

Navigating the UC application

Tips for enhancing student outcomes



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Special note

- This presentation is not a step-by step walk-through of the UC application. Instead, we will focus on specific areas with tips that you can use to help your students successfully navigate the application.

Selecting term & level

California Community College students with only CCC coursework should choose junior-level transfer even if their total units seem excessive.

There is a limit on how many units can transfer (not courses, but units).


Students with past UC units and/or other university upper-division units are the only students who can be above the junior-level.


When do you hope to start at the University of California? *

Fall Quarter/Semester 2023
 Winter Quarter/Spring Semester 2024
 Spring Quarter 2024
 Fall Quarter/Semester 2024

Your application level: *

Freshman
I'm currently in high school.
- OR -
I've graduated from high school, but have not enrolled in a regular session (non-summer) at a college or university. ⓘ

Transfer 
I've graduated from high school and am enrolled in a regular session (fall, winter or spring) at a college or university. ⓘ

Junior-level transfer 
I will complete 60-89 semester units or 90-134 quarter units by the time I enter UC.

Sophomore-level transfer
I will complete fewer than 60 semester units/90 quarter units by the time I enter UC. (There are limited campuses/programs available at this level.)

Senior-level transfer
I will complete 90 semester units/135 quarter units or more by the time I enter UC. (There are limited campuses/programs available at this level.)

Please select what type of transfer applicant you are based on the number of college/university units you plan to complete before you enroll at UC:

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Selecting Term & Level

Students must select the appropriate level for which they are applying.

- A student who has enrolled in a regular term, whether it be in fall/winter/spring at a college or university after graduating from high school is considered a transfer student.
- Most campuses consider students at the junior level only, but certain programs and campuses may also consider sophomore and senior transfers.

Note: students with CCC coursework only – regardless of the number of units completed at the CCC – are not senior-level transfers and should NOT check the senior-level transfer button. Indicating senior-level transfer will significantly reduce the student's transfer options. Only UC coursework (both lower- and upper-division) and upper-division coursework from other 4-year institutions can jeopardize a student's junior standing.

- Middle college and dual enrollment students are considered freshman applicants since they have not graduated from high school with a diploma or GED.

Additional notes: Select campuses may be open for lower division transfers and/or winter/spring admission, but most campuses will primarily focus on fall transfers at the

junior level.

About you

▼ About you	
Personal information	
Contact information	
Citizenship & residency	
Demographics	←
Your background	
Your household	
Parent information	
Statement of Legal Residence	←
Review	

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About You Section

- And now, we are going to dive into the UC Application, beginning with the About You section. Overall, subsections give us a glimpse of the student's demographics, backgrounds, and household information
- We will cover two areas in this section: Citizenship & Residency and the Statement of Legal Residence

Citizenship and residency

Citizenship

- All applicants must select a country of citizenship
- U.S. citizens will have a follow-up question about tribal affiliation to help determine eligibility for the Native American Opportunity Program (NAOP)
- Non-U.S. citizens will be asked further questions regarding visa status

Undocumented & DACA participating applicants

- Applicants should select “No Selection”
- Applicants should leave SSN blank (or include SSN for work purposes or ITIN)
- This information is confidential and encrypted, regardless of citizenship status

About you Citizenship & residency



* required

What is your country of citizenship?

Country *

United States

Do you have a U.S. Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

If you apply for financial aid, we use the Social Security number or ITIN you provide to match your application to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application. See 'Help' for more information on the additional uses of the Social Security number.

No Yes

Are you an enrolled member of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe (U.S.)?

No Yes

California residency for admission purposes

It's important for us to know your residency status because UC has different admission criteria for California and non-California residents.

By the time you attend UC, will you have graduated from a California high school?*

No Yes

Save & continue

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Citizenship and Residency

As you help your students navigate this section, we want to remind you that everything is confidential and encrypted regardless of citizenship status

Statement of Legal Residence

All applicants are required to indicate whether or not they would like to be evaluated for CA residency for tuition purposes.

- This section does not impact an admission decision.
- A series of questions will follow to help determine residency for tuition.

About you

Statement of Legal Residence



* required

To determine your University of California (UC) tuition, applicants must indicate if they would like to be evaluated for a Residence Classification via the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR). You must meet UC requirements to qualify for in-state tuition, regardless of your classification in another system. Parents is defined as natural or adoptive parents, not stepparent. Your answer below has no bearing on your admissions decision.

