
Road trip to UC: Same destination, different routes

September 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Overview:

- The definition of a transfer student
- The community college pathway explained
- Transfer support from UC
- Creating a transfer-going culture
- Transfer support from CC to UC

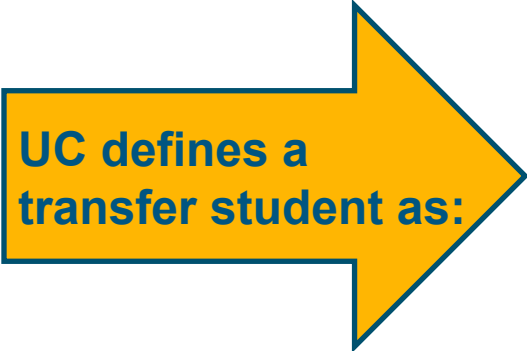
The background image shows a bright, modern school interior. On the right, a wide staircase with metal railings and mesh safety screens leads up. Large windows on the right side offer a view of green trees outside. On the left, a group of students are seated at long wooden tables, working on laptops. The ceiling features a complex, geometric wooden slat design. A sign in the background reads "THE COOPER FOUNDATION CLASSROOM".

**How does your school
currently support students
who plan to attend
community college?**

A scenic landscape featuring a paved road that curves through a lush green field. In the background, there is a blue body of water and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

**Who is a transfer
applicant?**

Who is a transfer applicant?



**UC defines a
transfer student as:**

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

Transfer applicants cannot disregard their college record and apply as first-years.

Who is a community college transfer applicant?

A California community college (CCC) transfer student is defined as having completed at least 30 semester (45 quarter) UC-transferable units at one or more California community colleges and whose last college attended in a regular session before enrolling at a UC campus is a CCC.

UC awards priority consideration in the admissions process to California community college (CCC) students applying for admission as juniors.

Transfer vs first-year applicant scenarios



Scenario 1:

Dual Enrollment Student

Student is earning an associate's degree while still in high school.

First-year applicant

A student earning a high school diploma in the same year that they plan to enter UC must apply as a first-year applicant regardless of how many college units they accumulated while in high school.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Scenario 2:

4-year university attendance

Student attended a 4-year university after high school and completed 15 UC-transferable units in the fall semester.

Transfer applicant

Once a student enrolls in a regular term at a college/ university after their high school graduation, they are considered a transfer applicant and cannot disregard their college record.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Scenario 3:

Summer class before fall enrollment

Student graduated high school in May and enrolls in one summer CCC class but plans to enroll at a UC in Fall 2026.

First-year applicant

Although the student enrolled in CCC after high school graduation, the summer session does not count as a regular term like spring and fall.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Scenario 4:

Student graduated high school early

Student graduated at age 16. After graduating the student enrolled at a local CCC for Fall and Spring semester before applying to UC.

Transfer applicant

The student officially graduated from high school before enrolling in college coursework. Even though the student graduated early, applicant status is based on when the college coursework was completed, not age.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Dual enrollment



Dual enrollment overview

All dual enrollment coursework, including grades and credits, is included on college transcripts and cannot be excluded from the UC application.

Transferable dual enrollment courses completed with a grade of C or higher may not be repeated for credit.

Appropriate AP, IB, and/or A-Level exam credit could have a potential of duplication with college courses.

Dual enrollment scenarios

True or false?

A transfer student took dual enrollment classes while in high school (over 6 years ago). They need to include it in their application.



True

A student earned an F in BIOL 1 in 9th grade, but retook the class in 11th grade and earned a B. The student should only include the B grade on their UC application.

