
From HS to CCC to UC: What high school counselors need to know about transfer admission

UC High School Webinar Series: 2025-26

May 19, 2026

Agenda

- Transfer opportunities to UC
- Admission requirements
- Dual enrollment and exam credits
- Benefits of attending a CCC
- Resources

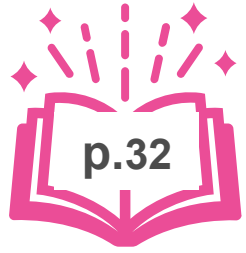


Throughout today's session
we'll share **Quick Reference
Guide tips!**



UC transfer opportunities

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, several students are walking across a paved area. They are wearing backpacks and casual clothing. In the background, there are large green trees and a tall, white, modern building with a grid-like facade. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is bright and sunny.



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.

Transfer applicant types

Lower division

- Limited campus options
- Requirements vary but are based on A-G completion

Junior standing

- Primary transfer path
- Fall with few winter/spring options

UC welcomes transfer applicants from any college or university

- Eligibility requirements for admission are the same
- Timelines are the same

The California Master Plan for Higher Education

- UC to provide transfer opportunities and prioritize California Community College students in the admissions process (2:1)
- Resources and supports in place to facilitate this process

Your students have options, but the clearest path is from a CCC.

Today's session will highlight the HS to CCC to UC path and the resources that exist to support students.

- Guaranteed transferability of courses
- Online tools and resources
- Uniformity in major preparation
- Admission guarantees

Admission requirements and details

Big picture: The transfer application process

- Application process begins about one year in advance
- Campuses use completed, in progress and planned coursework to evaluate an applicant
 - Includes college coursework completed while in high school and any exam credits (AP/IB)
- Major selection is very important





Courses
7-course pattern

Units
60 semester/
90 quarter
UC-transferable
units

GPA
2.4 (CA residents)
2.8 (nonresidents)

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)

