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Before You Begin

Gather your information

Having everything you'll need in hand before you start your application means you won’t be searching for important information at the last minute. Make sure the information you provide is accurate because you may be asked to verify it at a later time.

Research your options

There may be different degree programs at several UC campuses that can help you achieve your career goal; knowing what they are will give you more options when you apply. Check which majors are open for the current term at http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors.

Campus Majors
UCB  http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/
UCD  http://admissions.ucdavis.edu/majors
UCI  www.admissions.uci.edu/about/majors_and_minors.html
UCLA  www.admissions.ucla.edu/majors
UCM  www.ucmerced.edu/academics-undergraduate-majors-minors
UCR  www.ucr.edu/academics/undergradmajors.html
UCSD  https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/advising/majors-minors/undergraduate-majors.html
UCSB  www.admissions.ucsb.edu/allmajors.asp
UCSC  http://admissions.ucsc.edu/majors

Apply broadly

Applying to more than one UC can significantly increase your chances of being admitted to a campus that will enable you to fulfill your educational goals. We recommend applying to campuses that vary in their selectivity.

Pick an email address and stick with it

Campuses email applicants to request or clarify information; they often need a quick response. Provide an email address that you will check regularly. Update your spam filters to ensure that you receive all UC communications.

Apply at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

Follow directions. Answers to common questions appear on every page and under the “help” tab. If you can’t find an answer, contact the UC Application Center at ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net, or call (800) 207-1710 (toll free in the U.S.).

Save your work. If you take a break from your application, sign out or click “Next” on any page to make sure your work is saved.

Review your summary. Look for any instance where the summary page says “not started” or “in progress.” If you didn’t intend to leave a question blank, click “Edit” to go back and answer it.

Don’t forget to click “Submit your application for UC admission.” Your application won’t be sent to UC until you do. After submission, you will be taken to the receipt page, which shows your application ID. It’s a good idea to print this page.
Checklist

Transcripts
You'll need to enter courses and grades from all schools you have attended, including any colleges where you have taken courses while enrolled in high school. Don't enter information from memory; misreporting your academic record can jeopardize your admission. If you took advanced math and/or a language other than English in middle school, you must report how many semesters you completed.

Test scores
These include your ACT with Writing and/or SAT (with Writing or with Essay) scores and any Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or A-Level exam scores. Know the test dates for upcoming exams you plan to take.

Annual income (optional)
If your parents claim you as a dependent on their tax return, ask them for their annual pre-tax income for 2015 and 2016. Refer to tax records or pay stubs.

Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (if you have one)
We use your Social Security number or ITIN to verify your identity and match your application to your transcripts, and, if you apply for financial aid, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It will be kept confidential.

Citizenship status
You must provide your country of citizenship (or "No Selection" — this is recommended for undocumented applicants). If you select a country other than the United States, you'll need to provide your legal immigration status and the type of visa (e.g., F-1, H4, etc.) you hold or plan to hold.

Credit card
You'll need the account number, expiration date, cardholder's name and billing address. (If you'd prefer to pay by check or money order, you can send your payment by mail. Do not send cash.)
After You Submit

Print your receipt
You'll want to keep a record of your application ID number and a summary of your application for reference.

Watch for your application submission confirmation
As soon as you submit your application, you'll receive an email confirming it has been successfully filed. If you do not receive this email, check your spam filter or contact the UC Application Center at ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net, (800) 207-1710 (toll free in the U.S.).

Order test score reports
Be sure to have the appropriate testing agency send your official results from the ACT, SAT or SAT Subject tests (optional) to UC. If you have a report sent to one UC campus, it will be shared with all the campuses to which you apply. You can confirm receipt of your test scores by logging back in to your application.

If you are admitted for the fall term, you must arrange to have official AP and IB exam scores sent to the campus admissions office no later than July 15.

Order final transcripts
If you are admitted for the fall term, you must arrange to have final, official transcripts sent to the campus admissions office no later than July 1.

Note: Before admittance, you do not need to send preliminary transcripts unless requested by a campus.

Financial assistance
Financial aid is extremely limited for out-of-state students. However, students are encouraged to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for federal financial aid and/or pursue private scholarships to assist with educational expenses, including nonresident supplemental tuition ($28,014 for the 2017-18 year), which is in addition to the tuition and fees paid by all students. For more information, visit ucal.us/payingforuc.
Making Changes to Your Application

If you want to apply to an additional UC campus

You may add a campus only if it is still accepting applications. Log in to your UC application at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/afterapply.

If you need to change your phone number, email or mailing address

See how to update this information at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/afterapply.

If your academic record changes

If you add or drop a course or fail to earn a C or better in a course, you must send in your changes by email to change to docs@applyUCsupport.net or by mail to UC Application Center, P.O. Box 1432, Bakersfield, CA 93302. Make sure to include your full name, date of birth and application ID.

If you enroll in a new school or college after applying

Notify the UC Application Center (email or address above) and provide the institution’s name and the courses you are taking or plan to take.

Important dates and deadlines

Aug. 1: Application opens for fall 2018 at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
Oct. 1: Filing period opens for FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov)
Nov. 1-30: Filing period for fall 2018
Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. PST, Nov. 30
March 1-31: Notification of fall 2018 admission decisions
March 2: Deadline for applicants for all terms to submit FAFSA
May 1: Deadline for fall 2018 admitted freshmen to submit the Statement of Intent to Register to their chosen campus
July 1: Final official transcripts must be postmarked or electronically submitted to campus admissions offices for students admitted for fall 2018
July 1-31: Filing period for winter quarter/spring semester 2019
See http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors for current openings
Out-of-State Tips for UC Application

Out-of-state students
We welcome students from all over the country to apply to UC.
In addition to our commitment to California students, we believe that out-of-state students bring a
diversity of backgrounds that add an important dimension to the educational experience and campus
community.

Admission requirements
UC sets slightly different criteria for applicants who are not California residents. If you’re an out-of-state
applicant, you must meet the same admission requirements as a California-resident student, but with
one important difference:
- **You must earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 or better** in the 15 college-preparatory
courses (a-g courses), with no grade lower than a C.