The following three requirements must be established more than 365 days immediately prior to the residence determination date:

- 1) Physical Presence - You and your parents must be physically present in California. If you moved to California primarily to attend the University of California or another school, you are ineligible for a Resident classification for tuition purposes.
- 2) Intent to remain in California - You and your parents must have established your intent to make California your permanent home and must have relinquished ties to any prior place of residence outside of California.
- 3) Immigration status - You and your parents must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or be present under a valid I-94 for an eligible visa, and have held that immigration status.

Applicants who do not satisfy all three parts may qualify for a Special Circumstance, Exemption, or Waiver provision (such as an [AB 540](#) nonresident supplemental tuition exemption) and will be asked to submit additional supplemental information at a future date. For further explanation, read the full [UC Residence Policy and Guidelines](#) .

Note: Undocumented students should use [these instructions](#) for completing the SLR.

Would you like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes? *

Yes No

Save & continue

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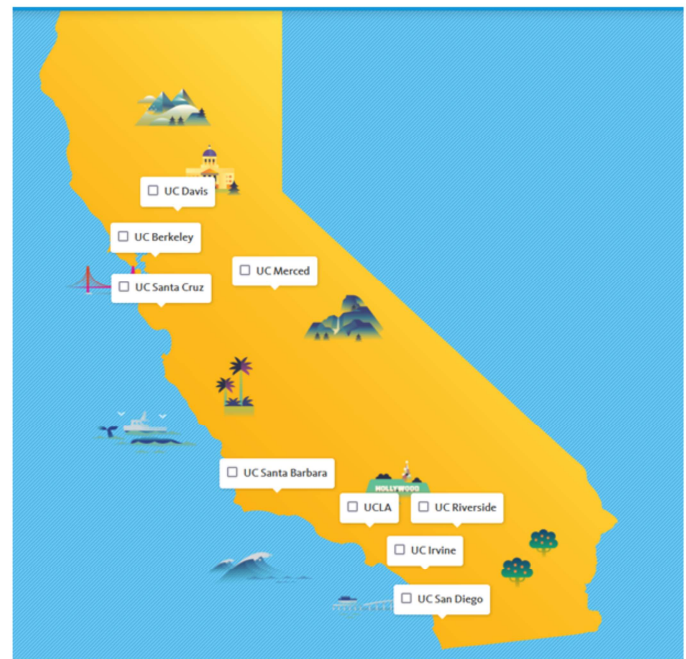
Statement of Legal Residency

To determine a student's in-state or out-of-state tuition, the student must indicate whether or not they are currently living in-state for tuition purposes (read bullet points)

- California students who transfer from an out-of-state school should note that their tuition costs will be based on their permanent address
- Out-of-state applicants will have to pay out-of-state tuition if their permanent address is out-of-state
- Undocumented students may qualify for exemptions after submitting additional information at a later time

Campuses & majors

▼ Campuses & majors	
UC values	
Term & level	
Choose campuses	←
Choose majors	←
Review	



Campus & Majors

Now that we have personal context of the student, up next on the application is the campuses and majors students will be applying for

- Students will need to select which campuses they want to apply to by checking off the box on the map.
- Then they'll need to select a primary and alternate major for each campus.

Campuses & majors

Majors by College

Campuses & majors
Choose majors

UC Irvine

Browse by: College | Category

- > Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
- > **Architectural and Environmental Design and Planning**
- > Art - Applied, Fine, Performing and Art History
- > Biological and Life Sciences

Environmental Engineering, B.S.
The Henry Samueli School of Engineering

Urban Studies, B.A.
School of Social Ecology

Majors by Category

Campuses & majors
Choose majors

UC Irvine

Browse by: College | Category

- > Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
- > Architectural and Environmental Design and Planning
- > Art - Applied, Fine, Performing and Art History
- > Biological and Life Sciences
- > Business and Management
- > Communication
- > Engineering and Computer Science
- > Ethnic and Area Studies
- > Foreign Language and Literature
- > Health Professions
- > Humanities
- > Mathematics
- > Physical Sciences
- > Social Sciences
- > Undeclared, Special Programs, and Other

Save & continue Cancel

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Campus & Majors continue...

However, if a student isn't sure which College their major is in, they can opt for the Category view.

- This is the view for selecting campuses and majors by College or by Category.
- Students can select both a major and an alternate major, if available but keep in mind alternate majors are not considered at every campus
- If a campus is unable to offer the applicant a place in the first-choice major, they may consider them for an alternate major—be sure the alternate major is in a subject area that the student really wants to study (and in some cases, it should be in a different area of study than the primary major).

Note that not all campuses will consider students for an alternate major, and that some campuses may have restrictions on changing majors once admitted to that major.

This is an example from UC Santa Barbara using the Category view for Engineering and Computer Science.

