

**University of Colorado at Boulder**  
**Replies to Questions Posed by the Blue Ribbon Commission at the**  
**CU-Boulder Campus Meeting on January 21, 2006**

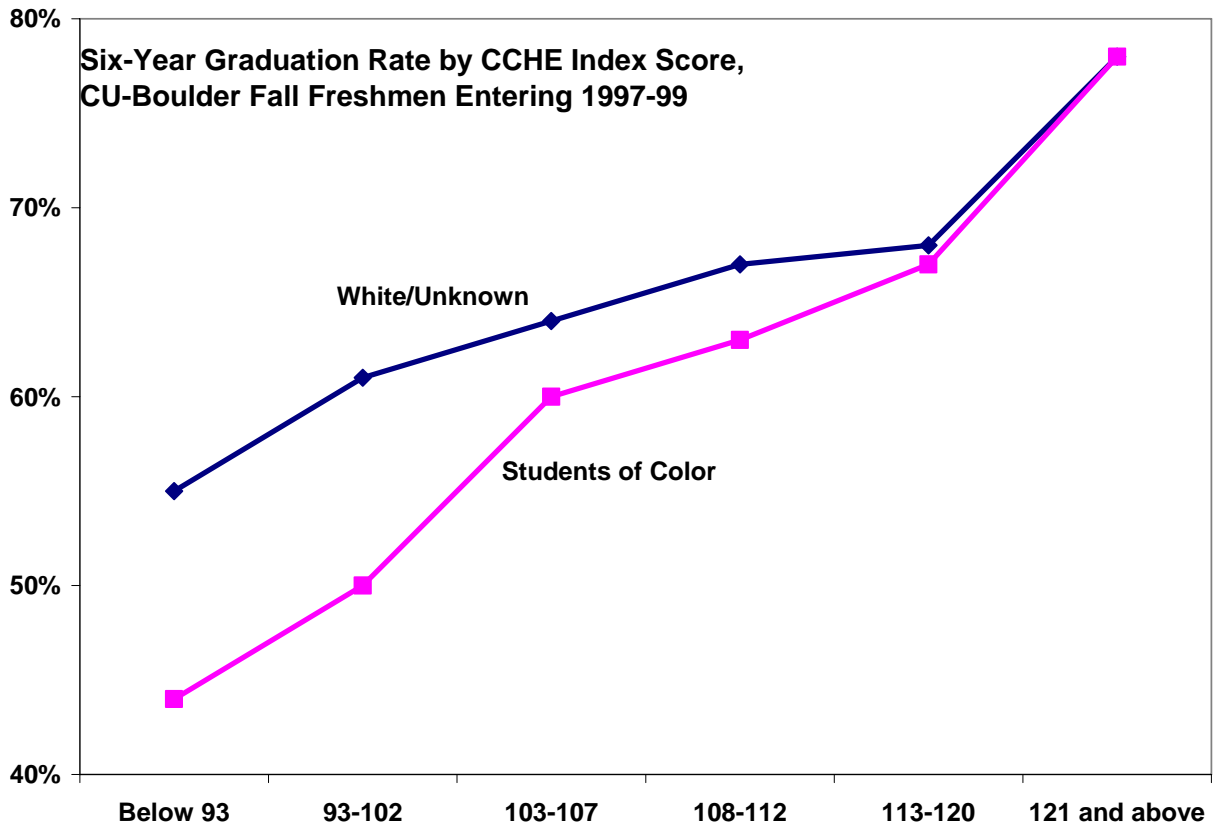
At the January 21, 2006 Blue Ribbon Commission meeting on CU-Boulder, commission members requested additional information on the following topics:

***1. Blue Ribbon Commission members would like to see a breakdown of students in the window by ethnicity?***

- 1166 fall freshmen applicants for the year 2005 were admitted “in the window” with high school and test score credentials (or GED’s) not meeting the CCHE admission standard for Boulder. Of these 1166, 71% were white, 4% African American, 1% Native American, 5.5% Asian American, 12% Hispanic/Latino, less than 1% international, and 5% with no race/ethnicity reported by the applicant. For Colorado residents only, the percentages are, respectively, 61.5%, 7%, less than 1%, 8.5%, 18%, no international, and 3% unknown. 471 of the window admits matriculated. Of these 471, 69% were white, 3% African American, 1% Native American, 8% Asian American, 12.5% Hispanic/Latino, less than 1% international, and 5% with no race/ethnicity reported by the applicant. This information has been incorporated in the Web posting on window admits which was part of Blue Ribbon materials (<http://www.colorado.edu/pba/adm/windowadmits.htm>)

