

Why Transfer Pathways?

Access to many UCs with uniform major preparation

September 2025

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



California
Community
Colleges

UC transfer pathways

Developed in 2015, the UC Transfer Pathways identified common major preparation for many of UC's most sought-after majors.

- It's a simplified transfer plan; each Transfer Pathway has a set list of course expectations
- Best for students that know **what** they want to study but may not have identified a campus or want to apply broadly across the system
- Transfer Pathways prepares the student to be successful at UC
- Uniform major preparation



UC introduced 10 new Transfer Pathways!

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



Uniform major prep: This plan is a one stop shop to ensure major course requirements are met for all UC's that have that major. It shows all the applicable majors across the system.

These pathways are set at the highest level of selection; no campus may require more, but some can require less, but by fully completing the pathway, students would be as prepared to transfer and graduate in a timely manner.

CCC students who complete Pathway course requirements and admission eligibility courses with a satisfactory GPA would be well-prepared for junior-level transfer to any UC campus in that major.

UC transfer pathways majors

- Anthropology
- Biochemistry*
- Biology*
- Business administration
- Cell biology*
- Chemistry
- Communication
- Computer science
- Economics
- Electrical engineering
- English
- History
- Mathematics
- Mechanical engineering
- Molecular biology*
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology



*Biochemistry, biology, cell biology and molecular biology will become a single Transfer Pathway in **Biological sciences** for fall 2027 applicants!

New majors in 2026:

- Aerospace engineering
- Bioengineering
- Chemical engineering
- Civil engineering
- Data science
- Earth science/geology
- Environmental engineering
- Environmental science
- Materials science & engineering
- Statistics

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



Pathways majors:

- Aerospace engineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Anthropology
- Biochemistry*
- Bioengineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Biological Sciences**
- Biology*
- Business administration
- Cell biology*
- Chemical engineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Chemistry
- Civil engineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Communication
- Computer science
- Data science (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Earth science/geology (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Economics
- Electrical engineering
- English
- Environmental engineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Environmental science (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- History
- Materials science & engineering (*NEW - fall 2026*)
- Mathematics
- Mechanical engineering

- Molecular biology*
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Statistics (*NEW - fall 2026*)

**Will be consolidated under "Biological Sciences" for transfer applicants to fall 2027 and later.*

***Available for transfer applicants to fall 2027 and later. Will encompass the former biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and molecular biology Transfer Pathway majors.*

New: Biological sciences pathway

UC's new Biological sciences Transfer Pathway

Current pathways:

- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Cell biology
- Molecular biology
- Available for applications to UC through spring 2027



Consolidated pathway:

- Biological sciences
- Available for applicants to UC for fall 2027 and on

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

 California
Community
Colleges

The four biology UC Transfer Pathways—biochemistry, biology, cell biology, and molecular biology—will be consolidated into a single Biological Sciences Transfer Pathway, available for students applying in fall 2027 or later. Students following any of the individual biology-based pathways can continue to do so. If students are planning on applying for fall 2027 then they may be able to shift their focus to the singular pathway.

Example: Chemistry Transfer Pathway

UCTP course expectations

- General chemistry (full sequence with lab)
- Organic chemistry (full sequence with lab)
- Calculus-based physics (full sequence with lab)
- Single variable calculus (full sequence)
- Multivariable calculus (one semester course)
- Linear algebra (one course)
- Post-Transfer: Differential equations (one course)

UC Irvine: Chemistry B.S.

- One year of general chemistry with laboratory with a grade of B or better in each course
- One year of single variable calculus

Recommended for admission:

- One year of organic chemistry is strongly recommended

UC Santa Barbara: Chemistry B.S.

- Full year of general chemistry with labs
- Full year of organic chemistry with labs
- Calculus I, Calculus II, Multivariable/Vector Calculus
- Full sequence of calculus-based physics for science majors with labs

NOT required for admission but **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** before transfer:

- Linear Algebra
- Differential Equations

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

California
Community
Colleges

Note that the required courses may not all be on the course expectations for transfer pathways. There will be more courses as a requirement to complete transfer pathways because it will cover major course requirements at all UC campuses that participate in the program.

Another note to inform your students is that Transfer Pathways does overlap between ADT, so it can cover all roads to transfer for the student.

