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# Our transfer era: The journey from high school to CC to UC

September 2024





**What comes to mind when you think of transfer student and community college?**

# Who is a transfer student?

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## Who is a transfer student?

### UC definition:

***A student who has enrolled in a fall, winter or spring term at a college or university after high school graduation.***



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- A student who enrolls in a “regular” term after high school must apply as a transfer student.
  - **EXCEPTION:** if a high school student graduates mid-year (e.g., December), the campuses have agreed to an exception to the definition above. As long as these students plan to enroll at UC that following fall, they are permitted to enroll in college coursework in that gap term between their high school graduation and enrolling at UC. This does not jeopardize their first-year applicant status.
- This means that students who take a gap year but decide to enroll at a college/university in the meantime must apply as transfer applicants.
- Students cannot pick and choose which college coursework to include - all college coursework must be reported, and students cannot elect to omit their college coursework and “start over” as first-years.
- A transfer student’s transferable college coursework completed while they were in high school (e.g. dual enrollment) will be counted toward the total transfer unit count and transfer GPA calculation.

## Who is a CCC transfer student?

- **Priority consideration is given to California Community College (CCC) students applying for admission to UC as juniors**
- **To be a CCC transfer student:**
  - Last college attended in a regular session before enrolling at UC is a CCC
  - At least 30 semester (45 quarter units) completed among CCCs



- While we welcome transfer students from institutions around state, country and the world, we give priority consideration to CCC students applying for admission to UC as juniors.
  - CCCs are the only institutions that UCs have articulation agreements with, so the transfer system is set up with CCCs in mind. After all, students transferring from 4-year institutions do already technically have an option to earn a bachelor's degree at their current institutions, whereas CCC students must transfer.
  - CCC TR students may have previously attended a non-CCC (out-of-state, international, CA private or even UC or CSU), but at least 30 semester units must be completed at the CCCs and the last school of attendance should be a CCC.
  - Some UC campuses may or may not consider applicants who are below junior standing or who are in senior standing.

## Who is a transfer student?

### **Who is NOT a transfer student:**

***A student who has graduated from (or is still in) high school and who has not enrolled in a regular (non-summer) term at any college or university following graduation.***

***...this is a first-year applicant!***



- This means that students who attend a college or university summer term immediately after high school graduation are still considered first-year applicants.
- Students who complete college/university courses while in high school (e.g. dual enrollment) are also still considered first-year applicants, regardless of the number of credits earned - even regardless of whether an associate's degree was earned!
  - These students may want to apply as transfers as they believe it means a shorter time to graduation. But these students get the best of both worlds - all transferable credit will be posted which means they may have advanced standing and shorter time to graduation, but they will also still be able to attend first-year orientation and be eligible for first-year housing.
- Exception: High school students who graduate mid-year and take college coursework in the winter/spring term are still able to apply as first-year applicants. This is an exception granted by the campuses to the definition of a first-year application.

# Dispelling the “stigma” of transferring

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## Addressing misconceptions about community college and transferring

“Community college is not REAL college”

- The California Community Colleges are junior colleges
- Coursework and instruction at the community college is the same level as other colleges

“Only students that don't get into 4-year schools go to community college”

- Community college is the FIRST choice for many students. Students choose community college for various reasons, including its affordability, accessibility, and flexibility

“Students can't get into top universities if they go to community college first”

- Transfers DO get into top universities
- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admission process

You may have heard some of these statements made about transferring from community college. These are common misconceptions.

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Let's address some common misconceptions about the community college to UC pathway. You may have heard some of these statements made about transferring from community college. These are common misconceptions that sometimes students and families may believe.

True or false?

Firstly, you may have heard, “COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS NOT REAL COLLEGE”

This statement is FALSE!

The truth is:

- The California Community Colleges are junior colleges; they ARE real colleges.
- Coursework and instruction at the community college is at the same level as other colleges, and students can get transferable credit for the coursework they take at the community college.

Now onto the statement,

“ONLY STUDENTS THAT DON'T GET INTO 4 YEARS GO TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE”

Is this true or false?

This is false!

The truth is:

- Community college is the FIRST choice for many students
- Students choose community college for various reasons, including its affordability, accessibility, and flexibility.

Lastly, “STUDENTS CAN'T GET INTO TOP UNIVERSITIES”



This is also false!

The truth is:

- Transfers DO get into top universities
- 2 out 3 transfer students that apply to UC are admitted
- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admission process

## The “stigma” of transferring and how to dispel it

### How to dispel the stigma surrounding transferring from community college?

- Inform students and their families of the benefits of transferring
- Bring awareness to support programs available to transfers
- Validate students who express an interest in the community college to transfer pathway
- Celebrate students’ decision to attend community college



Now that we’ve addressed misconceptions that create a stigma around transferring from community college, how can we work towards dispelling the stigma?

