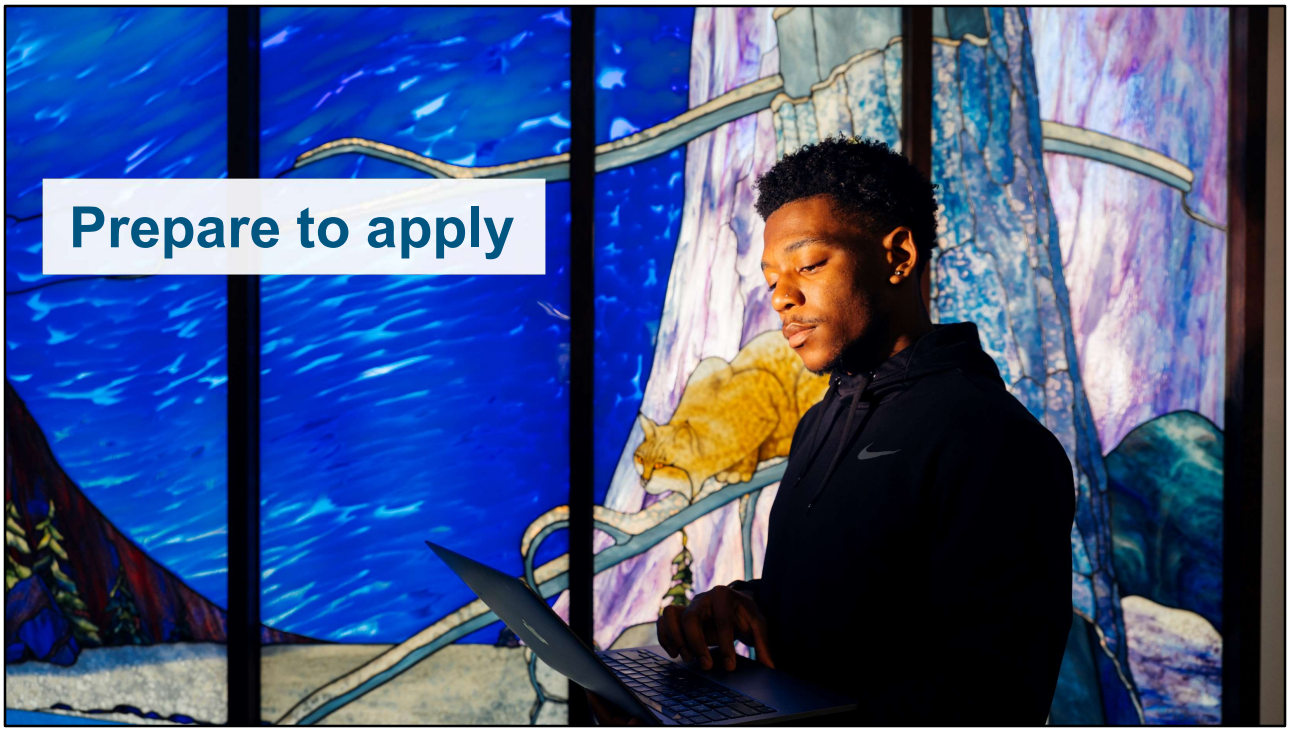
Presenting yourself on the UC application

