UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

CCC Webinar Series: 2025-2026

August 20, 2025
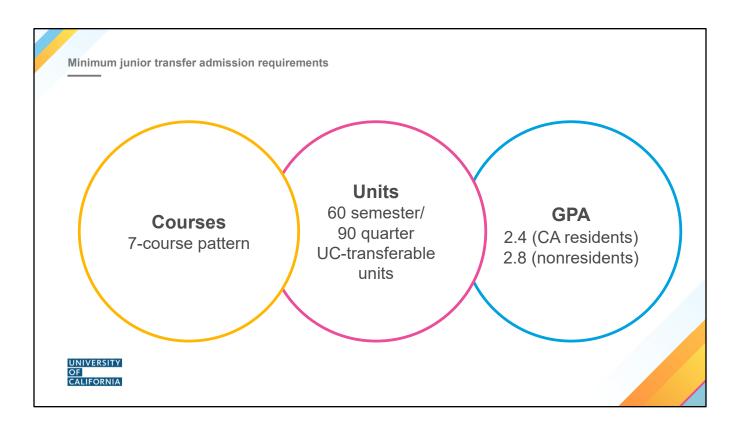
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Agenda

- UC transfer basics
- TAG details & overview
- UC Transfer Admission Planner
- TAG campus panel

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We'll start today's presentation with transfer basics and then narrow things down to the Transfer Admission Guarantee. We'll cover what the UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP) does to support TAG and then we will get to our campus panel.

While there may be a few options to transfer to UC before reaching junior status, most UC campuses are primarily looking for junior-level transfer applicants. Transfer students meet requirements in 3 areas to meet minimum UC junior-transfer requirements: a specific pattern of courses, a minimum number of units, and a minimum GPA. These requirements must be completed by the last regular term prior to transfer. For fall 2026, that would mean students have until spring 2026 to meet these requirements.
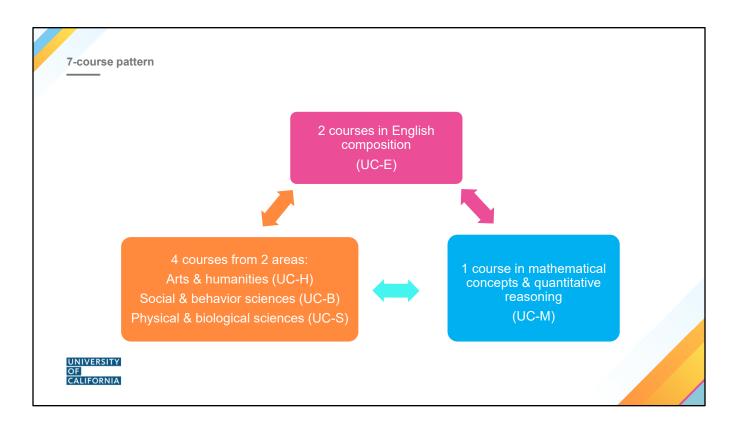
Courses:
UC will first review your courses to verify students are meeting the seven-course pattern. We will go into detail in the next slide but know that these 7 courses are required. In order to meet the unit requirement, however, students need more than these 7 courses. The rest of the units can come from general education courses or from courses that prepare you for your major, or both!

Units:
- Complete 60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable college credit. This is about two years' worth of full-time study but can be less if a student has dual enrollment college credit or AP/IB/A-level exam scores.
- No more than 14 semester (21 quarter) units of the required 60 units may be taken Pass/No Pass, unless the student is transferring from a college or university that awards only pass credit.

GPA:
- Students must have a transferable GPA of at least 2.4 (2.8 for nonresidents).

