Welcome to the UC High School Counselor Conference!

September 2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

UC Office of the President (UCOP) and UC campus updates

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

A CHANGING U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE

- UC is monitoring developments and seeking clarity on a range of issues
- UC is sharing updates as they become available
  - UC Counselors and Advisers Bulletin (CAB)
  - UC Federal Updates webpage

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/federal-updates

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

New UC President

JAMES B. MILLIKEN

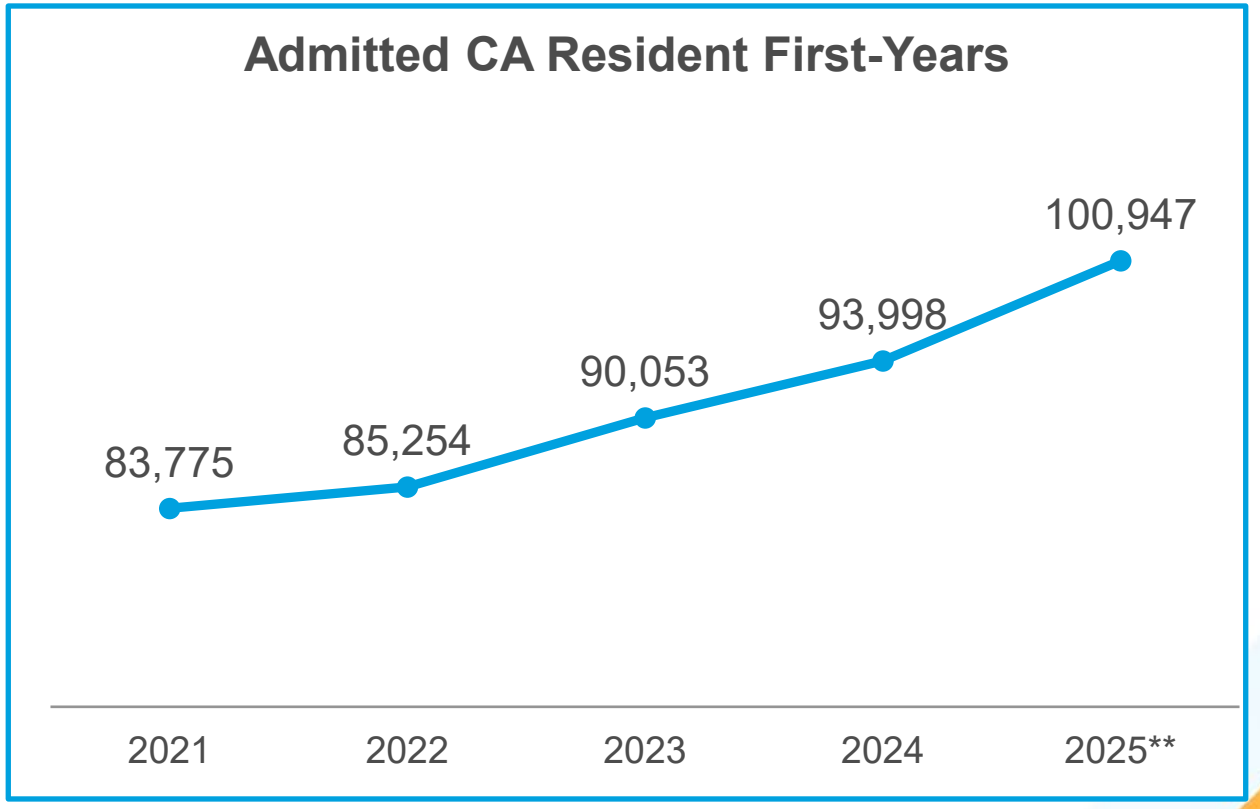
- Assumed role as the 22nd UC President on August 1

Learn more about UC's newest President

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

INCREASING ACCESS FOR CA STUDENTS

- All-time high number of admitted CA first-years (over 100,000 for the first time)
- Admission rate increased to 77% this year, up from 70% last year
- Low-income students: 41.8% of admits
- First-generation students: 42.4% of admits



Application updates

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Fall 2026 application is open

SUBMISSION PERIOD

October 1–December 1

EXTENDED DEADLINE

Monday, December 1, 2025

**The extended filing deadline is for fall 2026 only.*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Fall 2026 voucher payment option

VOUCHERS NOW ACCEPTED

- Your school or organization can now pay for applications fees in advance
- Application fee remains $80/campus ($95/campus for international applicants)
- Income-based fee waivers for up to four campuses are available for eligible applicants
- Email appcenterissues@ucop.edu to learn more