Some other distinctions that you should keep in mind as an out-of-state applicant:
- **There is no pre-approved course list for schools outside of California.** See attached table of a-g
classes and test scores
- **Honors courses are calculated differently.** In calculating an out-of-state student’s GPA, UC will grant
honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses. The weight is
given to letter grades of A, B, or C. p
- **Letters of recommendation are not required.** Please do not submit them as part of your
application. However, some campuses/majors may require letters of recommendation as part of a
supplemental application review.
- **We require you to self-report your grades when filling out your application.** UC does not require
official transcripts to be sent with the application; however, you must refer to your transcript to
ensure the information you enter is accurate. Send in a final, official transcript by July 1 if you are
admitted.
- **As a public institution, we prioritize admission for California residents.** However, all of our
campuses offer admission to out-of-state students.

Residency
For admission purposes, we ask questions about residency on the application. We use this information
to make an initial determination of whether or not a student is a California resident or a nonresident
student to assess admissions requirements. Please keep in mind that this process is different than
determining residency for the purposes of fees and tuition. Residency for fee and tuition purposes is
determined by the campus’ Office of the Registrar after admission, based on documentation provided in
the admission application and/or additional documentation requested after admission.

What courses are used to determine a student’s GPA for freshman admission to UC? If a student took
graph and biology in the ninth grade, do they use those grades in calculating their GPA?
- UC uses all “a-g” courses taken between the summer following 9th grade through the summer
following 11th grade in calculating a student’s GPA.
- In calculating the GPA, UC does not include courses taken in the freshman year, regardless of the
level of the course.
• In addition, UC calculates a weighted GPA limited to 4 years of honors courses with no more than 2 years of 10th grade honors courses.
• In other words, for a semester calendar, which many U.S. schools use, 8 semesters of honors points with no more than 4 semesters of honors points from courses completed in the 10th grade.

What does "a-g" mean?
• "a-g" refers to the subjects, and number of years of each, that are required to meet the subject requirement for admission to UC.
• The "a-g" subjects are ("a") history, ("b") English, ("c") mathematics, ("d") laboratory science, ("e") language other than English, ("f") visual and performing arts, and ("g") college-preparatory electives. UC labels them by the letters "a-g" rather than numbers or some other labeling system.

How do you calculate an out-of-state applicant’s GPA? Do you give extra credit for the school’s honors courses?
• UC calculates an out-of-state applicant’s GPA the same way it calculates the GPA of a California resident. The campus would use all courses the student took to meet “a-g” requirements from the summer before 10th grade to the summer after 11th grade. In calculating a nonresident’s GPA, UC will grant honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses.

Our high school gives only one grade for each class for the school year, as opposed to two semester grades. How will our students’ GPAs be calculated by UC?
• On the online UC admission application, the student should select "Full" for Term Type. The GPA will be calculated by adding up the grade points and then dividing by the total number of courses taken. In other words, if the student took five "a-g" courses per year in sophomore and junior years, you would add up the grade points received in each course and then divide by 10, the total number of courses the student took.

Do students need to submit academic records with the application?
• No. Students must refer to academic records to complete the academic history section of the application for accuracy, and submit official academic records once an offer of admission is accepted by the student.
• The deadline to submit final, official academic records with all grades and graduation date is July 1.

Do letters of recommendation help in the evaluation of a student’s application?
• No. UC does not accept nor consider letters of recommendation unless we specifically ask an applicant to submit one. (Some campuses or majors may require letters of recommendation as part of a supplemental application review). Make sure students check for an email message from a campus requesting a letter of recommendation and/or check specific majors at the campuses to see if their intended major requires a letter of recommendation.
Application Timeline

Freshman

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates/Deadline</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>UC Application Opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1-30</td>
<td>Submit UC Application Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-February</td>
<td>Self-Report December Test Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February-March</td>
<td>Notification of Admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-July</td>
<td>Waitlist Admission Notification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fall Admission Application: Opens August 1. For other terms (winter/spring) go to: http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/dates-deadlines/index.html

* Application Submission: between November 1 and 30. It is very important to meet the deadline. Late applications are rarely accepted.

  * If students take the SAT Reasoning with Writing (no longer valid for applicants graduating high school in Spring 2020 and beyond) or SAT with Essay (the new SAT) and/or the ACT with Writing tests (or choose to take SAT Subject Test) in December, they must update UC with December test scores by logging back into their submitted application as soon as possible but preferably no later than January 10.

  * Acknowledgement: In January, each campus the student applied to will email them to create a login username and password for access to the campus' applicant portal. This is the site at which the admission decision will be posted along with other important information—check each campus' applicant portal frequently. Be sure to safeguard your passwords.

* Admission Decisions: Campuses may begin to admit students as early as February 1, but most students will receive notification of admission via the campus' applicant portal during the month of March.

* Waitlist Offers: Some students may receive an offer to be placed on a waitlist at one or more campuses. If applicants receive such a message they must be sure to respond by the stated deadline. UC campuses very rarely make exceptions for a late response.

* Guarantee of Admission: In mid-April, applicants who were identified as being in the Top 10% Statewide or Top 9% Local Context (LCO) and met all admission requirements but were not offered admission to any campus at which they applied, will be sent an email message if another campus has space available to offer them a place.

* Statement of Intent to Register: May 1 is the deadline to submit the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) (accept an offer of admission) to ONLY ONE UC campus for all freshman admits who received an offer by April 1. Admit offers received after April 1 will include a corresponding SIR deadline.

* Waitlist Decisions: From May to early July, campuses will notify applicants who accepted a place on the waitlist of the final decision on their application.
Comprehensive Review

Campuses look for:
- Strong grades, test scores & course preparation
- An inclusive educational experience

Assess Student Within Context
- Educational environment
- Available resources and opportunities

The Full Application
- Not just the personal insight question responses

How UC reviews applications:

- In general campuses look for:
  - Strong grades & examination scores, courses beyond the minimum requirements, and in some cases, specific course preparation like advanced math and additional science for STEM majors
  - Involvement & leadership – "Well-rounded" doesn't mean a student has to do everything, but we like to see evidence of students being involved outside of the classroom in activities they are passionate about – an inclusive educational experience.
  - Evidence of hard work – Campuses want to know if an applicant can be a successful university student.

- UC looks for students who have challenged themselves in many ways: students are most successful at our campuses if they have shown academic promise through their courses/grades, test scores and other academic pursuits.

