Welcome to “Cool for the summer – Engage with UC programs” session.
Overview

- WHAT IS SUMMER ENGAGEMENT?
- WHY ENGAGE?
- PROGRAM OPTIONS
- WHAT TO EXPECT
- BEYOND PARTICIPATION & UC ADMISSIONS
- SUMMER ENGAGEMENT BEYOND UC
- COUNSELING PRO TIPS
This session highlights programs and opportunities to expose transfer students to a university setting and how it may help prospective applicants, prepare for the admissions process.
Why engage?

Summer programs & engagement opportunities help students

- Character
- Future leaders
- Personal insight
- Competitive edge
- Resiliency
- Mentorship and advocacy

There are multiple benefits for students who participate in summer engagement opportunities by building a strong foundation including:

- Resiliency
- Character
- Mentorship Experience
- Opportunity to learn from mentors and build leadership skills by becoming future mentors
- Gain personal insight on life and apply this as additional context to the admissions process

Every summer engagement experience may aid students by:

- Providing continuity for students to engage in social and educational activities.
- Helping them gain a competitive-edge amongst peers Especially for Underserved Populations
- Giving students additional topics to consider for the PIQ’s because of these new life experiences therefore adding value to their overall application.

→ Bottom Line-- It makes a student a much stronger applicant and more competitive for UC Admissions!
Student stories

“I just like the fact that it allows students to dip their toes into college courses before having a full schedule.”

– Transfer student summer program participant
Summer program opportunities
Summer Programs will cater to a wide range of students from:

- **All Inclusive**: Including programs open to students from any state or school that are not limited based on territory and all are welcome to apply.
- **Regional**: Programs that are only open to students who reside in certain counties, city and schools.
- **Experience Required**: Programs limited to students with experience and interest for a particular subject area.
- **Special Populations**: Including students from Transfer Prep, Underserved Communities, 1st Generation among others.
- **Invitation Only**: Includes students who have dedicated experience in a specific program area, are maintaining a certain GPA criteria, or who come from particular CCC.

Summer programming may also include many of the following themes:

- **Pre-college / college readiness**: acclimation to the college experience through residential life, guest lectures, presentations and social activities
- **STEM/tech**: Coding, Gaming, Programs that focus primary on S.T.E.M. Computer Sciences, etc.
- **Writing Institutes**: To enhance writing skills used academically and for applications like the PIQ’s... but also exposes student to different areas that pertain to the art of writing as a whole. Ex: Screenwriting, Journalism, Creative Writing, etc...
- **Athletics/recreation**: Serve as a skill building opportunity and gives students the platform for exposure to collegiate level coaches and scouts
- **Academic Prep**: social sciences, humanities, arts, Programs that prepare students specifically for a certain subject area
- **Arts**: Programs that foster creativity in areas like dance, theater, music production, sculpting, game design, etc... Also, gives experience needed for applying in these specialty areas. Can use for portfolio, audition material when applying to campuses that have additional requirements.
This is an overview for two distinctly UC affiliated programs available for transfer students during the summertime including, “Summer Sessions & Transfer Edge”.

UC Summer Sessions offers undergraduate classes, open non-UC matriculated students, without their having to ‘apply’ to that university. Students need to meet age and GPA requirements to get UC student accounts set up, like any visitor in summer. Depending on what students want to take, they may also need to show transcripts or proof of meeting certain prerequisites.

Transfer Edge which is offered at 6 of the UC campuses, provides an early immersion into the campus environment, helping incoming transfer students with their transition into the UC setting.
Student stories

“I loved living on campus, I loved getting a head start on my units, and it is just such a relief to be heading into the fall quarter feeling a lot more prepared with a better idea of how the transition to university will feel.”

– Transfer student summer program participant
What to expect
Whether a program provides “credits” or not is a major differentiating factor. A credit bearing course will become part of the student’s UC academic record, will be included in their UC GPA, and of course, college credit to transfer to future colleges and universities. For example, any classes taken in Summer Sessions across the UCs, or though UC Online, are official, University of California college credit.

Non-credit courses don’t provide transferable credit but could still be strenuously academic. They can be experiential and career-oriented, like the SIP internship program in the STEM fields, or subject immersions. Often, the credit-bearing component raises the cost because of the UC-set tuition component, and some non-credit opportunities can cost less.