First-year

2024–2025

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

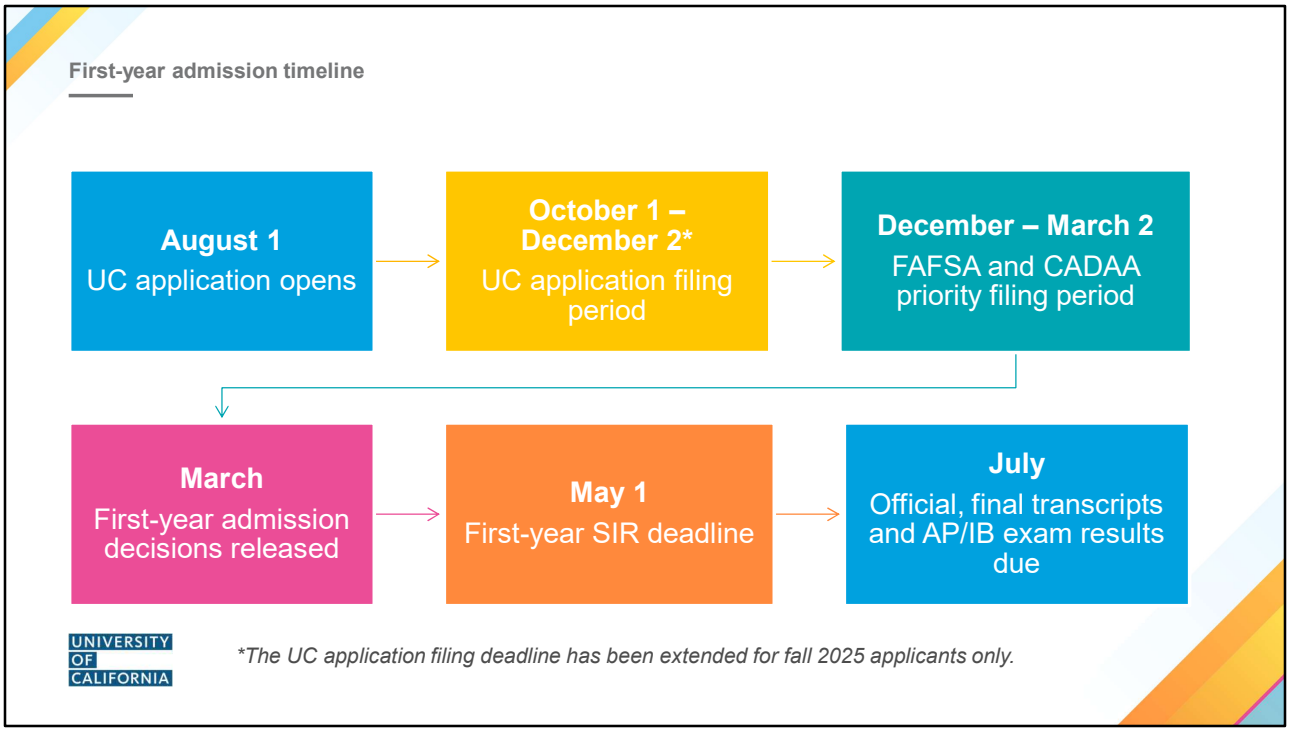

Prepare to apply

This is a screen shot of the application showing the locations of the nine undergraduate campuses available for first-year or transfer admission. The map will display dependent on the resolution and screen size of the computer or mobile device.

The UC is one of the largest university systems in the world offering undergraduate and graduate programs on campuses located across the state. Applicants are encouraged to apply to more than one UC campus. This will significantly increase your chances of being admitted to the UC system. While you may not receive an offer of admission from your first-choice campus, all of our campuses — without exception — provide outstanding opportunities for you to learn and grow.

Additional notes for reference:
Campuses with medical centers:
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC San Diego
UC San Francisco

Campuses with schools of law:
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC College of the Law, San Francisco (formerly known as UC Hastings)



The UC application and admission process is a year-long cycle.

August 1: The UC application opens. Students can begin to craft each part of their application. Remember, since UC does not use letters of recommendation, interviews, or portfolios unless required for admission to a specific major, the UC application is the only way for students to present and advocate for themselves. Some campus majors do require supplemental materials, such as Nursing, or some fine arts majors. Students should speak with the campuses they're interested in for information on applications for those majors. The UC application will also indicate whether a supplemental application or materials are required.

October 1 – December 2: UC students can submit applications beginning October 1. **The deadline has been extended to December 2 for Fall 2025 applicants** given the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday. The typical deadline is November 30. Applicants are not considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so applicants should take their time in filling out the application thoroughly before submitting.