Some of the things that we can do to promote a transfer going culture include:

- Informing students and their families of the benefits of transferring
- Bringing awareness to support programs available to transfers to students and families
- Validating students who express an interest in the community college to transfer pathway. Reassuring students that they are making a good decision in choosing the community college transfer pathway.
- Celebrating students’ decision to attend community college in Decision Day and High School senior Celebrations

# Benefits of transferring

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## Benefits of choosing the transfer journey

### Academics

- Major and career exploration
- Smaller class sizes
- Transfer support programs
- Dedicated course progression pathway options (CalGETC/IGETC)

### Affordability

- Lower tuition or free tuition costs
- Minimal housing costs
- Special support programs offering textbook assistance

### Flexibility

- Student-life balance and responsibility management
- Ability to stay local
- Softer transition

### Major and career exploration:

- All community colleges offer transfer and career centers to assist student with major and career exploration
- Dedication counselors to assist with academic planning
- Smaller class sizes allow more opportunities to connect with faculty
- IGETC/CalGETC: specified general education course patterns for student transferring to UC and CSU
  - Student who complete IGETC/CalGETC will not have to complete additional general education courses after transfer in most cases
  - Note: IGETC/CalGETC is not recommend for those pursuing STEM-related majors

### Affordability:

- Community colleges have the lowest fees in the nation
- College promise programs vary at each community college and range from covering partial to full tuition costs
- If students choose to live at home, rent costs maybe be lower or free

### Flexibility:

Whether student have family responsibilities or work commitments

## Support at the community college

Transfer and  
career  
centers

Diverse  
support  
programs

Tutoring and  
learning  
centers

Basic needs  
and services

Health and  
mental health  
services



### Transfer and career centers

- Transfer specific programming and counseling

### Diverse support programs

- Academic and financial assistance as well as mentorship to specific populations

### Tutoring and learning centers

- Academic support for various subject areas

### Basic needs services

- Food security, transportation, housing, and childcare

### Health and mental health services

- Health assessment, treatment, psychological counseling, and crisis intervention

### Transfer support programs include:

- EOP, CARE, CALWorks (non-traditional student support)
- Foster youth support
- Veterans
- Undocumented students
- Incarcerated and system-impacted student support

## UC commitment to transfers



- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admission process.
- Nearly **1 in 3 UC** students start at a CCC before graduating from a UC campus.
- **91%** of UC transfer students come from a CCC
- **Over 75%** of transfer applicants from CCC get into UC.

Source: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/2024-06/uc-transfer-onesheet-2024.pdf>

## Streamlined transfer requirements across UC

### Junior-level transfer admission requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 60 semester/90 quarter units of UC-transferable coursework
- Earn at least a 2.40 overall GPA for California residents
  - 2.80 GPA for non-residents
- Complete the UC Seven Course Pattern
- Complete major preparation requirements (if applicable)



### Transfer Requirements:

- All transfer students must meet the transfer admissions requirement no matter the UC campus they plan to apply for.
- Students must complete the minimum unit requirement by the end of spring prior to transfer for fall admission (or by the end of fall prior to transfer for winter admission).
- Minimum GPA requirements may be higher based on campus and major
- UC Seven Course Pattern
  - 2 transferable course in English Composition
  - 1 transferable course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning
  - 4 transferable courses chosen in at least 2 of the following subject areas
    - Arts and humanities
    - Social and behavior sciences
    - Physical and biological sciences

### How is transfer admission different from first-year admission?

- Transfer students should expect to enter UC as a junior and should plan to be enrolled at a community college for approximately 2 years. Though the amount of time spent at the CCC will vary depending on a student's course load, schedule availability, and other responsibilities.
- The transfer admission process encompasses a more specific set of admissions requirements and coursework required to prepare for majors of interest compared to first year admission.
- There are more pathway programs available to prepare students for admission such as the UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) where students can guarantee their admission to a UC campus. An equivalent opportunity like TAG is not available at the first-year level.
- High school students currently participating in dual enrollment may use transferable coursework completed toward meeting transfer admission requirement and possible major preparation requirements.
- Transfer applicants are required to choose a major at the time of application. The Undeclared major option is not available for transfers.