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE GUIDANCE INITIATIVE (CCGI)

- Students in partner districts can launch the UC application from *californiacolleges.edu*
- Students can import high school courses directly from *californiacolleges.edu*

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES AFFECTING FINANCIAL AID

- ✓ **Pell Grants:** no longer an entitlement for some students
- ✓ **Student loans:**
  - ➢ Borrowing caps adjusted
  - ➢ Repayment options reduced

Systemwide policy and practice updates

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Dual enrollment guidance

BENEFITS

- Jump start on college
- Start degree program earlier
- Save money

CAUTIONS

- Completed college coursework cannot be disregarded
- College course grades are calculated in GPA for admission
- College courses successfully completed cannot be repeated at UC
- Implications on max enrollment terms and units toward degree completion
- Potential impact on financial aid eligibility

2025–26 Area C (math) validation rule

Foundational math disciplines	Math disciplines that validate Algebra II/Math III for the 2025–26 academic year	Math disciplines that *do not* validate Algebra II/Math III for the 2025–26 academic year
Algebra I Geometry Algebra II ---------- Math I Math II Math III	Precalculus Calculus Statistics Other Advanced Math **Additional Math [NEW]**	Computer Science

2026–27 Area C (math) validation rule

Foundational math disciplines	Math disciplines that validate Algebra II/Math III for the 2026–27 academic year	Math disciplines that *do not* validate Algebra II/Math III for the 2026–27 academic year
Algebra I Geometry Algebra II ---------- Math I Math II Math III	Precalculus Calculus Other Advanced Math	**Statistics** **Additional Math** Computer Science

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

AI: A tool, not a replacement

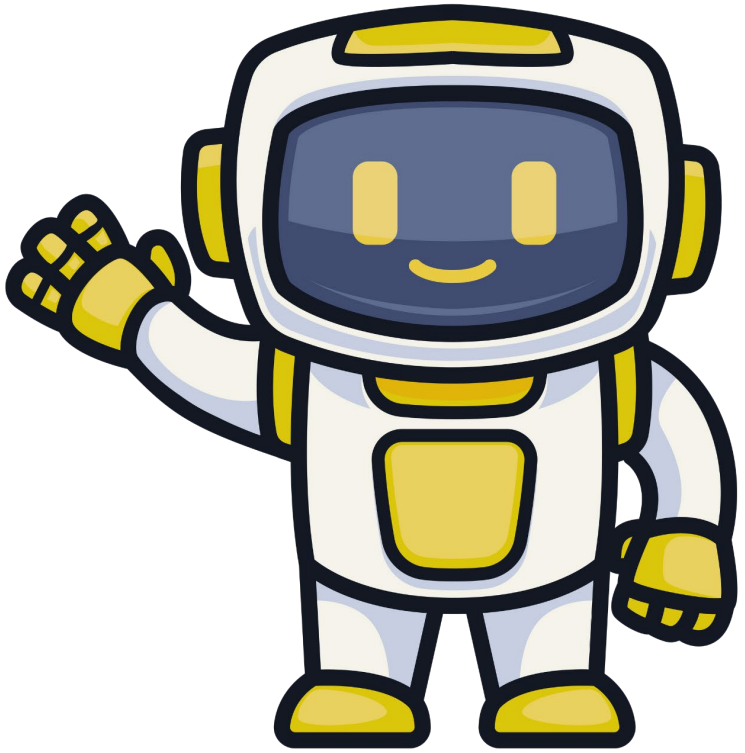
A useful tool

- Organize thoughts
- Resource, not a source

Statement of Application Integrity

An interview, not an essay

- Student's voice
- Student's experience
- Short, direct responses



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

UC Dual Admission expansion

	First wave	Second wave
Eligibility:	• CA resident • First-year applicant • UC GPA 3.0 or higher • Missing one of more A-G req • Not admitted to a UC of choice • On track to graduate from high school	• CA resident • First-year applicant • UC eligible (UC GPA 3.0 or higher, A-G completed) • Not admitted to a UC of choice • Graduated from HS • Attending a CA community college
Invite sent:	June 1	October 1
Deadline:	August 1	October 15