Presenter note: The UC Office of the President has partnered with CaliforniaColleges.edu to allow applicants to link their accounts on CaliforniaColleges.edu and the UC Application. This link will enable applicants to import course data into the application beginning with Fall 2025 applicants.

Important: Once submitted, applicants can update very little in the UC application. Students should ensure their UC application is accurate and complete before submission.

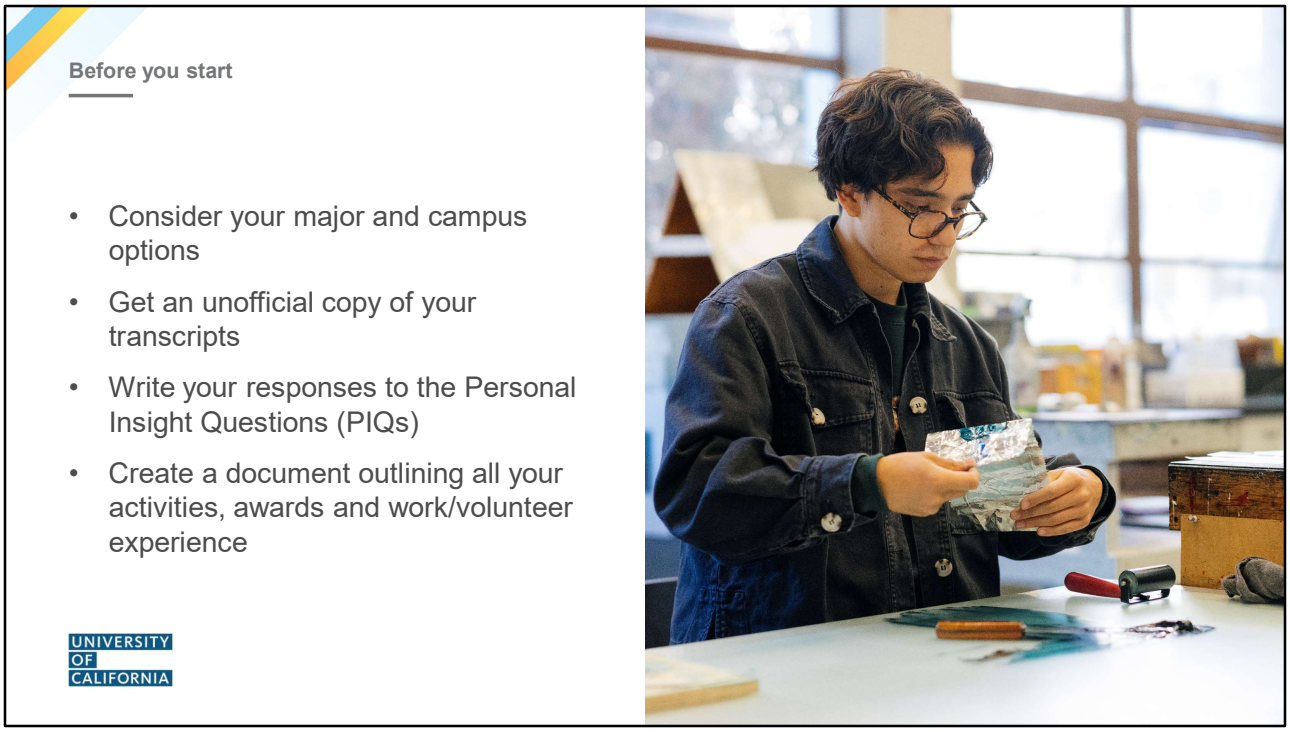
December– March 2: All students should submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act Application (CADAA). The majority of students at UC receive financial aid and scholarships. We'll cover that in more detail later in this presentation. Campuses use information from the FAFSA and CADAA for both admission and scholarships.

Presenter note: The redesigned 2025-26 FAFSA is expected to open by December 1, however, this is subject to change. *(updated on August 8, 2024)*

March: First-year admission decisions are released throughout the month of March. Campuses do not all release decisions on the same day, but will have all first-year decisions released by March 31.