7-course pattern (courses must be passed with a grade of C or higher)**:**

- Two transferable courses in English composition;
- One transferable course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning;
- Four transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas:
  - arts and humanities
  - social and behavioral sciences
  - physical and biological sciences

For example:

     3 biology courses and 1 history course
     2 sociology courses, 1 chemistry course and 1 art history course
     1 biology course, 1 political science course and 2 literature courses

Junior standing

- Complete 60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable college credit
- No more than 14 semester (21 quarter) units may be taken Pass/No Pass

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Units

For junior-level transfers, students need to complete at least 60 semester or 90 quarter units of UC transferable credits. A student has until the end of the spring term to meet these unit requirements for fall transfer—not all have to be complete by the time a student applies, some can be in progress and planned.

These credits must come from college coursework completed, including UC-transferable credit earned through dual enrollment while in high school and exam credit if a student has such credit.

In general, UC would advise students to take courses for a letter grade. However, we do allow some Pass/Credit grades to be used for eligibility as seen on the screen/slide. No credit/No pass grades will not meet a requirement but will also not affect a student's GPA. If a student receives a No credit/No pass on a required course, we recommend repeating the course for a passing grade.

Limits on transfer credit

Students will be granted up to 70 semester (105) quarter units for freshman/sophomore coursework completed at any institution. This limitation does not apply to units earned at UC. Note: If all of a student's coursework was completed at two-year colleges, they are likely not at risk of being denied admission due to excessive units (e.g., senior standing).

GPA minimum requirement

- California residents: **2.4**

- Nonresidents: **2.8**

TAG GPA varies by campus

How the transfer GPA is calculated

- Includes all UC-transferable units attempted, including college courses completed while in high school

- Grade points are based on the letter grade received; plus (+) and minus (-) grades are recognized

- Academic Renewal (AR), Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit, Satisfactory/Non-Satisfactory, Excused Withdrawal (EW), and/or Withdrawal are not included in the GPA calculation

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CA residents must have a minimum GPA of 2.4, and nonresidents a 2.8. Competitive students will exceed these minimums and selective majors may require a higher GPA in major preparation coursework.

The TAG GPA is then a higher GPA than is required to be eligible. This TAG GPA varies by campus.

You can check transfer GPA profiles from fall 2024 at https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/transfer-admissions-summary

GPA = total grade points/units attempted
- Multiply points assigned for each grade by the number of units (e.g., a 4-unit course with a grade of B = 3 grade points)
- Add 0.3 for plus (+) grades and subtract 0.3 for minus (-) grades
- No college GPA shall be greater than 4.00

Academic renewal is a process available at the CCCs. Students should report academic renewals once they have been approved. The UC application should reflect what the transcript reflects the day it is submitted. If the AR is pending approval, students should report final grades as posted on the transcript and can add notes in Additional Comments regarding the status of ARs.
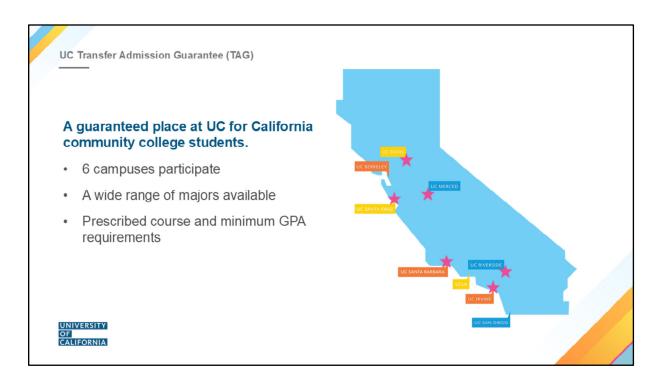
TAG requirements are based on minimum junior transfer admission requirements

- Academic preparation remains a top consideration for transfer admission

- A higher standard is set to guarantee admission

- TAG builds on admission requirements with:
    - **Earlier deadlines for certain requirements**
    - **A specific TAG GPA**

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It's important to cover transfer basics because TAG requirements are based on the basics but set at a higher standard, with a higher GPA and earlier deadlines for some admission requirements. This is what allows campuses to offer a guarantee to students.

The UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program guarantees community college students admission to their top choice UC campus if they meet specified conditions. All undergraduate campuses participate in the program except Berkeley, UCLA, and San Diego. There are many majors available through the TAG program, including some of UC's most sought-after majors in biology, engineering and computer science. **Campuses specify the majors that participate in the TAG program and the requirements for guaranteed admission in each major.**

The Transfer Admission Guarantee program has been in place for several decades. Over the years it has continued to evolve to support students. Last year, campuses came together to standardize TAG requirements to make it easier for students and counselors to understand the program and the differences that may exist between the campuses. While this is a guarantee, more students apply to transfer to UC than apply to guarantee their admission.

TAG matrix

A helpful resource for counselors and students.

- Shared TAG criteria
- TAG eligibility information
- Campus-specific information
- Summary of changes (*New!*)

View the 2026-27 TAG matrix by scanning this QR code:

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The TAG matrix has been an essential resource for the TAG program. **Updated yearly, the TAG matrix serves as the singular resource for TAG awareness and preparation.**

- Shared TAG criteria

- Campus-specific criteria are also included in the matrix

Campus specific criteria include GPA requirements, availability of majors, and major preparation. After feedback from colleagues in the community college counselor community, we have also implemented a new section of the TAG matrix that highlights summary of changes.

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/uc-tag-matrix.pdf

To be eligible, students must:

- ✓ Transfer from a California community college (CCC)
- ✓ Last attend a CCC before transfer
- ✓ Can include students with non-CCC coursework

Not eligible for TAG:

- ✗ High school students
- ✗ Students previously enrolled at a UC campus who intend to return to the same campus
- ✗ Students previously enrolled at a UC campus who were not in good standing when they left that UC
- ✗ Students who have already earned a bachelors or higher degree

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To be eligible for TAG participation, students must 1) transfer from a CCC, 2) complete over half of their units at the CCC and 3) the CCC must be their last school of attendance before transfer.

Students with some non-CCC coursework are still eligible for TAG if they meet the above requirements. Additionally, international students with a F1 or J1 visa can also participate if they meet eligibility requirements.

While popular, TAG is NOT required for transfer admission. If a student wants to apply for TAG, they must submit a TAG application via the Transfer Admission Planner (TAP) in the month of September, prior to submitting a UC application in October or November. Applicants can only submit ONE TAG application; however, it is non-binding. Submitting a TAG application to one campus does not preclude a student from submitting a UC application to any other campus(es).

To qualify for a fall 2026 TAG, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete at least 30 semester/45 quarter UC-transferable units by TAG submission