Ranking UC San Diego colleges

- Eighth College will begin accepting transfer students in 2025.
- Transfer applicants for fall 2024 should rank Eighth College last.
- This information does not influence your students' chances of admission to UC San Diego!

Campuses & majors

Rank colleges



* required

UC San Diego college ranking *

When we ask you to "rank" the colleges, we're asking you to state your preference for college assignment, should you be offered admission to San Diego. [Learn more about UC San Diego's college system.](#)

Your rankings will **not** affect the evaluation of your application or your major selection.

Instructions: To re-order the list below, select a college and drag and drop it into a new position. You can also click on the arrows to reposition the colleges.

Rank	College	
1	Earl Warren College	▼
2	Eighth College	▼ ▲
3	Eleanor Roosevelt College	▼ ▲
4	John Muir College	▼ ▲
5	Revelle College	▼ ▲
6	Seventh College	▼ ▲
7	Sixth College	▼ ▲
8	Thurgood Marshall College	▲

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San Diego Colleges

- If a student is applying to UC San Diego, they must rank the colleges in order of preference to have the best chance of assignment to the college of their choice
- The order of ranking of colleges does not affect the chances for admission to UC San Diego
- Boxes to rank the colleges only appear once the student clicks the "Learn more about UCSD college system" link (opens a pop-up window). Students should carefully read the information provided to understand the *"theme"* of each college at UC San Diego.

Campuses & majors: Supplemental applications

UC Irvine

Selected major Delete
Pharmaceutical Sciences, B.S.

Selected alternate major
Not selected

Browse by: [College](#) | [Category](#) show closed majors

> Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

> Architectural and Environmental Design and Planning

▼ **Art - Applied, Fine, Performing and Art History**

Art, B.A. Major Alternate major

This major requires a supplemental application.

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

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- Some majors may require applicants to submit a supplemental application or materials. If so, applicants will see messaging in the UC application when selecting that major. Requirements and deadlines for supplemental applications will vary by campus and program.

Academic history

▼ Academic history	
Introduction	
Transfer Admission Planner	←
Last high school attended	
Colleges	←
College courses	
Minimum requirements	
Additional information	←
Review	

Academic History


The Academic History section of the application has multiple subsections

- We want to highlight a few of these subsections in the following slides to address common questions and issues to look out for.
- The subsections that we're focusing on include the Transfer Admission Planner tool, Colleges, and Additional Information.

UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

Applicants with a UC TAP account should note the following:

- Data can be exported directly from TAP to the UC application
 - Applicants should verify all information is correct after exporting from UC TAP
 - After the initial UC TAP export, any changes to colleges, courses, grades, etc., must be made directly in the UC application

Academic history
Transfer Admission Planner  * required

If you have entered your school and coursework information in the UC Transfer Admission Planner (TAP) and indicated you plan to apply to UC for Fall Quarter/Semester 2023, your information may be available for import into your UC application.

Please enter the login ID and email address used for your TAP account and click on "Import data from TAP" to copy your information. This will delete all previously entered academic history information.

Click "Save & continue" if you do not have a TAP account.

TAP login ID
TAP login ID

TAP email address
TAP email address

My UC TAP email address is the same as my UC application email address

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UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

- If the student has created a UC Transfer Admission Planner account, or UC TAP, then they can enter their login information and email address associated with their TAP account to import their data into the UC application.
- Students that may already have a TAP account are those that have applied for the Transfer Admission Guarantee program or attended virtual transfer admission advising offered by the UC campuses.
- Importing data from TAP will save applicants a little time, and if they are a TAG applicant, help ensure consistency between their TAG and admission applications.
- After the data has uploaded to the UC application, the applicant should compare all of the data with their unofficial transcripts to verify accuracy.
 - Applicants should be cautious in case the information they last entered into TAP is no longer accurate, such as courses they planned to take but ended up withdrawing from, or courses that have since been repeated or academically
 - Once the data from UC TAP has been exported to the application, any changes will need to be made directly in the application.

