Back to transfer admission basics

CCC Webinar Series: 2025-2026

October 22, 2025



Agenda

- Introduction
- UC transfer admission requirements
- Transfer Comprehensive Review
- Helping your students plan for UC
 - Helpful tools and resources
- Q&A



Throughout today's session we'll share **Quick Reference Guide** tips!





Today's session will focus on UC Transfer basics and helping your students plan and apply for UC.

We'll highlight the Quick Reference Guide as an essential resource for your work with students.



Who is a transfer applicant



A transfer applicant is:

A student who has enrolled in a fall, winter or spring term at a college or university after high school graduation. Students who meet this definition cannot disregard their college record and apply as first-years.

A CCC transfer applicant is:

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

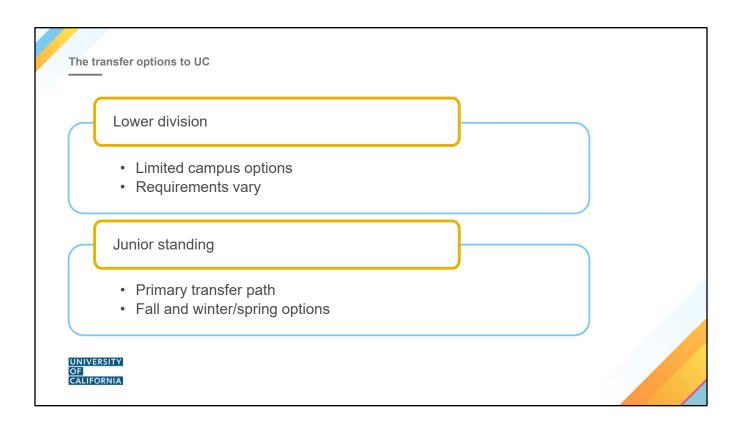


Who is a transfer applicant?

For UC application purposes a transfer applicant is a student who has enrolled in a fall, winter, or spring term at a college or university after high school graduation. Students who meet this definition cannot disregard their college record and apply as first-years.

A transfer applicant is not a student who has taken college-level courses through dual enrollment before receiving their high school diploma. These students must apply as first-years.

The CCC transfer definition is important. Although we welcome applicants from all colleges and universities, we do prioritize CCC applicants.



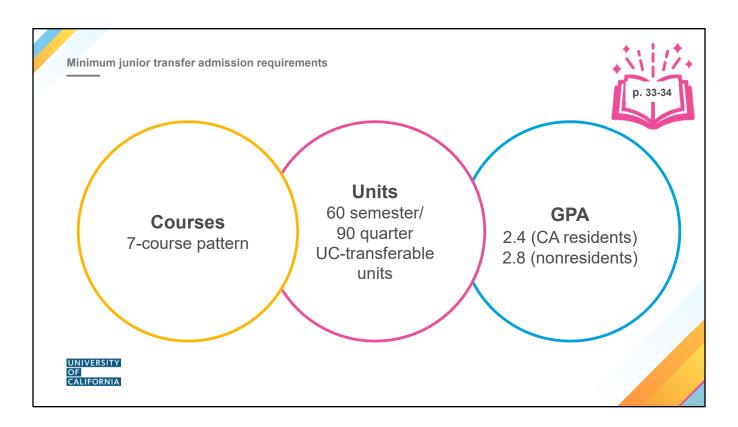
UC Senate regulations give us general provisions to consider for advanced standing admission.

Lower division: Some campuses admit a limited number of transfer students before they reach junior standing. Depending on the number of college units completed, these students would enter UC as a sophomore, hence why they are referred to as lower-division. Students will need to check the website of the UC campus they're considering to learn if they will accept applications from lower-division transfers.

