UC High School Counselor Conference

September 2024

COUNSELOR

I am Angelica Moore, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the UC Office of the President. We are delighted to have all of you join us today. For 30 years, UC has enjoyed hosting this conference to ensure you receive information on admission requirements as well as **practical tools** for helping your students be competitive for UC admissions.

Before we dive into the conference sessions, we would like to take a moment to express appreciation for YOU and the rigorous work you do in supporting your students and helping them navigate the admissions environment. An environment that has been quite volatile these past several years,.. recent discord over standardized tests in admissions with some universities reversing policy, the Supreme Court ruling against race-conscious admissions which continues to gain steam, and most recent, the rollout of a new, simplified FAFSA, a rollout that, ironically enough, was **not** simple, and impacted our most vulnerable communities.

Still...The University of California acknowledges the acute need (and renews its commitment) to remove barriers to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of talented students who reflect the fabric of California and the world.

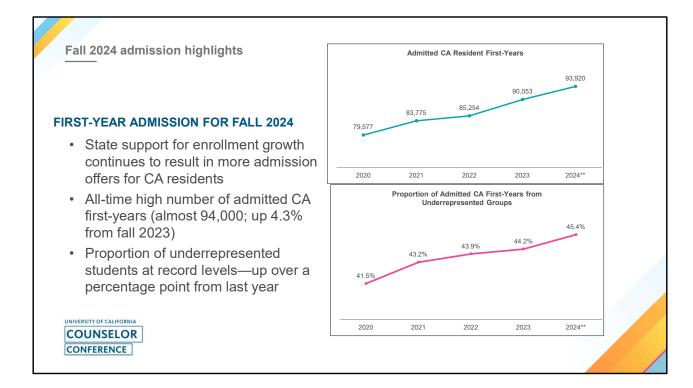
Our work is even more imperative today than ever before, and your partnership with the University of California is both vital and appreciated.

THANK YOU!

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



And now I will move into offering the UCOP systemwide update and our campuses will follow each with their respective updates starting with Berkeley.



Let's start with some systemwide admission highlights.

UC admitted a record 93,920 California first-year students for fall 2024, a 4.3% increase from this past year's 90,053 total. This growth is made possible by a large and highly qualified pool of California students, and critical state funding for enrollment growth.

California students offered first-year admission are also more diverse this year. Students from underrepresented groups increased to 45.4% of admitted California first year students. In raw numbers (42,599), up 2,772 from last year. This year, Latino/Latina students again make up the largest ethnic group among California admitted first-year students at 38.6% (36,280), up from 33,993 last year. African American students increased from 5.6% of admitted students in 2023 to 5.9% this year. [Note: in terms of numbers, African American admits increased almost 10%, by just about 500 students.] Native American students remained flat at 0.6% of admits.



I know that many of you have heard in the news that some colleges and universities around the country are moving back to requiring the SAT or ACT for admission and you may be curious about what UC's plans are in this regard.

Test-free policy

UC BOARD OF REGENTS ...

- Eliminated use of SAT/ACT tests in admissions.
- Tasked the faculty with exploring other standardized test options.
- Has <u>no plans</u> to reverse the test-free policy in the foreseeable future.





I want to let you know that UC has no plans to reverse the test-free policy in the foreseeable future.

It's important to remember the background of how UC became test-free:

- •The UC Regents eliminated the use of standardized tests in admissions in the spring of 2020.
- Part of that decision included a directive for a feasibility study, to explore whether a different test could be identified or created.
- •In 2021, the Regents accepted the recommendation of two study groups that a new test could not be created and that existing tests like the Smarter Balanced Assessment were not appropriate to use in Admissions.
- •And so, here we are, with our current policy of not considering standardized test scores when making admissions decisions.

This doesn't mean that UC is not thinking about this issue!

We are monitoring student outcomes to see if there are any substantial changes or differences in our pools of admitted and enrolled students, and in how students are performing at UC. Thus far, we have not found evidence that the move to test-free admissions has had a substantial impact on our admissions and academic performance outcomes.

First-year outcomes

Table 11: First Term and First Year Academic Performance of California Freshmen Universitywide

Year of First Term	Enrolled Students	First Term Average GPA	First Term Probation Rate	First Term Persistence Rate	First Year Average GPA	First Year Probation Rate	First Year Persistence Rate
2018	35,878	3.19	6.4%	98.2%	3.15	4.86%	93.0%
2019	35,514	3.21	6.4%	98.3%	3.34	3.10%	93.7%
2020	37,242	3.44	3.9%	97.7%	3.36	4.68%	92.7%
2021	39,037	3.29	6.6%	97.8%	3.25	5.96%	92.1%
2022	39,080	3.34	5.4%	98.0%	3.29	4.89%	93.2%

Source: UC Data Warehouse Undergraduate Enrollment and Longitudinal data. Probation rate = share with GPA < 2.00. First year probation rate excludes students who left before the end of the first year.