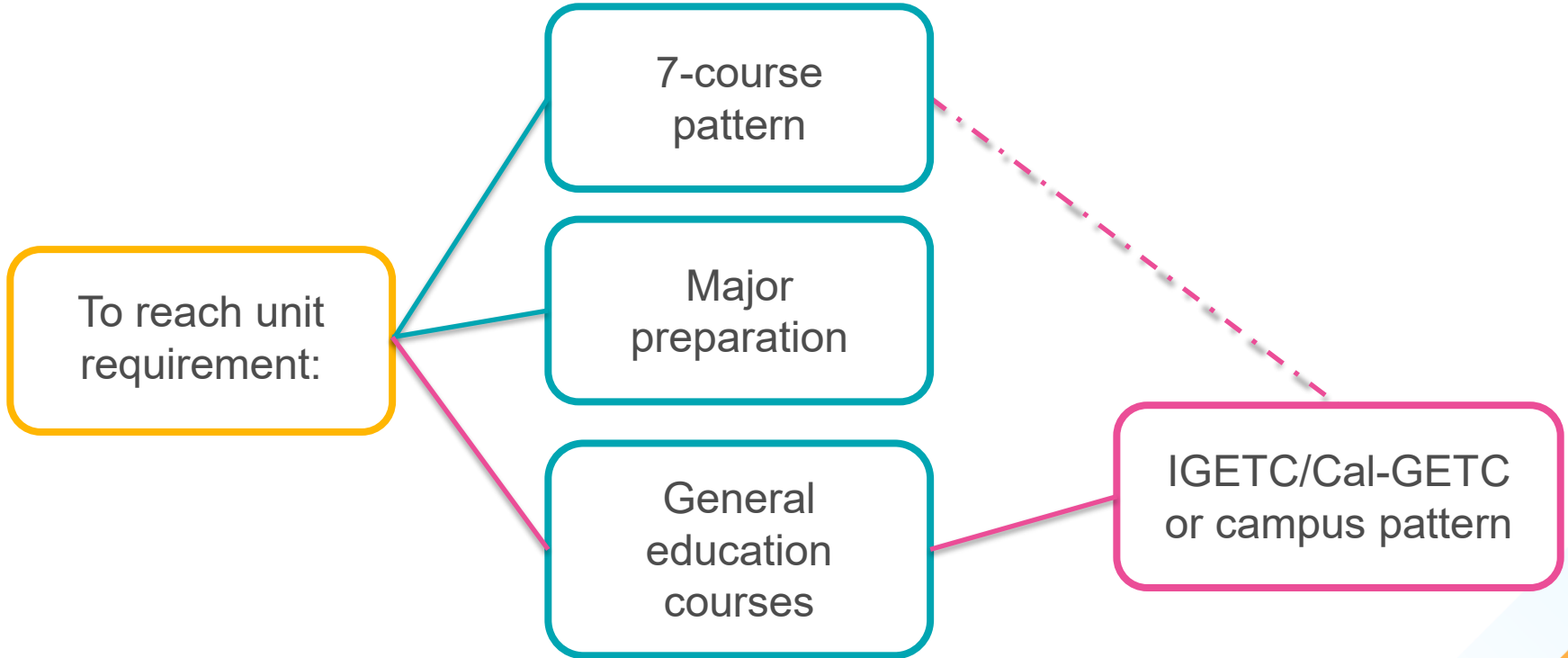
Junior standing

- 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

i

Two years of enrollment may typically yield the necessary number of units, but sometimes students need more (or less) time.

7 courses? That seems very minimal



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

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
- Undecided students can explore general education subjects they find interesting



ASSIST and campus-specific websites are important for major preparation.

UC Transfer Pathways offer uniform major preparation!

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



*Detailed charts with campus-specific policies and procedures for reviewing applicants can be found on **pages 45-53**.*

*Transfer admit data can be found on the **UC Admissions website**.*

Comprehensive review for transfer

Pattern or number of courses that meet breadth or general education requirements

Major preparation

Grade point average in all transferable courses - especially in major preparation

Participation in academically selective honors courses or programs

Special talents, achievements and awards

Completion of special projects

Academic accomplishments in light of a student's life experience and special circumstances

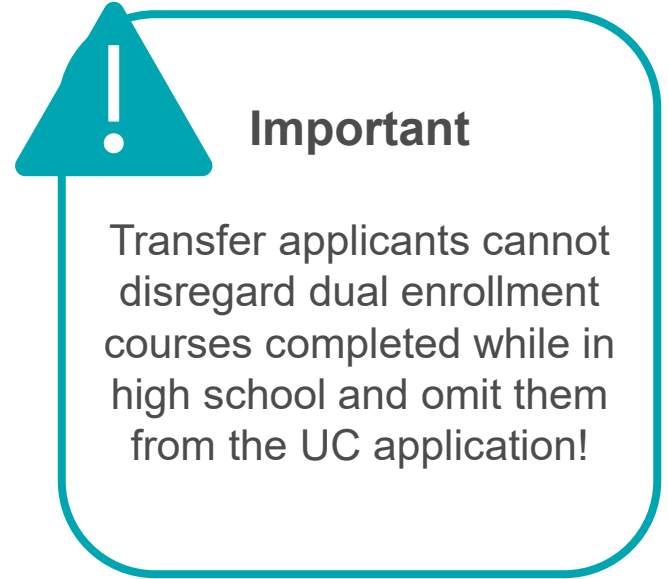
Location of a student's college and their residence

Completion of a UC Transfer Pathway or an associate degree for transfer (ADT)

Dual enrollment and exam credits

Grades earned in college courses will carry forward with a student at the CCC if they decide to pursue the transfer route and become part of their CCC GPA.

- Grades earned in UC-transferable college coursework while in high school will be factored into their GPA for transfer admission consideration.
- Transferable college courses successfully completed (passed with a grade of C or better) in high school cannot be repeated in college.





Review UC's AP chart to view UC area designations per exam

Advanced Placement (AP)

- Units granted for exams with scores of 3 or higher
- Exams can satisfy parts of the 7-course pattern
- Exams in lieu of major preparation coursework is up to the campus

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- Units granted for Higher Level (HL) exams with scores of 5 or higher
- Exams can satisfy parts of the 7-course pattern, except English composition
- Exams in lieu of major preparation coursework is up to the campus

AP exam chart

In the left column, the designations indicate if the AP exam score can be used to meet the 7-course pattern.

