The application station:

All aboard for a breakdown of the UC application basics

September 2025



Agenda

- UC application logistics
- About you
- Campuses & majors
- Academic history
- Test scores
- Activities & awards
- Scholarships & support programs
- Personal Insight Questions
- Verify & submit
- Resources





UC application overview



UC-specific application

Distinct from the Common App and Cal State Apply



Nine campuses. One application

Apply to all 9 UC campuses with one application



Submit only requested materials

No unsolicited letters of recommendation or materials accepted



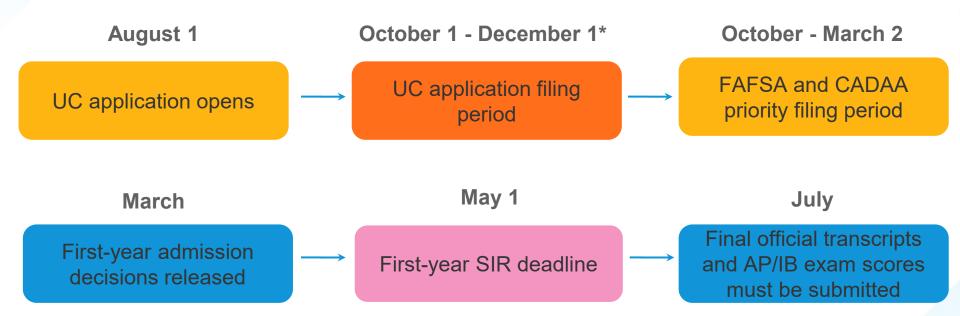
Application fees

Fee of \$80 per UC campus (\$95 for non-residents)

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First-year admission timeline

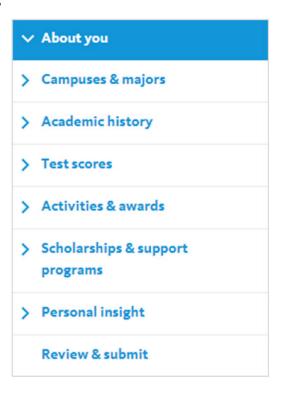


*The filing deadline has been extended for the fall 2026 application cycle





About you



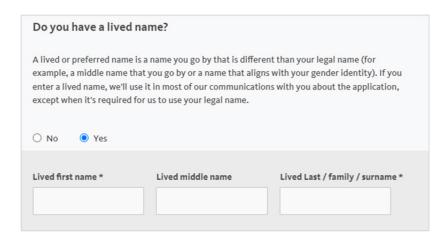
The About you section is designed to provide admissions readers with a deeper understanding of a student's background and environment, offering context that may have influenced their experiences both in and out of the classroom.



Contact information

LIVED NAME

- UC application will ask students if they have a lived/preferred name
- Students lived name will be used in most communication with student unless it is required to use student's legal name





Your background

- Questions about your student's life context
 - First spoken language
 - Marital status
 - Military dependent status
 - Students experiencing homelessness (new for 2026)

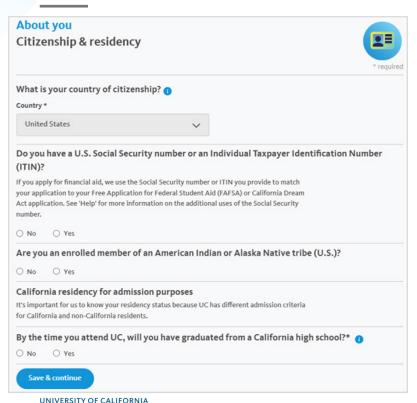
NOTE: Race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation etc. only used for data and reporting purposes.



