
One size doesn't fit all

Alternative majors for first-year applicants to consider

September 2025

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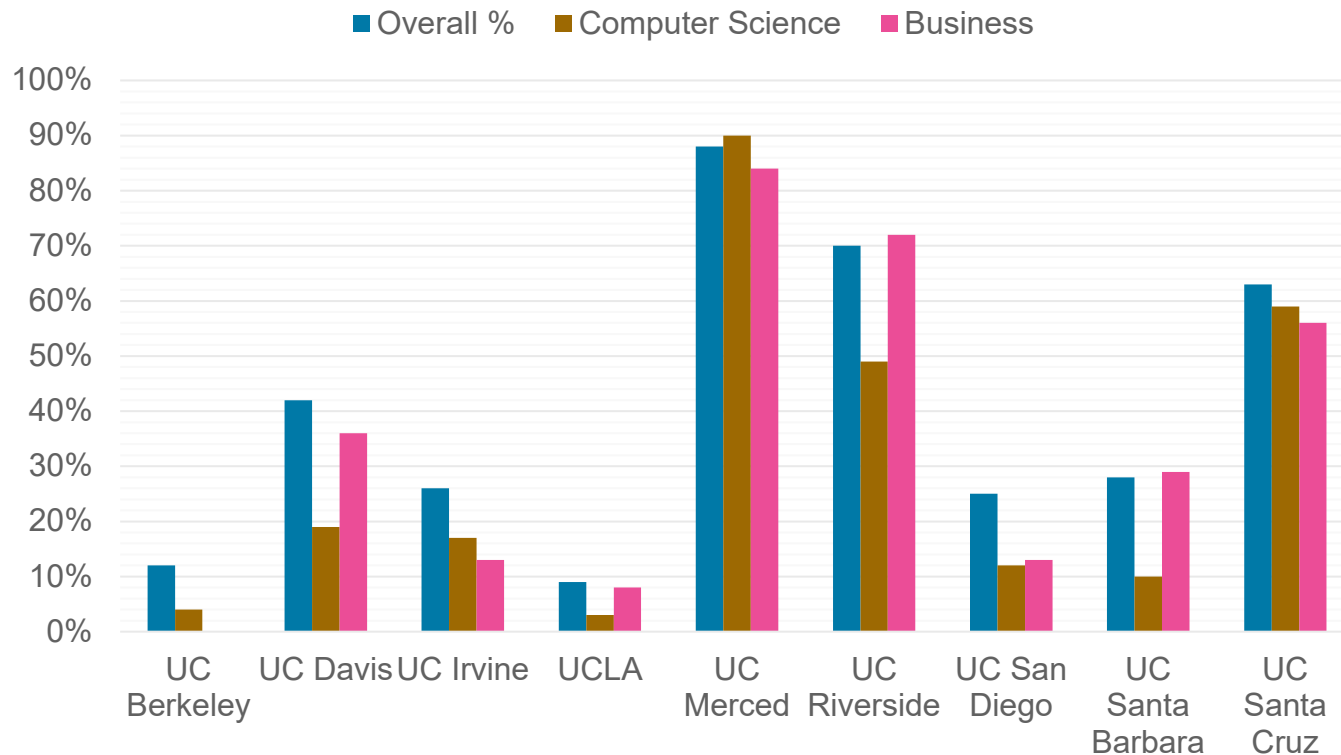
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Outline

- **Discipline-specific fall admission rates**
- **Alternative major choices**
- **Unique majors**
- **Major advising for prospective UC applicants**

Fall 2023 admit rate by discipline



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Alternative majors



Exploring options: Alternatives for popular majors at UC

Psychology & cognitive science

- Sociology
- Neuroscience
- Human development
- Learning and behavioral sciences

Business and economics

- Mathematics or applied mathematics
- Anthropology
- Communication
- Actuarial science

Majors outside of biological science for pre-med interests

- Chemistry
- Public health
- Nutrition science
- Pharmacological chemistry/
Pharmaceutical sciences
- Any social science major
 - With a biological science minor

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Beyond the usual: Discover unique UC majors I

UC Berkeley

- Legal studies
- Nuclear engineering
- Celtic studies
- Social welfare

UC Davis

- Animal science
- Viticulture & enology
- Wildlife, fish, & conservation biology
- Science & technology studies

UC Irvine

- Nursing science
- Criminology, law, & society
- Informatics
- Software engineering

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Beyond the usual: Discover unique UC majors II

UCLA

- Music industry
- Public affairs
- Design media arts
- Climate science

UC Merced

- Ground & aerial robotics
- Critical race & ethnic studies
- Public health

UC Riverside

- Robotics
- Public policy
- Dance theory
- Creative writing

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Beyond the usual: Discover unique UC majors III

UC San Diego

- Nanoengineering
- Marine biology
- Speculative design
- Pharmacological chemistry

UC Santa Barbara

- Aquatic biology
- Biopsychology
- Zoology
- Actuarial science

UC Santa Cruz

- Astrophysics
- Community studies
- Technology & information management
- Art & design: Games & playable media

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Major advising

Tips for helping your student find the right major



Careers may not be as closely related to an undergraduate major.
Empower your students to consider various pathways for their career interest.

Work backwards

Research careers
and areas of
interest; what
degrees do those
professionals have?

Visit department websites

View course
requirements, faculty,
research, career
outcomes and more

Apply undeclared

Undeclared is an
option at all UC
campuses, allowing
students the
opportunity to explore

Career outcomes are beyond just the major

UC will help your students get wherever they want to go, regardless of major

- **Academic advising**

- Campus and department depending, students can change their major, customize their courses, add minors etc.

- **Experiential opportunities**

- Research, internships, jobs, clubs

- **Career centers**

- Support from first-year through alumni status
- Career exploration, networking, job search support, etc.

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Thank you

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