Major mayhem:

Everyone wants my major, what do I do?
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campuses that use the term “selective”</th>
<th>Campuses that use the term “screening”</th>
<th>Campuses that use the term “capped”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UC Berkeley</td>
<td>UC Santa Cruz</td>
<td>UC San Diego</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
<td>UC Santa Cruz</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Merced</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Riverside</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Santa Barbara</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### UC transfers by major tool

Visit the tool here: [http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major)

#### Transfers by major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad discipline</th>
<th>College/School</th>
<th>Major name</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Admits</th>
<th>Enrolls</th>
<th>Admit GPA range</th>
<th>Enroll GPA range</th>
<th>Admit rate</th>
<th>Yield rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td>College of Letters &amp; science</td>
<td>Environmental earth science</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.30 - 3.70</td>
<td>3.50 - 3.90</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental economics &amp; policy</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3.67 - 4.00</td>
<td>3.50 - 4.00</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>91%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3.61 - 3.94</td>
<td>3.50 - 3.93</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation &amp; resource studies</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.44 - 3.90</td>
<td>3.40 - 3.90</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecosystem management and forestry - forestry</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.58 - 3.84</td>
<td>maxed</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecosystem management and forestry - natural</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.38 - 3.55</td>
<td>maxed</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental economics &amp; policy</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3.55 - 3.92</td>
<td>3.60 - 3.92</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental science</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.46 - 3.83</td>
<td>3.40 - 3.74</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Society and environment</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.50 - 3.94</td>
<td>3.40 - 3.93</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major)
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!