About you Your background In the next two pages, we want to know about your life outside of the classroom, including your family and background. This information gives us a better understanding of your home environment, and helps us determine if you're eligible for certain programs, scholarships or the application fee waiver. We'll be asking questions about your family - specifically, their employment, level of education and income - so you may need to ask them for help. What language did you learn to speak first?* Language * -- select --Please tell us more about yourself Check all that apply to you: * □ I am married or in a civil union/registered domestic partnership 0 ☐ I have children I've been in foster care or am a ward of the court in the United States I am unaccompanied and either homeless OR self-supporting and at risk of being homeless ■ When I attend UC, I will be a current or former member of the U.S. military None of the above apply to me Are you a dependent of a U.S. military veteran or service member? O No O Yes Save & continue

Citizenship & residency

COUNSELOR



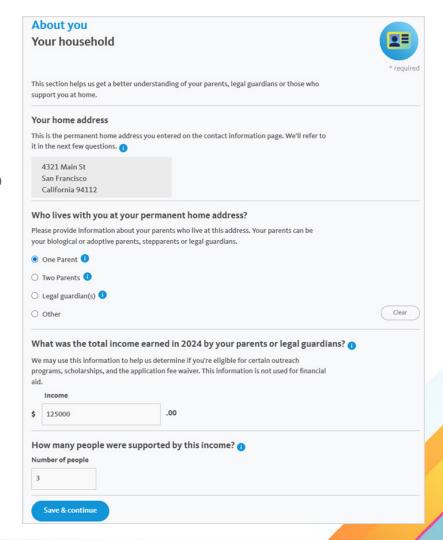
UNDOCUMENTED & AB540 STUDENTS

- For students falling in either category, "No Selection" is an available and valid response for country of citizenship
- If no U.S. SSN, DACA SSN or ITIN, simply leave the social security question blank

Household information: Fee waiver

- Depending on responses to household income questions a student may be eligible to apply to up to 4 campuses for free
- If students are eligible based on these responses, they will be notified in the "Campus & majors" section of the UC application
- Student must accept the fee waiver before they submit their application





Statement of Legal Residence (SLR)

- Applicants can choose whether or not they would like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes. California resident students should select "Yes".
 - Both options will prompt additional questions
- Specific instructions for filling out SLR for undocumented students available

About you

Statement of Legal Residence



To determine your University of California (UC) tuition, applicants must indicate if they would like to be evaluated for a Residence Classification via the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR). You must meet UC requirements to qualify for in-state tuition, regardless of your classification in another system. Parents is defined as natural or adoptive parents, not stepparent. Your answer below has no bearing on your admissions decision.

The following three requirements must be established more than 365 days immediately prior to the residence determination date:

- 1) Physical Presence You and your parents must be physically present in California. If you moved to California primarily to attend the University of California or another school, you are ineligible for a Resident classification for tuition purposes.
- 2) Intent to remain in California You and your parents must have established your intent to make California your permanent home and must have relinquished ties to any prior place of residence outside of California.
- 3) Immigration status You and your parents must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or be present under a valid I-94 for an eligible visa, and have held that immigration status.

Applicants who do not satisfy all three parts may qualify for a Special Circumstance, Exemption, or Waiver provision (such as an AB 540 [2] nonresident supplemental tuition exemption) and will be asked to submit additional supplemental information at a future date. For further explanation, read the full UC Residence Policy and Guidelines [7].

Note: Undocumented students should use these instructions [7] for completing the SLR.

