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# Making it clear: Transfer pathway basics

September 2025

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**What comes to mind when you think of transfer students and community college?**

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# Overview

- **Definition of a transfer student**
- **Dispelling the “stigma” of transferring**
- **Benefits of transferring**
- **Transfer requirements**
- **UC support and resources**
- **Best practices: Creating a transfer-going culture**

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# Who is a transfer student

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## Who is a transfer student?

**A student who has enrolled in a fall, winter or spring term at a college or university after high school graduation.**

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## Who is a CCC transfer student?

**Sam graduated from high school in June and plans to take a year in order to work and save money. Sam took community college courses the summer immediately after high school graduation and enrolled at his CCC part-time during the fall. Is Sam a transfer student?**

- **YES!**

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## Who is a CCC transfer student?

**Alex has taken a few dual enrollment classes while in high school and will graduate with 30 units of UC-transferable credit. Is Alex a transfer student?**

- No
- Student is still in high school
- Has not enrolled in a regular term following HS graduation

## Who is a CCC transfer student?

**Lisa graduated from her high school in January and enrolled in her local community college for the spring term. She then decided to pursue work opportunities during the summer. Is Lisa considered a first year or transfer applicant?**

- First-year
- Although she enrolled in what is considered a regular term (fall, winter, spring), being a mid-year graduate makes her an exception to the definition of a transfer student.



## A note on dual enrollment...

### **Students who participate in dual enrollment programs should keep the following in mind if they choose to pursue the UC transfer path:**

- Course credit and grades earned through dual enrollment are included on their college transcript. Students cannot disregard this credit when applying for transfer admission.
- Grades earned in UC-transferable dual enrollment courses will be calculated in their GPA for admission purposes.
- Transferable courses completed in high school cannot be repeated in college.
- Limitations on maximum enrollment terms and cumulative units may impact continued enrollment and eligibility for financial aid.

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# Dispelling the “stigma” of transferring

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## Addressing misconceptions about community college and transferring

“Community college is not REAL college”

- The California Community Colleges are junior colleges
- Coursework and instruction at the community college is the same level as 4-year colleges

“Only students that don’t get into 4-year schools go to community college”

- Community college is the **FIRST** choice for many students
- Students choose community college for various reasons, including its affordability, accessibility, and flexibility

“Students can’t get into top universities if they go to community college first”

- Transfers **DO** get into top universities
- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admission process

## The “stigma” of transferring and how to dispel it

### **How to dispel the stigma surrounding transferring from community college?**

- Inform students and their families of the benefits of transferring
- Bring awareness to support programs available to transfers
- Validate students who express an interest in the community college to transfer pathway
- Celebrate students’ decision to attend community college

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# Benefits of transferring

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## Benefits of choosing the transfer pathway

### Academics

- Major and career exploration
- Smaller class sizes
- Transfer support programs
- Dedicated course progression pathway options (CalGETC/IGETC)

### Affordability

- Lower tuition or free tuition costs
- Minimal housing costs
- Special support programs offering textbook assistance

### Flexibility

- Student-life balance and responsibility management
- Ability to stay local
- Softer transition

## Support at the community college

Transfer and  
career  
centers

Diverse  
support  
programs

Tutoring and  
learning  
centers

Basic needs  
and services

Health and  
mental health  
services

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## Commitment from UC



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- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admission process.
- Nearly **1 in 3 UC** students start at a CCC before graduating from a UC campus.
- **91%** of UC transfer students come from a CCC
- **Over 75%** of transfer applicants from CCC get into UC.





# UC transfer requirements overview

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## Streamlined transfer requirements across UC

### Junior-level transfer admission requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 60 semester/90 quarter units of UC-transferable coursework
- Earn at least a 2.4 overall GPA for California residents
  - 2.8 GPA for non-residents
- Complete the UC 7-course pattern
- Complete major preparation requirements (if applicable)\*

*\*Research the campus of interest for more information*

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## Minimum requirements vs. selection

### **Major Preparation**

- Certain majors may have required or recommended coursework
- Consider taking courses from other CCCs or online UC-transferable courses if the home CCC doesn't offer a major preparation course
- Take full course sequences at one CCC

### **GPA**

- Meet or exceed the minimum transfer GPA
- For selective majors, a strong GPA is especially important

### **IGETC/Cal-GETC**

- Not required for admission; may be recommended for certain campuses/majors

# UC programs and support for community college transfers

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## **Transfer programs and resources**

