

# Palo Alto Senior High School

April, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Several years ago, the University of California established a new path, *Eligibility in the Local Context* (ELC), through which California high school graduates become eligible for admission. For our graduates, this eligibility is based solely on academic performance at Palo Alto High School and requires the release of transcripts to the University. We, however, cannot release academic records without parent/guardian authorization.

Students whom we identify as being in the top tier of our school, and whose parent/guardian(s) have authorized us to release information to the University of California, will have student records, including transcripts, provided to U.C. The University will evaluate the academic records of these students to determine which of them are qualified to participate in the ELC program, also known as the "4% plan." Only University of California personnel and their authorized agents will have access to student records. Student information, including names and addresses, will not be given to others for any purpose. This information will be utilized only by the University to determine ELC status, to evaluate the ELC program, and to invite students to apply.

While we have a general idea of the number of student transcripts that U.C. will request in June for ELC evaluation, as of today we do not have an exact number. Furthermore, juniors have not yet completed this semester's work which will be considered before students are identified for submission. Thus, we are sending this letter and form to all junior families so that all students may be cleared for consideration. This will result in some of the students for whom we seek your authorization not being included among those whose transcripts will be sent to the University of California for evaluation. The authorization form should be returned to your child's Teacher Advisor during advisory on May 23, or to Joan Wrenn in the Guidance Office no later than May 23, 2007.

Students who achieve ELC status will be notified by the University, probably in September, that, contingent upon their completion of all remaining eligibility requirements, they are eligible for admission to the University. These requirements include completion of all required academic coursework and all required standardized tests. Please note that while eligible applicants are guaranteed a place at one of the campuses of the University system, they may not be admitted to the campus of their choice. As you know, selection criteria vary among the U.C. campuses. All, however, will give some positive consideration to ELC status in their admissions decisions. All eligible applicants must still complete a University of California application.

There are at least three major benefits of this program for selected students. First, students will be identified by the University of California as top students. Second, by being identified early, these students will benefit from campus outreach programs. Finally, students will know that, as U.C. eligible students, they will have a space reserved at the University. This will lessen anxiety about their status as far as U.C. is concerned and will help them undertake their application tasks with more ease and confidence.

Please remember to return the attached permission form, along with the Senior Profile materials, by May 23, 2007, to make sure that your child does not miss out on this possible opportunity. Or download the form in pdf format from the Paly website, [paly.net/guidance](http://paly.net/guidance), fill it out, sign, and submit it.

Sincerely,

Katya Villalobos  
Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Guidance