May 1: This is the deadline for students to submit the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR). Students must submit the SIR by that date in order to ensure a place on campus in the fall. Students may only SIR to one UC campus.

July: Campuses use self-reported information to admit students, so UC does not require (nor want) students to submit any transcripts when they apply for admission. Instead, UC will ask for official transcripts only from admitted students who have submitted their SIR by May 1. Official transcripts for all institutions attended are due July 1, with AP/IB exam results due by July 15.



Begin preparing for the application early – don't wait until October or November!

Students should research the campuses and apply broadly across the system.

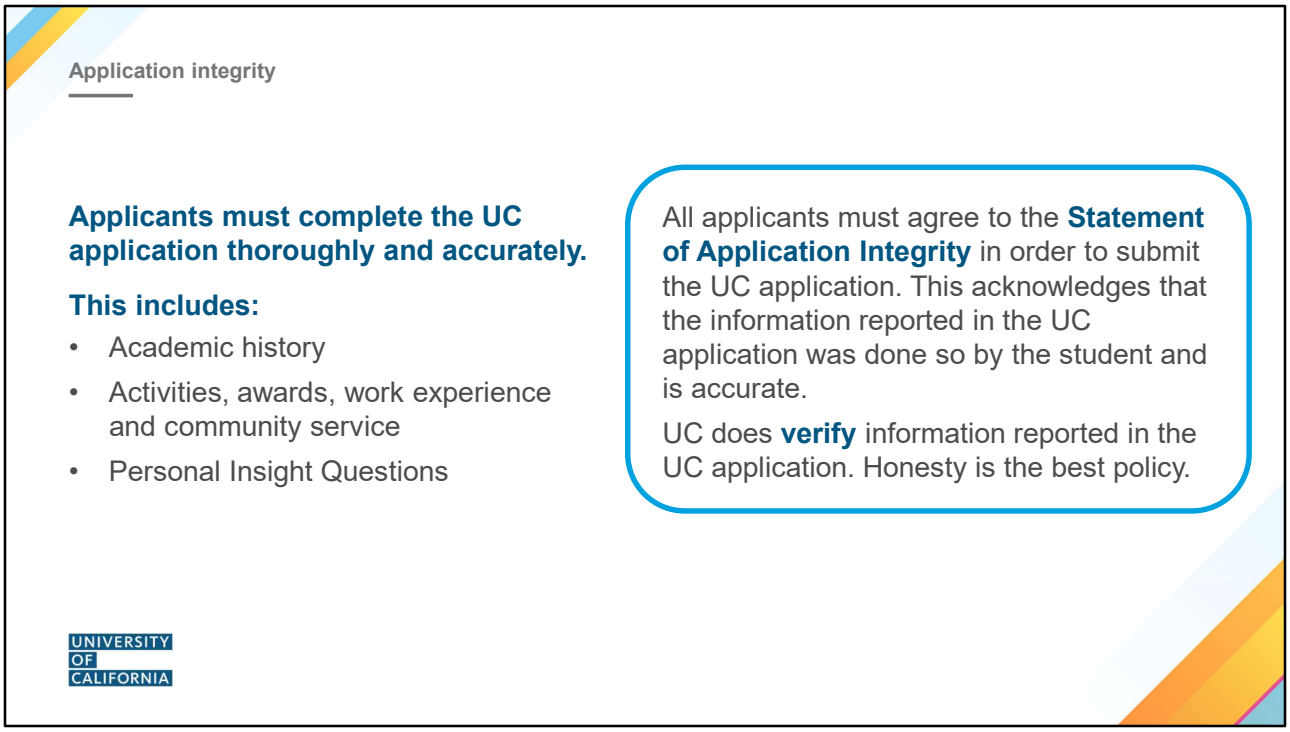
- Learn about the majors offered and all the types of courses needed to earn the UC degree to be fully informed about graduation requirements and plan how long it may take to graduate.
- Some majors have different names across the system and may be located in different departments.
- Some majors are not open to first-year applicants, or for every term.

