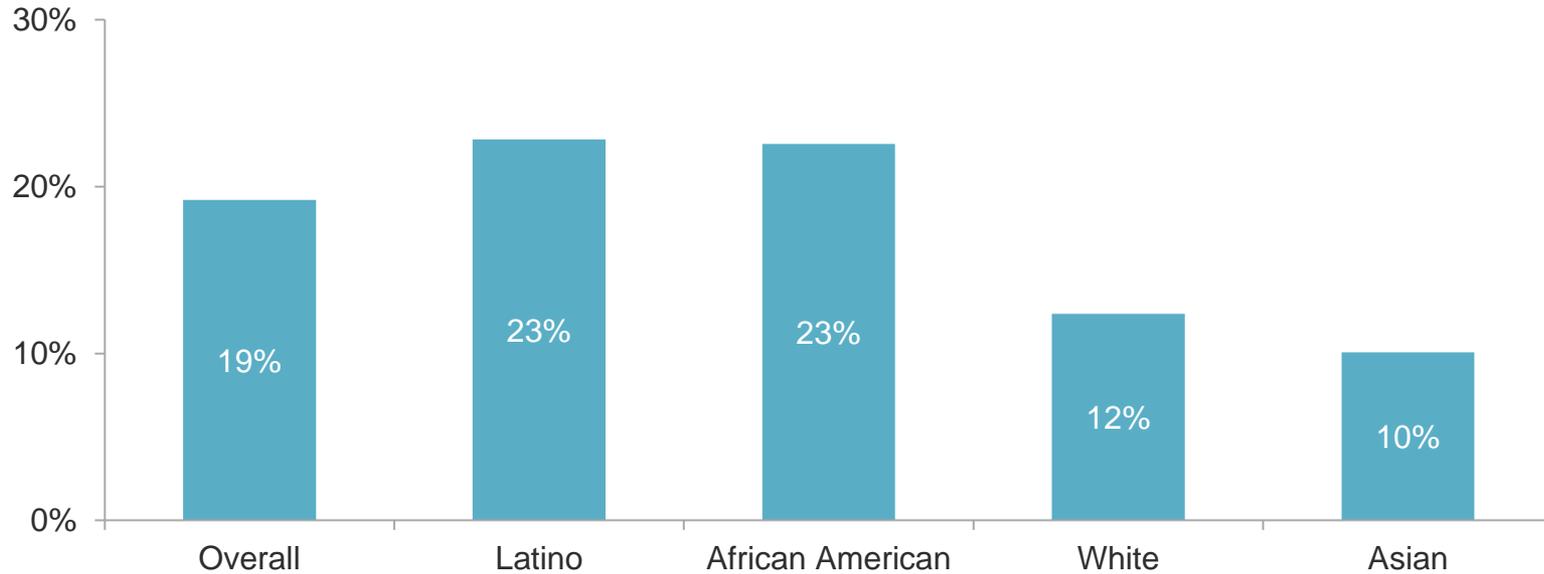
- Science requirement (area D) would increase from 2 to 3 years
 - 2 of 3 must be in biology, chemistry, or physics
 - More science courses could meet the 3rd year
- This proposal responds to changes in K–12 science standards
 - Students experience a broader set of disciplines and courses, such as earth and space sciences
- College readiness may improve, but student eligibility is a concern
 - Underrepresented and disadvantaged groups may be affected