Would you like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes? *

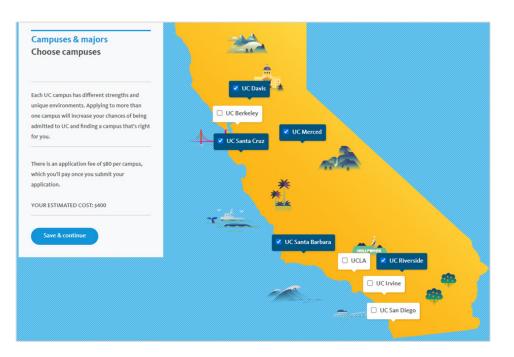








Choosing campuses

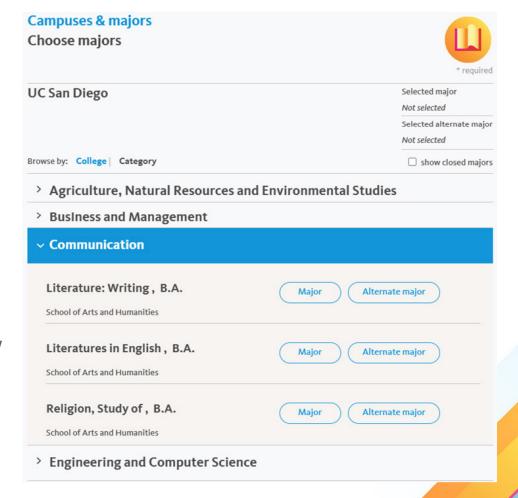


- One application, choose from among 9 undergraduate campuses
 - Selected campuses do not affect admission
- Total application fees will be displayed; waiver will be applied later if eligible



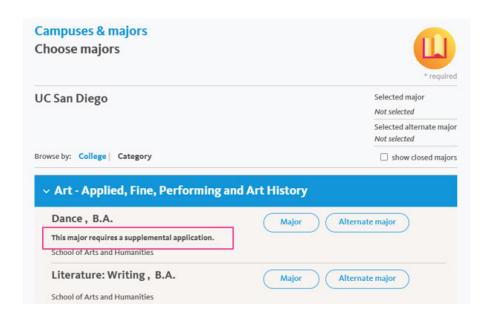
Choosing majors

- A major must be chosen for each selected campus - they don't have to be the same across the board!
- For most campuses, an alternate major may be chosen as well.
- Applicants can browse majors either by College or by Category.
 - In either case, they should read carefully and make sure to know all options!





Supplemental applications



- May be required for certain majors at certain campuses
- Could include an audition, portfolio, etc.
- To be completed outside of the UC application



UC San Diego colleges

- If applying to UCSD, applicants have the option to rank top 4 colleges in order of preference (New)
- Otherwise, college will be assigned by UCSD upon admission
- Independent of chosen major(s); does not affect chances of admission

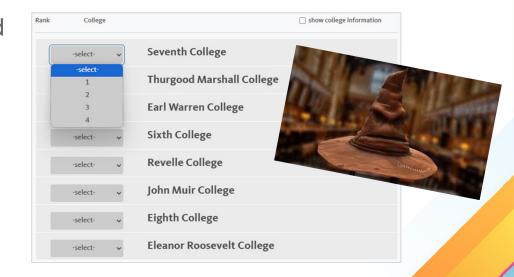


Keep in mind: Your rankings will not affect the evaluation of your application - you're not applying to the individual colleges (you're applying to the university). Also, college assignments are not based on major. You'll be able to access the full range of available majors regardless of college assignment.

Do you want to select and rank your top 4 UC San Diego colleges? *

No Yes

Edit campuses





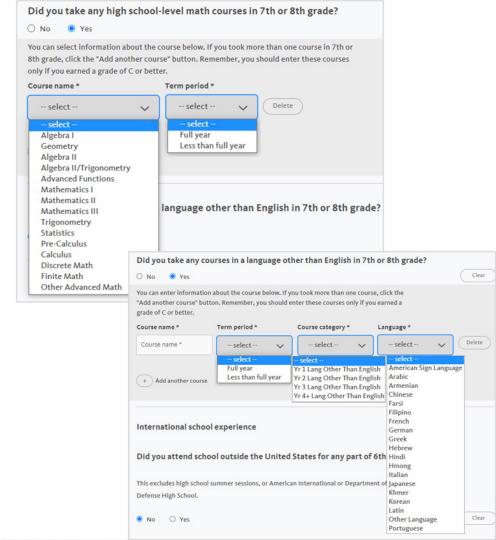
7th and 8th grade coursework

SUBJECTS TO INCLUDE

- High school-level mathematics
- Languages other than English

Only 7th and 8th grade accepted



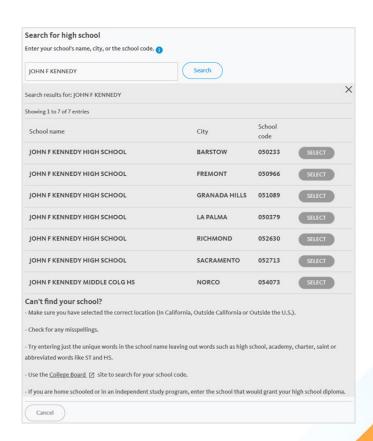


Adding high schools

REPORTING HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

- Must enter all high schools attended
 - Check city and school codes
- Online high schools should be added as another high school
- Courses through online publishers must be on student's primary high school transcript if not on the high school's A-G course list