- First test-free cohort (2021)
- No noticeable declines in first-year average GPA and first-year persistence rates
- Lack of test scores, more P/NP grades in the GPA, and pandemic learning loss did not significantly impact outcomes
- Graduation data for 2021 cohort will not be available for another couple of years



On this slide, you will see just some of the data points that UC is monitoring.

- Thus far, we have not found evidence that the move to test-free admissions has had a substantial impact on our admissions and academic performance outcomes.
- Data for the first two cohorts of students admitted under the test-free admissions policy (fall 2021 and 2022 enrollees) show that these classes are similar to previous cohorts on key indicators, in particular their first-year GPA and their likelihood of returning for their second year.
- As a reminder, while these students were the first admitted without standardized tests, they
 were also substantially impacted by the effects of the pandemic—they had more classes
 graded Pass/No Pass, which affects their GPA, and research is emerging nationwide as to
 the longer-term effects of pandemic learning loss on this cohort. So, it is difficult, if not
 impossible, to separate out all these factors when assessing UC's test-free admissions
 policy.

So, again, while UC is not planning to make any change in the foreseeable future, it **is** something that we will continue to monitor and evaluate.

[Data Source: BOARS Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements and Comprehensive Review (published June 2024).

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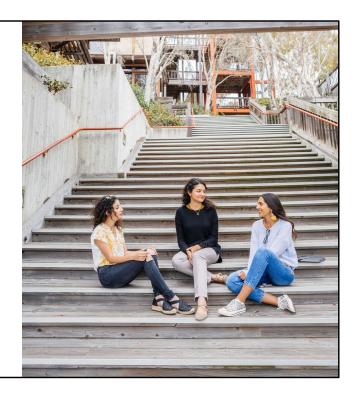
Application and systemwide updates



Fall 2025 application changes

- Terminology: The term "freshman/ freshmen" has been replaced by "first-year" throughout the UC application.
- Scholarships and support programs:
 Applicants can indicate interest in
 UC's Foster Youth Programs, along with the Educational Opportunity
 Program (EOP)





I want to highlight some changes to the the fall 2025 application.

The first is that the term "freshman/freshmen" has been replaced by "first-year." You will see the "first-year" term used on some of our campuses' admission websites and materials, too.

The second change is that within the scholarships and support programs section of the application, students can now indicate interest in UC's Foster Youth Programs along with the Educational Opportunity Program (or EOP).

CCGI integration

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE GUIDANCE INITIATIVE (CCGI)

- Students in partner districts can launch the UC application from californiacolleges.edu.
- Students will be able to import high school courses directly from <u>californiacolleges.edu</u>.

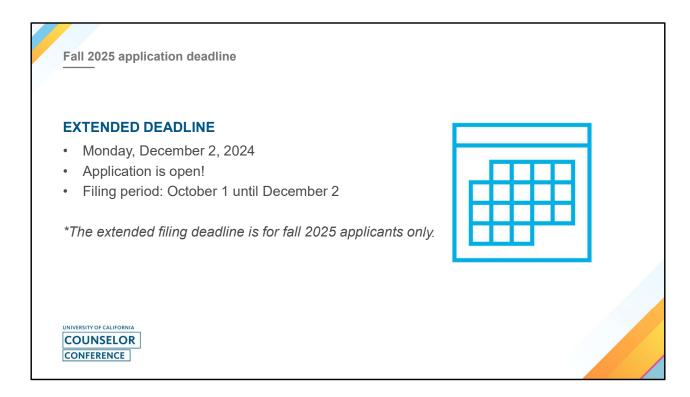




Finally, the biggest update for the fall 2025 cycle is the integration of CCGI with the UC application.

CCGI, or the California College Guidance Initiative, is currently working with partner districts throughout the state. Students in those partner districts have access to an academic planner where they can enter their completed and planned high school coursework. This allows them to track their eligibility for UC **and** CSU. They can also launch the UC application directly from that website instead of going to our Admissions site to find the link.

And, students who have used the academic planner can import their high school courses directly from californiacolleges.edu into the UC application. This should make applying easier for students and will hopefully make the academic information we receive even more accurate.



For the fall 2025 cycle only, the application submission deadline is **Monday, December 2** since the Thanksgiving holiday falls on November 28 this year. The application is open now so please encourage your students to start working on their applications. They can file the application anytime between October 1 and December 2, 2024.

