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.
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
- [x] Yes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lived first name *</th>
<th>Lived middle name</th>
<th>Lived Last / family / surname *</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>
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

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

- 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

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

- No
- Yes
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? (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

$ 

How many people were supported by this income?

Number of people
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
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
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
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
Entering coursework (non-CA residents)

- Self-assign subject area
- Report course name, grades and honors code as they appear on a student’s transcript
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
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
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!
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
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
## English proficiency tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
<td>Test of English as a Foreign Language: Internet-based test (iBT) or iBT Home Edition, or iBT Paper Edition</td>
<td>Score of 80 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
<td>International English Language Testing System</td>
<td>Score of 6.5 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET</td>
<td>Duolingo English Test</td>
<td>Score of 115 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>English Language Arts (ELA)</td>
<td>Score of 24 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>Writing and Language section</td>
<td>Score of 31 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>English Language &amp; Comp / English Literature &amp; Comp</td>
<td>Score of 3, 4, or 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB-SL</td>
<td>English (Language A only)</td>
<td>Score of 6 or 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IB-HL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Score of 5, 6, or 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities & awards and PIQs
Activities & awards

- Awards & honors
- Educational prep programs
- Extracurricular activities
- Other coursework
- Volunteering
- Work experience
Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall quarter/semester 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Expand all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; About you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Campuses &amp; majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Academic history</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Test scores</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Activities &amp; awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Scholarships &amp; programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Personal insight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number of missing requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History / Social sciences</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and performing arts</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College-prep electives</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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?