The New Personal Insight Questions
UC Admissions Directors
May 2016
What we’ll cover

• Why did we change to the new questions?
• Who did we consult?
• What are the questions?
• What does UC expect from the answers?
• What resources are available to assist counselors and students?
Why did we change the questions?

- Prompts were last changed in 2008.
- Admission Directors were concerned about the existing prompts.
- Move to more direct questions – less guessing about what we want.
- Give students choice to select questions most relevant to them.
- Each question aligns to one or more of the comprehensive review criteria.
Input from the following:

- High School & Community College Counselors
- UC Admissions Officers
- UC Faculty / Other Faculty
- Students
The questions for transfer students

• Required question:
  Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

• Select 3 other questions from the list of 7.
Choose 3 from the following 7

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.
Choose 3 from the following 7 (continued)

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

7. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?
Keep in mind

• All questions have equal value.
• Maximum 350 words for each question.
• We do not require an essay.
• New questions beginning fall 2017 admissions cycle.
What does UC expect from the answers?

- Greater authenticity
- Maximize the student voice
- No more guessing about what we’re asking
- More information about the student – who they are
- Most relevant information that best reflects individual circumstances
Resources

• FAQs about the personal insight questions
  http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/q-and-a/personal-questions/index.html

• Transfer questions & directions
  http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/transfer/index.html

• Download the list of questions only, go to:
  http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/transfer/index.html

• Guide for Transfer Applicants (brainstorming worksheet)
For Counselors and Advisers Only

We would appreciate hearing from you if you have suggestions about additional types of guidance materials we might be able to provide to you, students and/or parents.

• Email suggestions to: AskUC@ucop.edu
• Subject Line: Personal Insight Questions – Feedback
Recap

• 4 Questions (1 mandatory)
• 350 word maximum for each response
• All questions have equal value
• Students should select questions that are most relevant to them
• Greater student voice / less coaching and strategizing
• UC does not require an essay with the application
Thank You!