- An applicant who met the requirements for first-year admission may be admitted to the University provided the applicant has maintained a grade-point average of at least 2.0 in all transferable college course work.
- An applicant who met the requirements for first-year admission except for one or more
 A-G requirements may be admitted to the University provided the applicant has
 maintained a grade-point average of at least 2.0 in all transferable college course work
 and has remedied the missing requirements by completing with a grade of C or higher
 one transferable college course (3 semester or 4-5 quarter units) for each missing high
 school subject

Junior standing: Most campuses are primarily focused on recruiting and admitting junior transfers. Traditionally, fall term is the only term available, though some campuses have expanded their options to winter (those on the quarter system) or spring (those on the semester system).





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 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 students for their major, or a combination of 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. Note there is no time limit for transfer, while it takes about two years' worth of full-time study, this journey is not linear for a lot of students.
- 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).

Course requirement

7-course pattern

 Complete the seven-course pattern with a grade of C (or equivalent) or better in each course by the spring prior to transfer

We recommend students complete math and English as early as possible.



7-course pattern in detail

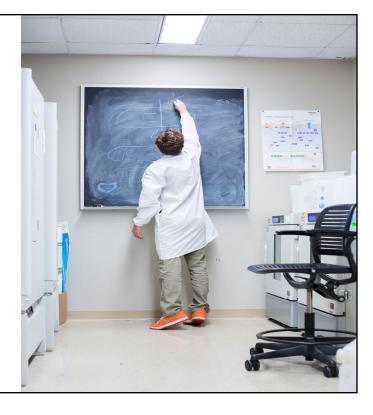
- Two transferable courses in English Composition (UC-E)
- One transferable course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning (UC-M)
- Four transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas:
 - Arts and humanities (UC-H)
 - Social and behavioral sciences (UC-B)
 - Physical and biological sciences (UC-S)

- The 7-course pattern may be completed with a Pass/Credit/ Satisfactory grade if such designations are equivalent to a letter grade of C (2.0) or better
- A maximum of 14 semester/21 quarter units of Pass/Credit grades can be used to reach the minimum number of units required for eligibility.
- And remember, the 7-course pattern alone will not grant students the number of units needed to transfer

Unit requirement

Junior standing

- Complete 60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable college credit by the spring prior to transfer
- Up to 14 semester (21 quarter) units of Pass/Credit grades can be used to reach minimum





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).

Transfer GPA

GPA minimum requirement

California residents: 2.4

Nonresidents: 2.8

Students should aim to exceed this minimum requirement to be a competitive applicant.



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

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. **Students should aim to exceed this minimum requirement to be a competitive applicant.** GPA is calculated when a student applies. For example, students applying for fall 2026 admission will submit their application prior to December 1 (this term only). To have a more complete academic history, campuses will ask for final fall 2025 grades during the Transfer Academic Update (TAU) before calculating GPA.

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

Repeats and Academic renewals



REPEATS

- UC will honor repeats of grades of C- or lower (including NP)
- UC courses can only be repeated with UC courses
- Repeats are based on course content (not necessarily the same title)
- New grade will replace the deficient grade in the GPA
- All attempts must be reported in the application

ACADEMIC RENEWAL

- Process at CCCs that is honored by UC campuses during our admission review
- Students should only report Academic Renewals that have been approved
- Best practice is to match what the transcript displays on the date the application is submitted

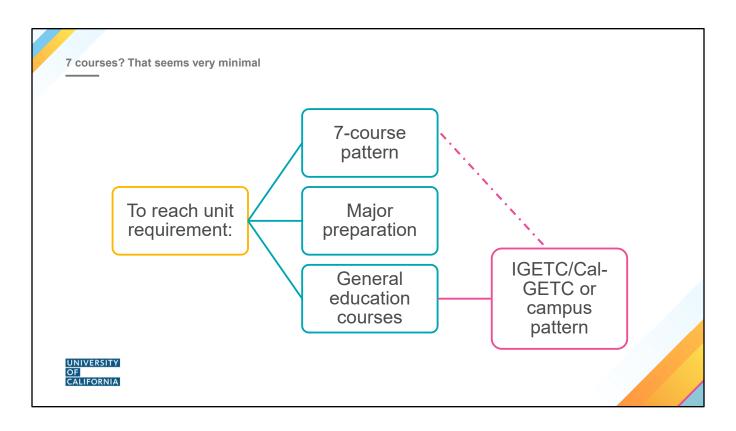


Repeated courses

A student can repeat a course in which a C-, D+, D, D-, F or NP grade was originally earned, as many times as necessary. The new grade earned will replace the deficient grade in the GPA calculation. UC does not average the grades. All courses (originals and repeats) must be reported in the UC application.

