
Pitfalls and pointers:

Successfully navigating the UC application

Agenda

- ❑ Getting started
- ❑ About you
- ❑ Academic history
- ❑ Test scores
- ❑ Activities & awards and PIQs
- ❑ Additional comments
- ❑ Review & submit
- ❑ Q&A



Getting started

Key dates & deadlines

- Fall admission
 - **August 1:** Access the UC application
 - **October 1–November 30:** Application filing period
 - **March 1-30:** UC decision release for fall '24 freshman applicants
 - **May 1:** Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) deadline

Student checklist

- Unofficial transcript and/or academic record
- Household information
 - SSN, DACA SSN or ITIN if applicable
 - Household size & income
- Personal email when creating an account
- Forms of payment
 - 2023–2024: \$80 application fee**
(\$95 for international applicants)

Campuses & majors

Choose campuses

- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UCLA
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC San Diego
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz

Each UC campus has different strengths and unique environments. Applying to more than one campus will increase your chances of being admitted to UC and finding a campus that's right for you.

There is an application fee of \$80 per campus, which you'll pay once you submit your application.

You may qualify for a fee waiver which will allow you to apply up to four campuses for free. Make sure you've completed your family's income and size on the [Your household](#) page.

YOUR ESTIMATED COST: \$0

Save & continue



About you

The **About you** section sets the context for students' academic and non-academic lives, giving admissions officers more insight into their background and environment.

▼ About you
Personal information
Contact information
Citizenship & residency
Demographics
Your background
Your household
Parent information
Statement of Legal Residence
Review

Contact information: Lived name

- Change of language from “preferred” name to “lived” name
- Used for communications from UC campuses

Do you have a lived name?

A lived or preferred name is a name you go by that is different than your legal name (for example, a middle name that you go by or a name that aligns with your gender identity). If you enter a lived name, we'll use it in most of our communications with you about the application, except when it's required for us to use your legal name.

No Yes

Lived first name *

Lived middle name

Lived Last / family / surname *

Demographics

- Not seen by admissions readers
- Used for reporting & programming purposes

Ethnicity / Ancestry

To help us understand the diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds of our students, please tell us which of the following groups best describes your background. Select all categories that apply to you. Remember, this information is used for statistical purposes only by UC, government agencies and researchers (not for admission purposes).

Gender and sexual orientation

We're committed to ensuring our campuses are welcoming to all students. As with all other demographic questions, providing your gender identity and sexual orientation is voluntary, optional, and not considered in admission decisions.

Any information you provide in this section will be used for statistical analysis and programmatic purposes only.

Citizenship & residency: Undocumented & AB540 students


- Choose “No Selection” under Country of Citizenship
- Input SSN, ITIN or DACA SSN if applicable
 - Not required if a student has none of the above

About you

Citizenship & residency



* required

What is your country of citizenship? 

Country *

United States



Do you have a U.S. Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

If you apply for financial aid, we use the Social Security number or ITIN you provide to match your application to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application. See 'Help' for more information on the additional uses of the Social Security number.

No Yes

Citizenship & residency: Native American identity

Are you an enrolled member of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe (U.S.)?

No Yes

- Used to determine eligibility for the Native American Opportunity Plan
- Available for California resident applicants from federally recognized Native American, American Indian and/or Alaska Native tribes

Household information

- In-application fee waiver
 - Waives application fees for up to 4 UC campuses
 - Applicants must answer BOTH questions on household income & size

Do you live by yourself?

No Yes

What was your total income earned in 2022? [i](#)

(Include your spouse's income, if relevant)

We may use this information to help us determine if you're eligible for certain outreach programs, scholarships, and the application fee waiver. This information is not used for financial aid.

Income

\$.00

How many people were supported by this income? [i](#)

Number of people

Save & continue

Statement of Legal Residence

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.

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

Yes No

Save & continue

SLR: Undocumented & AB540 students

Applicants who do not satisfy all three parts may qualify for a Special Circumstance, Exemption, or Waiver provision (such as an [AB 540](#)  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](#) .

Note: Undocumented students should use [these instructions](#)  for completing the SLR.

Academic history

7th and 8th grade coursework

- Only high school-level mathematics and language other than English

Did you take any high school-level math courses in 7th or 8th grade?

No Yes

Clear

You can select information about the course below. If you took more than one course in 7th or 8th grade, click the "Add another course" button. Remember, you should enter these courses only if you earned a grade of C or better.