Advanced Placement (AP) update

AP AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

- Beginning May 2025, 4 quarter/2.6 semester units will be awarded for exam scores of 3, 4, and 5.
- Score of 3, 4, and 5 will clear the oneyear U.S. History requirement for Area A.

AP PRECALCULUS

- No credit for the AP Precalculus exam
- Score of 4 or 5 will validate Algebra II/Math III (both omission and deficient grades), meet a fourth year of math in Area C, and meet one year of Area G



Another area that we'd like to update you on is the new AP exams—AP African American Studies and AP Precalculus --- and how UC will treat them.

Beginning in May 2025, UC will award 4 quarter (or 2.6 semester units) to students earning a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP African American Studies exam. These scores will also clear UC's one-year **U.S.** History requirement for Area A within the A-G subject requirements.

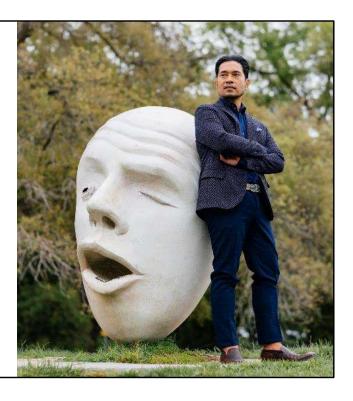
For the AP Precalculus exam, UC **will not** award credit for a passing score on the exam. However, a score of 4 or 5 will both **validate** Algebra II/Integrated Math III (both omission of and deficient grades) **and** meet a fourth year of math in Area C, and one year of college-prep elective in Area G, within the A-G subject requirements.

Area C (math) updates

BEGINNING FALL 2025 (AY 2025-26):

- No changes to Area C requirement
- New math disciplines
- Changes to validation rules





Now we turn to an update that is on the minds of many! How is UC going to treat math in the first-year admissions process?

This past year, a faculty workgroup was convened to review the math admissions requirement. Though they did have various suggestions for Area C, most importantly, they did not recommend any changes to the minimum math admissions requirement. UC will continue to require three foundational years of math coursework that include the topics covered in elementary algebra, two-and-three-dimensional geometry, and advanced algebra (typically Algebra I-Geometry-Algebra II, or Math I-II-III series). A fourth year of math is recommended for all students.

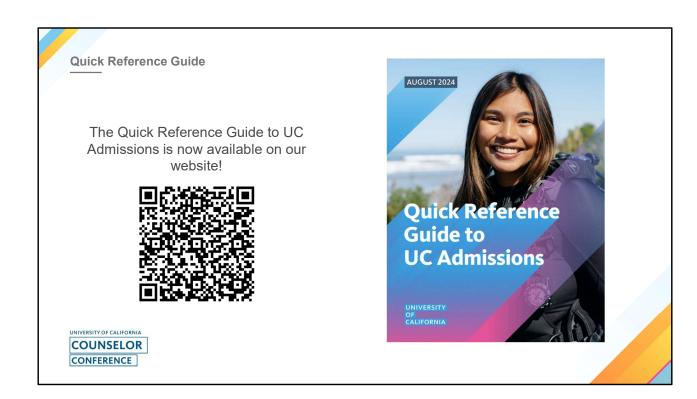
The changes they did propose, and which will be implemented in academic year 2025-26 include:

- Adding new disciplines to distinguish between courses that can and cannot substitute for (or validate) Algebra II/Math III
- No longer allowing Statistics and Data Science courses to validate Algebra II/Math III
- And recommending that students choose math courses that align with their college and career goals, or that give them the broadest range of options when they enter UC

Another faculty committee also decided to eliminate the option to validate deficient grades in Geometry, also effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

For more in-depth information about the Area C faculty workgroup recommendations and the upcoming changes to validation, please plan to attend today's session in workshop block B titled, "Validate that!"





If you have follow-up questions, please consult these resources:

The Quick Reference Guide (2024) has been posted online and is available for your access. Remember that *Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions* is a comprehensive publication covering first-year, transfer, and international admission policies, requirements and selection practices in one place – please bookmark it!

Link to counselor website: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

Additional resources

- Counselors website and Resource Library
- Counselors and Advisors Bulletin
- HS webinar series
 - Monthly on select Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

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





admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors

Counselors website and Resource library

Counselors and Advisors Bulletin (CAB) – please subscribe

HS webinar series

Monthly on select Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

And if there are still questions, we're here to help!