Some examples of summer program offerings at the UC include:

1) Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) @ UC Berkeley:
An opportunity for a limited number of students to participate in UC Berkeley’s wonderfully diverse intellectual, social, and cultural community by taking a summer class at Cal. Students must complete an application process through TAP prior to enrollment to have this opportunity to become familiar with world-class faculty and resources on campus.

2) Aggie Transfer Scholars Weekend (ATSW) @ UC Davis:
Is for students attending a community college that is part of the UC Davis Transfer Opportunity Program (TOP). AvenueB and AvenueE are invited to participate in a free 4-day, 3-night summer residential intensive transfer preparation program. You will receive one-on-one assistance with your UC application and explore the many support services and resource opportunities that a UC has to offer.
3) **PATH @UC San Diego:**
Is a collaborative program between the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and the University of California, San Diego to help provide guidance to transfer students studying arts and humanities.

4) **UC Transfer Bound summer program @UC Santa Barbara:**
Is designed for students that have recently completed high school and will be attending a California Community College in order to prepare for transfer admission to the University of California. Participants will discover academic and co-curricular opportunities available at UCSB while obtaining individualized UC admissions support. Students will attend workshops that strengthen leadership skills, experience lectures and workshops, and engage in meaningful discussions with the UCSB community.

5) **Transfer Academy @UC Merced:**
Is a 3-day, 2-night residential program at UC Merced for all current community college students who are interested in transferring to a UC campus. During the program, students will have an opportunity to meet with Admissions representatives and receive feedback on their admissions eligibility, live in a UC Merced residential hall, learn about research opportunities, network with transfer students, and much more!
Before the pandemic, a few UCs offered online classes like Berkeley, LA, Irvine, and Santa Cruz. Because of the pandemic, they all are. If students are interested in the remote learning experience, there are hundreds of online courses to choose from, in hundreds of academic disciplines. As students plan, they can think about these instructional delivery options, residential or commuting, full time or part time, do you have other obligations like work, family, sports, and other considerations.

If in-person coursework is the goal, there are two ways to proceed. Students can live at home and commute to campus, allowing them all the access as any other student - libraries, the fitness center, resources for students with disabilities, private and group tutoring, and fun programming.

Or, at several UCs, students can move into the residence halls and live among college students. Certainly gaining the real college experience and independent living, on-campus housing can be transformative and expensive. Some programs require residential living but include it in the program costs. Students are highly monitored, very safe, and their time is quite full with programming and coursework.

1) Transfer Leadership Collaborative (TLC)
TLC is a residential summer institute at UCI that introduces students to academic planning for transfer from community college to UC. The program also develops important leadership skills to facilitate academic retention and civic engagement. Students planning to enroll in Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College, Rio Hondo College, El Camino College (Compton Center) and Long Beach City College are eligible for the program.

2) Summer Up
Summer Up Program is a 6-week MATH-C course program at UC Merced designed to help community
college students be one step closer to transferring. Students participating in Summer Up will be able to complete Merced College’s MATH C-Intermediate Algebra course while gaining the resources and knowledge needed to transfer to a UC.

3) UCLA Site+
Site+ is a 6-week virtual program; students complete a UCLA summer sessions course, and receive individual advising on the UC application and personal insight questions. Introduction to research, university writing and support programs. Must participate in activities on Tues. and Thurs.
Much like there are various kinds of academic options, and different types of application processes, there are a wide range of costs!

Some programs are free for eligible students, often funded by a combination of state and federal funds, contributions from the campus hosting them, and gifts from generous donors.

Some programs provide financial aid to students in the form of reduced rates, stipends for working part time, or grants/gifts. Some programs give aid in the form of ‘scholarships’ for qualified students, which also may have a competitive process.

The UCs use their ‘financial aid’ pool for their degree-seeking, continuing students. But tuition and campus fee include use of resources (libraries, fitness center, buses, tutoring, etc.) so consider making the most of campus.

Prices go up, too, when you consider housing and dining for the residential experience.

Or travel expenses to programming, parking, commuting to and from, or even flights and hotels and medical insurance for international travel experiences.