Test-free policy

UC continues to practice test-free admissions

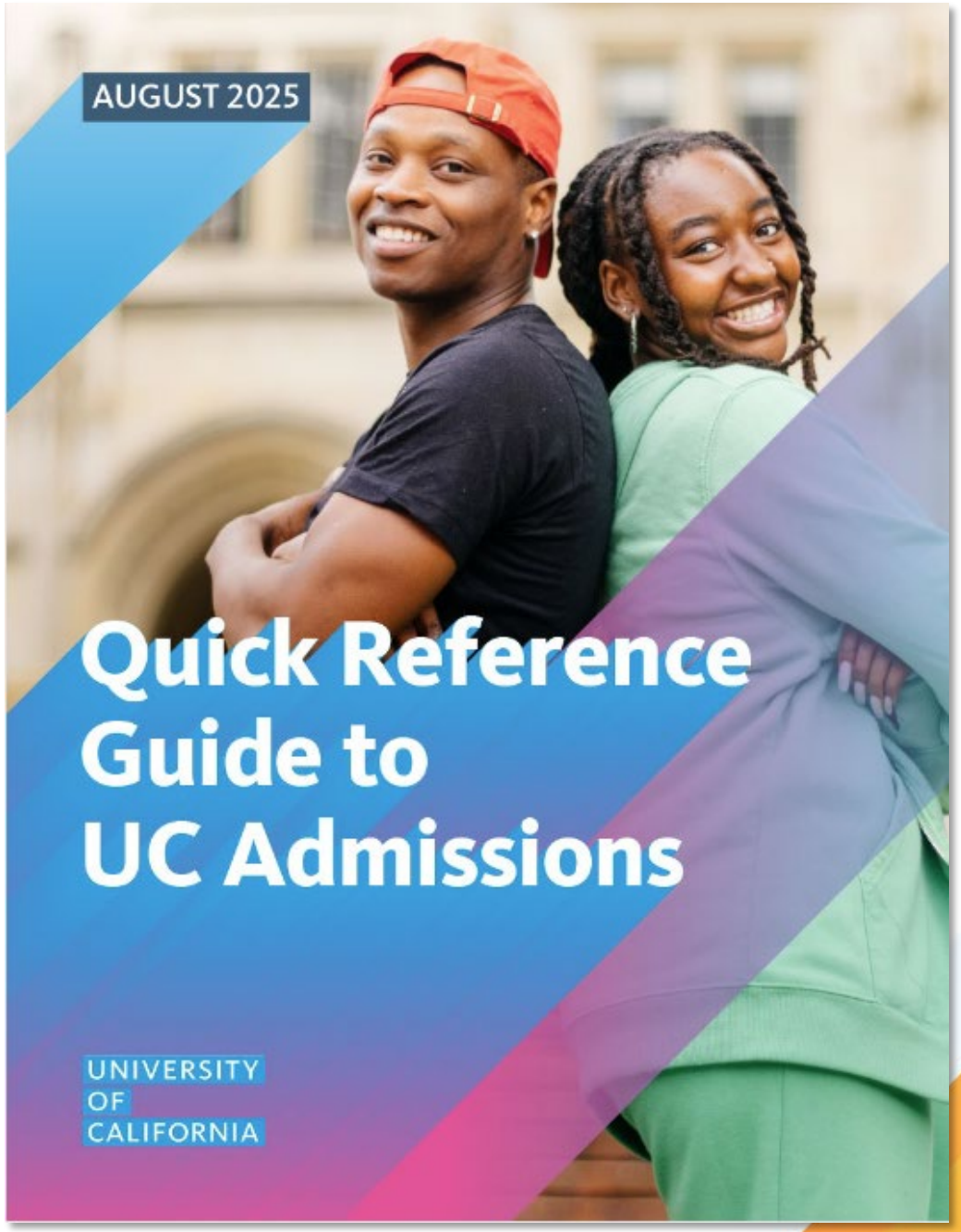
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Resources for counselors

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Quick Reference Guide

The ***Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions*** is now available on our website!