Credit is expressed in semester and quarter units.

Credit granted for AP exams

Credit is expressed in semester units for Berkeley and Merced, and quarter units for all other campuses. In the left column, the designations (e.g. UC-E, UC-M, etc.) indicate if the AP exam score can be used to meet one of the [minimum junior transfer admission requirements](#). Note: Even an exam with multiple designations can only meet one requirement.

African American Studies (Available after May 2025)	2.6 sem/4 qtr
Art and Design	2-D Art and Design: 5.3 sem/8 qtr 3-D Art and Design: 5.3 sem/8 qtr Drawing: 5.3 sem/8 qtr (5.3 sem/8 qtr unit maximum for all three exams)
Art History (UC-H)	5.3 sem/8 qtr
Biology (UC-S)	5.3 sem/8 qtr
Chemistry (UC-S)	5.3 sem/8 qtr
Computer Science	Computer Science A: 5.3 sem/8 qtr Computer Science Principles: 5.3 sem/8 qtr
Economics (UC-B)	Microeconomics: 2.6 sem/4 qtr Macroeconomics: 2.6 sem/4 qtr
English*	Language and Composition (UC-E): 5.3 sem/8 qtr Literature and Composition (UC-E/H): 5.3 sem/8 qtr (5.3 sem/8 qtr maximum for both exams)

Benefits of attending a CCC

UC transfer benefits only a CCC can provide:

- Transferability of coursework and campus articulation
- Statewide general education pattern: Cal-GETC
- Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program
- UC Transfer Pathways
- UC Transfer Admission Planner
- Partnership and collaboration between the CCCs and UC

Transfer course information and articulation agreements for all CCCs and each UC campus.

The screenshot displays the ASSIST website interface. At the top left is the ASSIST logo with the tagline "The official course transfer and articulation system for California colleges and universities". Below the logo is a purple banner that reads "ASSIST is here to help". To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a section titled "Important Notes from ASSIST" containing a warning: "ASSIST does not take the place of a counselor on your campus. It is intended to help students and counselors work together to establish an appropriate path toward transferring from a public California community college to a California university." Below this are links for "ASSIST Feedback Survey" and "Frequently Asked Questions".

The main content area features two search panels, both highlighted with a pink rounded rectangle. The first panel, titled "Search below for articulation agreements", includes a sub-header "Major, department, and campus-specific general education agreements" and search filters for "Academic Year" (set to 2025-2026), "Institution" (with a "Select an institution" dropdown), and "Agreements with Other Institutions" (with another "Select an institution" dropdown). A "View Agreements" button is at the bottom. The second panel, titled "Search below for transferable courses", includes a sub-header "Courses approved for transfer and general education" and search filters for "Academic Year" (set to 2025-2026) and "Community College" (with a "Select a Community College" dropdown). Below these are radio button options: "CSU Transferable Courses", "CSU GE-Breadth Certification Courses", "CSU US History, Constitution, and American Ideals Courses (CSU AI)", "Cal-GETC for UC and CSU", "IGETC for UC and CSU", and "UC Transferable Courses" (which is selected and highlighted with a blue box). A "View Transferability Lists" button is at the bottom.

Searching for UC-transferable courses

After selecting the “UC Transferable Courses” report, select the department.