Gather materials that will be needed: transcripts/academic records, list of current and planned courses, awards and honors, volunteer program timelines and hours, employment timeline and hours, etc.

- *Note:* Official transcripts should **not** be sent with your UC application. Your UC application will be reviewed using the self-reported academic history you have provided.

Responses to the personal insight questions are important.

- Write responses early; refer to UC's online resources for writing tips, a worksheet and a video to help get started.
    - https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/personal-insight-questions.html



Students must thoroughly complete all sections of the application and do so accurately. This is the student's opportunity to tell the admission staff about personal details that make each applicant unique.

Accuracy of Details:

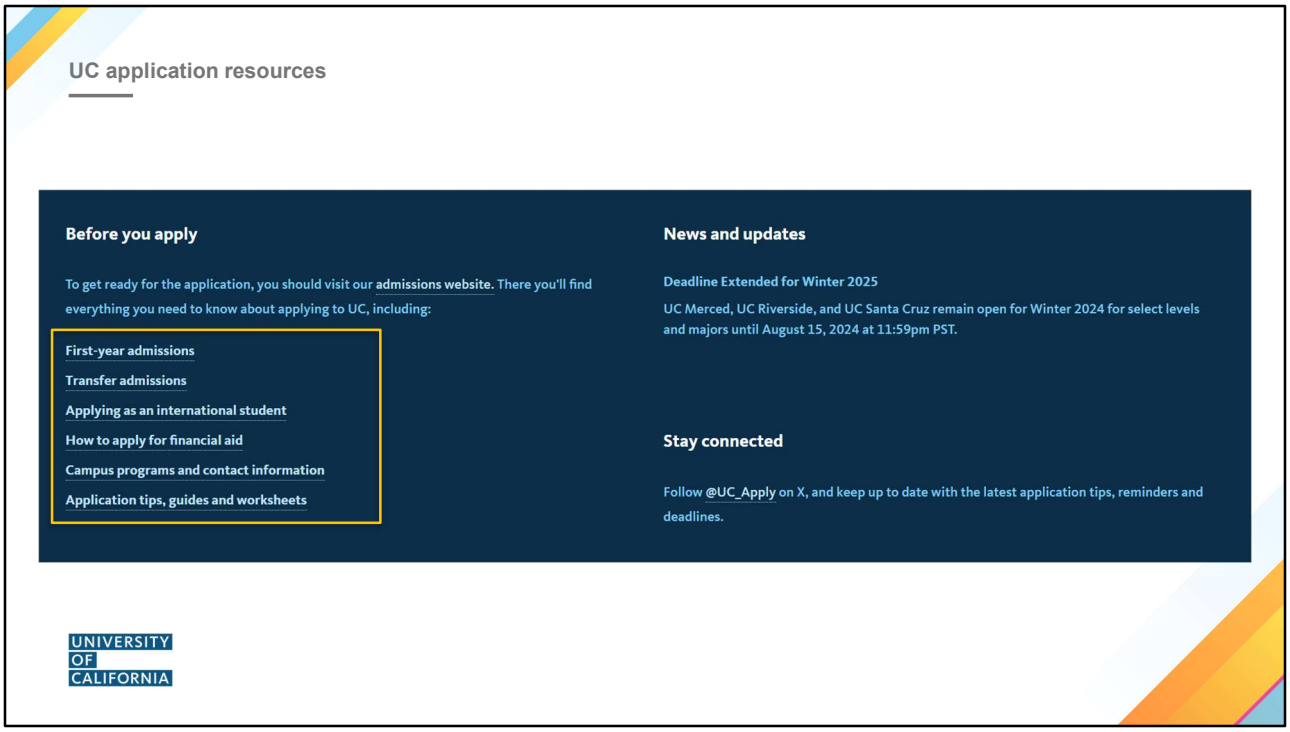
- **Academic History**: MUST be accurately reported--all enrollment, every school/college, all courses and grades (even/especially if a course was repeated). If a student accepts an offer of admission, UC requires official academic records to verify the information reported.