Entering colleges

Academic history
College information

EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE, 004273-3
ALL LOCATIONS, CA

When did you attend this college? *

Start date: Month * Year *
End date: Month * Year *

Is this your current or most recent college? *

What is this college's grading system?
All CA Community Colleges use A B C D F grading system which include all letter grades, credit/no credit, pass/no pass, incomplete, withdraw, academic renewal, in progress and planned grades.
 A B C D F

During your attendance, did the college's term system (quarter or semester) change? *

What level of degree, diploma, or certification did you receive or will be receiving?
No degree

Save & continue Cancel



Academic history
Colleges

EVERGREEN VALLEGE COLLEGE
ALL LOCATIONS, CA

College code: 004273 (id:52702; ATP:CC)

Grading system: A B C D F

Attended: August 2021 - May 2023

Current or most recent colleges: Yes

Term system changed: No

Term system: Semester

Enrolled terms: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Degree, diploma or certificate: Associate for Transfer (AA-T, AS-T)

Degree Major: Social Justice: Gender Studies

Date received or to be received: May 2023

Add college I've finished adding colleges

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Entering Colleges

When adding colleges attended, the applicant will need to enter the start and end dates of their enrollment at each college.

- That includes any terms in which they have an academic record, including withdrawals, academic renewals, and repeated courses.
- If your student takes courses at multiple colleges from a district, they may think that since the colleges are part of the same district, each college is just a different campus or location of the same college entity. However, students should enter their coursework from each college accurately, according to their transcripts.
- It is important students add the correct term system:
 - For students enrolled in winter session, they should select the term type "Semester with intersession". Otherwise if they select semester, they won't have the option to enter any winter session coursework.
 - And if they choose "Quarter" their units will count as quarter units and may make them seem as if they don't have enough units for junior standing.
- For students that earned college credit while in high school (dual enrollment) be sure they count and enter the courses taken and credits earned as those can be used for UC eligibility.
- After this, they will enter courses by term. They will do this for each college attended.
- Note, if a student attended a CCC, ASSIST certified courses will appear in the application. Non-UC-transferable courses will need to be manually entered.

UC-E & UC-M

If 7-course pattern is met with CCC coursework, students will not see these questions.

This page will display if student is using non-CCC courses or AP scores to meet UC-E or UC-M.

College / University English composition

Prior to transfer, will you complete two transferable college courses in English composition (not including English as a second language courses)?

- What is the status of the first course? *
- In progress
 - Planned
 - None planned / not completed
 - Completed with a grade of C or better

What is the status of the second course? *

- In progress
- Planned
- None planned / not completed
- Completed with a grade of C or better

College / University mathematics

Prior to transfer, will you complete one transferable college course in mathematical concepts and qualitative reasoning? *

- In progress
- Planned
- None planned / not completed
- Completed with a grade of C or better

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UC-E UC-M

- Applicants will need two UC transferable English composition courses and one UC transferable mathematics course to meet the minimum eligibility requirements for transfer admission.
- In addition to entering those courses into their academic history, they'll need to select the appropriate answers to these questions to confirm the status of their UC-E and UC-M courses

Meeting UC-E with AP

College / University English composition

The following CA Community College course you reported in Academic History section meets 1 of the English composition requirement, if completed with grade C or better.

Dept	Course No.	Course Title	Grade
ENGL	122	First-Year College Composition and Reading	B-

What is the status of the second course? *

- In progress
- Planned
- None planned / not completed
- Completed with a grade of C or better

The AP English Language & Composition exam or AP English Literature & Composition exam with a score of 3, 4 or 5 can be used to fulfill 1 of the 2 English composition requirements. You can enter your AP exam scores in the "Test scores" section.

College / University English composition

The following CA Community College course you reported in Academic History section meets 1 of the English composition requirement, if completed with grade C or better.

Dept	Course No.	Course Title	Grade
ENGL	122	First-Year College Composition and Reading	B-

What is the status of the second course? *

- In progress
- Planned
- None planned / not completed
- Completed with a grade of C or better

The AP English Language & Composition exam with score of 3 will be used to fulfill one of the English composition requirements.

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Meeting UC-E with AP

- If student is using an AP score of 3 or better to meet one UC-E course, they will mark the status of the second English course as "None planned/not completed."
 - This will bring up the reminder that an AP exam can be used to fulfill one of the courses and instruct students to enter their AP scores in the Test Scores section of the application.
- Once the student has entered their AP scores into the Test Score section, then can return to this minimum requirements page and see the new note indicating which exam and score is being used to fulfill one of the UC-E requirements.

Enrollment gap & additional information

Academic history
College courses & grades  * required

Enrollment gap
Please tell us why you were not enrolled during the term.

Term: Fall 2021

Reason *

150 characters remaining

Explanation must include:

- Activities during the gap
- Confirm that they were not enrolled at any college or university during the gap

Enrollment Gap & Additional Information

- Students must provide an explanation for enrollment gaps occurring during any regular college term.
- Their explanation must include their activities during the gap.
- It's also helpful for the applicant to confirm that they were not enrolled at any college or university during the gap.
- If their enrollment gap explanation is not detailed enough, we may have to message the student for more information.