2. Complete one UC-E and one UC-M course by fall 2025

3. Complete the rest of the 7-course pattern by spring 2026

4. Complete the unit requirement (60 semester/90 quarter) by spring 2026

5. Complete at least 30 semester/45 quarter units at one or more CCC by spring 2026

6. Require no more than 19 units (semester or quarter) in spring 2026 or last term to reach junior standing

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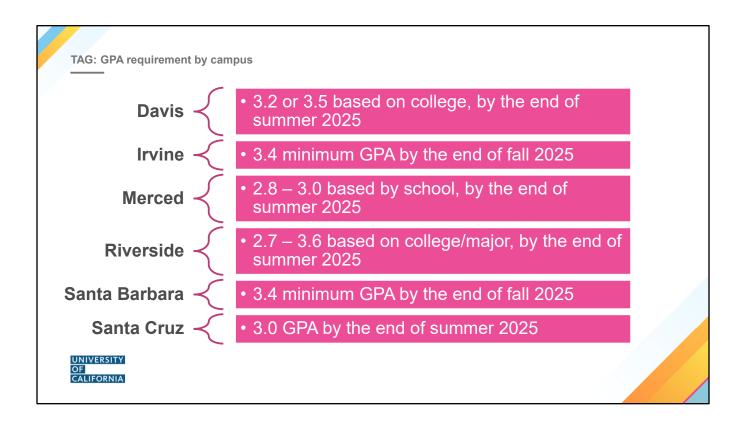
1. Complete at least 30 semester/45 quarter UC-transferable units by TAG submission – There is a lot of flexibility here. These 30 do not have to be from a CCC, but they can be (and most are). These units can be from another college or university, or exam credits or a combination of all these options. This is why it is possible for students that attended a different college or university to still be eligible for TAG.
2. Complete one UC-E and one UC-M course by fall 2025 – General transfer requirements simply state that students should meet requirements by the spring prior to transfer. In this case, this requirement specifically calls for the completion of UC-M and at least one of the 2 UC-E courses by the time an application would be reviewed.
3. Complete the rest of the 7-course pattern by spring 2026 – In line with general transfer requirements but must remain as a requirement for TAG as well.
4. Complete the unit requirement (60 semester/90 quarter) by spring 2026 – In line with general transfer requirements but must remain as a requirement for TAG as well.
5. Complete at least 30 semester/45 quarter units at one or more CCC by spring 2026 – This is what defines the CCC student. Note that there is also some flexibility here. Technically a student could have 0 CCC units completed when they submit their TAG application but still meet TAG criteria assuming the 30 units they complete by the TAG submission are UC-transferable (and remember we don't have articulation agreements with colleges outside the CCCs) and they complete 30 sem (45 quarter) units at a CCC in the last year.
6. Require no more than 19 units (semester or quarter) in spring 2026 or last term to reach junior standing – This was a requirement that was implanted last year. This specifically says that a student should not require more than 19 units in the spring to reach junior standing. It does not mean a student cannot take 19 units, it just says a student should not need more than 19 units to reach junior standing.

7. Must not exceed 80 semester/120 quarter total units, after applying lower-division limits

8. Must earn a 2.0 GPA in all UC-transferable coursework in the current fall, winter, and/or spring terms with no grade lower than C

9. Must submit a TAG application through the UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP) during the month of September

10. Must submit the UC application between October 1 – December 1, 2025, and the TAG major and the UC application major for the TAG campus must match

11. Must submit a Transfer Academic Update (TAU) by January 31, 2026, and

12. Must meet all campus-specific TAG criteria

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7. Must not exceed 80 semester/120 quarter total units, after applying lower-division limits – typically unless a student has UC units or upper-division units from a 4-year university, they will unlikely reach this

8. Must earn a 2.0 GPA in all UC-transferable coursework in the current fall, winter, and/or spring terms with no grade lower than C – Straightforward, we want students to do well in their courses.

9. Must submit a TAG application through the UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP) during the month of September – Straightforward.

10. Must submit the UC application between October 1 – December 1, 2025, and the TAG major and the UC application major for the TAG campus must match – Very important! This is an essential part of the TAG process. There are recommendations about when to submit the UC application based on TAG campus and their review process (more info in two slides)

11. Must submit a Transfer Academic Update (TAU) by January 31, 2026, and

12. Must meet all campus-specific TAG criteria

Davis — • 3.2 or 3.5 based on college, by the end of summer 2025

Irvine — • 3.4 minimum GPA by the end of fall 2025

Merced — • 2.8 – 3.0 based by school, by the end of summer 2025

Riverside — • 2.7 – 3.6 based on college/major, by the end of summer 2025

Santa Barbara — • 3.4 minimum GPA by the end of fall 2025

Santa Cruz — • 3.0 GPA by the end of summer 2025

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GPA requirements vary by college/school/major.
GPA deadline is important to note. Most campuses expect students to meet their TAG GPA by the time they submit a TAG while Irvine and Santa Barbara allow students to submit a TAG application in the summer with the knowledge that students must meet and maintain the required GPA by the end of fall 2025.

Davis, Merced, Riverside & Santa Cruz

Yes. Students should wait for TAG decision before submitting UC application.

Irvine & Santa Barbara

No. Students should submit UC application before the filing deadline.