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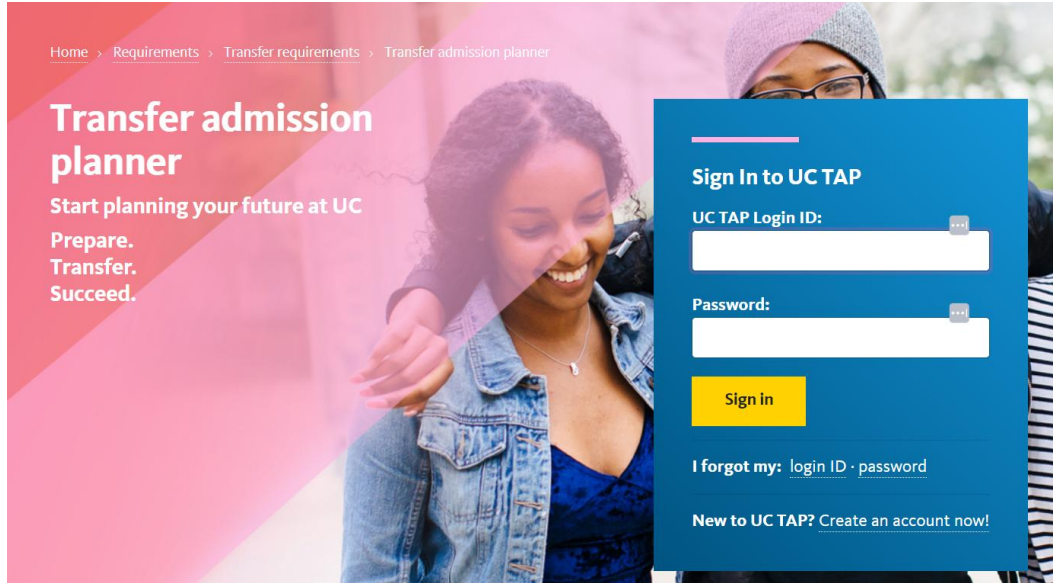
### **Academic resources**

- UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)
- ASSIST.org

### **UC transfer programs**

- Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)
- UC Transfer Pathways and Pathways +
- Transfer Preparation programs

# UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)



## Benefits of UC TAP

- Tracks progress towards meeting UC transfer admission requirements
- Students can import their courses to the UC application
- Allows UC and community college staff to communicate important information to prospective transfers
- Apply for Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

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The official course transfer and articulation system  
for California's public colleges and universities

## ASSIST is here to help

**i** ASSIST is best used in combination with seeing a counselor on your campus. It is intended to help students and counselors work together to establish an appropriate path toward transferring from a public California community college to a public California university.

Open notes panel

Important Notes from ASSIST

Frequently Asked Questions

## Search below for articulation agreements

Major, department, and campus-specific general education agreements

Academic Year

2023-2024

Institution

Select an Institution

CCC, CSU, or UC

Agreements with Other Institutions

Select an Institution

View Agreements

## Search below for transferable courses

Courses approved for transfer and general education

Academic Year

2023-2024

Community College

Select a Community College

- ☐ CSU Transferable Courses
- ☐ CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses
- ☐ CSU US History, Constitution, and American Ideals Courses (CSU AI)
- ☐ IGETC for UC and CSU
- ☐ UC Transferable Courses
- ☐ UC Transfer Admission Eligibility Courses

View Transferability Lists

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## Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

### Guaranteed admission to 1 UC campus!

Student may only apply for TAG at 1 of the 6 participating campuses. Requirements vary by campus and major.

#### **TAG application filing period:**

September 1–30: fall term

May 1–31: winter/spring term

*\*Note: not all campuses participate in TAG for winter/spring*



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## Transfer Pathways and Pathways+

### Transfer Pathways

- Available for students who know which major they plan to pursue but want to keep their UC campus options open.
- Provides students with a roadmap of courses to take while at community college to prepare for their major and on-time graduation from any UC.

### Pathways+

- Combines major preparation and timely degree completion of the Transfer Pathway with the security of a transfer guarantee.