- The “additional comments” section is an opportunity for students to include information about their academic history that they weren't able to explain elsewhere on the application.
- Not intended to be used as a space to list additional activities or awards, courses, extra or extended Personal Insight Questions, or their resume.

Enrollment gap & additional information

Academic history
Additional information

Have you ever been on academic probation? *

No Yes

Additional comments

If there's anything else you want us to know about your academic history, you can do so in the space below. But remember, you should use this space only if you want to describe anything that you have not had the opportunity to include elsewhere in this section (for example: a break in attendance, poor grades in a particular course or year, specific information about your school environment or policies that affect your academic record or choices for classes).

International applicants: If you selected Other as your school's grading system, please explain the grading system here.

550 characters remaining

- Must disclose any academic probation
- Will not disqualify student from being admitted
- Poor grades/dip in grades
- Break in attendance
- School environment/policies affecting academics
- Classroom availability
- Grading scales or credit/unit

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Enrollment Gap & Additional Information

- Students must provide an explanation for enrollment gaps occurring during any regular college term.
- Their explanation must include their activities during the gap.
- It's also helpful for the applicant to confirm that they were not enrolled at any college or university during the gap.
- If their enrollment gap explanation is not detailed enough, we may have to message the student for more information.

- The "additional comments" section is an opportunity for students to include information about their academic history that they weren't able to explain elsewhere on the application.
- Not intended to be used as a space to list additional activities or awards, courses, extra or extended Personal Insight Questions, or their resume.

Test scores

Applicants should enter any AP or IB scores they may have.

Students whose language of instruction in 9th grade or higher was not English and who are not native speakers are required to self-report scores from an acceptable English language proficiency test (TOEFL, IELTS, or DET)

Exam scores can only help students in the application to meet eligibility and/or unit requirements.

▼ Test scores
AP exams
IB exams
English language proficiency tests
International exams
Review

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Test Scores

- These scores whether good or bad will not affect the admission decision
- If a student has a mix of passing and non-passing scores, students should include both. This section needs to appear exactly as their score report, which we will ask for after an offer of admission is made

English proficiency exams:

- Students whose high school/secondary school and/or college/university coursework was **not** conducted in English and who are not native English-speakers are required to self-report scores from an acceptable English language proficiency test (TOEFL, IELTS, or DET) in the application. Students may use scores from specific sections of the SAT or ACT to satisfy English proficiency in lieu of TOEFL, IELTS or DET.
- Official English proficiency scores are not required unless/until a student is offered admission to UC. Students will then submit their official scores directly to the campus where they intend to enroll.

Activities & awards

There is nothing in this section that can directly harm a student's chances of admission.

Applicants should describe the focus of the program, their experiences, accomplishments and what they learned throughout.

Applicants should focus on post-high school activities.

Context is considered when reviewing this section.

Quality vs quantity.

The screenshot shows a form titled 'Activity/Award [1]'. The 'Category*' dropdown is set to 'Educational preparation program'. The 'What was the program name?' dropdown is set to '--select--'. The 'Briefly describe the program.*' section has a text area with a '350 characters remaining' indicator. The 'When did you participate in the program?*' section has radio buttons for '9th grade', '10th grade', '11th grade', '12th grade', and 'After 12th grade'. The 'How much time did you spend in the program?*' section has input fields for 'Hours spent per week:' and 'Weeks spent per year:'. At the bottom are 'Save & continue' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Activities and Awards

Students will be asked to briefly describe whatever activity or award they report on the application. We encourage detailed, but concise descriptions. There is nothing in this section that can directly harm a student's chances of admission, but drawn-out and flowery language is not encouraged.

Quality vs quantity: students do not need to fill in all 20 spaces. Campuses look for what the student has achieved (quality) rather than how many activities the student has been involved in (quantity). Transfer applicants are not expected to have the same level of extracurricular involvement as freshman applicants because, as adults, they have additional responsibilities.

Activities & awards continued...