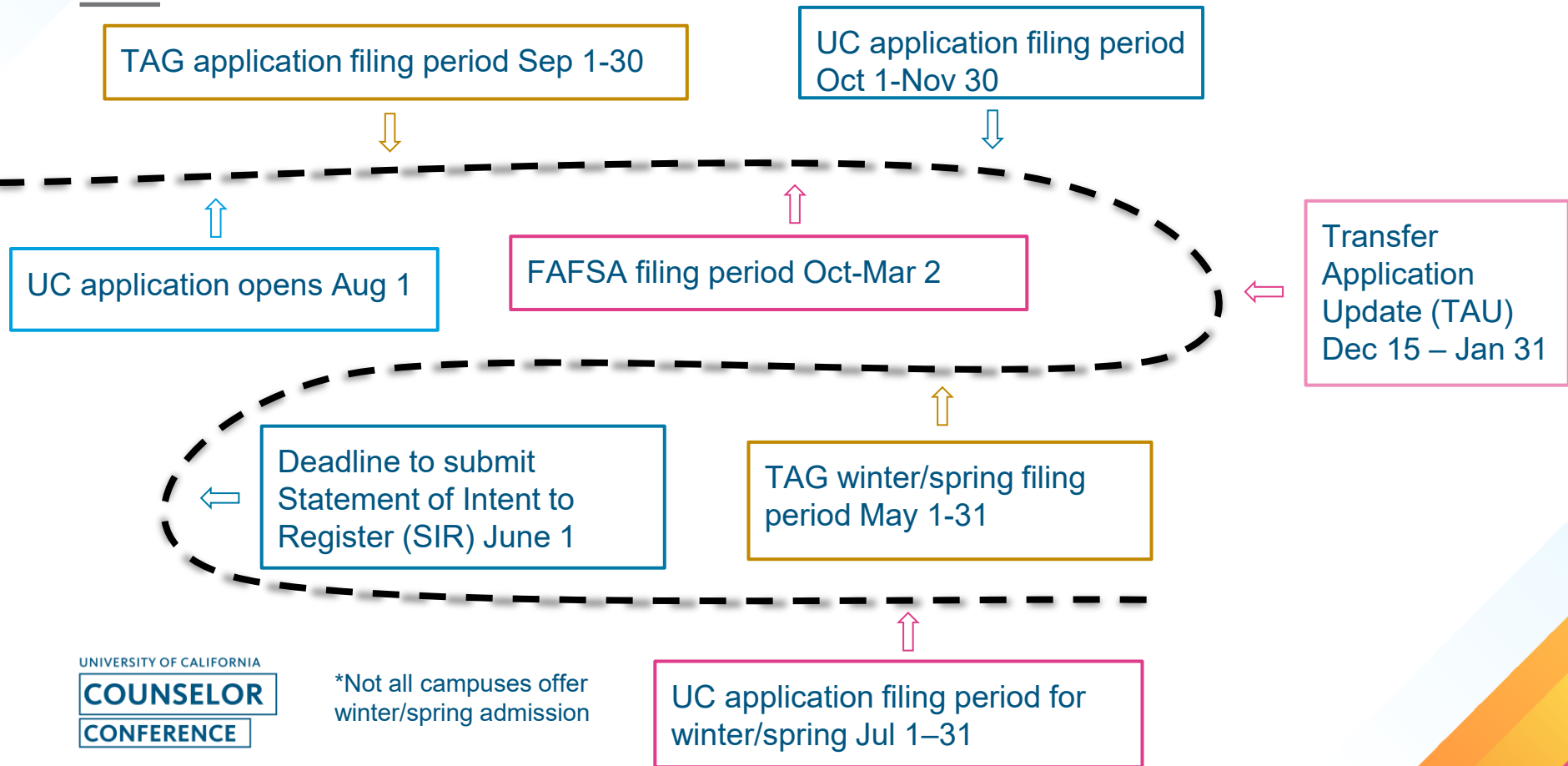


False

The scenic route: community college pathway



Transfer admission timeline



Minimum junior-level transfer requirements

60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable credit

Minimum 2.4 GPA in UC-transferable coursework (2.8 GPA for non-residents)

Complete the 7-course pattern



All requirements must be completed by the end of the spring term prior to transfer.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Comprehensive review

- Transfer comprehensive review is a process by which UC campuses consider nine factors — including academic achievement, personal accomplishments, and individual life circumstances — in order to select their incoming class.
- As part of their selection process, UC campuses place a strong emphasis on academic factors, and may look for students who go beyond the minimum transfer admission requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE



Selection vs. minimum requirements

Major Preparation

- Certain majors may have additional required or recommended coursework

GPA

- Certain majors may have different minimum GPA requirements. For selective majors, a strong GPA is especially important

Cal-GETC

- Not required; however, may be recommended depending on the major/campus

The benefits of a transfer pathway

Academics

- Time for major and career exploration
- Smaller class sizes
- Transfer support programs
- Dedicated course progression pathway options through Cal-GETC

Affordability

- Low tuition cost or free tuition for many students
- Low/no housing costs (if living with family)
- Special support programs offering textbook assistance

Flexibility

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

Addressing the misconceptions about community college and transferring

“Community college is not REAL college”

- Community college is college
- Coursework and instruction at the community college is the same level as 4-year 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 affordability, accessibility, and flexibility

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

- Transfer students DO get into top universities
- UC prioritizes CCC students in the transfer admissions process

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

The “stigma” of transferring and how to dispel it

How can we dispel the stigma surrounding transferring from community college?