The Transfer Course Agreement (TCA) will show:

- Limits
- UC areas
- IGETC and Cal-GETC areas

UC Transfer Course Agreement (Chemistry)

Allan Hancock College
Academic Year 2025-2026

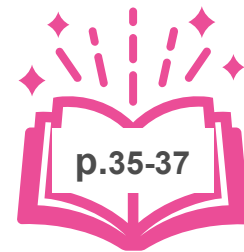


Chemistry					
Course	Title	Cal-GETC Areas	IGETC Areas	Semester Units	UC Areas
* CHEM 120 (W/Lab)	Introductory Chemistry	5A, 5C	5A, 5C	4.00	UC-S
+ CHEM 140 (W/Lab)	Introductory Organic and Biochemistry			4.00	UC-S
CHEM 150 (W/Lab)	General Chemistry 1	5A, 5C	5A, 5C	5.00	UC-S
CHEM 151 (W/Lab)	General Chemistry 2	5A, 5C	5A, 5C	5.00	UC-S
CHEM 180 (W/Lab)	Organic Chemistry I	5A, 5C	5A, 5C	5.00	UC-S
CHEM 181 (W/Lab)	Organic Chemistry II	5A, 5C	5A, 5C	5.00	UC-S

* No credit for CHEM 120 if taken after CHEM 150
+ No credit for CHEM 140 if taken after CHEM 180

END OF LIST

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.

What is recommended for students



- Unsure of their major
- Keeping university options open (UC/CSU)
- Interested in non-STEM major

Cal-GETC is a great option



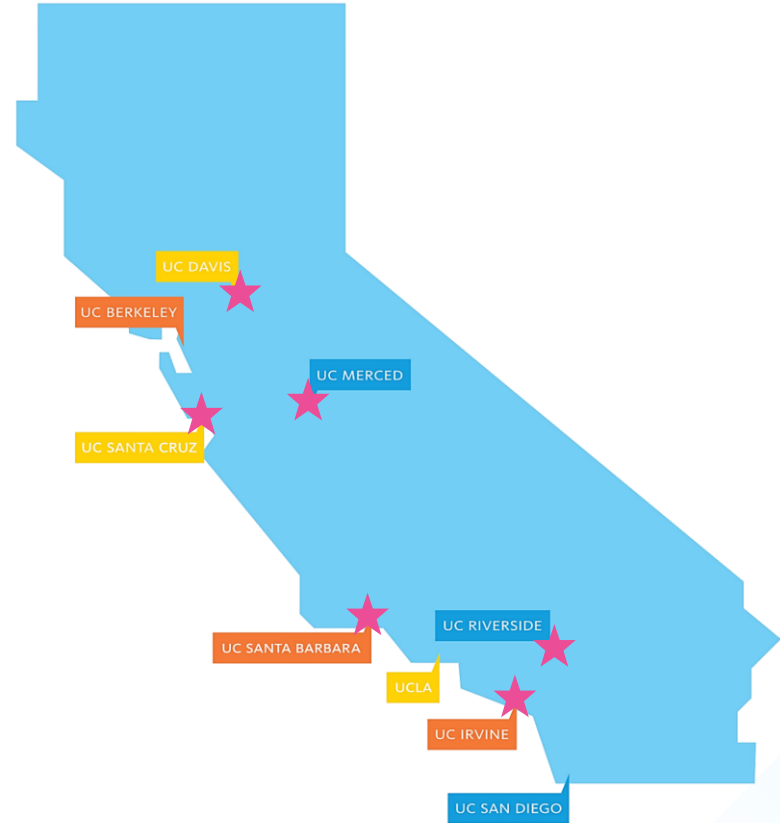
- Determined major and campus
- STEM major
- Majors with sequences
- High-unit major

Focus on major prep

UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

A guaranteed place at UC for California community college students.

- 6 campuses participate
- A wide range of majors available
- Prescribed course and minimum GPA requirements



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

A helpful resource for counselors and students.

- Shared TAG criteria
- TAG eligibility information
- Campus-specific information
- Summary of changes



The TAG matrix is updated annually



View the 2026-27 TAG matrix



Uniform major preparation for some of UC's most sought-after majors – now 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
- 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 UC TP 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.

UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

Online tool for UC transfer-bound students.