Sections	Examples	Creative Tips
Award or Honor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic excellence awards • Outstanding service awards • Research or capstone project • Scholarships 	<p>Have your student think about awards or honors in the context of their whole lives. For example, if a student doesn't have an outstanding service award, they should consider other honors they have received for service, like employee of the month.</p>
Educational Preparation Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer preparation programs • MESA, Puente, Umoja, EOPs, 1st Year Learning Communities, etc. 	<p>If your student hasn't participated, what opportunities have they utilized? Have they developed a working relationship with a counselor?</p>
Extracurricular Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student government • Clubs and organizations • Performing arts • Childcare and/or family care 	<p>These could include hobbies, clubs, sports or anything else. If a student claims they do not do anything, have them consider what they use their free time for.</p>

**For campuses that do use this information in the evaluation process, it should also be noted that there is not one type of activity or experience that stands out more than others. When working with students, it is best to remind them that the UC campuses do take context into account. For example, if a student is required to help with their siblings after school, they should include that in their application. Not only would childcare count as an activity, but it would also provide context for fewer awards and activities. The transfer student community is very diverse, so we expect to encounter a wide range of experiences from all of our students coming from different backgrounds. There is nothing that can harm a student on the UC application, so students should be as thoroughly honest about their circumstances as they feel comfortable being.

Activities & awards continued...

Sections	Examples	Creative Tips
Volunteering/Community Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community service organizations • Tutoring and mentoring programs • Family responsibilities / Childcare 	Have your student think about things they have done that they were not paid for. Do they help their parents on weekends with childcare? Do they assist elderly family or community members?
Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research assistantships • Part-time or full-time jobs (employee of the month, etc.) • Internships 	This section helps us understand students' responsibilities professionally through work or academically through internships.

**For campuses that do use this information in the evaluation process, it should also be noted that there is not one type of activity or experience that stands out more than others. When working with students, it is best to remind them that the UC campuses do take context into account. For example, if a student is required to help with their siblings after school, they should include that in their application. Not only would childcare count as an activity, but it would also provide context for fewer awards and activities. The transfer student community is very diverse, so we expect to encounter a wide range of experiences from all of our students coming from different backgrounds. There is nothing that can harm a student on the UC application, so students should be as thoroughly honest about their circumstances as they feel comfortable being.

Scholarships

Applicants should select all categories that apply to them.

This section does not affect an applicant's chances of admission.

Not all scholarships listed are offered at every campus.

Scholarships & programs

Apply for scholarships



* required

You can apply to a number of UC scholarships (that means free money) right here in the application. The scholarships listed below are awarded to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests or career objectives. If you don't see any categories that are relevant to you, don't worry. In addition to these scholarships, each campus and many alumni associations award a variety of scholarships that recognize students' achievement and potential.

You'll also need to file a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or a [California Dream Act Application](#) (if you're an undocumented student) to be considered for every type of financial aid possible, including the scholarships listed below. International students should not file these.

Click on a category to view the list of scholarships and check the boxes for the scholarships that you'd like to apply to.

[Expand All](#)

> Academic major or interest

> Affiliation with group, program or organization

> Ancestry and descendants

> Career plans

> Ethnicity, national origin or religion

> Extracurricular activities & work experience

> Family circumstances and relationships

> Health / disabilities

> School or geographic affiliation

> Transfer students

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Scholarships

- All UC campuses offer scholarships for students who meet specific criteria. There is a category specifically for Transfer students, but transfer applicants are not limited to this category.
- The applicant should review each scholarship choice and select all those that match their characteristics, interests, and background. There is no limit to the amount of scholarships students can select.
- Research other campus-based scholarships in the link provided at the bottom of the screen.
- **Note:** Not all scholarships listed are available at every campus. But, scholarships will only display if they are offered at one or more campuses the student has selected.

Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

PIQ responses provide the opportunity for students to advocate for themselves in the UC application. Each question is relevant to the selection criteria of each UC campus.

Please note the following:

There is one required question all transfer students must answer

Transfer students will then choose 3 more questions to answer from the remaining 7

All questions have equal value

There is no wrong way to answer a PIQ

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Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

- Another opportunity for us to learn more about you is within the Personal Insight Questions (PIQs). This is the written section of the UC application. Think of this as your opportunity to share additional and more detailed information that cannot be found elsewhere in the UC app, including what circumstances/experiences have shaped your academic/personal experiences.
- Applicants must respond to three (3) of the seven (7) prompts, plus the mandatory prompt (for a total of four responses). All questions have equal value, so respond to the three additional questions that are most relevant to you and your experiences!
- Keep in mind, these are not essays. With only 350 words allowed per response, your PIQ responses should be direct and literal. Focus on what information you are sharing in your responses, not the style of your writing. Readers will not be evaluating these like a writing sample. This is an important part of the UC application and the campus review, so be sure that you are taking your time and using the available resources to maximize this section.


We know that our students are already using or experimenting with ChatGPT and other AI tools. Here are some initial thoughts about this from our Directors.