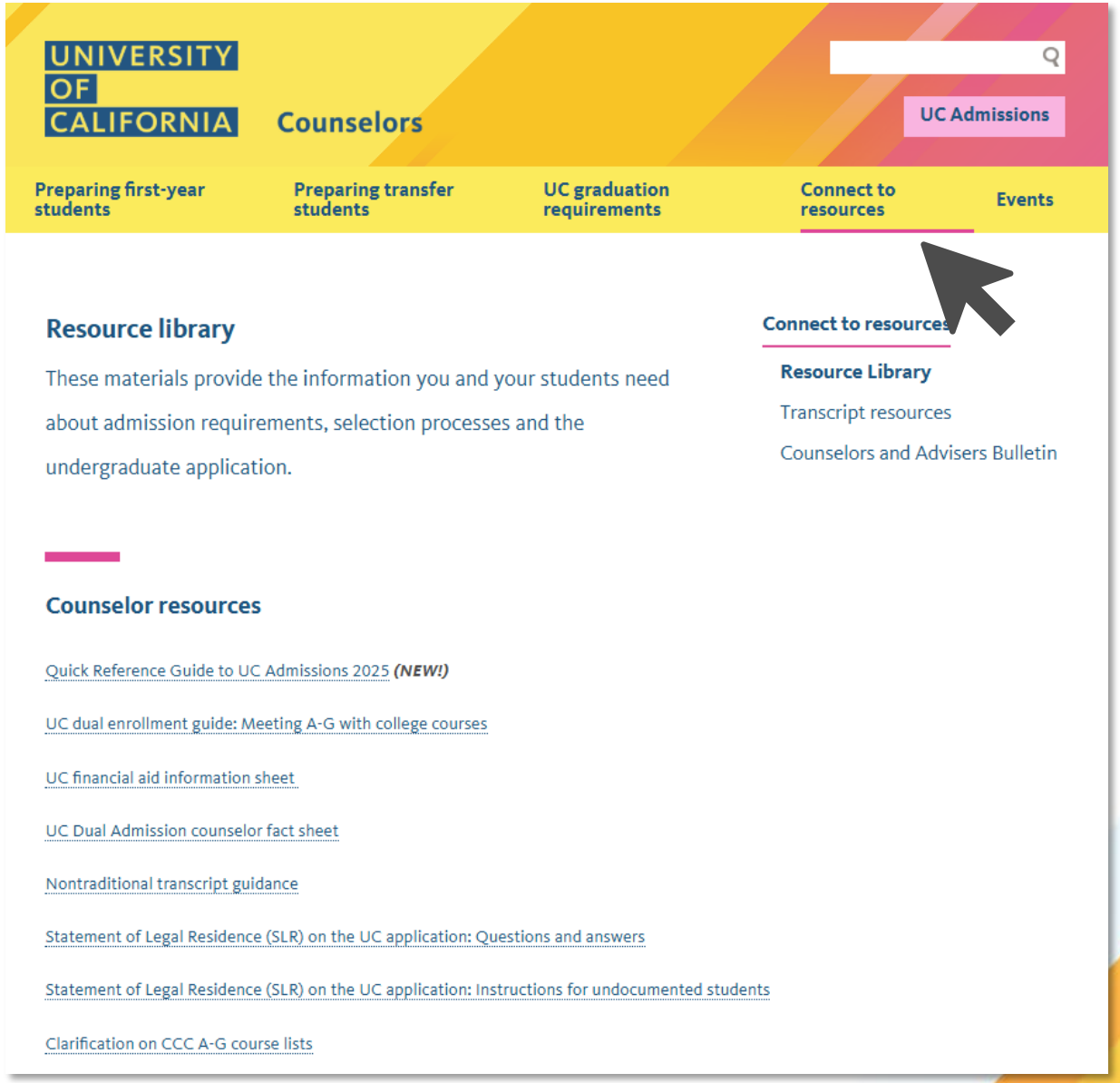
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Additional resources

- Counselors website and Resource Library
- Counselors and Advisors Bulletin (CAB)
- High School webinar series
  - Select Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. PT

We're here to help! Email **AskUC@ucop.edu** for systemwide admission policy questions.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE



Thank you

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Campus updates

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

2025 COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

Dustin Noji, Director of Admissions

UCMERCED

ADMISSION DATA & TRENDS

APPLICATION NUMBERS

49,358

ADMIT NUMBERS

46,932

ADMIT RATE

95.1%

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

2,000

ADMISSION PROFILE

FIRST GENERATION

48%

LOW INCOME

43%

GPA

3.54 – 4.15

EARLY DECISIONS IN DECEMBER

SHIFT TO DECEMBER NOTIFICATIONS

We moved admission notifications to December to streamline the admissions process and provide timely information to prospective students.

MAJORS/MINORS UPDATE

NEW MAJORS

- Liberal Studies, B.A.
- Business Administration, B.A.
- Accounting, B.S.

NEW MINORS

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Liberal Studies
- Electrical Engineering

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS

- E-Gaming
- Lighted Basketball Courts
- Pickleball
- Sand Volleyball
- Shade structures along Little Lake seating and string lights

COMING SOON

STUDENT UNION!