**Transfer Preparation Academy**

The UCSB Transfer Preparation Academy is a free summer program designed for California Community College students who plan to apply for transfer admission to the University of California in the fall. Participants will discover academic and co-curricular opportunities available at UCSB while obtaining individualized UC admissions support. Students will attend workshops that strengthen their leadership skills, experience lectures and workshops, and engage in meaningful discussions with the UCSB community and other transfer students.
Some programs take students only from certain school districts that they’re working with to build relationships with, support, and improve pipeline from those schools into UCs, maintaining great relationship between schools.

A few programs are “by invitation only” across the UCs. Students have met specific criteria, then are invited in small numbers to come for a few supportive and transitional weeks in summer.

Some are subject-specific so they only want students passionate about creative writing or computer programming, so the application process would include an important “personal reflection” or “letter of intention” type way to express the student’s commitment to immersing themselves in that subject or major or career path.

Some programs have legitimate application processes with letters of recommendation from teachers and other mentors, and official transcripts required from the CCC. They may have early deadlines like Feb 1, then a period of evaluation before the ‘accept’ or ‘deny’ go out.
The benefits of the personal, professional, and career growth after summer engagement are many! In addition, to possibly earning additional credits and skill development is building their confidence which is instrumental especially for transfer students who many feel that they may not be able to acclimate to the university.
Student stories

“The best opportunity to get a head start... I was worried how the course work would look like, so this program allowed me to see how the UC system works...”

- Transfer student summer participant
Beyond participation and the admissions process
Students need to understand the UC Comprehensive Review and how summer engagement can be used in the overall UC Admissions Process. Although each UC campus varies on how review our respective applicants, there is still going to be a holistic approach.

Transfer students may not realize how much we value their dedication to experiences they have during the summertime that they can include on their UC application.
We want your students to share all their involvements during their college years and encourage them to avoid discussing their high school-related experiences. Applicants should also be sure to include their “non-credit” activities on this “Activities & awards” section of their UC application. For any credit-bearing courses taken and credits earned, please remind them to add these courses and grades earned, in the “Academic history” section of the UC application.
A little background about the activities is helpful for a clearer understanding of the applicant’s role and responsibilities within their involvements. It is helpful for admission evaluators to have a better understanding of the commitments they have made when they can provide us with a little more context in this section. Please also encourage them to add a brief description of the programs and to spell out acronyms for application readers.
Applicants can expand their narrative and share further reflections of their summer engagement experiences in any of their responses to their Personal insight questions.
Journaling can help them keep their reflections fresh in their minds in preparation for their PIQ responses so we can get to know them better as applicants.
Please check out the PIQ session to explore additional advising tips on the specific prompts.
Beyond participation and the admissions process

PERSONAL INSIGHT

Talent & skill development

Educational opportunities / barriers

Significant challenges

School & community service

Additional information & readiness for the UC

PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS:
GUIDE FOR TRANSFER APPLICANTS

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Question 5 (continue)

You may have already had this talent or skill but we hope you will focus on your own potential for the future. What are the steps you have taken to develop this talent or skill?

Recommendations:
- How have you demonstrated these talents or skills in your academic experience?
- How have you used these talents or skills to improve your academic success?

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RECOMMENDATIONS:
- What are the challenges you face in your academic journey?
- How have you overcome these challenges and what strategies have you used?

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RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Have you faced any obstacles in your academic journey?
- How have you overcome these obstacles and what strategies have you used?

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This worksheet is designed to help UC transfer applicants start the writing process for the personal insight questions. Additional suggestions can be found on the UC’s admissions website and the transfer workbook.
Student stories

“I am SO GLAD I took the summer academy... Class sizes were engaging and everyone was really very helpful... It was an overall great experience for me!”

– Transfer Student Summer Program participant
Summer engagement beyond UC
There are also summer engagement opportunities outside of the UC System. Community colleges & community-based organizations (CBOs) provide many ways for students to stay engaged in the summer while preparing for life as an undergraduate at the university.

These programs are designed to provide insight into all aspects of the college admission process, including topics related to eligibility requirements, selection, personal insight questions and financial aid.
There are many advantages to taking on a job, beyond the monetary aspect. People, leadership and time management are but a few of the many skills developed. These skills are important, not only for life in general, but also for what one may accumulate while in college. Ways in which one interacts with their co-workers, easily translates to how one engages with their peers and professors.