## Transfer support from UC

### Transfer Prep programing

1:1 Advising

Applicant support

Transfer workshops  
and events

Summer residential  
programs

Peer mentorship

### Partnership

Puente Project

MESA

Umoja

### Programs and resources after transfer

Transfer orientations

Transfer-specific  
Housing

Peer mentorship  
programs

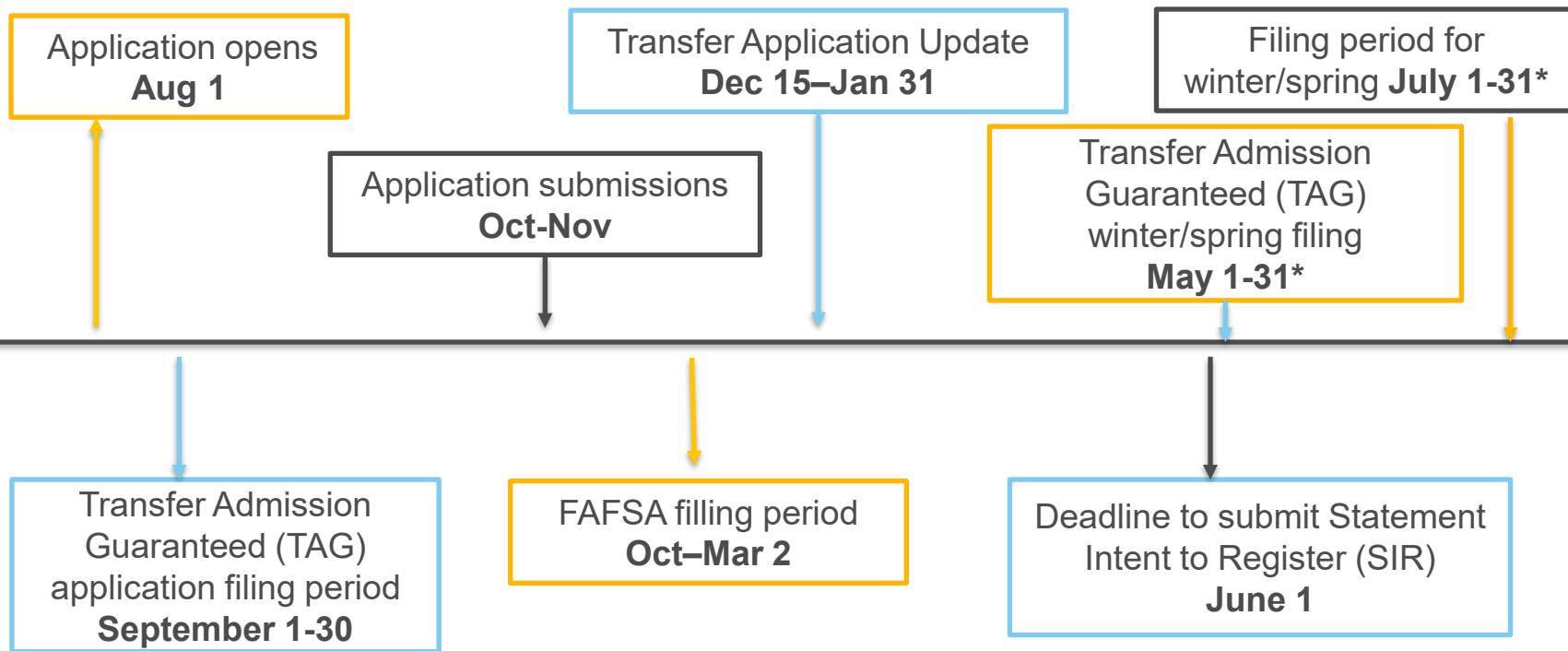
Transition success  
programs and centers

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## Transfer admission timeline



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*\*Not all campuses offer winter/spring admission*

# Best practices: Creating a transfer-going culture

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## Best practices: Creating a transfer-going culture

### How to establish a positive transfer going culture in high school

Integrate community colleges into discussions about higher education.

Arrange for representatives from community colleges to speak with students about the opportunities available on their campuses.

Involve prospective community college students in campus festivities.

Host workshops that cover transfer admission requirements and the transfer process.

Engage parents in discussions about the transfer pathway.

Encourage high school students to enroll in dual enrollment courses.

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## Best practices: Using transfer-inclusive language

Affirm  
college  
choice and  
path

Highlight  
benefits and  
opportunities

Use  
empowering  
language

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# Transfer Hub

Includes key transfer information and campus links for transfer students to assist in their planning.



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## You can transfer.

Whether you're a high school student looking at colleges, a current community college student exploring your next steps or a working adult building your career, earning a degree from UC is within your reach.



UC gives California community college students first priority over other transfer applicants.

## Start with a plan.

These are the 3 things you need to do to get started on your transfer path:

### 1. Decide what and where you want to study.

You'll have two important choices to make when you're preparing to transfer: what you want to study (think: major) and where you want to study (think: campus). Don't have a major or campus in mind yet? Browse through course catalogs, read course descriptions, visit a campus and find what sparks your interests.

### 2. Use the tools and resources available.

Figuring out what classes you need to take and when you need to take them can feel overwhelming, but there are lots of resources, from counselors to websites, to help you make sure you're on target to meet your transfer goals.

[Transfer resources](#)

### 3. Follow your progress.

From preparing for your major to taking GE classes to meeting college eligibility requirements—monitoring your progress can help you stay on the transfer track.

[Track progress](#)

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# Questions?



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# Thank you

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