UCMERCED

THANK YOU!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

UC Irvine

Fall 2025 UC Irvine First-Year Admissions Recap

Applications	124,232
Admits	35,954
Admit Rate	28.94%
Projected Enrollment	6,924
Waitlist Offers	18,758
Waitlist Admits	5,814
Appeals	1,616
Appeal admits	16
Regent Scholarship Offers	1,133

Admitted CA First-Year Profile

Weighted Median GPA	4.19
Weighted 25-75% GPA	4.04 – 4.27
Unweighted Median GPA	3.95
Unweighted 25-75% GPA	3.84 – 4.00

CA Resident Admit Highlights

1,555 California high schools represented

18% identify as first-generation students

18% qualify as low-income

UC Irvine

TOP 10 APPLIED-TO MAJORS

- **UC Irvine admits to major**
- **56% of first-year applicants applied to 10 majors:**
  - Biological Sciences
  - Business Administration
  - Nursing Science
  - Psychology, B.S.
  - Computer Science
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Undergraduate/Undeclared
  - Political Science
  - Criminology, Law & Society
  - Public Health Sciences

Scan here for our major quiz and help your students expand their knowledge about majors at UC Irvine!

ACADEMIC UPDATES

- **NEW majors: Music, B.A. and B.Mus.**
  - Students interested in a **broad foundation** in music history, music theory, and composition with more flexibility for a second major should consider the **Music, B.A.** ***(no audition required).***
  - Students interested in pursuing **pre-professional training** in Western classical music performance should consider the **B.Mus.** ***(audition required).***
- **Same major, new names:**
  - **Psychological Science, B.A. → Psychology, B.A.**
  - **Exercise Sciences, B.S. → Physiology and Exercise Science, B.S.**
  - **Earth System Science, B.S. → Environmental and Earth System Science, B.S.**

CAMPUS NEWS

- School of Law 3+3 Programs
  - An expedited pathway for **high-achieving students** to receive undergraduate **and** J.D. degrees in six years with a $90,000 law school scholarship over three years
  - Participating programs: Campuswide Honors Collegium, School of Humanities, Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health, School of Engineering (scholarship only), School of Social Sciences, School of Social Ecology

- Mesa Court housing expansion:
  - **Addition of 400 beds** to the Mesa Court housing community this fall
  - Additional study areas, common kitchens and laundry facilities

- New virtual events are now live! Students should visit **admissions.uci.edu/events** to find ways to interact with our staff and learn about campus (scan here)

COUNSELOR RESOURCES

- Visit **admissions.uci.edu/counselors** for:
  - Downloadable publications
  - Applicant rosters
  - Slate.org
  - Adding and updating your contact info with UC Irvine
  - Inviting UC Irvine to your school or fair
  - Requesting campus tours

UC SANTA CRUZ
UCSC

First Year Admissions Statistics

66,437	48,269	5,063	72.7%
Applications	Admits	Enrolls	Admit Rate
4.0	3.74	33%	1,356
Average GPA (weighted capped)	Average GPA (unweighted)	First Gen	Low-income students

Transfer Admission Statistics

12,490	8,792	1,543	70.4%
Applications	Admits	Enrolls	Admit Rate
3.47	43%	498	
Average GPA	First Gen	Low-income students	

Campus Highlights

UCSC: An Incubator for Entrepreneurship

- New Innovation & Entrepreneurship Certificate Program
- Global Entrepreneurship Program
- Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurial Development
- Student Creativity Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Club
- Course Highlight: Start-up Entrepreneurship Academy (CRWN 90)
- Annual Slug Tank pitch competition
- QB3

Student Organization Spotlight: iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine)

The 2024 UC Santa Cruz iGEM team won a silver medal at the international Jamboree for a project focused on addressing the high cost of infant formula through a foundational synthetic biology approach.

UC SANTA CRUZ

Campus Highlights

UCSC at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence

- AI Art Augmentation and Acceleration Lab (A4)
- Generative AI Center
- Santa Cruz AI (SCAI) Club
- Annual AI Research Symposium
- AI Application Development Certificate program hosted by UCSC Silicon Valley extension

UC Santa Cruz partners with UC Davis to launch new Central Coast medical program

The establishment of the UC Programs in Medical Education Central Coast (PRIME Central Coast), made possible by $1.5 million in new seed funding from the state, aims to enroll an inaugural cohort of medical students on the Central Coast by fall 2027.