# UC programs and support for community college transfers

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## Transfer programs and resources

### Academic resources

- UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)
- ASSIST

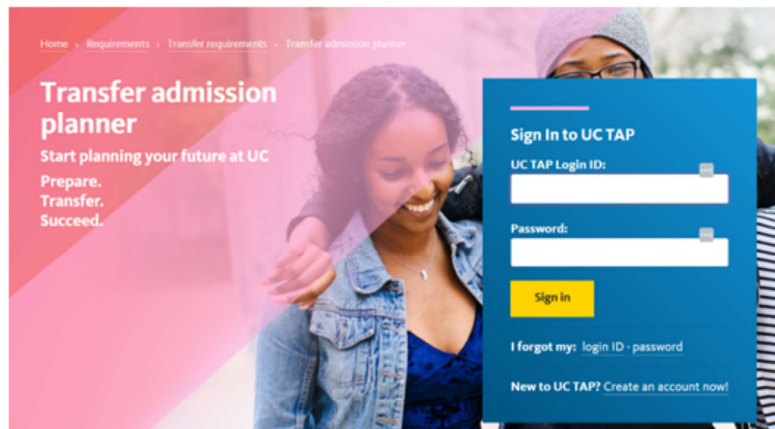
### UC transfer programs

- Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)
- UC Transfer Pathways and Pathways +
- Transfer Preparation programs



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## UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)



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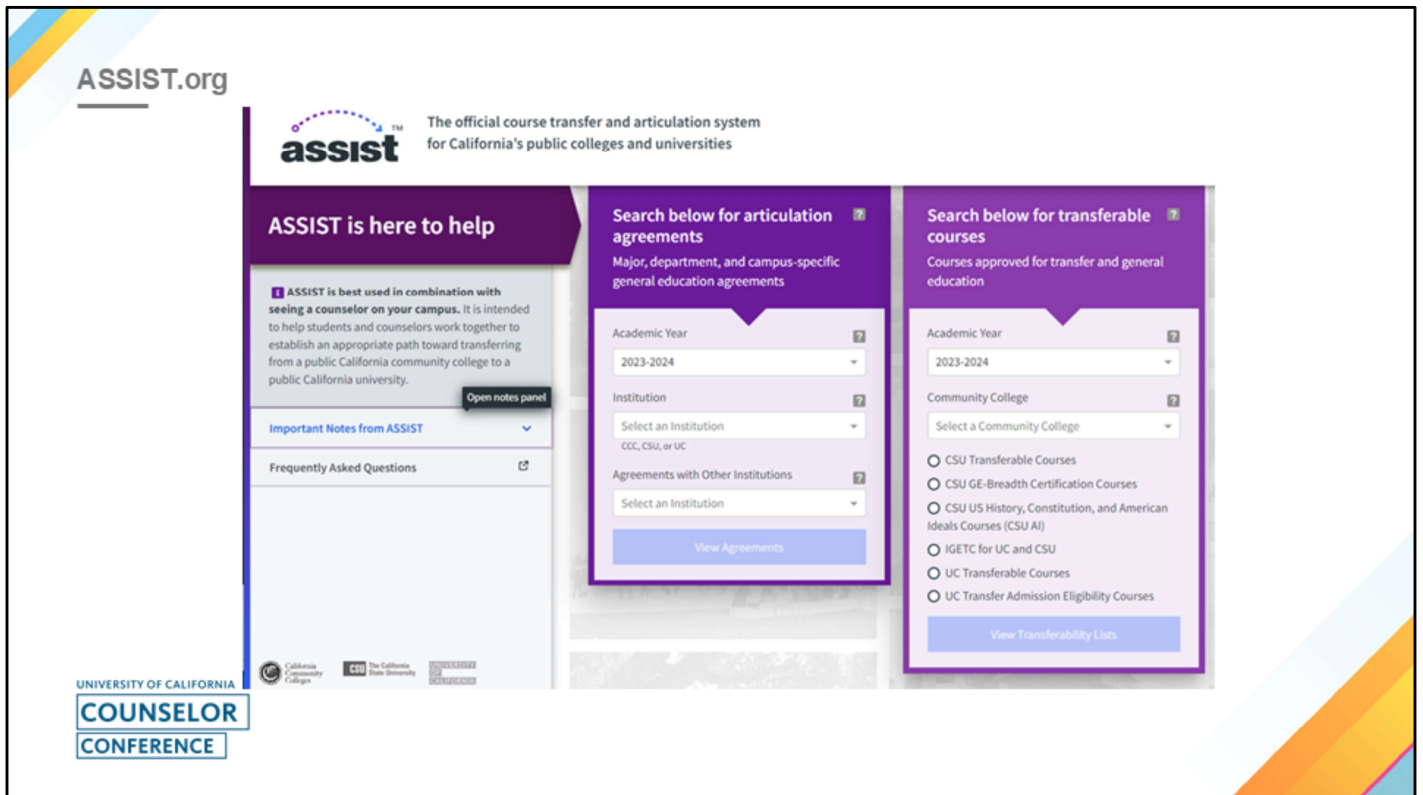
### Benefits of UC TAP

- Tracks progress towards meeting UC transfer admission requirements
- Students can import their courses to the UC application
- Allows UC and community college staff to communicate important information to prospective transfers
- Apply for Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

UC TAP: <https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students/>

The UC TAP is a free tool to help students track and plan their coursework and is used by all the UC campuses.