Our work examined three key questions

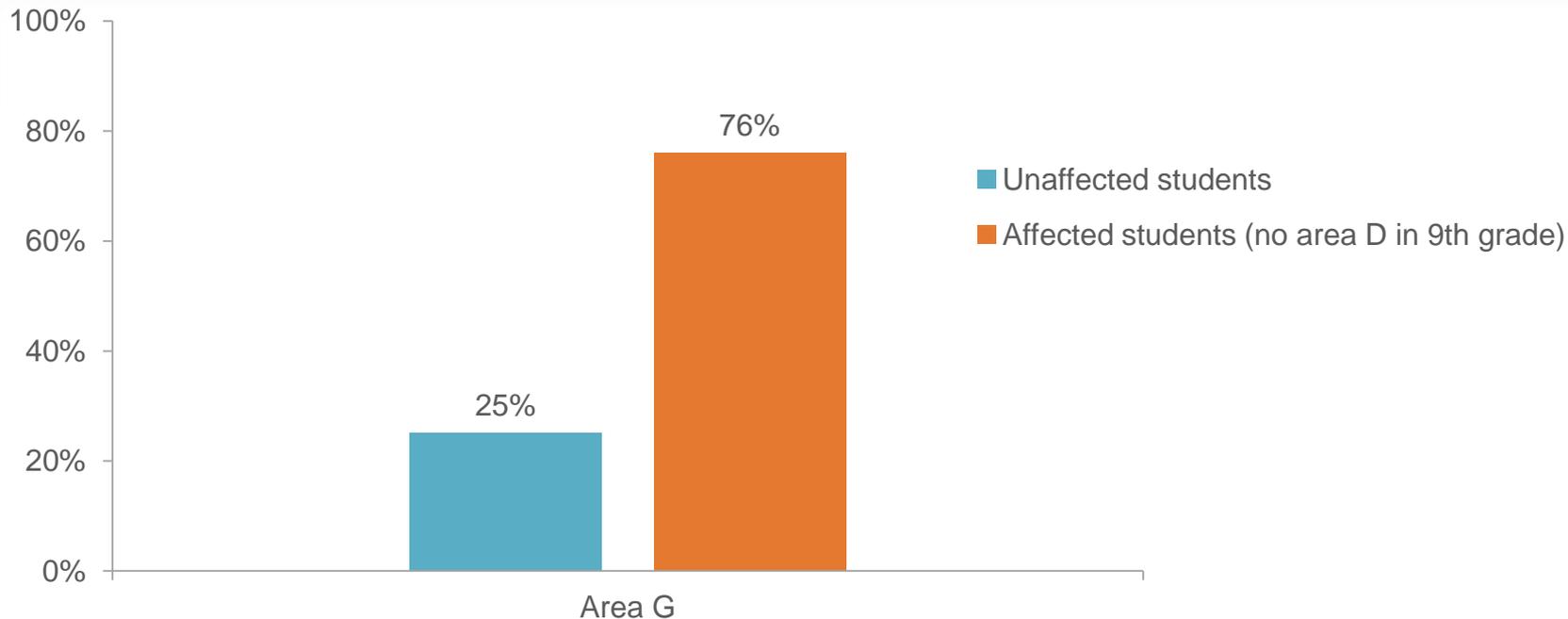
- How many and which students might be affected?
- Are high schools prepared to implement the new requirements?
- How to mitigate negative effects of the proposal?

Some groups could be more affected by the proposal

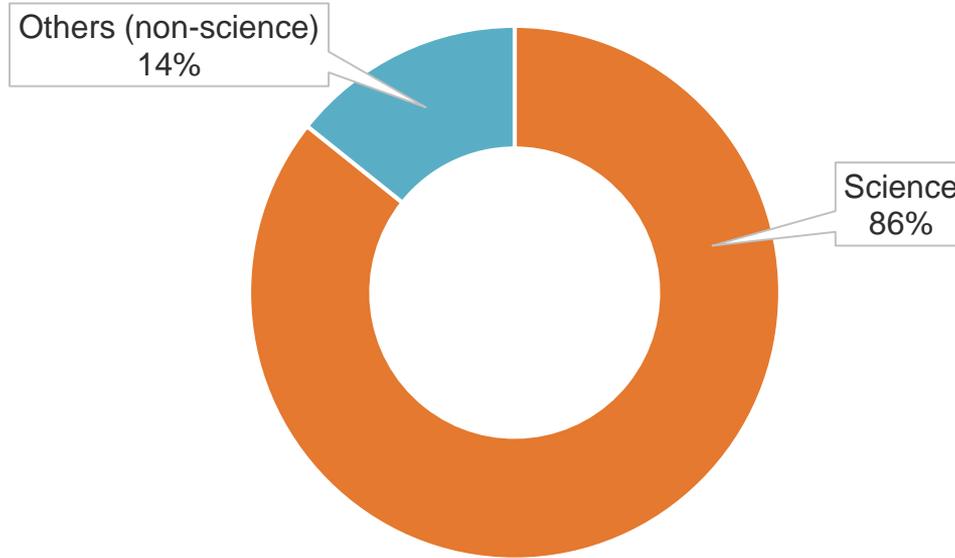
% A–G graduates not meeting the proposed requirements, 2017–18



Most affected students took a UC approved elective instead of an area D science class



The vast majority of the electives are science courses



Institutional actions could help more students meet the new requirements

- Improving course placement policy and practices
- Adjusting course scheduling
- Eliciting stakeholder buy-in from administrators and counselors
- Aligning state's high school graduation requirements
- Increasing teacher staffing

Most high schools offer the courses, but access is a problem

- Just 9% of high schools did not offer 3 or more area D courses
- Staffing presents a challenge, particularly in higher-need schools
- Most important: high schools need to improve **access**

Policy recommendations

- At the UC level
 - Further expand area D to include more science electives
 - Engage in vigorous statewide outreach
 - Consider a phase-in period and monitor progress
- At the high schools level
 - Submit eligible science electives
 - Review and revise course placement and scheduling policies
- At the state level
 - Expand efforts to develop, recruit, retain, and diversify science teachers
 - Continue efforts to develop a robust longitudinal data system

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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

Current eligibility rules for the University of California

- Subject requirements
 - Complete 15 A–G course requirements
 - At least 11 must be finished by end of junior year
- GPA must be 3.0 or better in A–G classes
- Exam requirements: ACT plus writing, or SAT with essay
- Two programs for California applicants:
 - Statewide guarantee: top 9% of California students
 - Local guarantee: top 9% of a participating high school (eligibility in the local context)