Course name *

Term period *

-- select --



-- select --



Delete

+

Add another course

Did you take any courses in a language other than English in 7th or 8th grade?

No Yes

Clear

Adding high schools

- Students must enter all high schools attended
 - Check city & school code!
- **Online** high schools should also be added as “another high school attended”
 - Courses through online publishers must be on the student’s primary high school transcript

MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL
MOORPARK, CA Delete Edit

School code:	052055
Specialized curriculum:	
Grading system:	A B C D F
Term system:	Semester
Attended:	August 2019 - June 2023
Grades attended:	
9th grade:	2019 - 2020
10th grade:	2020 - 2021
11th grade:	2021 - 2022
12th grade:	2022 - 2023
School you will graduate from:	Yes
Degree, diploma or certificate:	High/Secondary School Diploma
Date received or to be received:	June 2023

Add another high school I've finished adding high schools

Terms and grading systems

- Specify term types & grading systems
 - Term type = number of final grades per year
 - Students may enter multiple systems for the same school

What is this school's grading system? *

- A B C D F
- 0-100 (U.S.)
- 1-7 Int'l Bacc
- Other

What is this school's term system? *

- Full year (1 final grade per year)
- Semester (2 final grades per year)
- Trimester (3 final grades per year)
- Quarter (4 final grades per year)

Entering coursework

- Students should self-report course titles & grades for ALL **academic** coursework completed, in progress or planned
 - Include non-passing grades
- Examples of non-academic coursework:
 - Physical Education
 - Leadership/ASB
 - Teaching Assistant
 - Driver's Education
- P/NP or CR/NC grading is acceptable for A-G courses taken between winter 2020–summer 2021 only

Entering coursework (CA residents)

- A-G courses at most California high schools will appear on a drop-down list
 - Honors code is already designated
- Select “NO” for grades in one-term classes

▼ 11th History/Social Science

Course Name	Honors Type
<input type="checkbox"/> AP European History (AP)	AP
<input type="checkbox"/> AP Government and Politics United States (AP)	AP
<input type="checkbox"/> AP United States History (AP)	AP
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Government Policy	NH
<input type="checkbox"/> American Government CP	NH
<input type="checkbox"/> Principles of American Democracy	NH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. History	NH
Grade 1	Grade 2
A ▼	PS ▼
	--
	A
	B
	C
	D
	F
	PS
	NP
	CR
	NC
	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> World Culture	NH
<input type="checkbox"/> a-g U.S. History	NH
<input type="checkbox"/> a-g World History	NH
	World Geography

Entering coursework (non-CA residents)

- Self-assign subject area
- Report course name, grades and honors code as they appear on a student's transcript



2021 - 2022 academic year

Subject Area/Course Category	Course Name	Honor Type	
Civics/American Governme... ▼	AP US Government	AP ▼	Clear
Grade 1	Grade 2		
-- ▼	-- ▼		

Entering senior year coursework

- Students must report in-progress and planned coursework for 12th grade
 - Unless they have taken a gap year, they are unlikely to have senior year grades to report

English 12

Grade 1	Grade 2
IP 	PL 

Entering coursework if graduating early

- Advise students to work backwards
 - Enter their final year of coursework under “12th grade”
- Students can leave the 9th grade blank to allow for two years to be included in the GPA calculation
- Justify missing year in Additional Comments
- Note: A-G requirements don't change!

Entering summer coursework

- UC considers summer as the last term in the academic year.
- For summer classes taken before 9th grade:
 - Adjust dates of attendance for institution
 - Input coursework in Fall of 9th grade
 - Add note in Additional Comments

Entering summer coursework cont.

- For high schools where students **ONLY** took summer coursework:
 - Mark the dates of attendance
 - Select the “summer” box
 - Skip entering the academic year grades
 - Add note in Additional Comments

When did you attend this high school? *

Start date: July 2020

End date: August 2020

What grades did you attend this high school? *

Grade * 9th

Academic Year selection * 2019 - 2020

I took summer courses after this grade

Entering college coursework

- Students should include ALL college courses, including those taken on a HS campus and/or on their HS transcript
- Dual enrollment courses are college courses!