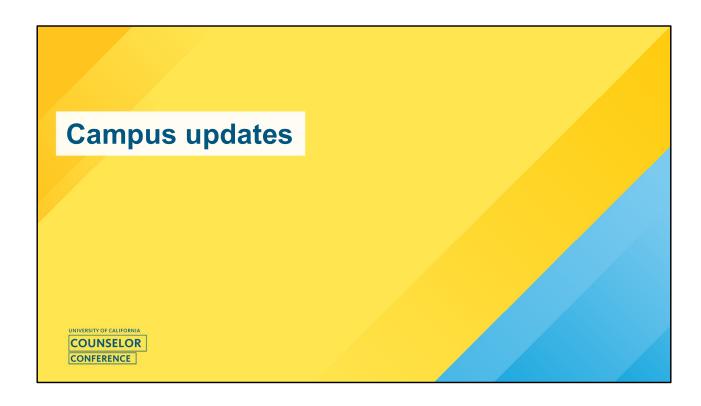
<u>AskUC@ucop.edu</u> for systemwide admission policy questions. Campus specific questions should be sent to the campuses.

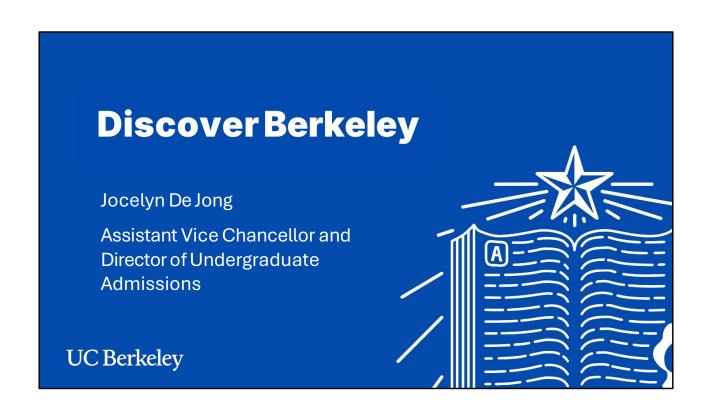
Counselor site: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

Sign up for the CAB or view archived newsletters:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/connect-to-resources/counselors-and-advisers-bulletin.html

HS webinars: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/events/high-school-webinars.html





By the numbers



UC Berkeley

124,246 first-year applicants					
13,710	11%				
admits	admit rate				
7,852	26 waitlist				
waitlist opt-ins	admits				
3.89-4.00	4.31-4.65				
middle 50% admit	middle 50% admit GPA				
GPA (unweighted)	(weighted)				

6,212 expected enrollment

Academic program updates

NEW: Neuroscience major **Israel Studies** minor

Other:

- Operations Research and Management Science is now
 - **Analytics**
- Nutrition & Metabolic Biology

Reminders:

L&S High demand majors Haas School of Business

UC Berkeley



The Dietetics, Physiology & Metabolism, and Toxicology will be consolidated into one major focus.

Campus highlights

- New chancellor
- Housing is guaranteed for first-year students who apply by the May 2 priority date
- Berkeley Discovery Hub



UC Berkeley

Stay connected

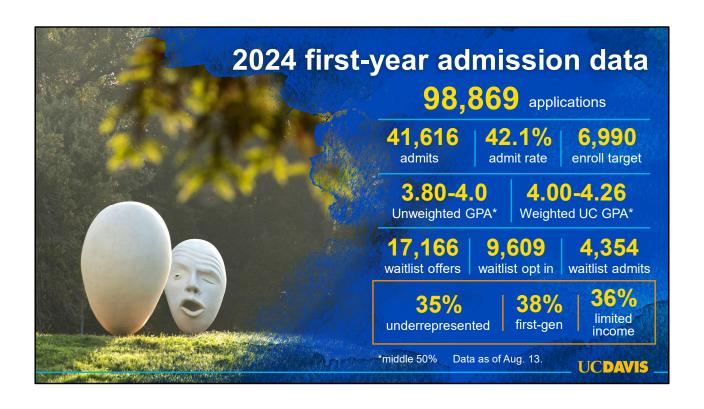
- Visit
 - o Berkeley Showcase Nov 2, 2024
 - o Group tours
- Connect with us
 - o Find your admissions officer
 - Sign up for the counselor newsletter
 - o Join Slate.org



UC Berkeley

Counselor newsletter link: https://apply.berkeley.edu/register/counselor





New Bachelor of Science in Business

- Offered by the Graduate
 School of Management
- Open to the incoming first-years for fall 2025



Learn more about the Business major:

gsm.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate /business-major

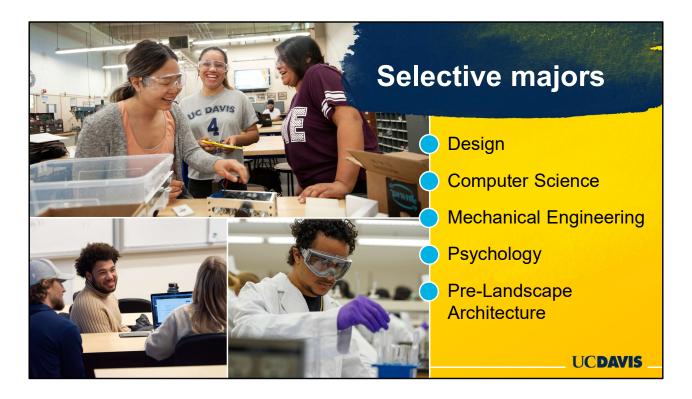


UCDAVIS

Next fall, UC Davis launches a new Business major!