Jobs and volunteer opportunities brings forth the opportunity to provide services to others in need. This enhances human interaction in many ways.

For transfer students, many advanced jobs may be available solely based on the fact that the employee is a college student. (ie. Summer Youth supervisory positions offered through the City of Los Angeles are available to students already in a community college/4-year college setting.)
For some, going away to college will mean the first time being away from the comforts of home. Travelling is a great way to experience something new out of the ordinary. It allows one the opportunity to experience a different population of individuals, new services, new activities, new settings and so on. Travel can take on many forms. Local, statewide, domestically and internationally.

Sometimes travel can be something as simple as visiting colleges and universities. Many programs mentioned before, such as TRIO, MESA, UMOJA sponsor trips to campuses at various times of the year. Some of these may occur during the summer. We encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities. In partnering with UC reps, we can assist with whatever needs come forth in the planning of visiting our respective campuses.

Of course, travel can also be a way for students to just de-stress from the rigors of academics and planning for transfer admission. Self-care is always important and should not be taken for granted. Getting away can lead to relaxation, reconnection and rejuvenation for all involved. Please continue to encourage your students to take advantage of these opportunities.
Student stories

“I found the community and support from this program helpful because it got me through a challenging yet critical transition. I showed up to campus feeling like I belong here.”

– Transfer Edge student alum
Counseling pro tips
DON’T:
Oftentimes, third party businesses will use UC campus names and/or similar keywords to promote their summer programs. These programs generally are not connected to the UC campus, tend to be expensive and may not offer up to date information on UC admissions requirements.
DON'T:
Programs can be outdated or the program may no longer exist as they are constantly subject to change.
DON'T:
Don’t forget about us when you’re planning your summer programming and/or if you have any events in August.
DON’T:
Don’t only research summer programs offered through the Admission Office. Other departments/centers offer outreach summer programs as well.
DO'S:

1. Visit the campuses’ websites directly. Pro-tip: Each UC campus and UCOP have counselor bulletins that offer a lot of great up to date information including programs for both you and your students.

2. Check the dates on the websites. You may see a summer program in your search but find that the dates are not current. Pro-tip: Keep a record of the current summer programs you find along with the time of year it’s offered and any application deadlines. Look up these programs every year for updated information.

3. If you offer summer intensive programs, application/PIQ workshops and/or do campus tours in the summer, invite us to collaborate with you. **Hint, hint, wink, wink: The Admissions Office works year-round (note we generally don’t do any visits/presentations during the reading cycle which is in November through early April).**

4. Research major departments, residential halls, student service-support centers, student organizations, popular/specialty academic programs, etc.
DO'S:

Use keywords in your search! The following are examples of these keywords:

a. **Edge**: Summer Edge, College Edge, etc. *Be aware that “edge” is often used for summer bridge programs for newly admitted students as well.

b. **Experience**: Summer Experience, Transfer Summer Experience, etc.

c. **Pre-Admission**: for student preparing for transfer admission.

d. **Institute**: (insert subject) Summer Institute for transfer students. Mostly used for academic programs.

e. **Engagement**: UCOP Summer Engagement, etc.

f. **Scholars**: Pre-college Scholars Program, Transfer Summer Scholars Program, etc.

g. **Summer Residential**: (insert campus) Summer Residential Program for Transfer Students, etc.

h. **Summer Intensive**: (insert campus or college) Summer Intensive Program, etc.

i. **Immersion**: Summer College Immersion Program, etc.

j. **STEM**: (insert campus or college) Summer STEM Outreach Program, etc.

k. **Outreach**: (insert campus or college) Transfer Outreach Program, etc.

l. **Academy**: (insert campus or college) Summer Academy for Transfer Students, etc.

m. **Mentorship**: (insert campus or college) Research Mentorship Program
Meet Stephanie, a UCSC Transfer Edge student participant.
Student stories
UC Counselor Quick Reference Guide:

UC Counselors and Advisers Bulletin:
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/connect-to-resources/counselors-and-advisers-bulletin.html
Thank you & stay cool!