- Each applicant is reviewed within the context of his or her available opportunities: if a student does well compared to peers within the same situation (school, environment, etc.) and uses the application to explain that context, the applicant will provide UC readers with a better understanding of how they were able to achieve/complete what is presented on the application.

- We ask many questions as part of the application process so that we can get to know each student. Since there is no opportunity for an interview and because most UC campuses do not consider recommendation letters, our goal is get a sense of the applicant's life, interests and personality through their application.

- Applicants do themselves a disservice if they do not thoroughly, accurately, and completely fill out all parts of the application.
# Comprehensive Review

- Grade-Point Average
- Test Scores
- Courses Completed/Planned
- Honors Courses
- Top 9% Local Context (ELC)
- Quality of Senior-Year Program of Study
- Academic Opportunities in High School
- Performance in Academic Subject Areas
- Achievements in Special Projects
- Improvement in Academic Performance
- Special Talents, Achievements, and Awards
- Participation in Educational Preparation Programs
- Academic Accomplishment Within Life Experiences
- Geographic Location

Each UC campus has a unique application review process developed by its faculty committee. Each campus may place a different emphasis or value on the information in the application in the Comprehensive Review process.

What is comprehensive review?
- Process each campus uses to consider applicants
- All campuses conduct a Comprehensive Review
- The faculty at each campus can determine how to implement Comprehensive Review on their campus
- Meeting minimum requirements/qualifications does not guarantee admission to a specific campus or program

Comprehensive Review:
- UC evaluates applicants based upon more than GPA and test scores. Each applicant’s academic achievements are considered in light of the opportunities and resources available to them as well as their potential to contribute to a campus
- Each campus may differ on the relative weight (if any) accorded to any criterion
- Students should visit each campus’ website for the specific selection process

Comprehensive Review Factors:
- UC faculty have established 14 factors that can be considered; these factors are not listed in any priority order:
  - “A” GPA including additional points for UC-approved AP and IB course, and college/university courses, and for California residents only, UC-approved school-based honors courses
  - Examination scores: SAT or ACT Plus Writing (SAT Subject Exams are optional, but may be recommended by some majors on some campuses; for more information, go to admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html
  - Number and content of “A” courses beyond the minimum
  - Number of UC-approved AP and IB courses, and college/university courses; and for California residents only, UC approved school-based honors courses
  - For California Residents only, if the applicant is in the Top 9% Local Context (ELC) of their high school class
  - Quality (number and number) of senior year schedule (both classes in progress at the time of application and courses planned for 2nd semester)
  - Quality of academic performance relative to educational opportunities available at the high school
  - Outstanding performance in one or more academic subjects
  - Outstanding performance in one or more special projects in any academic field of study
  - Recent marked improvement in academic performance demonstrated by GPA and quality of coursework
  - Talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, i.e. visual and performing arts, communication, athletics;
    - Special skills i.e. demonstrated written & oral proficiency in other languages
    - Special interests i.e. intensive study & exploration of other cultures
    - Experiences that demonstrate leadership i.e. student government, significant community service, level of responsibility in paid employment
  - Completion of a special project in context of high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs
  - Academic accomplishments in light of life experiences & circumstances
  - Location of secondary school and residence
Importance of Accurate Details

Statement of Application Integrity
Academic History
Examination Scores
Activities Outside of School
Verification of Application Information

It is very important for students to thoroughly complete all sections of the application and to do so accurately. This is the students’ opportunity to tell the admissions staff about personal details that make each applicant unique.

Begin by reading the Statement of Application Integrity. Click on the link on the log-in page for the application, or go to: https://admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu/docs/StatementOfIntegrity.pdf

Accuracy of Details:

• Academic History: MUST be accurately reported--all enrollment, every school/college, all courses and grades (especially if a course was repeated). If a student accepts an offer of admission, UC requires official academic records to verify the information reported.

• “Additional Comments” box in the Academic History section can be used to provide detailed information or explanations about specific academic issues – declining grades, course selection issues, etc.

• Examination scores: report results for exams already completed and dates for planned exams (including A-Levels). Students must have official score report(s) (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Test, TOEFL) sent to ONE UC campus, and they will be shared with all campuses to which the applicant applies.

Exception: IELTS scores must be sent to each campus.

UC encourages students to report all exam results (but does not require them to do so); there is no disadvantage in reporting all scores.

• Do not use the College Board’s “score choice” function. UC will only use the highest SAT with Essay (SAT Reasoning with Writing-- to be discontinued for graduates in the class of 2020 and after) total score from one test date or the highest composite score from the ACT with Writing from one test date.

• As a reminder, SAT Subject Test scores are not required however some campuses/programs recommended specific Subject Tests, to learn which do, go to: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman-requirements/examination-requirements/SAT-subject-tests/index.html

• Activities/Awards: Use the Worksheet in the Quick-start guide for applying to UC brochure

For California students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents): admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/apply-online-freshman-california.pdf

For Out of State students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents): admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/apply-online-freshman-out-of-state.pdf

For International students (non U.S. citizens on with a Visa or planned Visa status): admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/apply-online-freshman-international.pdf

- Don’t use acronyms for names of clubs or awards: Spell them out and explain your level of involvement,
- Don’t list the same activity in multiple areas (for instance listing Honors Society in “Awards and Honors” and “Extracurricular Activities’”), but make sure the most important activities are reflected in some way,
- If the applicant, for example, takes care of siblings or in other ways support their family which does not allow them to take part in as many activities outside let UC readers know in the response to the personal insight questions. We understand that students are gaining valuable life experience and consider that as part of our comprehensive review.

UC does verify information that students report on the application. It is critical that students do not misrepresent or falsify information, as this is a serious offense and will result in serious consequences. Honesty is the best policy.
**Term:** Select the term for which you are applying for admission to UC. Note: most campuses and majors are open for the fall term only. It is important to review which programs will be available during the term in which you intend to apply.

**Level:** Be sure to select the appropriate level for which you are applying. You are a freshman applicant if you’re currently in high school or have graduated from high school, but not enrolled in a regular session at a college or university after high school graduation (with the exception of the summer term immediately following high school graduation).
Choosing a Major

- Applicants must select a major for each campus to which they are applying.
- The online application displays which majors are open/closed to the specific applicant level.
- Hovering over colleges/majors will cause additional information to appear (e.g., For “major closed,” it means that the major is only open to transfer students and the applicant should apply to a different major).