UC SANTA CRUZ

Housing Updates

KRESGE COLLEGE RENEWAL: PHASE 2 COMPLETE IN 2026

- 935 additional beds for undergraduate students
- Town Hall on the south end of the college will host concerts, conferences, and other large events including town halls for students

DELAWARE AVENUE PROJECT

- Opening fall 2026
- Housing 400 upper-division undergrads & 60+ employees
- Student housing will be ~20% < market rate

FAMILY STUDENT HOUSING

- Opening late 2025
- 140 apartment units
- New & expanded Early Education child care program for 140 children of students, staff & faculty

HELLER DRIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Opening Fall 2029
- Will house approximately 3,000 students
- Will include amenity spaces such as a market, café, fitness center and study spaces

UC SANTA CRUZ

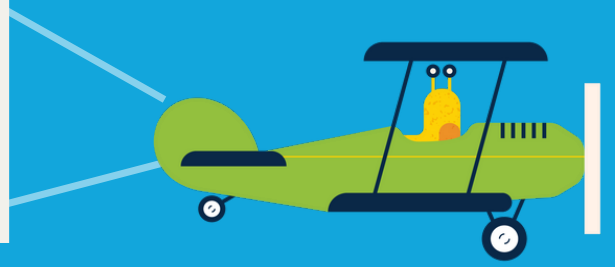
Let’s keep in touch!

@ucscadmissions

@ucscadmissions

@ucsantacruz

admissions.ucsc.edu



Timetra Hampton

tmhampto@ucsc.edu

Sign-up for our newsletter!

UC SANTA CRUZ

THE PERFECT PLACE
TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT
UC San Diego

FALL 2025 by the numbers

First-Year Admission Summary	
Applications	136,700
Admits	38,850
Admit Rate	28.4%
First Generation *(California residents)*	39.6%
Low Income *(California residents)*	40.9%
Middle 50% GPA	4.12-4.29
Expect to Enroll *(Fall quarter begins September 25)*	8,500

First-Year Waitlist	
Opt-Ins to the Waitlist	21,000
Admitted from Waitlist	4,000
Approximately 10% of First-Year Admits were from the Waitlist.	

160+ MAJORS, 10 ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

SELECTIVE MAJORS

- Data Science
- Engineering – all majors in these departments:
  - Bioengineering
  - Chemical Engineering
  - Computer Science & Engineering
  - Electrical & Computer Engineering
  - Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
- Public Health

Select an alternate major if first choice is listed above.

NEW MAJORS

Effective Fall 2025

- Media Industries & Communication
- Artificial Intelligence
- Chicanx and Latinx Studies
- Physics now offered as a B.A. & B.S.
- Environmental Anthropology

CAMPUS UPDATES

CHANGES TO COLLEGE RANKING

- Applicants can now rank their top four colleges

CAMPUS GROWTH PROJECTS

- Ridge Walk North – expected Fall 2025
- New Triton Center – expected Spring 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

LIVE COUNSELOR WEBINARS

Guiding Future Tritons

- September 23
- October 28
- November 18

LIVE STUDENT WEBINARS

- First-Year Life on Campus: HDH Webinar - September 17
- Insights from an Admissions Officer – September 25, October 2, November 18

MORE EVENTS: admissions.ucsd.edu/events

JOIN OUR COUNSELOR EMAIL LIST:
admissions.ucsd.edu/counselors

CONTACT US: admissions.ucsd.edu/contact

Welcome to UC Davis

Counselor Conference

Robert Penman
Executive Director for Undergraduate Admissions

UCDAVIS

2025 first-year admissions

102,987 first-year applications

45,965 admits	**44.6%** admit rate	**7,165** enroll target
3.79-4.0 Unweighted GPA*	**4.00-4.26** Weighted GPA*	
32.6% underrepresented	**34.2%** first-gen	**30.1%** limited income
17,482 waitlist offers	**9,747** waitlist opt in	**3,824** waitlist admits

UCDAVIS

*middle 50%

Data as of Aug. 15, 2025.

Five most selective majors

- Computer Science
- Design
- Business
- Psychology
- Pre-Landscape Architecture

College	Applications	Admit Rate
Ag/Environmental Sciences	11,293	53%
Biological Sciences	20,540	48.9%
Engineering	22,625	34.6%
Letters & Sciences	40,014	50.7%
Management	8,800	21%

UCDAVIS

Bachelor of Science in Business

8,800 applicants for first class

- **1,792** admitted
- Alternate major admits to Managerial Economics

bit.ly/UCDbusiness

UCDAVIS

Campus highlights

- Aggie Square opens with opportunities for undergrads
- UC Davis launches small-batch wine label

Explore UC Davis your way

Start your journey at
viewbook.ucdavis.edu

Experience campus from anywhere at
map.ucdavis.edu

Welcome to UC Riverside!