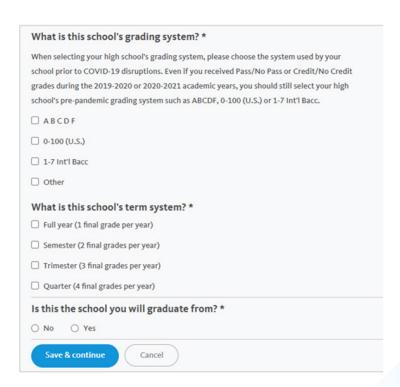




Terms and grading systems

SELECTING TERM TYPE & SYSTEM

- Choose the correct term type and grading system for each school
 - Term type = number of final grades awarded per year
 - Students can report more than one term type or grading system for the same school

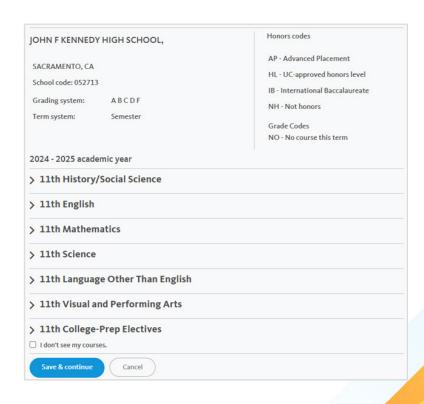




Entering coursework

ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

- Self-report academic courses and grades completed, in progress, or planned
 - Include non-passing or repeated attempts
- Report all in-progress and planned senior year coursework
- Do not include non-A-G coursework (e.g., PE, Teaching Assistant)
- If students are graduating early, the current year should be counted as 12th grade

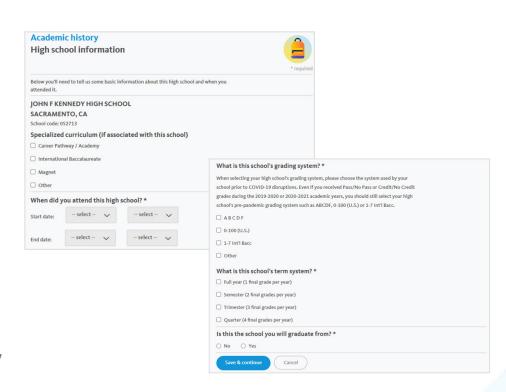




Entering coursework (cont'd)

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOLS

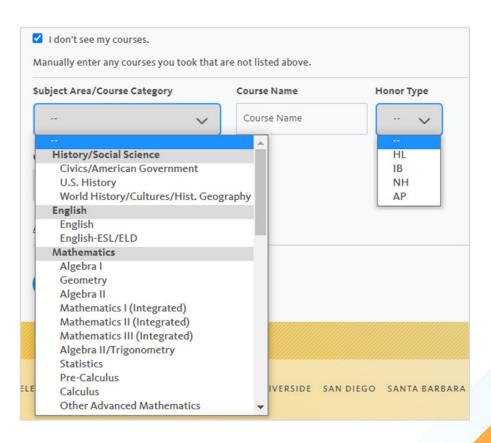
- A-G courses will appear in dropdown
 - Honors codes auto-fill (if UC-approved)
- Grades
 - No +/- grades
 - Select "NO" for one-term classes
 - o "IP" / "PL" = 12th grade only





Manually entering high school coursework

- Self-select subject area
- Enter course title, grades and honors code exactly as shown on transcript