Examples: At UC Berkeley, freshmen cannot apply directly into the Haas School of Business — select the College of Letters and Science with an undeclared or pre-business major (for either option your application will be reviewed in the same way); At UC Los Angeles, freshmen cannot apply directly to the Film/Television major—select the College of Letters and Science with an undeclared. These programs (and others like them at other UC campuses) are only open to junior level students. Students who enroll at the University can apply for admission into the major program during their sophomore year of college.

- Select an alternate major, if available (the choice for an alternate major is not available at every campus), or select “No Alternate Major” at bottom of the list if the applicant chooses not to select one.
  - If a campus is unable to offer you a place in your first-choice major, they may consider you for an alternate major—be sure the alternate major is in a subject area that you really want to study.
- After selecting major/alternate major, scroll to bottom of the page and click “Next”.
- Repeat steps for each campus you selected.
- If you find that most of the majors are closed, it may be that you have selected the incorrect applicant level or the open filing period has ended.
San Diego Colleges

- If a student is applying to UC San Diego, they must rank the colleges in order of preference to have the best chance of assignment to the college of their choice.

- The order of ranking of colleges does not affect the chances for admission to UC San Diego.

- Boxes to rank the colleges only appear once the student clicks the “Learn about UCSD colleges” link (opens a pop up window). Students should be sure to carefully read the information provided to understand the “theme” of each college at UC San Diego.
Scholarships

Review and select up to 16 scholarships that match your characteristics, interests, and background

Scholarships Page

- Scholarships available at the campuses the student has chosen to apply to will be listed

- Review each scholarship and select if a characteristic are applicable. Select up to 16 choices

- Scroll to bottom and click “Next” to save the selections

- Research other campus-based scholarships in the link provided at the bottom of the screen - Learn more: Undergraduate scholarships
7th/8th Grade Courses

Courses in Mathematics
Select the high school level mathematics courses taken in grade seven and/or eight from the list below where you received a grade of C or better. Do not select the courses if they were taken during high school (grades 9-12).

Courses in Language Other Than English
Select the high school level and/or the course name (such as French, Spanish, Chinese, etc.) you completed in grade seven and/or eight with a grade of C or better. Do not enter a course taken during high school (grades 9-12) here.

High school-level math and language other than English courses completed in middle school can be used to meet A-G subject requirements.

Seventh/Eighth Grade
• Students who completed high school-level math or a language other than English course(s) in middle school in which they earned a letter grade C or better, can count these courses toward the a-g requirements.

Note: A course in geometry (or a series of integrated-style math courses which include geometry content) must be completed; UC will accept a geometry course completed in middle school.
High School Coursework

- 7th Grade History/Social Science
- 7th Grade English
- 7th Grade Mathematics
- 7th Grade Laboratory Science
- 7th Grade Language Other Than English
- 8th Grade Visual and Performing Arts

Enter academic courses taken and grades earned at each school as they appear on your official academic record.

High School Coursework

- Courses are selected or entered by grade level beginning with ninth grade
- First select the Subject Area/Course Category of the course to be entered (e.g. English, Math, etc.)
- Next, if a student is enrolled in a California high school, select from the course list for the school.
- If courses do not appear on the course list, enter them in the table provided.
- To see the courses, expand each subject area.

**NOTE:** New California high school courses being offered for the first time in the senior year may not appear until on the school's course list until Nov. 1.; if you don’t see a new course on the list, remember to come back to add it later before submission of the application.

For students **not enrolled** in a California high school, type in the name of the course as it appears on the student's academic record.

- When entries for each grade level are complete, click "Next" to save and continue
- Repeat this process for each grade level, including 12th grade
- 12th grade course grades will default to "IP - In Progress" and "PL - Planned". If you have already graduated and have senior year grades, you must manually enter each grade.
- For courses that are only one semester long, select "No Course" for the term for which the course was not offered (e.g. Economics offered fall term, for spring term enter "No Course")
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated
- Students who attended more than one school should be sure enter courses under the correct school.
High School Coursework

Do you see all of my courses?

Add any courses you took that aren't in the list above.

Enter academic courses that do not appear on the UC-approved course list.

For students who attended high schools in California –

Self-Reporting Courses: If you do not see an A-G course that you took listed on the UC-Approved course list, you can self-enter the coursework.

For students who attended high schools in outside of California –

Self-Reporting Courses: There is no pre-approved course list for schools outside of California. Review the subject area headings for the required "a-g" course pattern: a. History/social science, b. English (for international students, the language of instruction for composition/literature courses), c. Mathematics, d. Laboratory science, e. Language other than English (for international students the "foreign language"), f. Visual and performing arts and g. College-preparatory elective (courses that not fit into the subject categories of a-g above). Referring to the A-G Course List (a database of UC-approved courses offered in California schools) can provide guidance on the types of courses that have been UC-approved. A-G Course List: hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist

For all students:
- Courses such as physical education (PE) cannot be reported; only academic subjects. In addition, courses/class periods for teacher assistant, yearbook and student government, may or may not be UC-approved courses. If they are approved, enter them. If they are not approved they should not be entered. An opportunity to enter these types of courses is provided later in the application.
High School Course Work for Out-of-State Applicants

Admission requirements
UC sets slightly different criteria for applicants who are not California residents. If you’re an out-of-state applicant, you must meet the same admission requirements as a California-resident student, but with one important difference:

- **You must earn a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 or better** in the 15 college-preparatory courses (a-g courses), with no grade lower than a C.
- **There is no pre-approved course list for schools outside of California.** See attached table of a-g classes and test scores.
- **Honors courses are calculated differently.** In calculating an out-of-state student’s GPA, UC will grant honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses. The weight is given to letter grades of A, B, or C.
- **We require you to self-report your grades when filling out your application.** UC does not require official transcripts to be sent with the application; however, you must refer to your transcript to ensure the information you enter is accurate. Send in a final, official transcript by July 1 if you are admitted.

What courses are used to determine a student’s GPA for freshman admission to UC? If a student took geometry and biology in the ninth grade, do they use those grades in calculating their GPA?