Note: A No Credit (NC) or No Pass (NP) grade in a repeated course will NOT replace a deficient grade.

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.



While the 7-course pattern is our foundation, 7 courses is not enough to reach the unit requirement. Students should take a mix of major preparation courses and general education courses to reach the unit count. Careful planning based on a student's intended major is always important.

Cal-GETC is a great choice for many students wishing to complete their general education requirements at a CCC. We share more in the next slide.

California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)





The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) is a series of courses that California community college students can complete to satisfy most freshman/sophomore-level general education requirements before transferring to UC.



Students should work with their community college counselor or advisor to make sure they take appropriate courses.



Cal-GETC is not a requirement for admission, but it may be considered by a campus in selecting among qualified candidates.



UC's general education graduation requirements are designed to help UC undergraduates gain a broad background in all key academic disciplines, including natural sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

Students will need to fulfill these requirements (sometimes called breadth requirements) before they graduate from UC. Transfer students should start taking general education classes at your community college.

There are two ways students can satisfy UC's general education requirements:

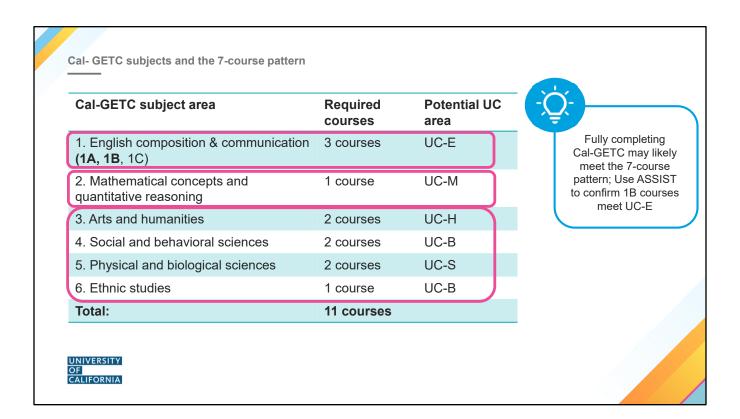
- Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or Cal-GETC. IGETC or Cal-GETC are a series of courses, certified by the California community colleges, that students complete to satisfy the freshman/sophomore-level general education requirements at UC.
- UC campus-specific requirements. Each school/college at every UC campus has its own set of general education classes. Students can find out how to meet the requirements of a specific campus by checking out the campus general catalogs.

General Cal-GETC information for counselors:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/preparing-transfer-students/general-education-and-igetc.html

Campus guidance: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/preparing-to-transfer/general-education-igetc/campus-guidance.html

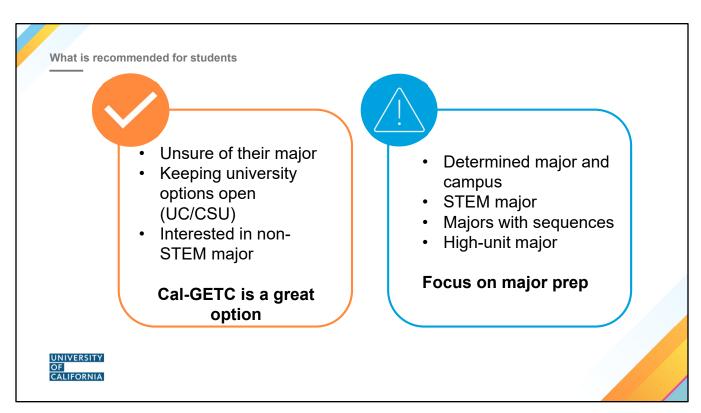
*Note: Cal-GETC is the singular GE pattern available at CCCs beginning fall 2025.