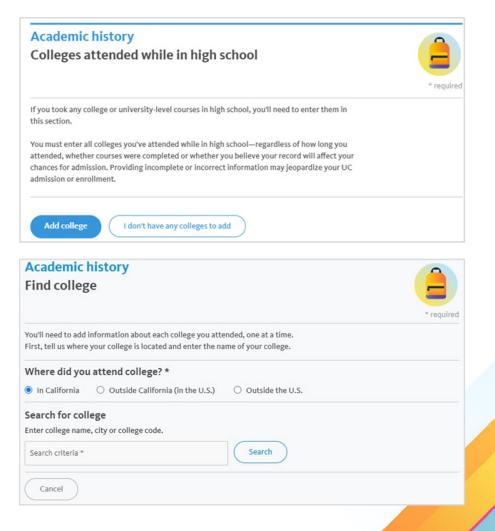


Entering coursework (cont'd)

ADDING COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Report all college courses, including those taken on HS campus
 - Only letter-grade courses worth 3 semester/4 quarter units should be reported
- Dual enrollment courses should be added in this section only (if applicable to A-G)
- Students must submit an official college transcript in addition to HS transcript





WHAT TO INCLUDE

- Explain anything that impacted course choices or access
- Clarify gaps in education (e.g., graduating early) or unique coursework
- Help campuses better understand the school environment

Counselors may also provide their students with a short note about unique aspects of the school that affected academic opportunities.

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Example 1

My school limits AP courses to juniors and seniors. I planned to take AP Chemistry senior year, but it was removed due to low enrollment. I chose AP Biology instead. Also, I missed several weeks of school in 10th grade due to a family emergency, which affected my semester grades.

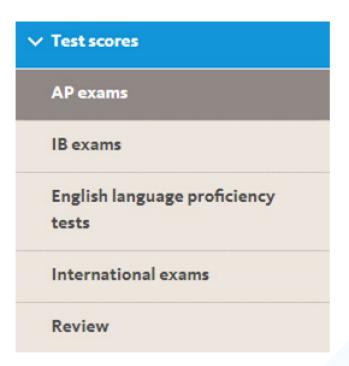
Example 2

Our school operates on a block schedule, with students taking four classes per semester. Due to this structure and course availability, some students may not be able to take all desired advanced courses or core subjects each year.



AP, IB, SAT/ACT exams

- Students should report all planned and completed exams, even if they didn't receive a passing score
- If needed, students can report SAT/ACT scores after submission
- UC does not consider ACT/SAT scores for admission or scholarship purposes!





Meeting English Language Proficiency (ELP)

- Students with **less than 3 years of instruction in English** will be required to demonstrate English proficiency
- Students can report more than one ELP test
- Students can report tests that are planned and/or have already been completed. For planned tests, students may update scores after submission.





Activities and awards

Applicants can list up to **20** activities

These can be spread across the following **6** categories:

- Awards & honors
- 2. Educational prep programs
- 3 Extracurricular activities
- 4. Other coursework
- 5. Volunteering
- 6. Work experience
- Students are not required to have an entry for each category



Activities & awards

Add activities & awards



You can enter your activities and awards one at a time. First, select a category from the dropdown menu below. Once you've selected a category, you'll be able to tell us more about the activity or award in the follow-up questions.

Description of categories

Award or honor: We want to know about the awards and honors you've received that mean the most to you.

Educational preparation programs: Any programs or activities that have enriched your academic experiences or helped you prepare for college.

Extracurricular activity: These could include hobbies, clubs, sports or anything else you haven't had the chance to tell us about.

Other coursework: These are courses other than those required for UC admission (courses that do not fit in UC's "a-g" subject areas).

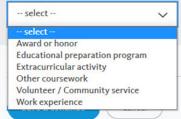
Volunteering / Community service: These are activities you've donated time and effort to without getting paid.

Work experience: This is for telling us about any paid jobs or paid internships you've had.