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE
ALL LOCATIONS, CA
College Code: 004295-3

When did you attend this college? *

Start date: Month Year

End date: Month Year

During which grades and terms did you attend this college? *

Grade Fall Winter Spring Summer

[Add another grade](#)

What is this college's grading system? *

ABCDF Other



Test scores

SAT/ACT scores

- UC will **NOT** consider SAT or ACT scores for admissions or scholarship decisions
- *Students can no longer report Subject Tests in the initial application*
 - Students can report SAT, ACT and SAT Subject Test **AFTER** they submit

▼ Test scores
AP exams
IB exams
English language proficiency tests
International exams
Review

AP, IB and international exams

- All scores are self-reported on the UC Application
 - Students will be asked to send official scores for any exams reported on their application

Is this exam completed or planned? *

Completed Planned

When did you take this exam? *

Month * Year *

May ▼ 2023 ▼

Which exam did you take? *

AP exam *

Calculus AB ▼

Have you received your score yet? *

Yes No

What was your score? *

English proficiency tests

TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language: Internet-based test (iBT) or iBT Home Edition, or iBT Paper Edition	Score of 80 or higher
IELTS	International English Language Testing System	Score of 6.5 or higher
DET	Duolingo English Test	Score of 115 or higher
ACT	English Language Arts (ELA)	Score of 24 or higher
SAT	Writing and Language section	Score of 31 or higher
AP	English Language & Comp / English Literature & Comp	Score of 3, 4, or 5
IB-SL	English (Language A only)	Score of 6 or 7
IB-HL		Score of 5, 6, or 7

Activities & awards and PIQs

Activities & awards

- Awards & honors
- Educational prep programs
- Extracurricular activities
- Other coursework
- Volunteering
- Work experience

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*

-- select --




Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

- Opportunity to add further context & clarity
- Draft responses on an external document

Personal insight

Personal insight questions



* required

Please respond to any 4 of the 8 questions below.

We realize that not all questions apply to all applicants, so be sure to select the 4 questions that you believe give us the best information about you.

All 8 questions are given equal consideration in the application review process. Responses to each question should be between 250-350 words.

Personal insight questions

Want a copy of the personal insight questions emailed to you? It's a good idea to work on these before you enter them in the application.

Email questions



Additional comments

What & where

Additional comments are optional sections of the application, where a student can share further information not reported elsewhere

Two sections for Additional Comments:

- Academic history
 - 550-character limit
- Personal insight questions
 - 550-word limit

What to include

- Examples of what to include in additional comments:
 - Explain extenuating circumstances that may have affected their grades or extracurricular activities
 - Provide more context, clarification, or explanation for specific courses or extracurriculars, gaps in education or if a student would like to share more information about the school environment
 - Provide more context about home environment, commute times from home to school, etc.
- The additional comments sections are **NOT**:
 - An additional or continued PIQ response
 - A place to share links to websites or portfolios

Review and submit

Review before submitting

Fall quarter/semester 2024

> Expand all Print version

> About you	✓
> Campuses & majors	✓
> Academic history	✓
> Test scores	✓
> Activities & awards	✓
> Scholarships & programs	✓
> Personal insight	✓

Start submission

- This is the last page students will visit before they start submitting the application
- If there are remaining items to complete, they will see a note that says “To-Do” next to that specific section

Subject requirement checklist



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

You've met all the subject requirements.

- Students will confirm their academic information & A-G completion
- The submission pages will also ask if they would like to share their application information with certain people or groups (e.g., scholarship agencies, parents/guardians, counselors, etc.)

Statement of Integrity

I certify that my application and all information submitted during the admission process — including my academic record, personal statement, awards, activities, and supporting materials — are my own work, factually true and correct, and honestly presented. I understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of the application and that the University of California may verify the information.

I further understand that withholding information or giving false information or other misconduct prior to enrollment as described in the [UC Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline](#)  and [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#)  may be cause for denial of admission, withdrawal of an admission offer, registration cancellation, expulsion, or revocation of a University of California degree.

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

Payment

- Fee waiver automatically calculated for eligible students
 - MUST accept the fee waiver
- 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? *

Yes No

After submission

- Students will see submission confirmation
 - Can view and print the entire application including a receipt for payments.
- Remind students to save their **UC application ID number**
 - Used to access the various campus student portals and, in many cases, to access admission decisions.
- Students can log back into the UC application after submission to view application status & update *certain* portions of the application

Application resources

Getting help

If you have questions, please contact the application helpdesk:

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: 10am – 6pm PST

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

November & December hours:

November 1-17: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. PST

November 20-22: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. PST

November 24-26: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. PST

November 27-28: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m. PST

November 29-30: 7 a.m. – midnight PST

December 1: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. PST

Closed on the following holidays:

Nov. 23, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

Thank you! Questions?