Veronica Zendejas

UC RIVERSIDE

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSIONS DATA (FALL 2025)

Applications	70,843
Admits	61,654
Admit Rate	87%
SIR Deposits	7,220
First-gen	44%
Limited Income	37%

UC RIVERSIDE

Most Applied to Majors

Biology
Psychology
Business Economics
Business Administration
Computer Science
Humanities (Undeclared)
Sociology
Mechanical Engineering
Biochemistry
Cell/Molecular Biology

Fastest Growing Majors

(FALL 2025)

Business Analytics
Education, Society and Human Development
Theatre, Film and Digital Production
BA +MA Programs

UC RIVERSIDE

WHAT'S NEW

New Chancellor- S. Jack Hu

New School of Business building
Opened in 2024

North District 2 Apartments
Opened this summer

Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Facility
Opening summer 2026

UC Health Announces New Riverside Medical Complex

UC RIVERSIDE

360 Teaching and Learning
Innovation and Career Planning
UCR Learning Communities
Kessler Scholars Program
UC RIVERSIDE

Upcoming Events

Virtual Discover UCR
November 10-14
admissions.ucr.edu/discoverucr

More Upcoming Events
admissions.ucr.edu/events

Campus Tours and Group Tours
admissions.ucr.edu

UC RIVERSIDE

Contact Us!

NEW COUNSELOR RESOURCE WEBPAGE

24/7 UCR INFORMATION:

TEXT "Counselor Sign Up" to (909) 323-0887

- **Join the Counselor Mailing List**
- **Request UCR to visit your School or College Fair**
- **Request a Group Tour**

UC RIVERSIDE

UC SANTA BARBARA

UC Counselor Conference 2025

Ride the wave of excellence

Cuca Acosta, Executive Director of Admissions

Admissions Updates

NEW:
Check out our newest YouTube playlists at UCSB4ME

Breaking Down the PIQs

UC App Myth Busters

- New Chancellor: Dr. Dennis Assanis
- San Benito Housing: Adding 2,224 new beds in Fall 2027
  - First-years: Guaranteed housing!
- Office of Admissions: Limiting fall and spring travel
- Adding to our YouTube playlists to supplement in-person visits
- Counselor webinars: Fall dates posted on Counselor webpage

UCSB

Academic Updates

Major Updates & Reminders:

- NEW: History of Policy, Law and Governance
- Music B.M.: Cello, Composition, Piano, Viola, Violin, Voice
- Update: The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

UCSB

Selection Process

Major Selection:

- Admit into major for the College of Engineering (engineering.ucsb.edu)
- Supplemental application reviewed by faculty for the College of Creative Studies (ccs.ucsb.edu)
- Auditions for Music Performance B.M., Dance B.F.A.
  - Auditions: January or February
  - Auditions: In-person or video submissions

First-year Applicant Webpage

Enrollment Updates

Application #:

110,184

Admission Rate:

38%

First-Gen Enrollment:

32%

Admit #:

42,227

Enrollment # (FR):

~5,000

Students Receiving Aid:

75%

Weighted & Capped GPA:

4.18

UCLA
Ffiona Rees
Executive Director

FALL 2025 ADMISSION RECAP

First-Year Admission Data

145,083 apps

13,700 admits

9% admit rate

6,420 enroll target

20,563 waitlist offers

13,612 waitlist opt-ins

1,517 waitlist admits

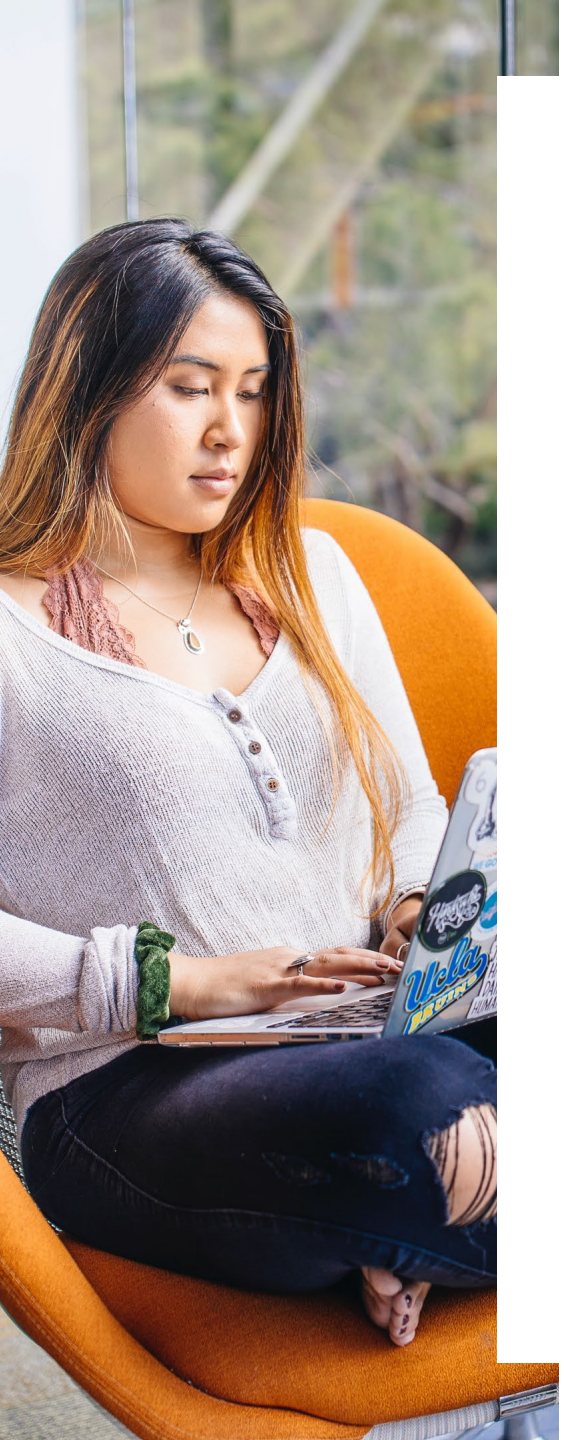
1,924 appeals received

2 appeal admit

Academic Admit Statistics

UNWEIGHTED GPA	**3.95** *average*
CAPPED GPA	**4.24** *average*
LOW INCOME	**24%**
FIRST GEN	**23%**

(data as of 8/20/2025)



ADMISSION BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL

	Apps	Admits	Admit Rate
Total First Year	145,083	13,700	9%
UCLA College	98,457	10,819	11%
Engineering	33,052	2,249	7%
Theater, Film & TV	3,293	140	4%
Arts & Architecture	3,437	178	5%
Music	1,175	283	24%
Nursing	5,669	31	1%

REFLECTIONS ON FALL 2025 AND A LOOK AHEAD…

- List all coursework – including Dual Enrollment!!!!
- Increased transfer targets
- Continue to offer a four-year housing guarantee

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

- **Students First**
- **UCLA Admission Events page**
- **$30M gift to School of Nursing**
- **Student Success**
  - 68% of UCLA students graduate with no loan debt
  - 93% graduation rate
  - Increased number of Pell students
- **UC "Yes I can" website** yesican.ucop.edu
  - Includes Distribution tool kit for counselors
- **WACAC** - free membership: public school counselors & CBO's

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Cycle Summary

- Record-breaking Volume & Yield: Processed over 150,000 applications with the highest yield ever at over 51%, and minimal melt.
- Student Engagement & Outreach: Welcomed over 15,000 visitors to campus
- Commitment to Access & Equity: Distributed 95%+ of financial aid packages
- Support for California Students: Reinforced a continued commitment to California, including launching a Counselor Access Advisory Board
- National Leadership in Rural Access: Joined the STARS network—as the only public university in California and one of just three public institutions nationwide

UC Berkeley

By the Numbers

- 126,811 – First-year Applicants
- 14,455 – Admits
- 11.4% - Admit Rate
- 9,101 – Waitlist Opt-Ins
- 0 – Waitlist Admits
- Middle 50% unweighted range is 3.90 – 4.00
- Weighted range is 4.32 – 4.68
- Expected Enrollment – 6,561

UC Berkeley

Academic Program Updates

New Majors:

- College of Engineering
  - New:
    Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - New:
    Environmental Engineering
- College of Letters & Sciences
  - New:
    Korean Language and Culture
  - Name Change:
    Chinese Language and Culture
  - Name Change:
    Japanese Language and Culture

- Admissions Policies

Campus Highlights

- Undergraduate Academic Building
- Grimes Engineering Center
- Engineering Center (Bechtel)
- Creekside Center (DSP)
- Berkeley Innovation Zone & Climate Enginuity Hub
- Anchor House / xučyun ruwway Apartments
- Helen & Thomas Wu Performance Hall

UC Berkeley

Stay Connected

Visit

Join Slate.org

Sign up for the Counselor Newsletter

Find your Admissions Officer

Campus panel

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE

Thank you

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COUNSELOR
CONFERENCE