If your students have already started a UC application, they'll see that this fall we'll be accepting applications for first-year students for the new UC Davis Bachelor of Science in Business—giving students multiple pathways into the business and finance world. The new degree offers a core foundation anchored in math, statistics and economics, leveraging the strengths of our already existing programs in Economics and Managerial Economics. Business majors, however, will have the option to choose to specialize in accounting, finance, marketing and business analytics, or management and strategy.

We expect this major to be very popular very quickly, and in terms of number of incoming students, it will also be one of the larger majors very quickly. We expect to enroll about 175 first-year students each year, followed by 75 transfers beginning in fall 2027. Students who are not admitted to the major as a first-year or transfer student will have the option to declare the major, though access will be limited to just 50 students per year—so if a student is specifically interested in this major, we recommend applying directly. We also highly recommend an alternate major—managerial economics or economics would be highly recommended if those majors interest them.



The College of Engineering is our most selective college on campus, followed by Letters & Science, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and Biological Sciences. Counselors often ask about our most selective majors, and so we've put them on the screen here. The three in the middle might not surprise you—CS and MechE are two of the most selective majors on our campuses. But Design and Psychology both have a sub-25% admit rate. In fact, Design was our most selective major this year with an admission rate just under 15 percent—something to keep in mind as you advise students. We certainly don't want students to base their decisions on whether or not a program is selective, but we do want them to consider the full range of opportunities on our campuses. For example, students might consider Math and Scientific Computation as an alternative to Data Science if their interests align.



- UC Davis Coffee Center opened May 2024
 - A part of the College of Engineering, is the first academic research and teaching facility in the U.S. entirely dedicated to the study of coffee.
 - 7,000-square-foot facility includes brewing laboratories, a chemical and analytical laboratory, and a pilot roastery
- Writing Center launches
 - The new UC Davis Writing Center offers university-wide writing services for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff. One-on-one consultations, workshops, application guidance, writing groups and resources are all available at this writing hub.
- New student housing under construction
 - We plan to break ground on a new on-campus residence hall next spring. Last fall, we opened a new apartment complex for students with families.
 - UC Davis is committed to a goal of housing 48% of Davis-based students on campus. By doing so, we help accommodate demand in the City of Davis overall. Currently, we house on campus about 38%, or 15,000 students.
 - We have a one-year housing guarantee for new first-year and transfer students. We also offer second-year housing programs. Student Housing and Dining strives to provide housing or connect students to housing resources year-round.



Fall 2024 UC Irvine First-Year Admissions Recap						
Applications	122,700					
Admits	35,298					
Admit Rate	28.77%					
Projected Enrollment	7,219					
Waitlist Offers	18,691					
Waitlist Admits	6,313					
Appeals	1,426					
Appeal admits	26					
Regent Scholarship Offers	1090					

Admitted CA First-Year Profile

Weighted Median GPA 4.18
Weighted 25-75% GPA 4.04 – 4.27
Unweighted Median GPA 3.94
Unweighted 25-75% GPA 3.83 – 4.00

CA Resident Admit Highlights

1,562 California high schools represented8.37% increase in California resident admits19% identify as first-generation students

19% qualify as low-income

UC Irvine

TOP 10 APPLIED-TO MAJORS

- · UC Irvine admits to major
- 55% of first-year applicants applied to 10 majors:
 - · Biological Sciences
 - · Business Administration
 - Computer Science
 - · Nursing Science
 - · Psychology, B.S.
 - Undergraduate/Undeclared
 - · Mechanical Engineering
 - Criminology, Law & Society
 - Political Science
 - · Computer Science and Engineering



- Applicants are admitted to UC Irvine by major, and more than half of first-year applicants applied to only 10 of our more than 85 majors.
- Students applying to highly-competitive majors may be redirected to the Undergraduate/Undeclared major upon admission if they are a competitive applicant, regardless of whether they selected UU as an alternate major. Students admitted to Undergraduate/Undeclared can work with their advisor to determine a plan to reach their educational goals once enrolled. Students should *not* apply to less-competitive majors with the expectation of changing majors to a more competitive program or school as their change of major request is dependent upon space available and thus not guaranteed.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