- Student can create a UC TAP account at any point in their transfer journey
- UC campuses will use the TAP to provide transfer advising
- CCC courses are pulled from Assist.org



Assist.org is a online resource, used to view official Transfer Credit agreements between community colleges and UC and CSU. Assist.org can also be used to view official major articulation agreements between institutions.

**Assist.org houses a few things:**

Transfer Credit Agreement (TCA):

- List of UC transferable courses student can complete across all 116 CCCs.
- Students and counselors can search which courses will also satisfy IGETC/CAIGETC as well as the UC Seven Course Pattern.

Major Articulation Agreements:

- Student and counselors can search which CCC courses will specific major requirements for admission by campus called major preparation
- View course-to-course articulation by major or by department
- View additional requirements by campus and major including GPA requirements.

## Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

### Guaranteed admission to 1 UC campus!

Student may only apply for TAG at 1 of the 6 participating campuses. Requirements vary by campus and major.

#### TAG application filing period:

September 1–30: fall term

May 1–31: winter/spring term

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TAG: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html>

TAG matrix: [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/assets/uc-tag-matrix-2024\\_2025-2.pdf](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/assets/uc-tag-matrix-2024_2025-2.pdf)

**For prospective transfer students wanting a guaranteed admissions into one of the 6 participating UC campuses, students should consider submitting a TAG application if they meet the requirements.**

- Minimum GPA, coursework, and additional deadlines will vary by campus.
- TAG is not required for admission
- TAG is separate from the UC application- however student must submit a UC application alongside their TAG application in order to be considered.

Students can only apply for TAG at one UC campus, but can apply to as many campuses as they want through the general admissions application

## Transfer Pathways and Pathways+

### Transfer Pathways

- Available for students who know which major they plan to pursue but want to keep their UC campus options open.
- Provides students with a roadmap of courses to take while at community college to prepare for their major and on-time graduation from any UC.

### Pathways+

- Combines major preparation and timely degree completion of the Transfer Pathway with the security of a transfer guarantee.

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### Transfer Pathways

#### **You have a major in mind.**

Decided on a major but want to keep your campus options open? The UC Transfer Pathway program may be right for you.

This means you take a single set of courses to get ready for your major—and you can choose from any of our nine undergraduate campuses that offer that major.

You'll get clear guidance on what classes you need to take, which hugely increases your chances of studying at a UC campus. Plus, you'll be in a great position to succeed once you get here.

Keep in mind that Pathways is designed for our most sought-after majors. That might not include yours—so please check!

10 new pathways coming soon!

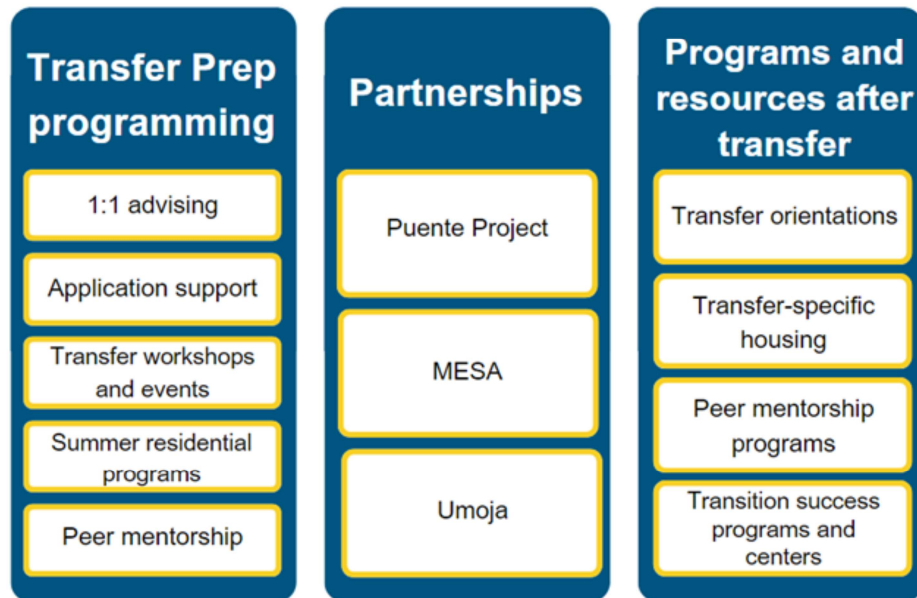
### Pathways+

#### **You picked your major, and it's included in the Transfer Pathways program. You found your campus, and it offers a TAG.**

Pathways+ is a great option if your major is covered by Pathways, and you want the freedom to explore multiple campuses while ensuring a spot at one of our six TAG campuses.