Example: English Transfer Pathway

UCTP course expectations

- Survey of British literature to 1850
- Survey of British and/or American literature 1860–present
- 2 additional UC-transferable English courses
- Language other than English (1–2 years)

UCLA: English B.A.

- One course in English Composition (Expository Writing),
- One course in Critical Reading and Writing (Composition and Literature),
- One year of Survey of Literature in English:

Strongly recommended: Two years of a Foreign Language ...

UC Santa Cruz: Literature B.A.

- One course in literary interpretation
- One additional lower-division literature course
- One year of college-level study of a non-English language

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

California
Community
Colleges

As you can see, by fully completing the pathway, students meet requirements/recommendations at multiple campuses. The UC Santa Cruz example is one where a campus actually requires less than the full pathway!

Walkthrough: Chemistry Transfer Pathway

The screenshot shows the University of California Admissions website. The top navigation bar includes links for Admissions, Requirements, How to apply, Tuition & financial aid, Campuses & majors, and an Apply now button. The main content area is titled "Transfer Pathways" and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Requirements > Transfer requirements > UC transfer programs > Transfer Pathways. Below the title, a paragraph explains that Transfer Pathways provide a roadmap for students to graduate on time. A section titled "Available majors" lists 17 majors: Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biology, Business administration, Cell biology, Chemistry, Communication, Computer science, Economics, Electrical engineering, English, History, Mathematics, Mechanical engineering, Molecular biology, Neuroscience, and Physics. A right-hand sidebar titled "Requirements" lists various categories: First-year requirements, Transfer requirements, Preparing to transfer, UC transfer programs, and Transfer Pathways (which is highlighted with a red circle). Below this, a list of majors is provided, including Anthropology, Biochemistry, Biology, Business administration, Cell biology, Chemistry, Communication, Computer science, Economics, Electrical engineering, English, History, Mathematics, Mechanical engineering, Molecular biology, Neuroscience, and Physics.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Admissions Requirements How to apply Tuition & financial aid Campuses & majors Apply now

Home > Requirements > Transfer requirements > UC transfer programs > Transfer Pathways

Transfer Pathways

Know your major but want to keep your campus options open? Then a UC Transfer Pathway could be the route for you. Transfer Pathways give you a roadmap to prepare for your major and graduate on time from any UC campus.

Available majors

Here are all the majors included in the Transfer Pathways:

- [Anthropology](#)
- [Biochemistry](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Business administration](#)
- [Cell biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Computer science](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Electrical engineering](#)
- [English](#)
- [History](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Mechanical engineering](#)
- [Molecular biology](#)
- [Neuroscience](#)
- [Physics](#)

Requirements

First-year requirements

Transfer requirements

Preparing to transfer

UC transfer programs

[Transfer Pathways](#)

[Anthropology](#)

[Biochemistry](#)

[Biology](#)

[Business administration](#)

[Cell biology](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Communication](#)

[Computer science](#)

[Economics](#)

[Electrical engineering](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Mechanical engineering](#)

[Molecular biology](#)

[Neuroscience](#)

[Physics](#)

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



Walkthrough: English Transfer Pathway

← → ↻

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways/biology.html

☆

🔍

🔗

🔧

Home > Requirements > Transfer requirements > UC transfer programs > Transfer Pathways > Biology

Biology Transfer Pathway

Taking the following courses will meet all of the transfer admission course requirements for the participating majors listed below.

Course expectations

- General biology with lab (full introductory sequence)
- General chemistry with lab (one-year sequence)
- Calculus for STEM majors (one-year sequence)
- Organic chemistry with lab (one-year sequence)

Full sequences can take two to four terms to complete (depending on whether your institution is on semesters or quarters), so you'll want to start them early. Use [ASSIST](#) to find the specific classes offered at your community college that will satisfy the expected coursework at a particular UC campus. In addition to the coursework above, you will need to fulfill the [minimum requirements](#) expected of all transfer applicants to UC.

Looking ahead: Some of UC's biology majors also require one year of calculus-based physics with lab (not trigonometry-based physics) and/or one term of statistics before graduation from UC. You can complete these courses at your community college if your schedule allows, but you can also complete them after transfer without negatively affecting your competitiveness for admission to UC.