- · NEW Major: Applied & Computational Mathematics, School of Physical Sciences
- School of Law 3+3 Programs
 - Partnership between five undergraduate schools and UC Irvine School of Law to create expedited pathway for highachieving 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
- Psychology refresher...
 - Psychological Science, B.A. foundation to pursue graduate work in the areas of public health, health services, human resources, social work, counseling, law, education and related fields
 - · Psychology, B.S. focuses on study of the mind and brain, incorporating biological sciences, chemistry, and physics
 - Cognitive Science, B.S. preparation for research career, focusing on any of the current approaches of the field such as cognitive neuroscience, behavioral experiments, language science, or computational and mathematical modeling
- School of Art portfolios and auditions:
 - Music and Dance applicants are required to complete auditions prior to admission
 - Art applicants are required to submit a digital portfolio prior to admission
 - Drama applicants will have the option to submit a portfolio showcasing their creative talent beginning with the Fall 2024 application cycle. The Drama portfolio is not required.
 - All applicants must first meet UCI's admission standards to be considered for admission to the university
- The 3+3 Honors Collegium Law Program is designed to significantly reduce the cost of education for qualified students and provide an expedited pathway for high-achieving CHC students to obtain both undergraduate and J.D. degrees within six years, rather than the traditional seven.
 - To be eligible for the 3+3 Program, students must be CHC students who are on track to fulfill all their undergraduate degree requirements and CHC requirements by the end of their third year. Throughout their tenure at UCI Law, students enrolled in the 3+3 Program will be recognized as Honors Collegium Law Scholars.
 - Successful applicants admitted to UCI Law through this program will benefit from scholarship assistance, including a \$30,000 scholarship to help cover tuition and fees at UCI Law. Additionally, participants will receive mentorship through a structured mentor program.

CAMPUS NEWS

- Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health
- Mesa Court Expansion for first year housing community
 - 400 additional bed spaces
 - Scheduled to be completed Fall 2025
 - Two years of on-campus housing are guaranteed to students who meet housing deadlines
- Sue & Bill Gross Nursing & Health Sciences Hall
 - 9-acre complex for patient care, training, and research
- \$50 million gift to the Charlie Dunlop School for Biological Sciences to support academic and research activities



THE IRVINE EXPERIENCE

Discover UCI

Saturday, October 19

Prospective students and their families are invited to join us for our oncampus fall preview day featuring campus tours, application sessions, and more!



Virtual Events

Ongoing through November

Prospective students are encouraged to join us for one or more of our virtual event offerings ranging from application overviews to tips on choosing a major, student panels, academic program spotlights and more.







FALL 2024 ADMISSION RECAP

First-Year Admission Data











6,625 admit rate | enroll target



9,198 15,023 waitlist waitlist offers

1,224 waitlist opt-ins admits

1,962 5 appeals appeal

received admit

Academic Statistics for Admits

NWEIGHTED GPA

3.95 average

GPA GPA

4.22

HL/CL/AP/IB

26 Avg # Sem (gr 10-12)

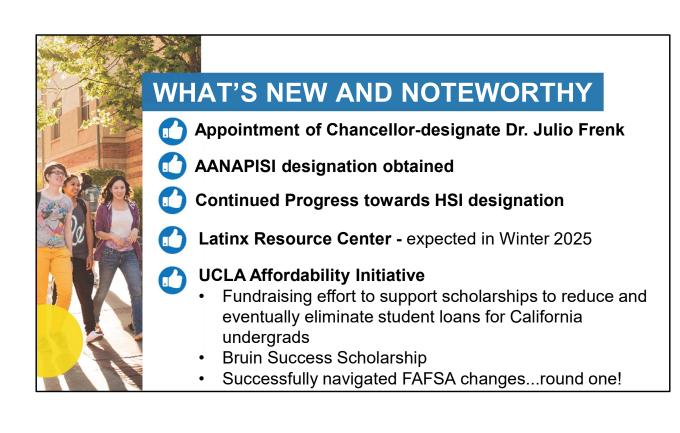
(data as of 8/20/2024)



ADMISSION DECISIONS BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL

			1000	
		Apps	Admits	Admit Rate
Total First-Years		146,275	13,166	9%
Letters & Science		97,109	10,683	11%
E	ngineering	35,057	1,876	5%
Theater, Film & TV		3,685	138	4%
Arts & Architecture		3,540	196	5%
	Music	1,094	218	20%
	Nursing	5,790	55	1%