- First off, we believe that this may be a useful tool in planning and drafting a response to the PIQ's. It could be helpful in brainstorming and refining ideas. Some Directors noted that the tool could be a helpful collaborator and may even level the playing field for those students who cannot afford the paid consultants that some students use.
- However, the Statement of Application Integrity reads that "all information must be complete, accurate and reflect their independent thinking and writing." One danger of submitting an unedited AI response is that this might be flagged for plagiarism. <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/docs/StatementOfIntegrity.pdf>
- Another concern is that AI tools are unable to provide the things that add the most value to the UC application: a student's own voice and a student's own experiences. How much value will we find in 350 words on leadership or resiliency or creativity that don't directly address a student's own experiences?
- Finally, we ask students to write in clear, simple, direct prose---as they would in an interview or conversation. This should ease a student's concern about *needing* to use some sort of AI tool to help write their response. It may take more time to build a good ChatGPT prompt than to write a clear PIQ response.

Note: In compliance with prop 209, UC does not use race, ethnicity, and gender in the admissions review. In light of the Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action, we wish to remind everyone that each PIQ answer will continue to be reviewed in the same manner as before. Students should continue to share their experiences, set context to their accomplishments and provide insight into their individual circumstances. Writing in their own voice about their cultural identity, values, and/or beliefs continues to be encouraged in the PIQs.

Additional comments

- Changes in family circumstances
- How the student plans to engage with the UC community if admitted
- Add context to something that briefly appears earlier on the application
- This section may be left blank

Personal insight
Additional comments 

* required

If there's anything else you want us to know about you, now's your chance. But remember, you should use this space only if you want to describe anything that you have not had the opportunity to include elsewhere in the application. This shouldn't be an essay, but rather a place to explain unusual personal or family circumstances, or anything that may be unclear in other parts of the application.

550 words remaining

[Save & continue](#)

Additional Comments

There is also an “Additional Comments” field in the UC application. That can be used if there is important information that you didn’t get to share elsewhere in the application that you want the campuses to know. This is also not an essay, so you can be direct. Do not use this section to answer an additional PIQ question!

Your students can use this section to share anything such as... (read slide)

Please note that this section is not intended to be an opportunity to expand upon, or write a new, PIQ response. Not all 550 words need to be utilized.

Friendly reminders

- Validate your students' experiences.
- There is no perfect formula for a “strong” PIQ response.
- Encourage students to make use of all narrative components of the UC application.
- There is a misconception that students are not allowed to write about their identities, ideals, values, or beliefs.
 - While not true, it *is* more important to focus on how these have impacted, or why they are important to, the student.

- Validate students' experiences
- There is no perfect formula for a “strong” PIQ response. Rather, have students focus on providing information and context about themselves
- We are interested in the student's experiences in and out of the classroom. We want to see demonstrated interest, initiative, and active participation
- In compliance with prop 209, UC does not use race, ethnicity, and gender in the admissions review. In light of the Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action, we wish to remind everyone that each PIQ answer will continue to be reviewed in the same manner as before. Students should continue to share their experiences, set context to their accomplishments and provide insight into their individual circumstances. Writing in their own voice about their cultural identity, values, and/or beliefs continues to be encouraged in the PIQs.

Review & submit

Submit between October 1 and November 30

Fee waiver is calculated automatically

Applicants will know they submitted successfully when they:

- Pay \$80 per campus (\$95 for international students) unless they qualify for fee waiver (4 free applications)
- Receive a UC application ID number and email confirmation

Review & submit

Here's your chance to review all of the information you've entered in the application. If you've skipped or missed any required questions, you'll see a "To do" button next to the page below.

Before you submit your application, you should review all the pages and sections below, even if they are marked as complete (indicated with a checkmark). Remember, we want to learn as much about you as possible — so it's a good idea to fill out as much as you can and review all the information you'll be sharing with us.

Fall quarter/semester 2024

> Expand all

Print version

> About you	✓
> Campuses & majors	✓
> Academic history	✓
> Test scores	✓
> Activities & awards	✓
> Scholarships & programs	✓
> Personal insight	✓