- UC uses all “a-g” courses taken between the summer following 9th grade through the summer following 11th grade in calculating a student’s GPA.
- In calculating the GPA, UC does not include courses taken in the freshman year, regardless of the level of the course.
- In addition, UC calculates a weighted GPA limited to 4 years of honors courses with no more than 2 years of 10th grade honors courses.
- In other words, for a semester calendar, which many U.S. schools use, 8 semesters of honors points with no more than 4 semesters of honors points from courses completed in the 10th grade.

What does "a-g" mean?
- "a-g" refers to the subjects, and number of years of each, that are required to meet the subject requirement for admission to UC.
- The "a-g" subjects are ("a") history, ("b") English, ("c") mathematics, ("d") laboratory science, ("e") language other than English, ("f") visual and performing arts, and ("g") college-preparatory electives. UC labels them by the letters "a-g" rather than numbers or some other labeling system.

How do you calculate an out-of-state applicant’s GPA? Do you give extra credit for the school’s honors courses?
- UC calculates an out-of-state applicant’s GPA the same way it calculates the GPA of a California resident. The campus would use all courses the student took to meet “a-g” requirements from the summer before 10th grade to the summer after 11th grade. In calculating a nonresident’s GPA, UC will grant honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses.

Our high school gives only one grade for each class for the school year, as opposed to two semester grades. How will our students’ GPAs be calculated by UC?
- On the online UC admission application, the student should select "Full" for Term Type. The GPA will be calculated by adding up the grade points and then dividing by the total number of courses taken. In other words, if the student took five "a-g" courses per year in sophomore and junior years, you would add up the grade points received in each course and then divide by 10, the total number of courses the student took.

Do students need to submit academic records with the application?
- No. Students must refer to academic records to complete the academic history section of the application for accuracy, and submit official academic records once an offer of admission is accepted by the student.
- The deadline to submit final, official academic records with all grades and graduation date is July 1.
# FRESHMAN ADMISSION

## FRESHMAN APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S MINIMUM "A-G" SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

*(For students with international academic records, see pages 13–14.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject requirement</th>
<th>Approved &quot;a&quot; high school courses</th>
<th>ACT/SAT examination</th>
<th>AP or IB examination</th>
<th>U.S. regionally accredited college/university courses (in-person or online)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History (<em>&quot;a&quot;</em>)</td>
<td>2 years required: Two years of history/social science, including: One year of world history, cultures and historical geography and One year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests: World History: Score of 540 meets one year of the requirement. U.S. History: Score of 550 meets one year of the requirement.</td>
<td>World history/cultures/geography: AP exam in European History, World History or Human Geography or IB HL History or Geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. History: AP U.S. History or IB HL History of the Americas meets one year of the requirement. Civics/American government: AP Government &amp; Politics: U.S. or Comparative meets a half year of the requirement.</td>
<td>World history/cultures/geography: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course in world history, world cultures and/or world geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. history: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course meets one year of the requirement. American government or civics: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course meets a half year of the requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (<em>&quot;b&quot;</em>)</td>
<td>4 years required: Four years of college-preparatory English composition and literature, integrating: extensive reading of classic and modern literature and content-rich works of nonfiction; frequent writing, from brainstorming to final paper; and practice listening and speaking with different audiences. Only one year of an advanced ESL/ELD course can be used to meet the four-year requirement. A non-ESL/ELD college-prep English course is required in the senior year; a senior-year-level course in English composition/literature is not specifically required.</td>
<td>ACT combined English/Writing or English Language Arts: Score of 24 meets the first three years; score of 30 meets the entire four-year requirement. SAT (old) Writing section: Score of 650 meets first three years; score of 680 meets the entire four-year requirement. SAT Writing and Language Test (new): Score of 31 meets first three years; score of 36 meets the entire four-year requirement.</td>
<td>AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition meets all four years of the requirement. IB HL English: Literature (formerly IB Language A1 English) meets all four years of the requirement. SAT Subject Test in Literature: Score of 560 meets first three years.</td>
<td>A letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable or nontransferable English composition and literature course meets one of the first three years of the requirement. A course used to meet the fourth year and/or the entire requirement must be UC-transferable,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*In general, each one-term college/university course with the minimum unit value requirement equates to one year of high school instruction. Exception: In most cases, the first-level LOTE course is equivalent to two years of instruction.*

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QUICK REFERENCE FOR COUNSELORS SEPTEMBER 2017
### FRESHMAN ADMISSION

**FRESHMAN APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S MINIMUM "A-G" SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS**

(For students with international academic records, see pages 12–14.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject requirement</th>
<th>Approved 3 years of high school courses</th>
<th>ACT/SAT examination</th>
<th>AP or IB examination</th>
<th>U.S. regionally accredited college/university courses (in person or online)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (&quot;c&quot;)</td>
<td>3 years required</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests:</td>
<td>AP Statistics meets</td>
<td>Letter grade of C or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC will accept variations in math pathways, including but not limited to, the following course sequences, which include integrated math:</td>
<td>Three years of college-preparatory math, including or integrating the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry.</td>
<td>Math Level 1: Score of 570 meets the two years of required elementary and advanced algebra (but not geometry).</td>
<td>two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</td>
<td>each non-UC-transferable course in elementary algebra, geometry or intermediate/advanced algebra meets one year of the requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alg I + Geom + Math III</td>
<td>Math courses completed in the seventh and/ or eighth grades and approved integrated math courses may be used to meet part or all of this requirement.</td>
<td>Math Level 2: Score of 480 meets the two years of required elementary and advanced algebra (but not geometry).</td>
<td>AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</td>
<td>Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course that has advanced algebra as a prerequisite meets the elementary and advanced algebra requirements, as does a nontransferable course in trigonometry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alg I + Math II + Math III</td>
<td>A math course (e.g., algebra) taken over three or four semesters is acceptable; it will earn only one year of credit.</td>
<td>IB HL Mathematics meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</td>
<td>IB HL Mathematics meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</td>
<td>The full three-year requirement cannot be met with statistics alone.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geom + Math II + Math III</td>
<td>For detailed information about UC's geometry requirement see page 17.</td>
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<td>Math I + Math II + Math III</td>
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<td>Math I + Geom + Alg II</td>
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<td>Math I + Math II + Alg II</td>
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<td>Math I + Math II + Adv Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math II + Math III</td>
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</table>