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

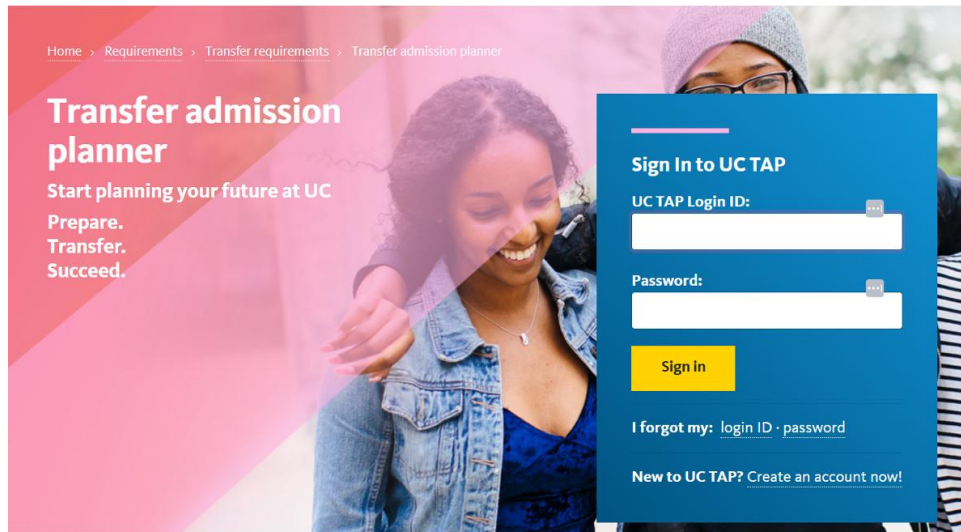
Refuel and recharge



UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

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)



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

Guaranteed admission to 1 UC campus!

- Student may 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



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

UC Pathways and Pathways+

Transfer Pathways

- Uniform major preparation for some of UC's most sought-after majors
- Clear course expectations for students that have identified a major
- Helps support major preparation and timely graduation post transfer

Pathways+

- Combines uniform major preparation with the security of a Transfer Admission Guarantee
- By completing Pathways+ and achieving a strong GPA, students are competitive for multiple UCs

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE



The official course transfer and articulation system for
California colleges and universities

ASSIST is here to help

1 ASSIST does not take the place of a counselor on your campus. It is intended to help students and counselors work together to establish an appropriate path toward transferring from a public California community college to a California university.

Important Notes from ASSIST

2025-2026 UC Transferable Course Lists are now available!
UC Transferable course lists for 2025-2026 are available. Please view the ASSIST [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details about transferability lists.

The Agreement Comparison tool is now available!
Click the link below for more information and video tutorial.
[Agreement Comparison Overview](#)

Articulation agreements with Independent Institutions
Beginning with 2024-2025, participating Independent institutions can display articulation

[ASSIST Feedback Survey](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



[Terms Of Use](#) | [Accessibility](#)

[Support](#)

Search below for articulation agreements

Major, department, and campus-specific general education agreements

Academic Year

2025-2026

Institution

Select an institution

CCC, CSU, UC, or Independent

Agreements with Other Institutions

Select an institution

[View Agreements](#)

Search below for transferable courses

Courses approved for transfer and general education

Academic Year

2025-2026

Community College

Select a Community College

- ☐ CSU Transferable Courses
- ☐ CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses
- ☐ CSU US History, Constitution, and American Ideals Courses (CSU AI)
- ☐ Cal-GETC for UC and CSU
- ☐ IGETC for UC and CSU
- ☐ UC Transferable Courses
- ☐ UC Transfer Admission Eligibility Courses

[View Transferability Lists](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)

Streamlined transfer:

- Simplifies the transfer process by providing a clear set of general education courses accepted by UC and CSU.

Flexible course selection:

- Offers a variety of courses that meet general education requirements, accommodating diverse student needs.

Transfer readiness:

- Completing Cal-GETC allows students to focus on upper-division coursework and graduation requirements at UC and CSU.

Advising support:

- Counselors play a crucial role in helping students select appropriate courses to meet Cal-GETC requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Support programs and transfer preparation

The **UC Transfer Prep** program builds the transfer pipeline across the state by providing students with admissions advising, along with academic and enrichment resources and opportunities needed to successfully transition from community college to UC and other 4-year institutions.

**Transfer
Advising &
Academic
Planning**

**Summer
Enrichment
Programs**

**Transfer
Workshops
& Webinars**

**Special
Events
& Campus
Visits**

**Financial
Literacy**

**UC
Application
Support**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

**GPS reroute = flexibility
of transfer**



Best practices: Creating a transfer going culture

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

Engage families in discussions about the transfer pathway.