- Useful for transfer admission advising; counselor interface
- Indicate interest for support programs and UC campus attendance
- UC TAP uses ASSIST-verified information to calculate units, GPA and completion of the 7-course pattern
- TAG application

The screenshot displays the UC TAP interface for Allan Hancock College. It features a table of courses with columns for Course, Units, Grade, Cert¹, and UC Area². The first course listed is MATH 141 (Precalculus) with 6 units, a B grade, Y certification, and M UC Area. Below this is a section for Fall Term 2024, with a link to 'add a course to this term'. The second table lists courses for Fall Term 2024: CHEM 120 (Introductory Chemistry, 4 units, A grade, Y cert, S area), DANC 147 (Folklorico Dance History, 3 units, A grade, Y cert, no area), HUM 102 (World Civilizations since 1500, 3 units, B grade, Y cert, H area), and PSY 121 (Social Psychology, 3 units, B grade, Y cert, no area). A note below the PSY 121 entry states '** Repeat of PSY 121 in fall 2023 **'. At the bottom, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Working full time' and a yellow 'Save' button.

Course	Units	Grade	Cert ¹	UC Area ²
MATH 141 Precalculus	6	B	Y	M

Fall Term 2024 - [add a course to this term](#)

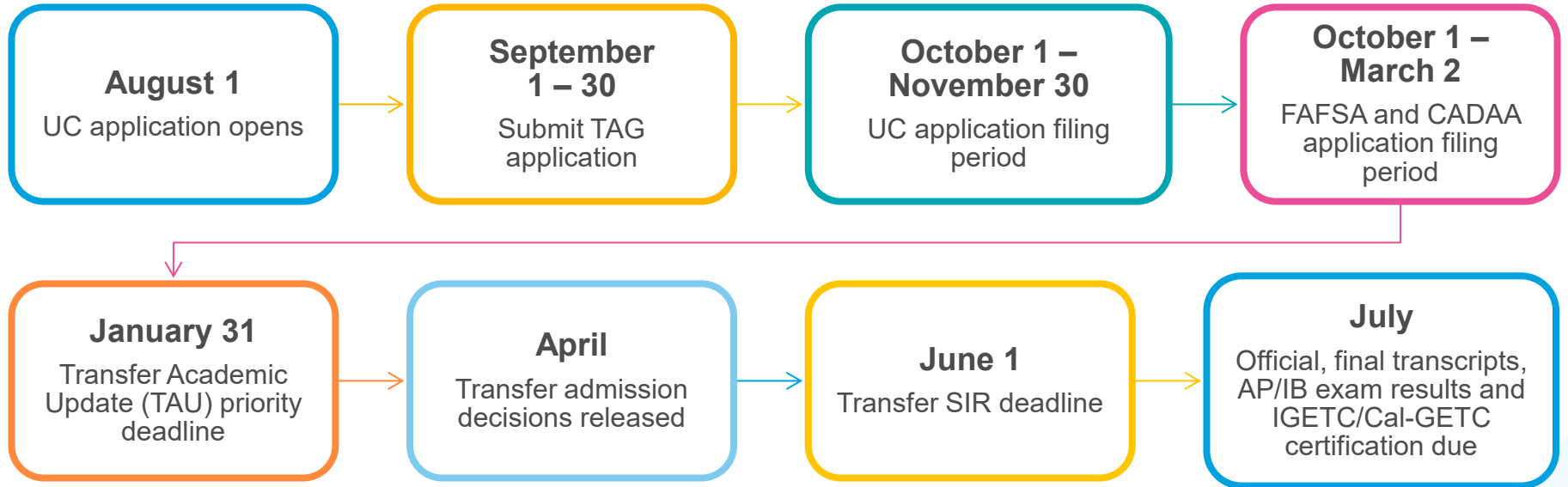
Course	Units	Grade	Cert ¹	UC Area ²
CHEM 120 Introductory Chemistry	4	A	Y	S
DANC 147 Folklorico Dance History	3	A	Y	
HUM 102 World Civilizations since 1500	3	B	Y	H
PSY 121 Social Psychology	3	B	Y	

** Repeat of PSY 121 in fall 2023 **

Please explain the gap in education prior to your transfer term:

Save

Transfer admission timeline



Resources



Important resources for counselors

[UC Counselors website & Resource Library](#)



[Quick Reference Guide to UC Admission](#)



[UC Transfer Hub](#)



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

Thank you