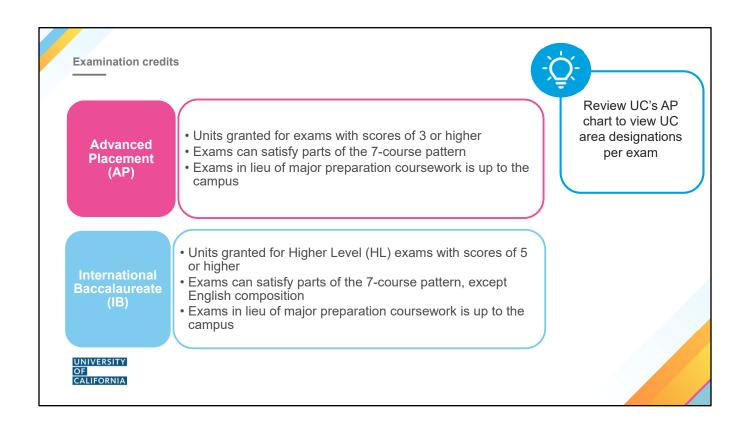
As you can see, if your students are completing Cal-GETC with courses from a CCC, it is likely they will have the 7-course pattern completed, though Cal-GETC alone does not meet minimum requirements since it does not grant enough units.

Cal-GETC areas 1A and 1B tend to align with UC-E, 1C is a communications course and it will NOT meet UC-E.

Use ASSIST to verify 1B courses also satisfy UC-E (most do!).



When is it helpful for a student to complete Cal-GETC? When it is helpful for a student to focus instead on major preparation?



Refer to exam pages for full details: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/ap-exam-credits/

It is possible your college grants a certain number of units per exam that is different than UC's policy. For purposes of calculating units, use the unit counts UC would award for a particular exam (2.6 semester/4 quarter or 5.3 semester/8 quarter)

Non-CCC coursework – what is considered UC-transferable?

Courses determined to be essentially the same as courses offered for an undergraduate degree at any UC campus will be awarded credit if the course:

Is listed in the institution's catalog during the correct academic year

Includes the same or similar content

Requires the same or similar prerequisite coursework



Is offered at the same level of instruction



The subject area regulations guidelines should be used in conjunction with the general criteria contained within UC's transfer credit practices:

- TCA Policy aligns with these credit practices
- While UC does not articulate coursework with any other college or university, these general guidelines can help determine UC-transferability

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/preparing-transfer-students/transfer-credit-practice.html

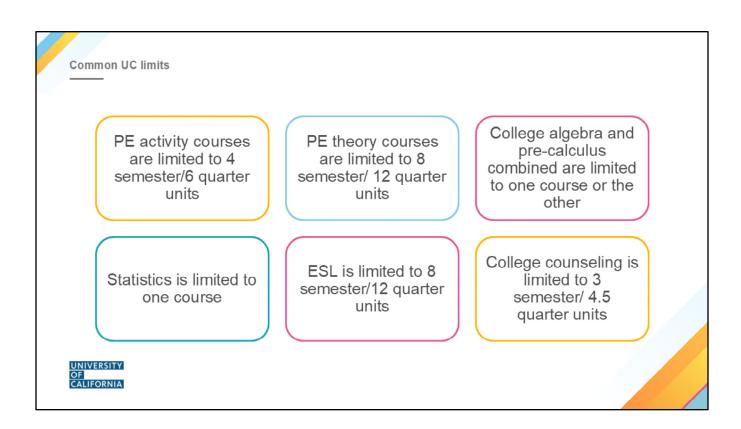
Limits on transfer credit

Students are granted up to 70 semester (105 quarter) units of credit towards their degree.