- **"Additional Comments"** box in the Academic History section can be used to provide detailed information or explanations about specific academic issues – declining grades, course selection issues, etc.

- **Activities/Awards**: Applicants should not exaggerate or fabricate awards or activities because the information submitted is subject to verification.

In fact, UC does verify information that students report on the application. It is critical that students do not misrepresent or falsify information, as this is a serious offense and will result in serious consequences. Honesty is the best policy.

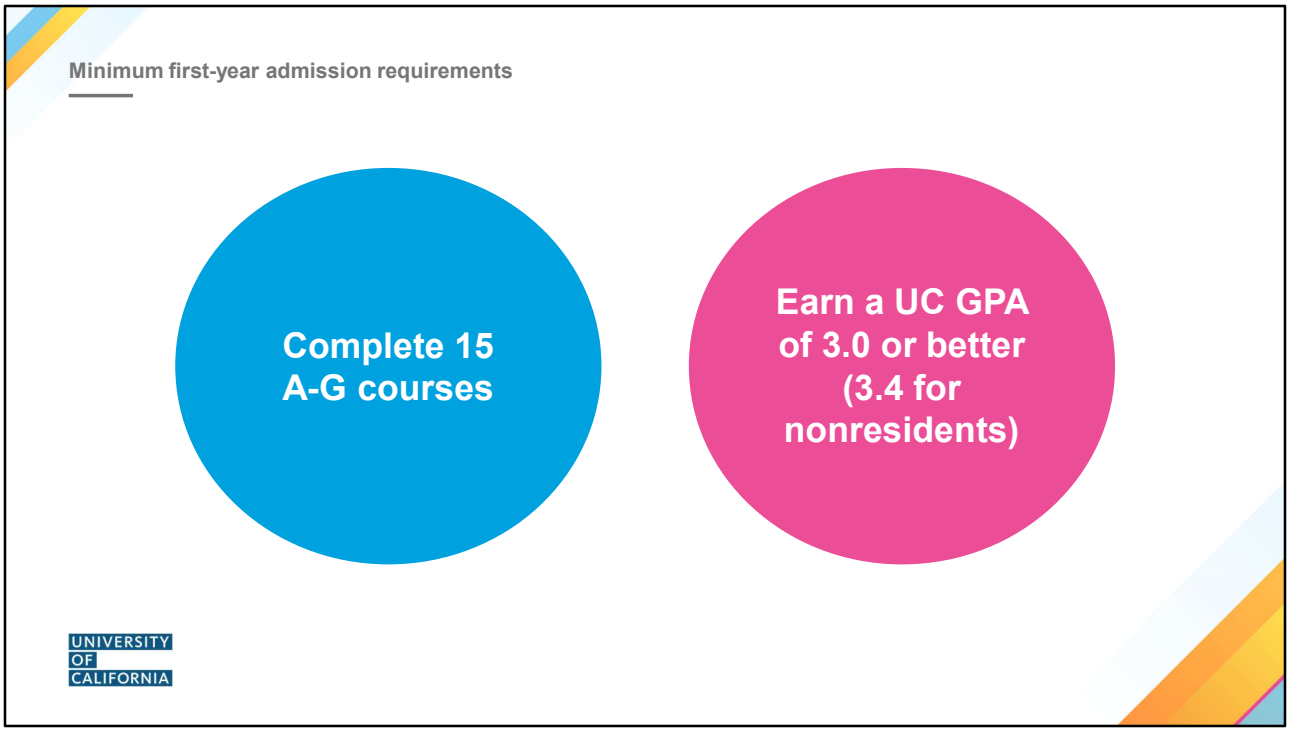
View the Statement of Application Integrity at
https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/docs/StatementOfIntegrity.pdf



Various application resources can be found on the UC admissions website and on the UC application website.

