

Navigating myths and realities in the UC transfer admissions process

Debunking common myths and misconceptions about the UC transfer admission process

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Students with GPAs below 3.5 cannot be admitted to a UC campus.

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MYTH

- While a high GPA improves a student's chances of admission, we need to remember that UC also considers other factors, such as major preparation, early completion of English and Math, and personal circumstances.

CCC students are given priority in admission over other transfer applicants.

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REALITY

- **Priority in admission:** UC campuses prioritize CCC students when reviewing transfer applications because of UC's mission to support California's public higher education system and facilitate the transfer pathway from community colleges.
- **Policy:** This priority is part of UC's commitment to making higher education accessible to California residents and ensuring a smooth transfer process from community colleges to UC campuses.
- **Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG):** CCC students benefit from programs like TAG, which provide a guaranteed admission pathway to certain UC campuses if they meet specific criteria.

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MYTH

- While there are fewer transfer students seeking admission to UC when compared to first-year application numbers, the transfer pathway requires careful planning and preparation.
- Academic and major preparation play a significant role in a transfer applicant's review and admission decision, whereas for first-year applicants, major selection may only play a role for certain highly selective majors.
- Depending on a student's intended major, there may be specific coursework required and a recommended GPA that is much higher than the minimum required for admission (2.4).

All UC campuses have the same transfer requirements but not the same selection criteria.

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REALITY

- All UC campuses have the same transfer requirements, including the 7-course pattern and a minimum GPA.
- Selection criteria, however, will vary by campus and major.
 - For instance, some campuses may require all major prerequisites be completed for selection, while others may require no specific major preparation at all.

UC only allows junior-level transfers.

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MYTH

- The University of California (UC) primarily focuses on accepting junior-level transfers, but some campuses may consider lower-division or even senior-level transfers.
 - **CONSIDERATIONS:** It's essential for prospective lower-division or senior transfer students to check directly with the specific UC campus and the desired major for the most current policies and requirements.

**It's impossible to transfer to UC as a junior
with just two years at a CCC.**

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MYTH

Factors that influence transfer time:

- 1. Course load:** Students who take a full course load each semester (typically 15-16 units) and possibly additional courses during summer sessions can accumulate the necessary 60 semester units (or 90 quarter units) in two years or less.
- 2. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) credits:** Students who enter community college with AP or IB credits can reduce the number of courses they need to take, potentially allowing them to transfer sooner.
- 3. Dedicated Planning:** Working closely with academic counselors to plan out an efficient course schedule can help students stay on track for transferring in two years.

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MYTH

IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum):

- IGETC is **not mandatory**, especially if a student is transferring into a major requiring specific lower-division coursework outside of general education. Depending on the campus and major, partial IGETC may be an option.

Campus and major-specific requirements:

- Some UC campuses or specific majors may prefer or require students to complete major-preparation courses rather than focus on GE requirements. For example, STEM majors often have specific prerequisites that should be prioritized over GE courses.

TAG guarantees admission to a participating UC campus, but not to a specific major.

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MYTH

- TAG provides eligible CCC students with guaranteed admission to one of six participating UC campuses: UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz.
- The guarantee is for **both** the campus and the major or pre-major.
- Students must complete the TAG requirements to qualify for the guarantee.

Students can submit a TAG to only one campus.

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REALITY

- Students cannot secure a guarantee to more than one participating campus and major, so they should select the campus they're most interested in or for which they have met the TAG criteria.
- However, students can apply for admission without a guarantee to any of the other UC campuses.
- If admitted to other campuses, students are not obligated to enroll at the TAG campus.

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MYTH

- STEM majors are extremely popular and often highly-selective at UC.
- Most campuses will not allow transfer students to switch to a highly-selective major after admission if they didn't apply directly to that major.
- If students are interested in a STEM major, they should complete the major prerequisites and apply directly to the major, because the chances of switching to a STEM major after admission are very slim.

Students are not held to required major preparation courses if their CCC does not offer them.

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MYTH

- Required major preparation courses are required for all transfer applicants to that major, regardless if a student's CCC offers that course.
- If a student's CCC does not offer required major preparation courses, the student will need to seek out that course at another CCC.
- Required vs. recommended major prep coursework will vary depending on the campus and intended major. Not every major has required major prep.

**The UC application filing period for fall 2025
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REALITY

- Although the UC application for fall 2025 opened on August 1, 2024, students cannot submit the application until October 1 at the earliest.
- For fall 2025 applicants only, the application deadline is December 2, 2024.

Thank You