- AP or IB units are excluded from this limit; no harm to student
- Units earned at an UC campus are excluded from this limit but are added to the maximum credit allowed; may put applicants at risk of excessive units
- Students with only CCC coursework are unlikely to reach excessive units







These are the most common limits.

Limits on transfer credit in action

APPLICATION REVIEW

Determines eligibility.

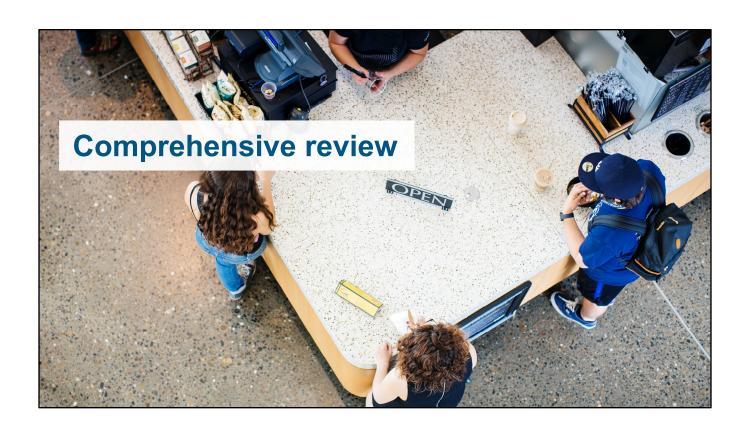
- An evaluator will review courses and apply any credit limits
- We need to see at least 60 sem. (90 qtr.) units for eligibility
- Total number will cap at 70 for all lower division units; all units used in GPA calculation
- Upper division units and any UC units added to max lower division unit
 - Would determine if student is at risk of high junior or senior standing

ENROLLMENT

Determines credit to the degree.

- Verify courses and units reported on the UC application
- · Campus will apply units to the degree
- Degree requirements vary by campus
- Total number of lower division units cap at 70; subject credit for remaining units
- All UC units granted, transferable upper-division units also granted
 - Few campuses will admit and therefore enroll senior standing students





Minimum requirements vs. selection

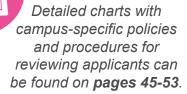
Minimum requirements

- 7-course pattern
- Units
- GPA
- · Primary focus on junior-transfers

Selection

- Comprehensive review (9 factors)
- Varies by campus
- Done independently by the campuses





Transfer admit data can found on the UC Admissions website.

Requirements: UC has systemwide requirements for transfer admission. These are the minimum qualifications an applicant must have in order to be considered for admission. Includes: the 7-course pattern, minimum GPA and unit requirements.

Selection: Each campus conducts an individual review of applicants to identify the most competitive students in their applicant pool. Most campuses admit students above the minimum eligibility criteria and each campus has their own selection criteria based on individual campus factors. For transfer students, academics remain the top priority.

Transfer admit data: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/transfer-admit-data.html

Transfer admission and major preparation

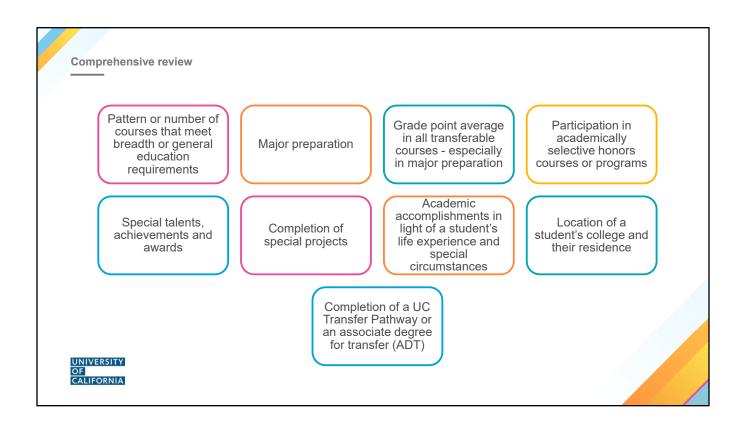
Major preparation is always recommended but a campus may require specific major courses for admission purposes

