Major mayhem:

Everyone wants my major, what do I do?

ENSURING TRANSFER SUCCESS CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

California Community Colleges

Agenda

- How campuses define "selective"

- Review process for selective majors

- Alternative pathways for your students

What is a selective major?

Majors that are selective receive more qualified applicants than spaces available. Therefore, the more prepared students are for the major, the more competitive they will be.

A selective major may strongly recommend/ require additional criteria and preparation. This may include courses, specific letter grades in courses, and GPA requirements.

Terms used by each UC campus

Campuses that use the term "selective"	Campuses that use the term "screening"	Campuses that use the term "capped"
UC Berkeley UC Davis UC Irvine UCLA UC Merced UC Riverside UC Santa Barbara	UC Santa Cruz	UC San Diego

UC transfers by major tool

Transfers by major

| By major name | By federal CIP category | By community college |

Fall term transfer applications by major

Search for major name

Campus: UCB
Fall term: 2022

Compare selection to campus overall

Compare selected broad discipline across campuses
(Ignores college/school)

Broad discipline: **All**

Campus	Applicants	Admits	Enrolls	Admit GPA range	Enroll GPA range	Admit rate	Yield rate
UCB	19,371	4,573	2,670	3.62 – 3.96	3.58 – 3.95	24%	58%
UCD	15,533	9,045	2,614	3.44 – 3.89	3.32 – 3.80	58%	29%
UCI	22,815	9,142	2,579	3.60 – 3.93	3.53 – 3.89	40%	28%
UCLA	24,943	5,961	3,645	3.74 – 4.00	3.73 – 4.00	24%	61%
UCM	4,226	2,688	213	3.15 – 3.75	2.85 – 3.54	64%	8%
UCR	12,937	7,877	1,461	3.17 – 3.80	2.96 – 3.64	61%	19%
UCSD	19,734	11,430	3,069	3.45 – 3.91	3.33 – 3.84	58%	27%
UCSB	17,636	10,245	2,099	3.48 – 3.92	3.33 – 3.81	58%	20%
UCSC	11,719	7,099	1,212	3.20 – 3.82	3.02 – 3.70	61%	17%

Admit rate: 24%
Overall campus admit rate: 24%
Yield rate: 58%
Overall campus yield rate: 58%

Mouse over "Broad discipline" or "College/School",
then click the minus or plus to collapse or expand.
Click on a category to select it.
The GPA range represents the middle half of admits and enrollees (the
25th to 75th percentile).

Totals may not add up because majors with fewer than 5 applicants or
fewer than 3 admits or enrollees are masked (not shown).

Broad discipline	College/School	Major name	Applicants	Admits	Enrolls	Admit GPA range	Enroll GPA range	Admit rate	Yield rate
Agriculture & Natural Resources	College Of Letters & science	Environmental earth science	29	9	6	3.38 – 3.70	3.39 – 3.66	31%	67%
		Environmental economics & policy	102	34	31	3.57 – 4.00	3.58 – 4.00	33%	91%
		Geography	40	26	19	3.61 – 3.94	3.56 – 3.93	65%	73%
	College Of Natural resources	Conservation & resource studies	40	22	15	3.44 – 3.90	3.46 – 3.89	55%	68%
		Ecosystem management and forestry – forestry	12	5	4	3.59 – 3.94	masked	42%	80%
		Ecosystem management and forestry – natura..	21	5	4	3.38 – 3.58	masked	24%	80%
		Environmental economics & policy	52	30	24	3.55 – 3.92	3.69 – 3.92	58%	80%
		Environmental science	145	34	11	3.46 – 3.83	3.40 – 3.74	23%	32%
		Society and environment	77	17	15	3.50 – 3.94	3.48 – 3.93	22%	88%
Architecture & Envir..	College Of Environmental desi..	Architecture	247	49	40	3.75 – 3.94	3.73 – 3.91	20%	82%

Source: http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major

Visit the tool here:

SCAN ME

Transfer review process for selective majors

Does major selection affect admissions decisions?
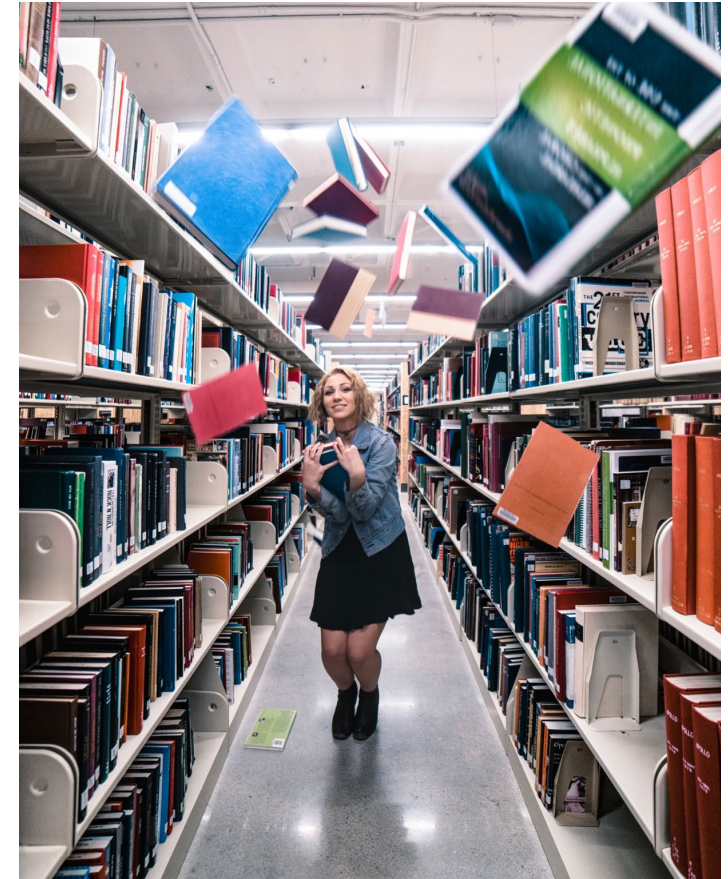
YES

The major will determine:

- Specific major preparation requirements
- Specific GPA requirements
- IGETC recommendations
- Any supplemental applications

How are selective majors considered in the transfer review process?

- Completion of major preparation courses
- GPA
- 9 comprehensive review factors
  - Going above and beyond required major prep!

Major preparation coursework

Major prep is extremely important

- Utilize Assist.org

- Check campus catalogues

- Encourage students to do well in the subject!

The importance of major preparation

Transfer students are college students.

- Major preparation is essential to transfer and ultimately, for graduation

- Timely progress in major preparation allows students to go into upper-division coursework after transfer
  - Pre-requisites and sequences

Resources to support students

- ASSIST.org – Essential articulation information

- Connect with an admissions officer from the student's UC of interest

- UC campus-based tools such as guides or video tutorials

- Attend UC support events

Auditions & supplementals

Students applying to majors requiring auditions or supplementals may be asked to submit more information following the submission of the UC application.

- Deadlines may vary

- Students should continue to check their email after submitting the application!

Supplemental applications

Not all highly selective majors require supplemental information and not all majors that request supplementals are highly selective.

Supplemental applications

May include…

- Portfolio submission

- Auditions

- Additional written statements

- Work samples/resumes

- Other information relevant to their chosen major

Auditions for performing arts

- May require students to attend **in-person** auditions following the submission of their application.

- Not all music, dance, and theater programs require auditions, but many do. Students should check the requirements for their programs prior to applying.

Which UCs allow alternate majors on the application?

- All UCs with the exception of UC Berkeley, consider an alternate major

- Students should consider whether or not the alternate major they are choosing is selective

- If selective, usually has to complete major prep requirements

- Alternate majors do not have to be related (and sometimes *should not* be related) to the first choice major

Alternative pathways to the same major or career

Top priority for students

- Have an honest conversation with your students about their top priority

- Campus, major or career?

Three popular majors/fields

Everyone wants the health fields

- Psychology

- Public Health

- Physical Sciences

- Natural Resources

Computer science seems to be popular too

- Data Science
- Statistics
- Mathematics
- Information systems

…And of course everyone wants to go into business!

- Global studies

- Legal studies

- Political science

- Economics

- International development studies

Advice for major selection

- Realize that major preparation requirements often **overlap**

- Encourage students to **research** each major

- Strategically utilize **alternate majors** on the UC application

Friendly reminder 1

- **Students should not apply to a major they have no interest in**

- Rather, try to help them understand which majors besides their first choice could lead to similar career goals

Friendly reminder 2

- **Students may not be able to switch into a highly selective/ competitive major after being admitted**

- Students should select majors on the UC application that they are interested in

- Less selective majors are NOT backdoors to selective majors

Friendly reminder 3

- **Students can apply to different majors at different UC campuses**

- Different campuses often have different levels of selectivity, even for similar majors

- Major preparation requirements may be similar or different across campuses/majors. Students should do their research!

Beyond the major

Don't forget about minor programs

Minors can help students:

- Achieve their educational and career goals by supplementing their majors
- Broaden their education in another field that connects with their major
- Stand out when applying for jobs or graduate/professional school

Examples:

- **Education minor** for teaching career

- **Statistics minor** for data analyst career

- **Hydrology minor** for water/geology career

Undergraduate research opportunities

Research opportunities available for all students

Hands on experience that applies classroom lessons to real world scenarios

Preparation for professional career tracks that includes resume and network building

Other opportunities on & off campus

- Study abroad programs
- Pre-professional programs
  - Pre-health/Pre-med
  - Pre-law
- Student organized clubs
- Jobs
- Internships
- Transfer Student Centers

Thank you!