**Laboratory science ("d")**

2 years required

Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in two of the following: biology, chemistry and physics, or one year of either biology, chemistry or physics and one year of interdisciplinary science, integrated science or Earth and space sciences.

| SAT Subject Tests: The following scores each meet one year of the requirement: | Any two AP exams from different disciplines: | Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course in biology, chemistry or physics, or other lab science courses such as anatomy, physiology or environmental science, with at least 30 hours of laboratory work (not "demonstration") is required of each course to meet one year of this subject area requirement. |
| Score of 540 in Biology (Ecological or Molecular) | Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science or Physics (BC: Electricity & Magnetism; C: Mechanics; Physics 1 or Physics 2) meet the minimum two-year requirement. | |
| Score of 530 in Chemistry | Any two IB HL exams in Biology, Chemistry or Physics meet the minimum two-year requirement. | |
| Score of 530 in Physics | Any two AP exams from different disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science or Physics (BC: Electricity & Magnetism; C: Mechanics; Physics 1 or Physics 2) meet the minimum two-year requirement. | |

*In general, each one-term college/university course with the minimum unit value requirement equates to one year of high school instruction.*

*Exception: In most cases, the first-level IOTE course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.*

**QUICK REFERENCE FOR COUNSELORS SEPTEMBER 2017**
## FRESHMAN ADMISSION

### FRESHMAN APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S MINIMUM "A-G" SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

*For students with international academic records, see pages 13-14.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject requirement</th>
<th>Approved &quot;A-G&quot; high school courses</th>
<th>ACT/SAT Examination</th>
<th>AP or IB examination</th>
<th>U.S. regionally accredited college/university courses (in person or online)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English (LOTE) (&quot;e&quot;)</td>
<td>7 years or through the second level of high school instruction required: Two years of the same language, or coursework equivalent to the second level of high school instruction, including emphasis on speaking and understanding, development of awareness and understanding of the cultural context around the target language, practice with reading and composition, and instruction on grammar and vocabulary. Language courses taken in seventh and/or eighth grades may be used to meet part of this requirement. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable.</td>
<td>SAT Subject Tests: The following scores meet the entire requirement: Score of 520 in Chinese With Listening Score of 540 in French/French With Listening Score of 530 in German/German With Listening Score of 520 in Italian Score of 510 in Japanese With Listening Score of 500 in Korean With Listening Score of 530 in Latin Score of 470 in Modern Hebrew Score of 520 in Spanish/Spanish With Listening</td>
<td>AP Language &amp; Cultures exam in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish or Spanish Literature &amp; Cultures, or Latin or Any IB HL Language B exam meets the two-year requirement.</td>
<td>Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable course(s) (excluding conversation) equivalent to two years (second level) of high school language instruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and performing arts (&quot;P&quot;)</td>
<td>1 yearlong course or 2 semester courses from the same discipline required: One year chosen from the following disciplines: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts. A single course taken over two academic years is acceptable.</td>
<td>No examination meets this requirement.</td>
<td>AP Art History, Studio Art (2D, 3D or Drawing) or Music Theory meets the one-year requirement. IB HL Dance, Film, Music, Theatre Arts or Visual Arts meets the one-year requirement.</td>
<td>Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable college course (in person or online) that clearly falls within one of five visual/performing arts disciplines: dance, interdisciplinary arts, music, theater or visual arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional college-preparatory elective (&quot;g&quot;)</td>
<td>1 year required: One year (two semesters) in addition to those required in &quot;a-f&quot; areas above or One year (two semesters) approved in the elective category.</td>
<td>SAT Subject Test: Any exam listed above with the score indicated (except Math Level 1) meets the one-year requirement.</td>
<td>Any AP exam listed above, in addition to AP Computer Science, Computer Science Principles, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics or Psychology or Any IB HL Exam listed above, in addition to Computer Science, Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, or Social and Cultural Anthropology each meets the one-year requirement.</td>
<td>Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable course beyond the minimum required number of courses in any of the &quot;a-f&quot; areas above or a course that falls within the elective (&quot;g&quot;) category.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*In general, each one-term college/university course with the minimum unit value requirement equates to one year of high school instruction. Exception: In most cases, the first-level LOTE course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.*

QUICK REFERENCE FOR COUNSELORS SEPTEMBER 2017
College Courses taken during High School

- If any college/university-level courses were completed while in high school, add the college information AFTER the high school information
- The process is very similar to entering the high school information

If courses were taken at a California Community College (CCC), a UC-transferable course list will appear:
- Select the course(s) taken, grade earned (or enter IP for In Progress, PL for Planned courses), and the a-g subject area in which the course fits.
- Only non UC-transferable English and math courses can be reported in this section of the application.
- If there are other CCC course that are not UC-transferable report them in the Non a-g Coursework area later in the of the application.
- IF college/university courses were not taken at a CCC, enter each course and grade earned as it appears on the official academic record from the college/university attended.

Students must enter all courses taken missing/inaccurate information may be viewed as falsification and result in cancellation of the application.
Academic History Comments

Additional Comments (optional)
Tell us anything else you want us to know about your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in this section.
International applicants: If you selected Other as your school's grading system, please explain the grading system here.
(If more than 500 characters will be truncated, the following characters will be removed: & + % and newline.)
Character Count: 369. Character Remaining: 245

A student can use this space to explain unusual circumstances about a course, grade received or the school itself. The space is limited to 500 characters.

Use this space to explain unusual circumstances, not as an extension of a personal insight question response.

Admission staff look at this section for an explanation of abnormalities in a student’s academic record. For example, a break in attendance, poor grades in a particular course or year, or for specific information about the school environment/policies that affect the academic record and/or choices for classes.

The additional comments in the academic history section cannot be used as an extension of a personal insight question response or to answer an additional question beyond the four required.

* Note which, if any, classes are Honors classes at Newman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities &amp; Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Non a-g Coursework
- Educational Preparation Programs
- Community Service
- Work Experience
- Awards & Honors
- Extra Curricular Activities

Choose up to 5 of your most meaningful experiences for each category.

There are six categories of Activities and Awards, each limited to five entries. Here are just a couple of examples of the questions in two of the categories.

- Coursework Other than A-G - Academic courses that do not fit in the categories a-g of history/social science, English, math, laboratory science, language other than English (foreign language), and/or visual and performing arts should be reported in this section. For example, leadership course, or religious studies courses. But do not include non-academic courses, such as PE, office/teacher assistant, etc.