Activity/Award [1]

Category*



Activities and awards: Tips

- List activities that best reflect interests and achievements
- Spell out acronyms that might be unfamiliar
- When describing the activity, focus on role, responsibility, and accomplishments rather than just describing the activity itself
- Check the 12th grade box if the activity will continue in senior year



Category*				
Educational preparation	n program 🗸			
What was the program	m name? *			
select	~			
Briefly describe the p	rogram. *			
Think about the program's n while participating in the pro		erience, and wha	t you accomplishe	ed and learned
350 characters remaining		,		
When did you particip	pate in the prog	gram? *		
If you participated in the prosummer.	ogram during the su	mmer, select the	grade you were ir	n before that
☐ 9th grade				
☐ 10th grade				
☐ 11th grade				
☐ 12th grade				
☐ After 12th grade				
How much time did y	ou spend in the	program? *		
Hours spent per week:				
Weeks spent per year:				
Save & continue	Cancel			

A -41-14-/A----- J [1]



Scholarships

All applicants will be automatically considered for merit- and need-based scholarships simply by submitting a UC application and a FAFSA/CADAA

Apply for scholarships directly within the UC application by selecting those which match your characteristics, interests and background



Scholarships & support programs

Apply for scholarships



You can apply to a number of UC scholarships (that means free money) right here in the application. The scholarships listed below are awarded to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests or career objectives. If you don't see any categories that are relevant to you, don't worry. In addition to these scholarships, each campus and many alumni associations award

You'll also need to file a Free Application is or a California Oream Act Application (if you're an undocumented student) to be considered for every type of financial aid possible, including the scholarships listed below. International students should not file these.

Click on a category to view the list of scholarships and check the boxes for the scholarships that you'd like to apply to.

Expand All

- > Academic major or interest
- > Affiliation with group, program or organization

a variety of scholarships that recognize students' achievement and potential.

- > Career plans
- > Extracurricular activities & work experience
- > Family circumstances and relationships
- > Health / disabilities
- > School or geographic affiliation
- > Transfer students

Save & continue

Support programs

 Students can also indicate interest in two of UC's many support programs for students the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and UC's Foster Youth Programs



Scholarships & support programs

Support programs



UC offers an array of programs and services designed to help every student have a fulfilling college experience.

While we encourage you to <u>explore all of our programs</u> , you have an opportunity to express interest in two of our programs, right here in the application.

If you're interested, check the box below and answer the follow-up questions.

☐ Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) [7]

EOP and similar campus programs provide assistance through mentorship, academic programs, financial assistance, counseling/advising, and other campus support services to those who are first-generation college students, and/or from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. EOP serves students from all ethnic backgrounds, and is open only to California residents and to American Indians who are members of federally recognized tribes from any state.

□ UC Foster Youth Programs [2] (1)

These programs are for students who are current and former foster youth in the United States and/or part of the child welfare system. UC is committed to helping students to successfully transition to the university and offers a variety of support through the Guardian Scholars, Renaissance Scholars, Hope Scholar, FYRE Scholars and other similar programs.

Note: Individual campus program eligibility may differ. Visit

<u>UC Foster Youth Programs</u> (2) to learn more about each campuses' foster youth support programs.

Save & continue



PIQs: Key facts

PIQs stand for Personal Insight
Questions. These are short
answer responses that are a
crucial part of the UC admissions
process. They help the admissions
team understand who a student is
beyond grades and test scores.

- Students must answer 4 out of 8 questions.
- Each response can be up to 350 words.
- All questions are equally weighted no question is "better" than another.
- There's no right or wrong answer —
 we're looking for insight into
 personality, values, experiences, and
 goals.



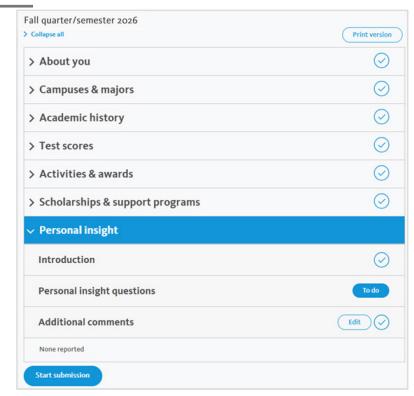
PIQs: Tips

- Have student write their responses in a separate document and then copy and paste it onto the application. Otherwise, the system will time them out
- Write and rewrite! Encourage the students to draft and revise their answers before submitting
- "Additional comments" section is NOT another PIQ or space to finish a PIQ





Missing information





Academic review * required

We want to do one last check to make sure your academic information is accurate.