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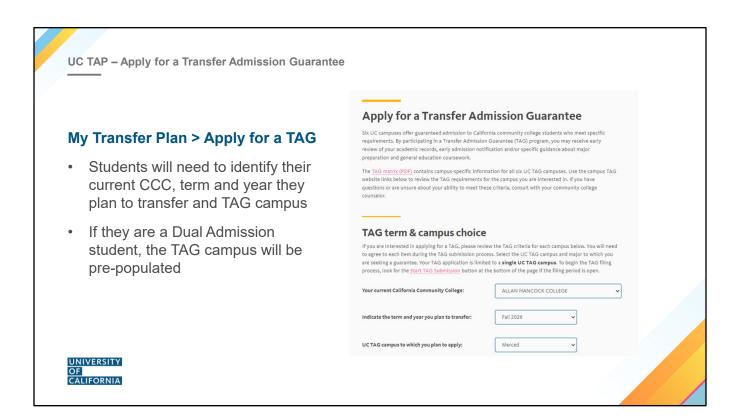
Once students are ready to apply, their UC TAP account is home to the TAG application.

My Transfer Plan > Apply for a TAG

- Students will need to identify their current CCC, term and year they plan to transfer and TAG campus

- If they are a Dual Admission student, the TAG campus will be pre-populated

Apply for a Transfer Admission Guarantee

Six UC campuses offer guaranteed admission to California community college students who meet specific requirements. By participating in a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program, you may receive early review of your academic records, early admission notification and/or specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework.

The TAG matrix (PDF) contains campus-specific information for all six UC TAG campuses. Use the campus TAG website links below to review the TAG requirements for the campus you are interested in. If you have questions or are unsure about your ability to meet these criteria, consult with your community college counselor.

TAG term & campus choice

If you are interested in applying for a TAG, please review the TAG criteria for each campus below. You will need to agree to each item during the TAG submission process. Select the UC TAG campus and major to which you are seeking a guarantee. Your TAG application is limited to a **single UC TAG campus**. To begin the TAG filing process, look for the Start TAG Submission button at the bottom of the page if the filing period is open.

Your current California Community College:	ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE
Indicate the term and year you plan to transfer:	Fall 2026
UC TAG campus to which you plan to apply:	Merced

When ready to apply for TAG, students will navigate to the "My Transfer Plan" section of UC TAP and select "Apply for a TAG". They'll need to identify their current CCC (they will have a drop-down list with all the colleges they have entered in UC TAP), term and year they plan to transfer and TAG campus. Remember, all TAG campuses offer fall TAG but only select ones will offer winter/spring options and this can vary by year.
For students in the UC Dual Admission program, their TAG campus (aka their Dual Admission campus) will be pre-populated for them in this section, and they cannot change it unless they opt-out of the Dual Admission program.

Apply for a TAG > TAG checklist

- Next, students will need to select their major and the TAG checklist (i.e., requirements) will appear

- If they are a Dual Admission student, the major will be pre-populated

- Submission only available during filing periods by term

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UC Davis · view campus TAG details & requirements

Choose a major: Spanish

Note: The majors offered for a TAG might not include all those offered by a campus during the UC application filing period.
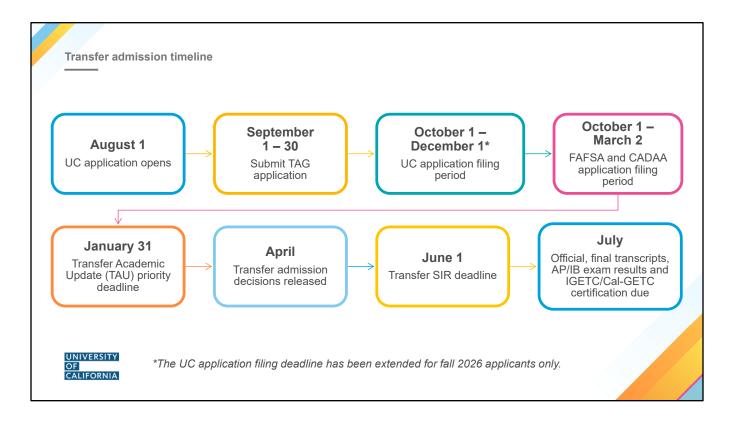
UC Davis TAG Checklist - Fall 2026:

You must agree to these campus-specific requirements in order to submit your TAG application.