Highlight community college opportunities, like dual enrollment

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Best practices: Using transfer inclusive language



**Affirm
college
choice and
path**

**Highlight
benefits and
opportunities**

**Use
empowering
language**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Transfer Hub

Includes key transfer information
and campus links for transfer
students to assist in their planning.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

You can transfer.

Whether you're a high school student looking at colleges, a current community college student exploring your next steps or a working adult building your career, earning a degree from UC is within your reach.



UC gives California community college students first priority over other transfer applicants.

Start with a plan.

These are the 3 things you need to do to get started on your transfer path:

1. Decide what and where you want to study.

You'll have two important choices to make when you're preparing to transfer: what you want to study (think: major) and where you want to study (think: campus). Don't have a major or campus in mind yet? Browse through course catalogs, read course descriptions, visit a campus and find what sparks your interests.

2. Use the tools and resources available.

Figuring out what classes you need to take and when you need to take them can feel overwhelming, but there are lots of resources, from counselors to websites, to help you make sure you're on target to meet your transfer goals.

[Transfer resources](#)

3. Follow your progress.

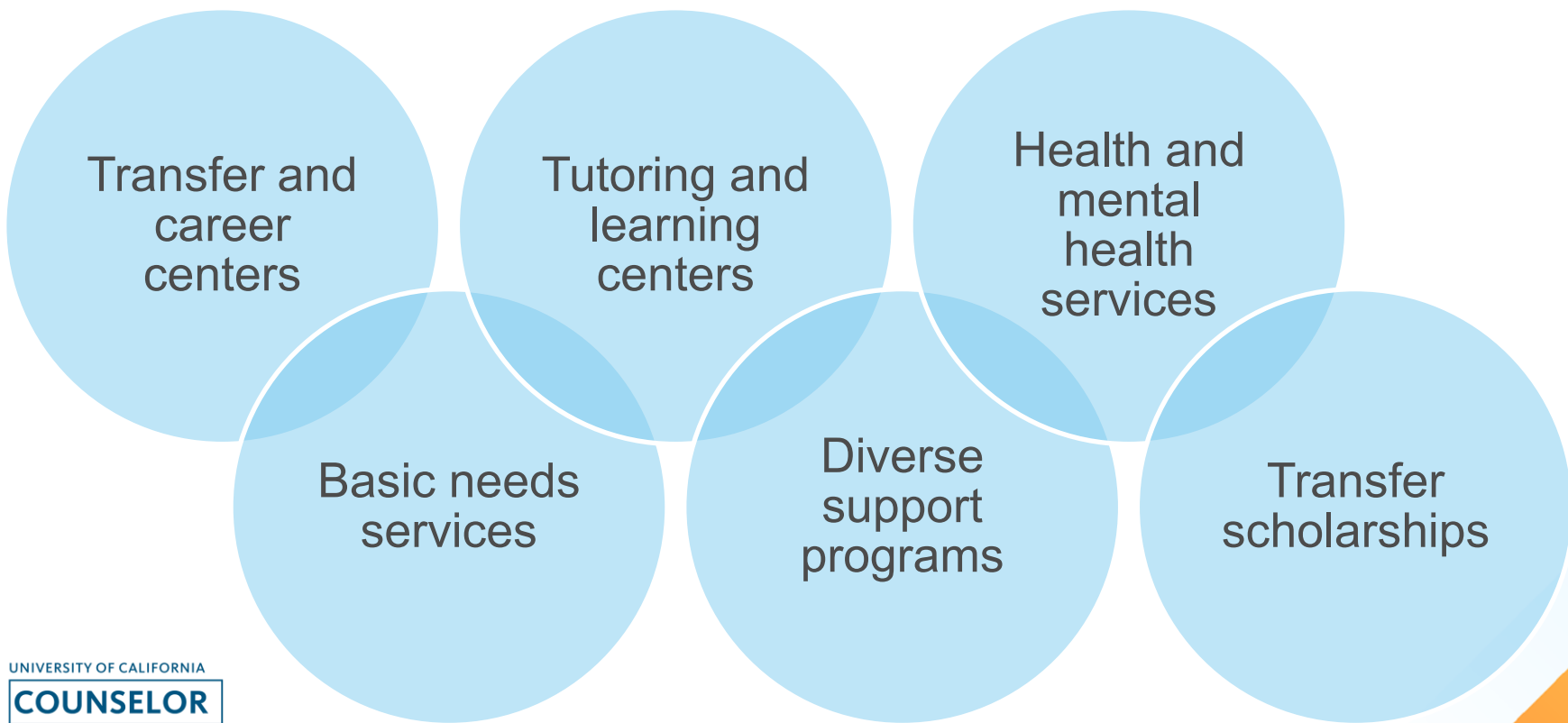
From preparing for your major to taking GE classes to meeting college eligibility requirements—monitoring your progress can help you stay on the transfer track.