Choose experiences that have meaning, illustrate interests, and/or demonstrate leadership.

- Educational preparation programs including but not limited to: AVID, Upward Bound, and Gear Up. A list of common programs appear in a drop menu. If a program is not included, manually enter it.

- Awards & Honors - significant in nature - county-wide, state-wide and national awards indicate a high level of achievement with significant competition. School-based awards are more meaningful to readers if context is provided, such as: X number of X to earn award, but even "perfect attendance" can be insightful.

- Extra Curricular Activities - depth and time - continued participation over time.

- Community Service - consistent participation over time may indicate commitment and dedication.

- Work Experience - demonstrates time management, responsibility and perhaps leadership.

Enter details about each activity.

If an applicant did not have the time/opportunity to participate in school and/or community activities, volunteer/paid employment, it is helpful to application readers to know why - how else did the applicant use their time and explain if it was a choice or a requirement for example: caring for siblings, elder-care, commitment to doing homework (research projects, papers, etc.)

Applicants should not exaggerate or make things up because the information submitted is subject to verification, and if an applicant is unable to provide proof of the information provided, the application will be cancelled.
## Activities and Awards Worksheet

In addition to your courses and grades, we want to know about any honors you've received and how you spend your time outside of school. Use this worksheet to prepare concise descriptions of your most significant awards and activities. You may list up to five entries in each category, so think carefully about what you want to highlight. Also make sure to fully describe each item (up to 160 characters) for admissions offices to best understand your involvement.

### Extra Curricular List

Complete courses or training taken during high school which do not fit into the academic subject categories but demonstrate a particular focus or interest (e.g., language immersion courses or non-transferable college courses).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Description of course</th>
<th>Year(s) of involvement</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Weeks per year</th>
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### Educational Preparation Programs

List your participation in educational or academic preparation programs that are designed to help students prepare for university study. These programs may include academic enrichment programs sponsored by colleges/universities, research programs and study-abroad programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Description of program</th>
<th>Year(s) of involvement</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Weeks per year</th>
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</table>

### Volunteer and Community Service

List unpaid work only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Description of organisation and your responsibilities</th>
<th>Year(s) of involvement</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Weeks per year</th>
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</table>

### Work Experience

List paid work only, including paid internships and entrepreneurial experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Year(s) of involvement</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Begin major</th>
<th>End major</th>
<th>Hours per week (summer)</th>
<th>Hours per week (school yr)</th>
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</table>

To what use have you or will you put your earnings?

### Awards and Honors

List and briefly describe the most significant awards you have received since the beginning of 9th grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award or Honor</th>
<th>Description of award or honor</th>
<th>Award or honor type</th>
<th>Date received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Academic</td>
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</table>

### Extracurricular Activities

List and briefly describe the activities you have been involved in since the beginning of 9th grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description of activity (note any leadership positions)</th>
<th>Year(s) of involvement</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hours per week</th>
<th>Weeks per year</th>
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**ACT & SAT Test Scores**

Check which test(s) you have taken.
Please note: UC accepts scores only from exams taken before high school graduation.

- **ACT Assessment:**
  - Math
  - Writing
  - Science

- **SAT Reasoning Test:**
  - Critical Reading
  - Math
  - Writing

- **SAT Subject Tests:**
  - Mathematics Level 1
  - Mathematics Level 2
  - Literature
  - U.S. History
  - World History
  - United States Government and Politics
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Biology

Report your ACT/SAT scores below. Please remember:
- Record your scores exactly as they were reported by the testing agency.
- If you have taken a test more than once, select the score from the date on which you earned the highest overall (composite) score. Do not mix scores from different dates.
- Tests taken before February 1995 will not meet UC’s Examination Requirement.

**ACT Assessment Plan Writing**
When did you take this test?
- **Math:**
- **Writing:**
- **Science:**

Select [ ]

What is the ACT ID?

**SAT Subject Tests:**

Select [ ]

If you plan to take or retake this test, what is the next date?
- **Math:**
- **Writing:**
- **Science:**

Select [ ]

Self-report scores here and order official scores to be sent to at least one UC campus.

- **ACT** with Writing and/or **SAT** with Writing/Essay scores must be completed by December of the senior year (last year of secondary school).
  - Report completed test with date(s)/scores or planned test date(s) on the admission application.
  - If an examination was completed more than once, enter highest score.

- **SAT Subject Tests:** Are not required but may be recommended for specific programs at some campuses as an additional piece of information to consider during the review process.
  - SAT Subject Test Recommendations can be found at: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/examination-requirement/SAT-subject-tests/index.html

- UC does not recommend that applicants use the College Board’s Score Choice function because it might delay delivery of test scores.
- We strongly encourage students to report all official scores although we only use the highest score at a single sitting for admission consideration.

- **Official SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests** examination scores can be submitted to just one campus to which the student will be applying. Scores will be disseminated to all campuses to which the student applied.

- If official scores are/were sent to UC prior to an applicant filing an admission application, please note that the UC system office maintains scores received for three years. So, for example, if official scores were submitted for an examination date for a student’s sophomore year then the student applies during their senior year, the UC system office will still have those scores.
Advanced Placement Test Scores

College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations

Report your AP exam scores below. Please remember:
• record your scores exactly as they were reported by the testing agency
• If you have taken an exam more than once, record your highest overall score.

Add an AP Exam
When did you take or when do you plan to take the exam?
Month Year
May 2011

What was the exam name?
Calculus AB

What was your score?
3
☐ I have not received my score yet

Passing AP & IB exam scores can be used to show subject mastery.

In the Test Score section, students report results of their AP, IB; and TOEFL/IELTS exams, if applicable.

Official TOEFL scores can be submitted to ONE UC campus and we will share the scores with all campuses to which the applicant applies. NOTE: IELTS scores must be sent to each campus."
Official TOEFL/IELTS score report must be submitted no later than January.

International students can report their national or external examination results as well.

Advanced Placement & International Baccalaureate Exams:
• Scores can demonstrate academic mastery in individual subjects and be used to satisfy freshman admission subject requirements not satisfied with coursework.
• Scores must be self-reported on the application. Don’t worry about “low” scores, UC treats that as neutral but does acknowledge an attempt was made.