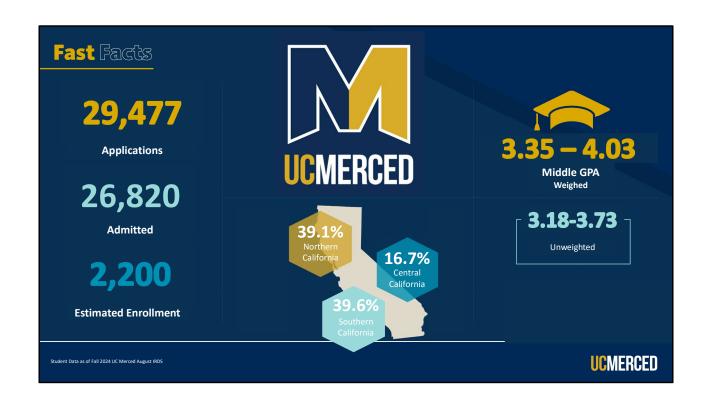












81%

48%

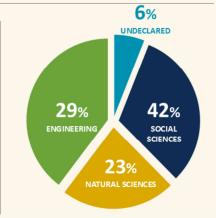
FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATES

43%
PELL GRANT-ELIGIBLE

UNDERGRADUATES ADMITS

BY THE NUMBERS

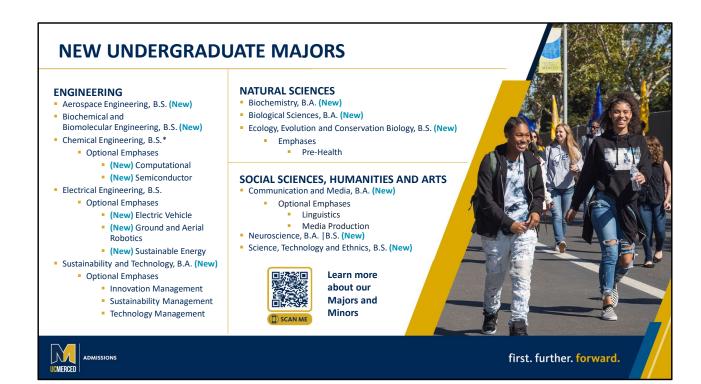
5000



TOP 5 MAJORS BY APPLICATIONS

- Biological Sciences
- Management and Business Economics
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Psychology
- Public Health

















In a first-of-its-kind partnership with the Riverside Community College District the North District Phase 2 project will add 1,568 new beds in two apartment-style buildings that open summer 2025

Construction has begun on the New Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Facility, a 100,700-square-foot building that will provide classroom space focusing on lower-division breadth requirement courses. Opening summer 2026.

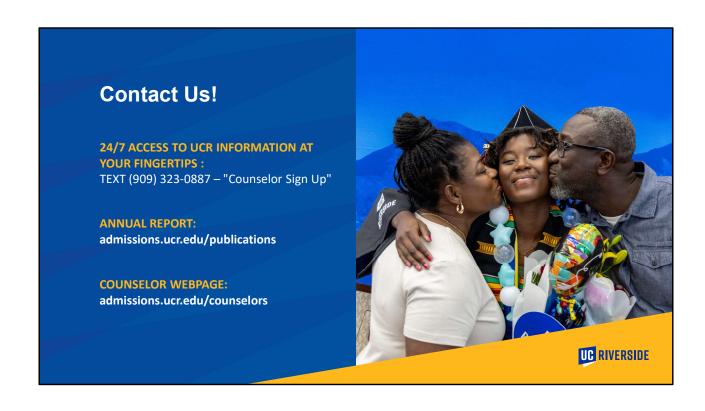
A new, two-story, state-of-the-art Health and Counseling Center opened in 2024 and offers integrated and holistic care in a welcoming and student-centered environment.

The new 63,400 square foot School of Business building provides increased space and modern facilities to meet UCR's growing enrollment demands.

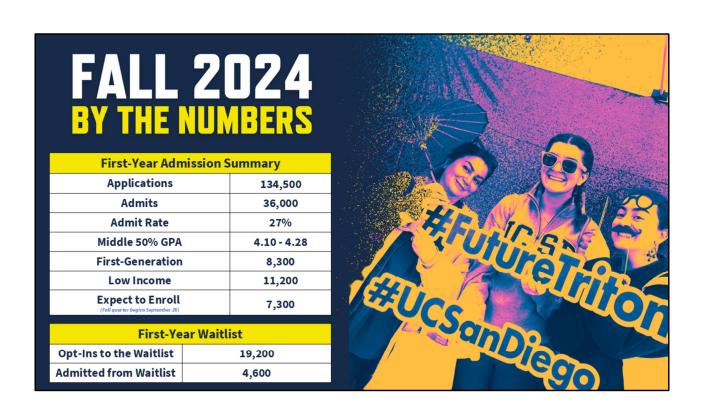
Eco-Friendly Campus Initiatives: UCR is committed to sustainability, with ongoing projects like solar energy installations and a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2045. Students interested in environmental issues will find a campus dedicated to green practices.