***2. Blue Ribbon Commission members would like to see the difference in success rates for those students “in the window” and those above the window?***

- Graduation rates of students within the window are somewhat lower than those for the student body at large, but still well over 50%, indicating that the acceptance decisions made are sound. For freshmen entering in fall 1998, for example, 59% of window matriculants and 71% of other matriculants have graduated. All Colorado public colleges and universities except CU-Boulder, CSU, and Colorado School of Mines have overall graduation rates under 50%. (Details can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/pba/div/CO4yr\\_gradrt.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/pba/div/CO4yr_gradrt.htm).)
- Six-year graduation rates for students of color and whites are plotted below by band of the CCHE admission index for students in the combined years of 1997-1999. 1999 is the latest entry cohort with six full years of opportunity through summer 2005. Per federal standards graduation rates are always calculated through degrees awarded in a summer term.



- The table below shows the relationship of index to six-year graduation rate for each racial/ethnic group, grouped into new freshmen with admission indices 103+ vs. those “in the window.” The table shows considerable variation in academic preparation and graduation rates by ethnic groups.

	With index 103+			In the window		
	N	Rate	Avg index	N	Rate	Avg index
<b>All</b>	9,926	69%	115	3,140	58%	97
All students of color	1,097	66%	114	738	49%	94
All others	8,829	70%	115	2,402	61%	98
<b>By race/ethnic/citizenship</b>						
African American	97	64%	113	147	51%	91
Asian American	532	70%	115	246	48%	95
Hispanic/Latino	407	65%	113	309	49%	95
Native American	61	49%	113	36	47%	97
White	8,403	70%	115	2,303	61%	98
Unknown	339	60%	118	87	55%	97
International	87	57%	112	12	58%	98

- Only about an average of 20 students enroll each year with indices below 93. The graduation rate for these students has also been higher than the average graduation rate for students at all Colorado four-year institutions (UCD, UCCS, UNC, Metro, Adams, Ft. Lewis).
- This information has been incorporated in the Web posting on window admits which was part of Blue Ribbon materials  
(<http://www.colorado.edu/pba/adm/windowadmits.htm>)

**3. *What issues determine the percentage “in the window” that are used for students of color?***

- See #4.

**4. *Can there be an increased percentage use of the window dedicated to students of color provided appropriate services and support for these students is available?***

- No numbers or percentages of any group of admits are “dedicated” to students of color. We admit applicants that we predict can and will succeed, taking into account available services and support programs. Within the group of applicants judged capable of success given those services and programs, we control admit offers to meet campus goals for total number of freshmen, college and (Colorado) residency distributions, diversity, and special talents such as music and athletics. The percentage of window admits who are students of color is thus a function of numbers of applicants; their academic credentials; their distribution by residency, college interests, race/ethnicity, and special talents; and campus and college size goals.

**5. *What was UCB/CU system’s response to the decision by CCHE to decrease the size of the window?***

- CCHE decreased the allowable window size in October 2003 at the same time it made many other changes to the admission standard policy. A major change updated index calculations, raising the index score of most applicants enough to compensate for the decreased window size. Most CU comment was directed at a second change: the revised admission standard incorporates high school curriculum along with test scores and high school performance. CU supported this change, which puts the CCHE standard more in line with national practices and with CU’s own published high school curricular standards (MAPS; see <http://www.colorado.edu/admissions/maps.html>).

**6. *Why did UCB go to 10% ahead of schedule? Couldn’t 4% more of the window be used to accept more minority students?***

- As noted in #4, many factors determine the number of admits in the window. We did not “go to 10%” as a targeted goal. 87% of complete applications from new freshmen for fall 2005 had indices of 103 or above. The CCHE admission standard has not been a limiting factor in our admission decisions for several years. The limiting factor is who applies and our assessment of their chances of success, along with class size goals.

***7. Where are the accepted students with 103 index going when they don't matriculate at UCB?***

- Data provided by CCHE have been added to the pipeline display [http://www.colorado.edu/pba/adm/COapps\\_ethn.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/pba/adm/COapps_ethn.htm). The display now also shows number of ACT takers, average ACT composite, average self-reported high school GPA, and an estimated average CCHE index calculated from the ACT and self-reported GPA averages. The data from CCHE show the Colorado public 4-year schools that admitted applicants with 103+ who did not apply to any CU campus. Counts of admits, not matriculants, are shown for each institution. 836 students of color with indices of 103+ did not apply to any CU campus but did apply to and were admitted by at least one other Colorado public four-year institution. The largest number of admit offers to this group are to CSU and UNC.