Start submission

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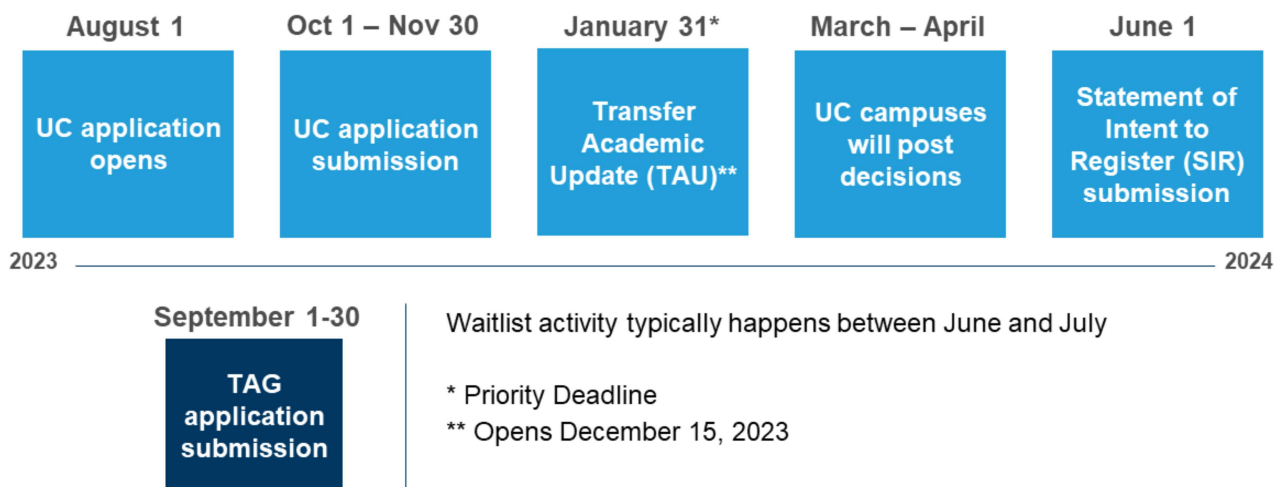
Review & Submit

- The review and submit page serves as a final checklist for students to view what sections have been completed and what they are missing.
- The application will not be available for submission until all sections have been completed--check mark indicates completion
- Once the student has successfully completed every section of the UC application, they will be directed to fill out the release authorizations and statement of integrity, and pay the nonrefundable application fee.
- \$80 nonrefundable application fee entitles student to apply to one UC. If student applies to more than one campus, they must pay an additional \$80 for each campus selected. For international and non-immigrant applicants, it's a nonrefundable fee of \$95 per campus
- Payments can be made by either credit card, or by mail.
- The online application automatically determines application fees and fee waivers. If applicable, UC will cover up to four UC campus application fees as determined by the UC application. The fee waiver is for US citizens, permanent residents, and applicants eligible for AB 540.
- Once submitted, students will receive a confirmation email with their UC application ID. Please also note that official transcripts are NOT needed at this time. If admitted to UC, then students must submit final transcripts to their respective UC campus admissions office

Additional important tips

- Letters of recommendation are not required (nor read) unless a campus has specifically asked for them or unless the student has applied to a program/major that requires them
- Students should keep handy their application ID number in case they need to contact an Admissions Counselor/UCOP Help Desk regarding their application.

Application timeline



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UC Application Timeline

The UC application is available for students to start filling out in early August. There is no priority considered for students who start early or submit their application during the early part of the submission period. All students who meet UC junior transfer eligibility requirements and apply within the submission window will have their application thoroughly reviewed.

Students interested in TAG should apply to one UC campus of their interest during the month of September. That same campus should also receive a UC application from students during the UC application submission period. Students may apply to as many campuses as they would like, but only one UC can receive a TAG application per student.

Students will have the opportunity to update their application with those grades and courses via the Transfer Academic Update (TAU). The TAU will open on December 15, 2023. The priority deadline for a students' first TAU is January 31. Students will indicate their fall 2023 courses as "In Progress" and their spring 2024 courses as "Planned" on the application since their fall 2023 grades and spring 2024 courses will not be finalized until after submitting the UC application. In most cases, students can submit as many TAUs as they would like after January 31 through March 31, but they should check in with each of their applied-to UC campuses to verify what their preferences are for the TAU. Once a student has completed a TAU, the campuses will begin their evaluation process.

The campuses typically notify students between March and April. Please have students let us know whether or not they plan to attend the campuses they were accepted to via the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) by June 1. If a student is waitlisted at a campus and they're interested in attending, they must first opt-in to the waitlist. Campuses release waitlist decisions between June and July. Please have students reach out to their campus of interest if they have questions regarding the waitlist process of that campus.

Need additional support?

If students have questions, they can contact the application help desk:

Email

ucinfo@applyucsupport.net

Phone within the U.S.

(800) 207-1710

Phone outside the U.S.

(925) 298-6856

Counselor resources

- **Counselor resource library**
 - Personal Insight Questions guides (*English & Spanish versions available*)
 - Presenting yourself on the UC application guide
- **UCOP community college webinar series**
 - PIQ workshop: Wednesday, October 11 at noon



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Counselor resource library:

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

UCOP community college webinar series:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/events/ccs-webinars.html>

Thank you

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