If you have missing coursework or gaps in education, you'll need to confirm the information is correct before you can continue with the submission process.

Subject (A-G) requirements

One of UC's admission requirements is completing a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses (A-G courses or subject requirements), with at least 11 finished before the beginning of your senior year (or last year of secondary school). You can also meet these <u>subject</u> requirements [2] by completing specific college courses or earning certain scores on SAT, AP or IB exams.

The table below shows the number of subject requirements that you are missing based on the information you provided in "Academic history" and "Test scores."

Subject	Number of missing requirements
History / Social sciences	0
English	0
Mathematics	1
Science	0
Language other than English	0
Visual and performing arts	0
College-prep electives	0

You've met all the subject requirements.

Click "Save & continue" to go to the next part of the submission process.

Save & continue

Back

Payment

- Fee waiver automatically calculated for eligible students
 - MUST accept the fee waiver for it to be applied
- Can pay by credit card or check via mail

Billing summary

Please review your campus selections and application fees below.

The application fee is \$80.00 for each UC campus.

Selected campus	Fee	
Berkeley	\$80.00	
Irvine	\$80.00	
Los Angeles	\$ 80.00	
Riverside	\$ 80.00	
Santa Cruz	\$ 80.00	
Total due	\$ 400.00	

Fee waiver

You've qualified for a UC application fee waiver.

The fee waiver allows you to apply to up to four campuses for free.

Would you like to accept the fee waiver? *

O Yes

O No

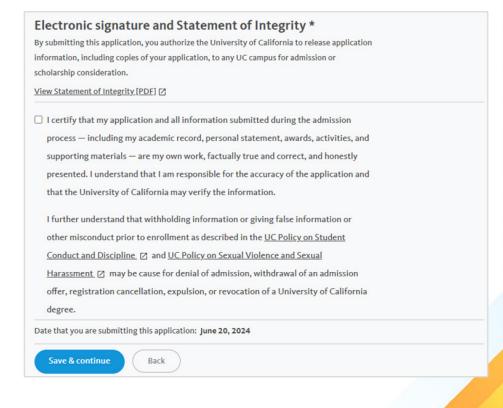
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* required

Statement of application integrity

- Electronic signature and Statement of Integrity acknowledgements are required for application submission
- Inaccurate, falsified or plagiarized information may result in a cancelled application
- Verification process





After submission

 Students can log back into the UC application after submission to view application status & update certain portions of the application



Application status

Submitted application

Fall quarter/semester 2026

Application ID:

Submit date: 10/25/2025

Campuses applied to:

Campus	Date Forwarded
UC Davis	
UC Merced	
UC Riverside	
UC Santa	
Barbara	
UC Santa Cruz	

Important! UC may send important, time-sensitive correspondence to applicants by email, so be sure to check your email regularly (including your spam folders). We recommend you use a non-school issued email account (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo).

View fees & payments

View application

Add a campus choice

Update personal information

Update ACT & SAT tests

Update SAT subject tests

Update English language proficiency test

Update IB exams

Update AP exams

Update international exams

Update release authorization

View how your application is reviewed

Resources



Resources

If you have questions, contact the application help desk at ucinfo@applyucsupport.net

Or call the UC Application Center:

Within the U.S.: (800) 207-1710

Outside the U.S.: (925) 298-6856

Helpdesk hours:

Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. PST

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

November & December hours:

November 3-14: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. PST

November 17–21: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. PST

November 22–23: Saturday – Sunday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. PST

November 24-26: Monday - Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. PST

November 27: Thursday - closed

November 28–29: Friday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. PST

November 30 - December 1: Sunday - Monday, 7 a.m. - midnight PST

December 2: Tuesday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. PST

Closed on the following holidays:

November 27, December 25 & January 1



Further resources

"Presenting yourself on the UC application"

A step-by-step guide to filling out the UC application with detailed information and screenshots!





Thank you