[Track progress](#)



Destination: UC

Support at the community college

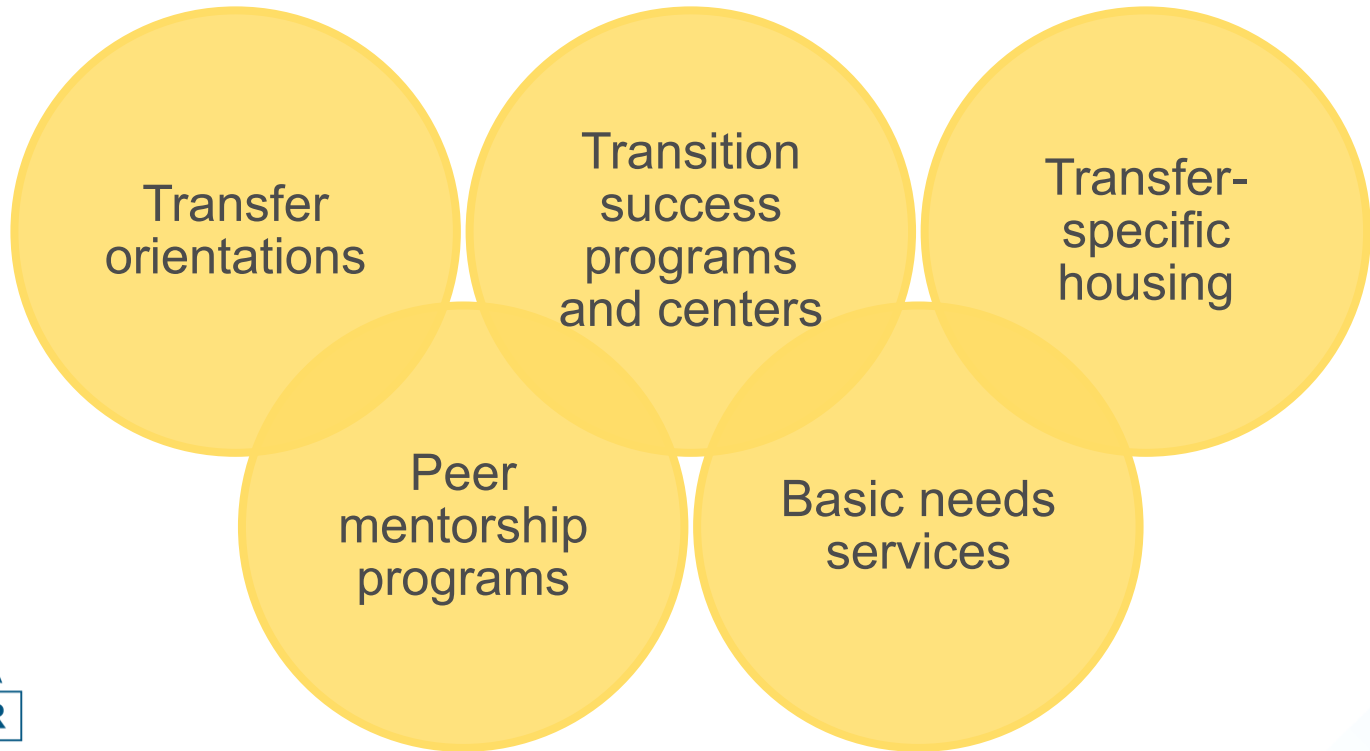


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Programs and resources after transfer



Final stop: The UC effect

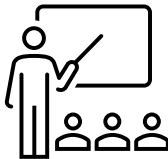
UC transfer students graduate at higher rates

67% of UC transfer students graduate within 2 years of matriculation to UC



UC commitment to transfers

UC prioritizes CCC student in the transfer admission process



Transfer students are UC students

Nearly 1 in 3 UC students start at a CCC before graduating from a UC campus



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Transfer programs and tools



[UC Transfer Admission Planner \(TAP\)](#)

[UC Transfer Pathways](#)

[Transfer Admission Guarantee \(TAG\)](#)

[Transfer Admission Guarantee \(TAG\) Matrix](#)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Questions?

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Thank you