

To: Joe Moldenhauer
From: Carol MacKay
Subject: UCLA Composition Program
Date: January 16, 1983

Sorry to be so long in getting back to you on your questions, but I've been out of town--staying on at the Huntington after the MLA. My answers are primarily my general impressions, although I've recently had them confirmed by two members of the composition staff.

1. What's the English composition requirement for undergraduates (number of quarters)? 3 quarters: English A (old Subject B), E.1 (old Subject A), and E.3 (old English 1). More than 60% of the entering Freshmen now start with E.1 (cut-off score is SAT 550). The number of E.A sections is on the rise.

2. Does the UCLA English Dept. staff the English Comp. classes for the entire campus, or only for the Arts and Sciences College? It staffs for the entire campus, in conjunction with the newly-formed Writing Programs staff.

3. Does the main UCLA campus include large undergrad-grad professional schools, such as Engineering and Business? Yes.

4. Are undergraduate admissions standards fairly rigorous, or fairly loose like ours at UT? Top 12 1/2 % of h.s. graduates are eligible, but last year 10% of those who elected UCLA as their top choice were rerouted to other campuses.

5. Are most of the required composition courses taught by the English Dept. staffed by AIs or by faculty? All are taught by graduate students (our AIs = their TAs), English Dept. lecturers, and lecturers in the Writing Programs. Hardly any faculty have ever taught E.3, and only a few teach E.4 (Intro. to Lit.). The English majors are so many (900+) that the faculty are needed for staffing the major courses.

6. Roughly how many faculty in the English Dept? 70. How many AIs (TAs)? 40, although 10 of those would be TAing in literature courses. Also, TAs teach only 1 course per quarter.

7. Is the teaching of graduate English courses on the "star system," or are opportunities to teach grad courses spread around the faculty as at UT? It's primarily the "star system." Some Assistant Professors teach a few grad classes; others do not. It all depends on the "competition" and departmental need.

8. Which answers to the above questions do you think would also apply to Berkeley? UCB is fairly similar to UCLA. If anything, it is more rigidly hierarchical. It does share the composition teaching load with a couple of other departments, though, namely Rhetoric and Comp. Lit.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help.