It gives you the best of both worlds: a guaranteed spot at UC, and the support you need to hit the ground running when you get here.

## Transfer support from UC



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Transfer Prep Programs support prospective transfer students from California community colleges, assists them throughout the transfer process by providing transfer programming and resources. All nine undergraduate campuses participate in Transfer Prep and provide transfer student support across the state of California. Student participation in a Transfer Prep program is free.

Support services offered through Transfer Prep include 1:1 advising, application support, transfer workshops, summer residential programs, and peer mentorship.

More information about UC Transfer Prep will be available in the Ensuring Transfer Success (ETS) conference materials.

### Puente Project:

- Offers academic, counseling, and mentoring support through a dedicated course curriculum
- Builds skills for academic and career goals
- Services 75 community colleges in California

### MESA:

- Produces transfer-ready student in preparation to advance their STEM education to 4-year institutions
- Serves 40 community colleges and 13 universities

### Umoja:

- Promotes student success through curricula and pedagogy responsive to the African and African American diaspora ([umojacommunity.org](http://umojacommunity.org))
- Services 70+ community colleges in California.

Resources available for transfer students once they transfer include transfer-specific orientations, housing, peer mentorship programs, and transition success programs and centers.

# Best practices: Creating a transfer going culture

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## Best practices: Creating a transfer going culture

### How to establish a positive transfer going culture in high school

Integrate community colleges into discussions about higher education.

Arrange for representatives from community colleges to speak with students about the opportunities available on their campuses.

Involve prospective community college students in campus festivities.

Host workshops that cover transfer admission requirements and the transfer process.

Engage parents in discussions about the transfer pathway.

Encourage high school students to enroll in dual enrollment courses.



**Integrate community colleges into discussions about higher education:** Provide individualized counseling sessions where counselors discuss community college options with students based on their academic performance, career goals, and financial considerations. This ensures that students receive tailored advice that considers their unique situations.

**Host workshops that cover transfer admission requirements and the transfer process:** Organize sessions specifically focused on community colleges, admissions criteria, transfer options, and career outcomes.

**Arrange for representatives from community colleges to speak with students about the opportunities available on their campuses:** Arranging for representatives from community colleges to speak with high school students about the opportunities available on their campuses can significantly enhance students understanding and consideration of transfer options.

**Engage parents in discussions about the transfer pathway:** Engaging parents in discussions about the transfer pathway is crucial as they play a significant role in supporting their children's educational decisions. Highlight the benefits of the transfer pathway, such as cost savings, academic flexibility, and potential career opportunities. Address common misconceptions or concerns parents may have about transferring from a community college to a four-year institution.

**Involve prospective community college students in campus festivities:** Celebrating students who choose to attend a community college over a university is an important way for high school counselors to recognize and validate diverse educational pathways. Include prospective community college students in "admit day/decision day" or similar end of the year celebrations

**Encourage high school students to enroll in dual enrollment courses:** Encouraging high school students to enroll in dual enrollment courses is a great strategy to promote community college and prepare students for their future educational endeavors.

## Best practices: Using transfer inclusive language

Affirm  
college  
choice and  
path

Highlight  
benefits and  
opportunities

Use  
empowering  
language

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### **Affirming choices and paths**

- "Community colleges offer excellent opportunities for growth and academic success."
- "It's great that you're considering community college. Many students find it to be great option for their academic endeavors."

### **Highlighting benefits and opportunities**

- "Community colleges offer flexible scheduling and a variety of programs to meet diverse needs."
- "Community college provides a strong foundation for your academic and career goals."

### **Empowering language**

- "You can build a strong academic foundation at a community college and transfer to a university if that aligns with your plans."

Additional notes: Stay away from saying "four years" when referring to higher education. For example, "the next few years in college are going to be so exciting" vs. "The next four years are going to be so exciting"



## Resources

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### Transfer Pathways

[admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways)

### Pathways+

[admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways)

### UC TAP

[uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students](https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students)

### TAG

[admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html)

### ASSIST

[assist.org](https://assist.org)



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# Questions?

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