IMPORTANT: Official AP/IB scores are not required until after a student has accepted an offer of admission; do not send scores at time of application submission.
The Personal Insight Questions

Each question aligns to one or more of the 14 comprehensive review factors campuses consider in their admissions decisions.

- Freshmen must choose 4 out of 8 questions
- Maximum of 350 words for each response
- All questions have equal value; there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others

- Freshman applicants must choose four out of eight questions to answer
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- All questions will have equal value in the admissions selection process.
- There is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.
Write your responses to the personal insight questions in advance

What you tell us in your responses gives us the context to better understand the rest of the information you’ve provided in your application. Be open, be honest, be yourself.

Instructions:

→ You will have 8 questions to choose from. You must respond to only 4 of the 8 questions.
→ Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
→ Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you. All questions are given equal consideration in the application review process.

Questions:
1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

Visit ucal.us/personalquestions for more information and to download our student worksheets.

Pursue all potential scholarships

UC campuses and alumni associations award a variety of scholarships based on a student’s academic merit, financial need or both. Visit http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc to research deadlines and additional requirements.

There are also “restricted” scholarships available to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests or career goals. You can apply for these scholarships in the admission application by matching your own background characteristics and interests to the lists provided. Most students are notified of scholarship awards between March and August.

Application fees

Paying your application fees. UC's application fee is $70 per campus. You may pay online by credit card or submit payment by check or money order. Application fees are non-refundable.

Fee waiver, UC will waive application fees for up to four campuses for qualified students who otherwise would be unable to apply. If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, you can find out if you qualify for a fee waiver immediately in the application. Fee waivers cannot be applied to more than four campuses, regardless of their source (e.g. UC, College Board/SAT).
Getting started

This worksheet is designed to help freshman applicants start the writing process for the personal insight questions in the undergraduate admissions application. Additional hints and suggestions can be found on UC’s admissions website at ucal.us/personalquestions.

What are the personal insight questions?

These questions are about getting to know you better — your life experience, interests, ambitions and inspirations. Think of it as your interview with the admissions office. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it.

While this section of the application is just one part we consider when making our admission decision, it helps provide context for the rest of your application.

The basics

- You will have 8 questions to choose from. You must respond to any 4 of the 8 questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you: But you should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances.
- All questions are equal: All questions are given equal consideration in the application review process, which means there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.

Freshman questions & brainstorm exercise

The following exercises are suggestions to help you get started. Remember, you don’t have to answer all eight questions — you only need to answer four. So if some questions aren’t the right fit for you, that’s OK. The important thing is expressing who are you, what matters to you and what you want to share with UC.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

How do you define “leader”? List three words that you think describe what a leader is:

1. 
2. 
3. 

Do any of these words apply to you? How? Is there a time in your life when you displayed any of these traits?

2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Can you think of a time your viewpoint was unique compared to others? What was the issue or problem from your perspective? Now think of the same situation from the perspective of another person who was there with you. How was your approach different from that other person’s?

Was there ever a problem where your imagination and intuition guided you to the solution?

Do you have a passion for music, theater, visual art, dance, etc.? What have you gained from it that has affected other parts of your life?

3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

List three of your talents or skills:

1. 
2. 
3. 

Were these talents or skills the same a few years ago? What changed? What improved?

Which one of the three talents or skills you listed is the most meaningful or important to you and why? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Feel free to speak about either an opportunity or a barrier. It's OK if you've experienced one and not the other.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:
List any programs or additional classes that have better prepared you for college:
1. 
2. 
3. 

How did you find out about these programs or classes? How did you take what you learned and apply it to your schoolwork or other aspects of your life?

EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS:
Have you faced any barriers or challenges related to school and/or your schoolwork? How did you overcome or strive to overcome them? List three personal characteristics or skills you had to call on to overcome this challenge:
1. 
2. 
3. 

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Have you had a difficult experience in your life? How did you get through it? What did you learn going through this experience? If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, “How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends, or with my family?”

6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Think about all of the classes you've taken at school. Now fill in the blank: I would go to [class name] even if I didn't have to.

It doesn't have to be a class in which you've earned good grades - the important thing is you enjoyed the subject and it impacted you in some way.

(#6 continued)

Maybe there's a course you haven't taken at school that you wish you did take or are looking forward to taking in college. How have you pursued your interest in that subject outside of school?

7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

Did you contribute to a positive change at your school or in your community? What steps have you taken to accomplish this? Remember, even small changes can have a big impact. Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort?

8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

From your point of view, what do you feel makes you an excellent choice for UC? Don't be afraid to brag a little. Here are a few lists to help you get started.

What do you value in your life? What's important to you? List three of them here:
1. 
2. 
3. 

What are you passionate about?
1. 
2. 
3. 

When you attend UC, what three things are you most looking forward to?
1. 
2. 
3. 

Does anything overlap? Is there anything from the lists that you want to expand on?

Next steps
As you filled out the worksheet, were there any topics that seemed particularly interesting? You might consider answering those questions as part of your application. But the choice is yours! Take your time in selecting which questions to answer and how to answer them. For more information, visit our website at ucsb.edu/personalquestions.
Finally, the application cannot be submitted without the electronic signature and acknowledgement of the Statement of Integrity.

UC feels very strongly about student integrity on the application. The Statement of Integrity is to affirm that all information in the application is accurate and the personal insight question responses were written by the applicant. If information is withheld, such as poor grades, or falsification is detected, the application is subject to cancellation.

And, students are asked to provide authorization to release information. Without this authorization, UC is not allowed by law to discuss or share information with anyone. So be sure to check off the appropriate box(es).

**Signature Releases**
- Review and check the release authorizations to share application information with scholarship agencies, parent/guardian, counselors and/or UC organizations and alumni groups.
- Electronically sign and date the application to verify accuracy and acknowledge that the applicant is the author of their the personal insight question responses.
- The electronic signature also authorizes the release of official examination score(s) to all UC campuses to which the student applied.
- **Official** examination scores for the ACT Plus Writing, SAT, SAT Subject Test, and TOEFL only need to be sent to one UC campus. Scores will be provided to all campuses to which you apply. IELTS scores must be sent to each campus to which the applicant applied.
- Information in the application is subject to verification. If an applicant is selected for verification, non-compliance will result in cancellation of the application and the application fee will not be refunded.