- Lower-division coursework at UC = major prep at a CCC
- May or may not have a major prep GPA requirement
- May or may not be required for admission selection
- Courses not completed at a CCC will need to be completed at UC
- Use ASSIST and campus-specific websites/resources for full details

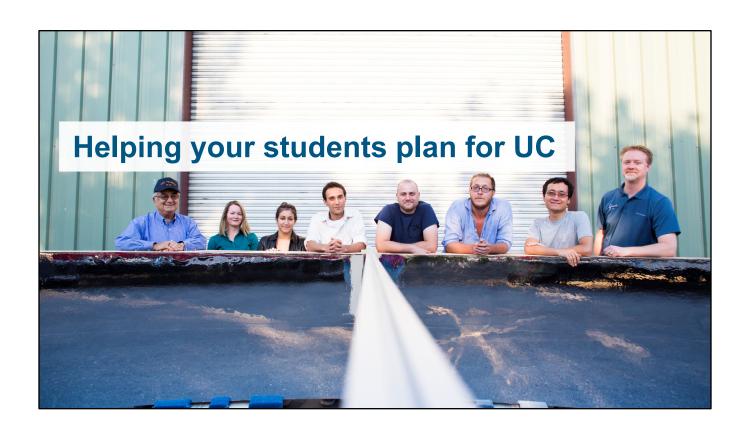


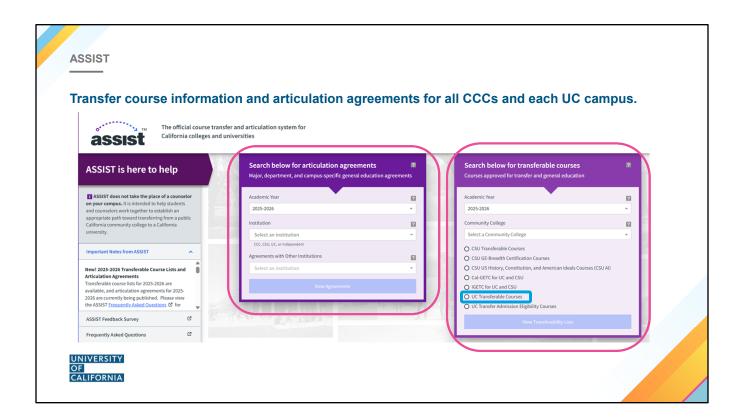
ASSIST and campusspecific websites are important for major preparation





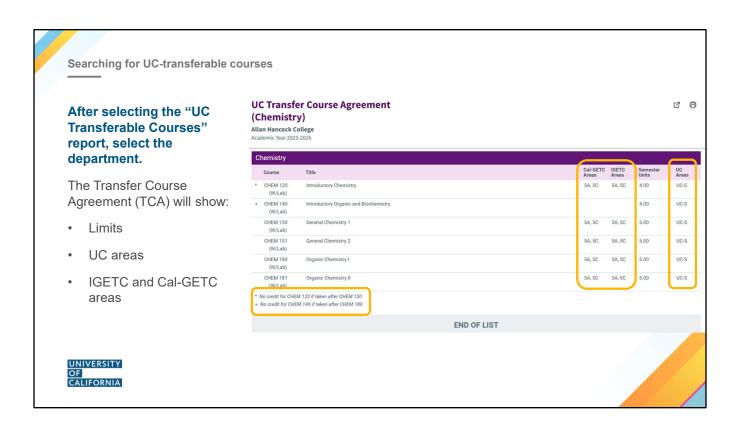
Beyond checking for completion of admission requirements, campuses can use any of these factors to review and select applicants. Full details can be found online: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/how-applications-are-reviewed.html