- I understand that my UC Davis TAG agreement is valid only if the major I select on my UC application matches the major I have indicated on my UC TAG Application.

- I have completed 30 semester/45 quarter UC-transferable units or more by the end of summer 2025, which may include units from Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examination credit.

- To meet the definition of a California community college (CCC), I will have completed at least 30 semester (45 quarter) UC transferable units from one or more CCCs, excluding Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) credit by the end of spring 2026.

- By the end of fall 2025, I will complete and pass (C grade or better) one UC-required English composition course and the required math course. UC transfer admission requirements. The second English composition course will be completed by the end of spring 2026. My UC TAG application includes in-progress coursework to satisfy these requirements by the stated deadlines.

- I have completed, or will complete remaining UC transfer admission subject and unit requirements (including the second English composition course) by the end of spring 2026. My UC TAG application includes in-progress and planned courses to meet these requirements by the specified deadline.

Then, students will select their majors, and the TAG checklist (requirements) will appear. This checklist typically appears during or near the filing periods.

Dual Admission students will have their TAG major pre-populated, and they can change this in the "change major" option in their UC TAP homepage. This option only appears for Dual Admission students.

General tips for a successful TAG – To share with your students!

IIIIII Carefully review TAG requirements – both shared and campus-specific

✓ Have UC TAP properly filled out with all colleges and courses listed

📚 Report all completed, in progress and planned courses along with any exam scores

✉ Monitor email for any messages from their TAG campus; respond accordingly

🪪 Have a question? Contact your TAG campus!

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August 1	September 1 – 30	October 1 – December 1*	October 1 – March 2
UC application opens	Submit TAG application	UC application filing period	FAFSA and CADAA application filing period

January 31	April	June 1	July
Transfer Academic Update (TAU) priority deadline	Transfer admission decisions released	Transfer SIR deadline	Official, final transcripts, AP/IB exam results and IGETC/Cal-GETC certification due

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The UC application filing deadline has been extended for fall 2026 applicants only.

The UC application and admission process is a year-long cycle.

August 1: The UC application opens. Students can begin to craft each part of their application. Remember, since UC does not use letters of recommendation, interviews, or portfolios unless required for admission to a specific major, the UC application is the only way for students to present and advocate for themselves. Some campus majors do require supplemental materials, such as Nursing, or some fine arts majors. Students should speak with the campuses they're interested in for information on applications for those majors. The UC application will also indicate whether a supplemental application or materials are required.

September 1 – 30: Transfer applicants interested in Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) must submit a TAG application between September 1-30. They must also submit a UC application during the filing period.

October 1 – December 1: UC students can submit applications beginning October 1. **The deadline has been extended to December 1 for Fall 2026 applicants** given the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday. The typical deadline is November 30. Applicants are not considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so applicants should take their time in filling out the application thoroughly before submitting.

Important: Once submitted, applicants can update very little in the UC application. Students should ensure their UC application is accurate and complete before submission.
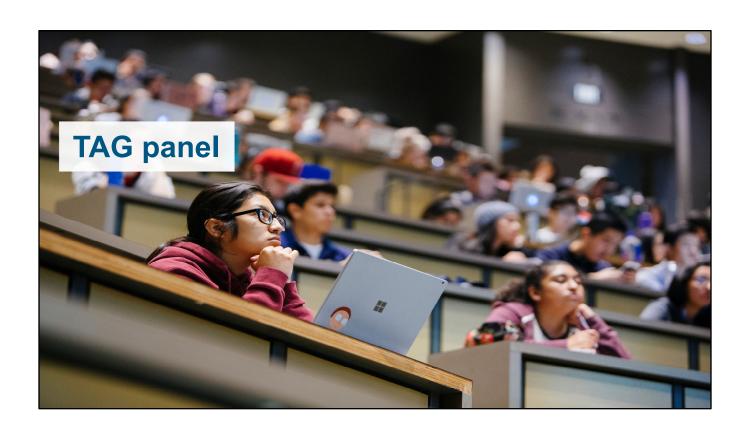
October 1– March 2: All students should submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or