Expanded Tutoring and Academic Support: UCR has enhanced its Academic Resource Center (ARC), offering more tutoring, study skills workshops, and online support. The expanded services ensure that students have access to the resources they need to excel academically.









160+ MAJORS, 8 ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

SELECTIVE MAJORS

- Biological Sciences
- Data Science
- Engineering all majors
- Public Health

Select an alternate major if first choice is listed above.

admissions.ucsd.edu/majors

TOP 10

Best Drama Schools in the World
- Hollywood Reporter, 2024

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NEW MAJORS

- Artificial Intelligence, B.S.
- Cinematic Arts, B.A.
- Literary Arts, B.A.
- Media Industries and Communication, B.A.
- Structural Engineering specializations:
- Aerospace Structures, B.S.
- Civil Structures, B.S.
- Geotechnical Engineering, B.S.
- Structural Health Monitoring/NonDestructive Evaluation, B.S.









Campus Updates

Changes to Majors (Fall 2025)

- Molecular & Cellular Biology
 - Emphases redefined
- Music B.M streamlined
- Earth Science

First year success

- Launched a STEM support program | UCSB MAX
- First-generation programming

Housing

- First year guaranteed in the residence halls
- About 80% of students live within a mile of campus

Diversity Initiatives

- New Guardian Scholar space opens this fall!
- HSI Director
- Expanded our Undocumented Student Services



Counselor Resources

- Meet and connect with your UCSB Admissions Counselor
- Join our Counselor Mailing List & read our monthly newsletters
- Join counselor webinars/chats, and/or watch the videos on our Counselor Resource playlist
- Share our UC Application Playlist (In English & y Español)
- Group visit registration
- Sign up to become an admissions reader!



Fall 2024 Freshman Data

	Freshman	Admit
Applicants	110,256	33%
	Applicants	Admits
Creative Studies (CCS)	2,218	255 11%
Engineering (COE)	22,038	3,904 18%
Letters & Science (L&S)	86,000	32,246 37%
GPA (UC GPA capped)	Unweighted	Weighted
	3.91	4.19

College Review:

CCS: Supplemental
application & faculty review
COE: Math review as we
admit into the major
L&S: Major is not a factor
except for Music & Dance

Waitlist:

Offers: 15,985 Opt-In: 10,641 Admitted: 8,747

UC SANTA BARBARA



Social Media and Application Support:

We're proud to once again showcase the UC application playlist. The fall 2025 application playlist is live on YouTube and is available to you and your families in English and Spanish! We welcome any feedback or requests for additional tutorials.

UCSB Playlists - https://youtube.com/ucsb4me Email suggestions: admissions@ucsb.edu







NEW Housing Updates

FAMILY STUDENT HOUSING

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







DELAWARE AVENUE PROJECT

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



Family Student Housing

The new family student housing community is being built across the street from existing employee housing, close to a local elementary school, and near the main campus entrance. In addition to the housing buildings, the site will include a community center and garden, an early education center, a maintenance building, and a wastewater treatment facility that are all designed to meet LEED Silver certification.

Delaware Avenue Project

The housing development on Delaware Avenue is just a few miles from the residential campus with excellent access to existing Metro and campus transit routes, as well as the Coastal Rail Trail. It is also near several other UC Santa Cruz facilities, including the Coastal Science Campus, the Westside Research Park, and the Institute of the Arts and Sciences.







STUDENT ORG SPOTLIGHT

The African American Theater Arts Troupe (AATAT) is student-led group that produces plays, workshops, and events that highlight African American experiences and contribute to the broader cultural discourse on campus.



Faculty Spotlight

Samantha Gorman is the co-director/founder of Tender Claws, a game, art and tech studio that walks the line between art, innovation, and entertainment. She specializes in writing for interactive media and performance/theater across genres including expanded cinema, games and virtual reality. She joined our campus in 2023 as an Assistant Teaching Professor of Computational Media in the Basking School of Engineering.

Student Org Spotlight

AATAT not only casts UCSC students from different educational backgrounds, but also casts students that have little or no experience with acting, technical, and administrative work. This allows anyone the opportunity to get involved with the program. AATAT is the only African American Theater Arts Troupe in the entire UC System. In addition to programming, AATAT offers four major scholarships through the African American Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to the most outstanding students.