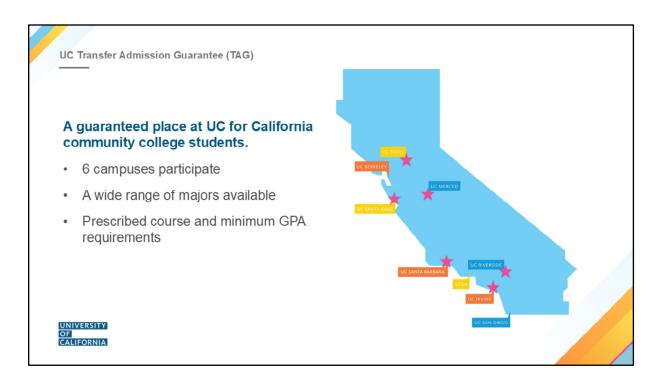


An essential tool!

- Transferable courses: all courses at a CCC that transfer to UC. UC eligibility areas (7-course pattern) included among UC-transferable courses.
- Articulation agreements: Major, department or general education agreements between a UC and a CCC.



Note: 2025-26 TCAs will be available at the end of October.



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.

Who can TAG?

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:

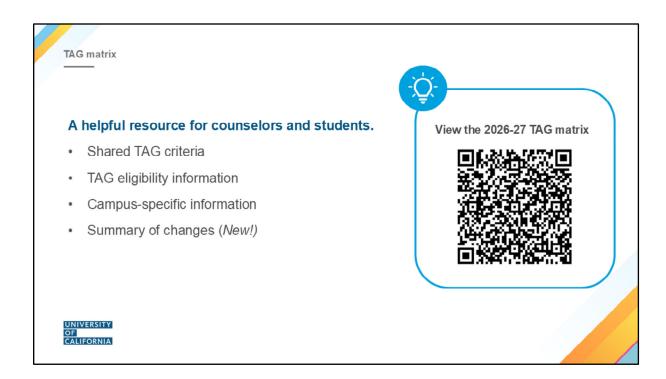
- × High school students
- Students previously enrolled at a UC campus who intend to return to the same campus
- Students previously enrolled at a UC campus who were not in good standing when they left that UC
- Students who have already earned a bachelors or higher degree



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).



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-tagmatrix.pdf

UC Transfer Pathways

Unform major preparation for some of UC's most sought-after majors – now up to 27 pathways which equal ~250 majors at UC.

- By fully completing a UC Transfer Pathway's course expectations, students are on track to move into upper-division coursework at UC and thus increases the likelihood of a 2-year graduation timeline
- Note: There is no recommended GPA for these pathways; we encourage students to review selective GPA ranges at the UC campuses of interest
- Fully completing a UCTP and submitting a TAG application in an available major = Pathways+



Course expectations for each Pathway are set at the highest level of selection; No campus can require more, some can ask for less



https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways/

UC Transfer Pathways in action

HOW TO USE UC TRANSFER PATHWAYS WITH YOUR STUDENTS

- If your student is interested in any of the available pathways, use the course expectations to help plan major preparation
- Economics Transfer Pathway course expectations:
 - Microeconomics (one course)
 - Macroeconomics (one course)
 - Single variable calculus (one-year sequence)



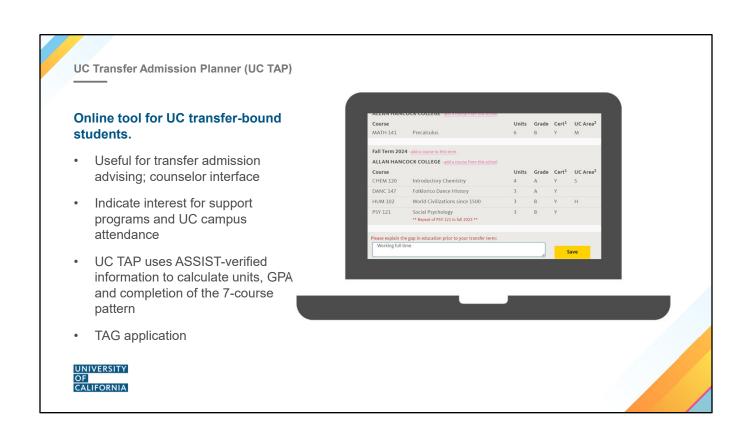
Majors available:

- Business Management Economics, B.A. at Santa Cruz
- Economics, A.B. at Davis
- Economics, B.A. at Berkeley
- Economics, B.A. at Irvine
- · Economics, B.A. at Los Angeles
- · Economics, B.A. at Merced
- · Economics, B.A. at Riverside
- Economics, B.A. at San Diego
- Economics, B.A. at Santa Barbara
- Economics, B.A. at Santa Cruz
- Economics/Mathematics, B.A. at Santa Cruz
- Global Economics, B.A. at Santa Cruz



https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways/economics.html

Use ASSIST to find the specific classes offered at your community college that will satisfy the expected coursework at a particular UC campus.



https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students/ https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/



Applying to UC

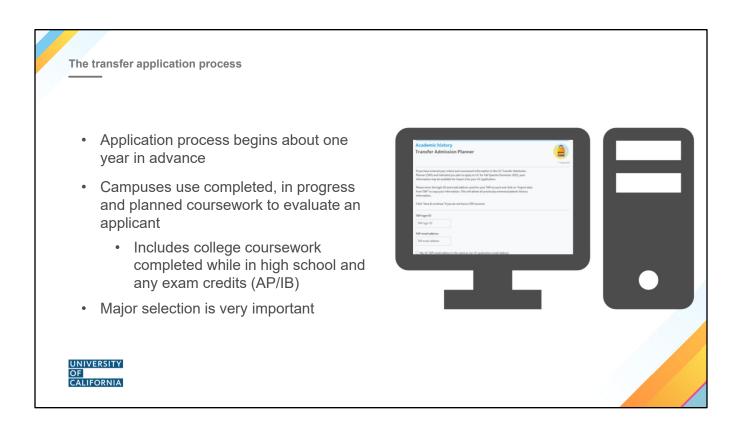
Nine campuses, one application

- Campus choice is up to the student
- Application fee is \$80 per campus (\$95 for international applicants)
- Fee waiver is available for up to four campuses for qualified students
- TAG applicants must also submit the UC application
- Transfer Academic Update (TAU) is required for transfer students

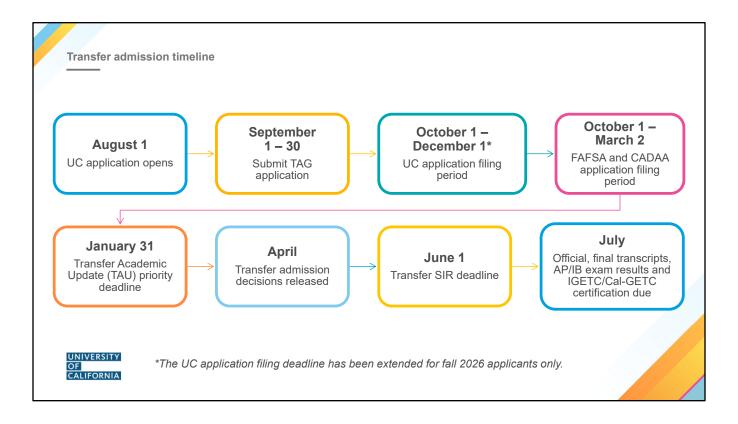




https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/



Transfer students apply about one year in advance of transferring.



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.

<u>Important:</u> 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.



Important resources for counselors

UC Counselors website & Resource Library



Quick Reference Guide to UC
Admission



UC TAP for Counselors







When in doubt, ask! Email the Undergraduate Admissions team with any systemwide questions at AskUC@ucop.edu.

UC Counselors website: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

Counselor Resource Library:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/connect-to-resources/resource-library.html

QRG: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/quick-reference-guide-to-uc-admissions.pdf

UC TAP for counselors: https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