a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The majority of students at UC receive financial aid and scholarships. We'll cover that in more detail later in this presentation. Campuses use information from the FAFSA and CADAA for both admission and scholarships. The FAFSA for the fall 2026 admission cycle is anticipated to become available on October 1.

January 31: Transfer students who apply for fall admission will be asked to update their applications through the UC Transfer Academic Update (TAU) process by the end of January. Once they log in to their application, they will be able to give UC their final grades from the previous fall, as well as a list of all courses in progress or planned for winter and/or spring. All students must submit a TAU, even if not enrolled in any courses in the spring term. The priority submission deadline is January 31. The Transfer Academic Update form is open until March 15, but the priority review date is the date students should focus on as there is no guarantee TAU information submitted after March 15 will be considered in the review. Failure to submit the form may jeopardize a student's chances of admission.

April: Transfer admission decisions are generally released throughout the month of April. Campuses do not all release decisions on the same day, but will have all transfer decisions released by April 30.

July: Campuses use self-reported information to admit students, so UC does not require (nor want) students to submit any transcripts when they apply for admission. Instead, UC will ask for official transcripts only for admitted students who have submitted their SIR by June 1. Official transcripts for all institutions attended are due July 1, with AP/IB exam results and other certifications (such as IGETC or Cal-GETC) due by July 15.

TAG panel

Yesenia Contreras
UC Davis

Jessica Verazas
UC Riverside

Bianca Leon
UC Irvine

Dawn Hovey
UC Santa Barbara

Brandon Perez
UC Merced

CJ Knox
UC Santa Cruz

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Can students make changes to a TAG once it has been submitted?

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What does the TAG process look like for students?

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For the campuses that do provide an early review of TAG, what does the messaging look like if a student's TAG is approved? What if it is not approved?

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What happens if a student decides to change their major after submitting their TAG but before submitting the UC application?

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What is the most common reason a TAG is not approved or granted? If a TAG is not granted, is the student considered for regular admission?

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When can TAG applicants expect their decision?

Questions from the audience

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UC Davis: ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate/transfer/transfer-admission-guarantee

UC Irvine: admissions.uci.edu/apply/transfer-students/guaranteed-admissions.php

UC Merced: admissions.ucmerced.edu/transfer/tag

UC Riverside: admissions.ucr.edu/transfer/transfer-admission-guarantee

UC Santa Barbara: admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/tag

UC Santa Cruz: admissions.ucsc.edu/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag

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Campus TAG websites:
UC Davis: https://www.ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate/transfer/transfer-admission-guarantee
UC Irvine: https://admissions.uci.edu/apply/transfer-students/guaranteed-admissions.php
UC Merced: https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/transfer/tag
UC Riverside: https://admissions.ucr.edu/transfer/transfer-admission-guarantee
UC Santa Barbara: https://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/tag
UC Santa Cruz: https://admissions.ucsc.edu/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag

In addition, students can connect directly with counselors online!
UC Davis: https://ua.ucdavis.edu/portal/find-my-advisor
UC Irvine: https://apply.admissions.uci.edu/register/inquirycontact
UC Merced: https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/information/speak-with-advisor
UC Riverside: https://connect.ucr.edu/portal/find_my_advisor
UC Santa Barbara: https://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/transfer-contacts
UC Santa Cruz: https://admissions.ucsc.edu/find-your-admissions-representative

Thank you

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