If you're working on an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) in biology at your community college, there's a lot of overlap with UC Transfer Pathway coursework. The difference between what UC expects and what some ADTs require is a year of organic chemistry. Also, while the UC Transfer Pathway does not require physics, some UC programs do require one year of calculus-based physics with lab before graduation from UC. To fulfill the physics requirement for both the ADT and those UCs, take calculus-based physics, not trigonometry-based physics. Additional courses required for an ADT may be eligible for UC credit at some campuses. Check [ASSIST](#) for details.

Requirements

Freshman requirements

Transfer requirements

Preparing to transfer

UC transfer programs

Transfer Pathways

Anthropology

Biochemistry

Biology

Business administration

Cell biology

Chemistry

Communication

Computer science

Economics

Electrical engineering

English

History

Mathematics

Mechanical engineering

Molecular biology

Philosophy

Physics

Political science

Psychology

Sociology

Aerospace Engineering

Bioengineering

Chemical Engineering

Civil Engineering

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



California
Community
Colleges

The benefit: Transfer Pathways



- Allows counselors and students to follow one path to apply to multiple UCs
- Students can graduate within an ideal time frame for their major
- There is often overlap in course work between an ADT and a UC Transfer Pathway in a discipline
- Counselors are able to minimize requirement checks across multiple UCs

Provides a clear roadmap of lower-division major prep valid at all nine campuses that offer the pathways major

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



- Allows counselors and students to follow one path to apply to multiple UC's: **Counselors are able to minimize the work it takes to check the requirement for one major across multiple UCs.**
- Students can graduate within an ideal time frame for their major: **Because students would complete more of the coursework at their CCC, once they transfer to UC, they are able to take advantage of study abroad opportunities, undergraduate research, and student involvement.**
- There is often overlap in course work between an ADT and a UC Transfer Pathway in a discipline: **By fully completing a pathway, a student is well positioned to complete the upper division courses at their UC in the ideal two-year timeframe, very similar to how ADTs works at CSU. For all current transfer pathways, if there is a similar ADT available, pathways website has a special note to highlight the differences and similarities with the CSU ADT for a given major, when available.**

Pathways+

Implemented in fall 2019, **Pathways+** combines full major preparation completion with the benefits of an admission guarantee.

Pathways+ is a great option for students whose major is covered by pathways:

A guaranteed spot at UC TAG campus.
Preparing for admission to all UC campuses.

It gives the student the best of both worlds:

If they know their major – follow Transfer Pathways
If they have a dream campus – use TAG
If they decided on both – try Pathways+

* Does not replace the original TAG program, as this is limited to UC Transfer Pathways majors

ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

California
Community
Colleges

Pathways+ is an option for those who want both guaranteed admission to a TAG campus in a particular major while also preparing for admission to all campuses with that major, creating more opportunities for admission at non-TAG campuses as well. Not only will the student have clear guidance on what courses they need to take, but they will have a competitive edge to get into any UC campus and be well-positioned to succeed once they get here

Note: This does not replace the original TAG program, as this is limited to UC Transfer Pathways majors.

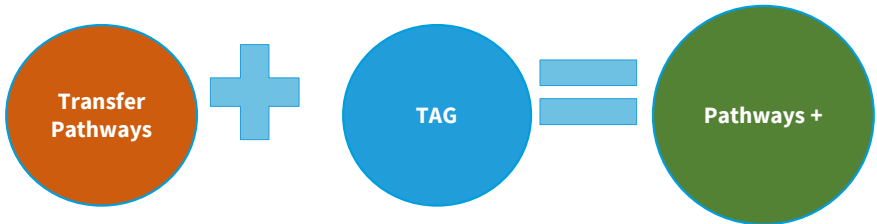
<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/pathways-plus.html>

Pathways+



PATHWAYS+

Combines the most appealing aspects of Transfer Pathways and TAG – major preparation and a guarantee



ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

 California
Community
Colleges

WHO:

Students who are interested in pursuing one of the Pathways majors that provides a clear roadmap of lower-division major prep valid at all nine campuses and who want the assurance of a guarantee to one of six campuses offering TAG agreements

WHY:

Provides a solid foundation for academic success and timely degree completion with the security of an admission guarantee to one TAG campus

Questions



ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



California
Community
Colleges

Thank you



ENSURING
TRANSFER SUCCESS
CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



California
Community
Colleges