UC admission website: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/
UC application website: https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login

First-year admission

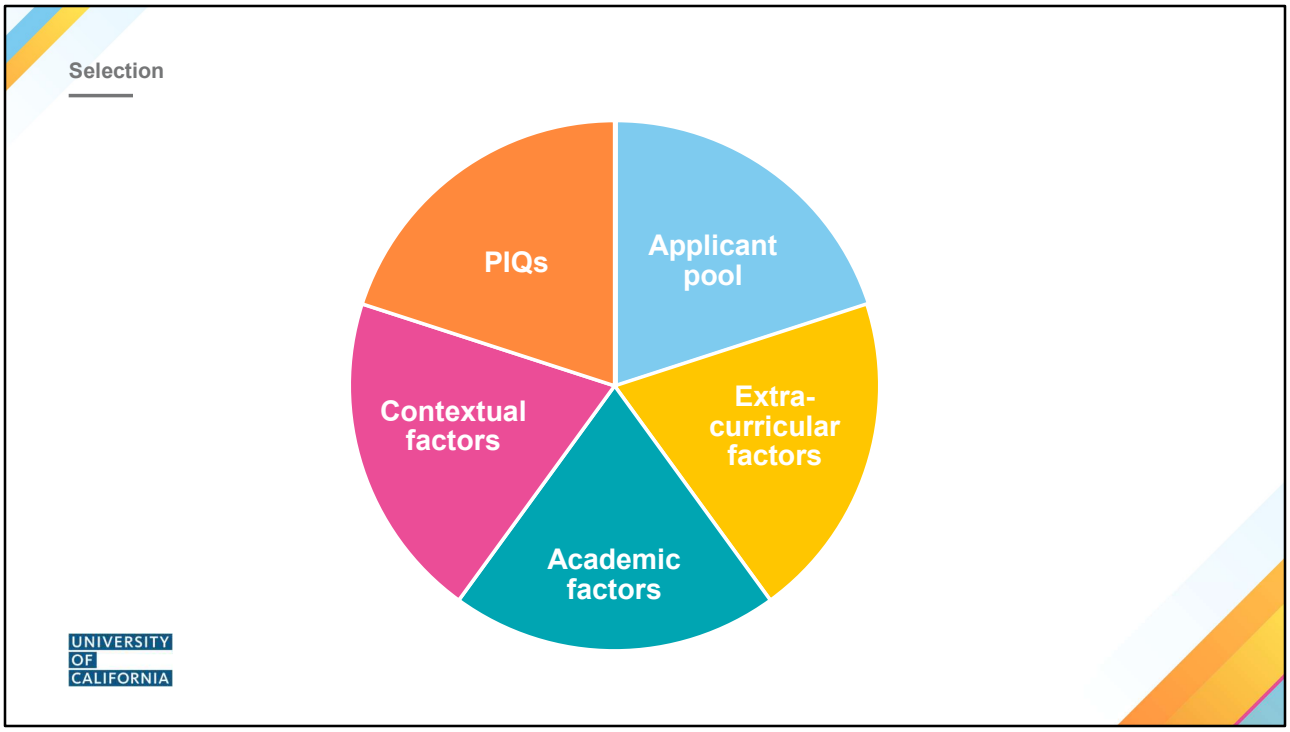


Our admission guidelines are designed to ensure you are well-prepared to succeed at UC. If you're interested in entering the University of California as a first-year, you'll have to satisfy these requirements:

1. **A-G course requirements**
    a) History/Social Science: 2 years
    b) English: 4 years
    c) Math: 3 years/4 recommended
        a) Must include Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II
    d) Science: 2 years/3 recommended
    e) Language other than English: 2 years/3 years recommended
        a) For LOTE, years is equivalent to the course level. For example, if a student passes Spanish 2, they are considered to have 2 years of LOTE, whether or not they took/passed Spanish 1.
    f) Visual and Performing Arts: 1 year
    g) College-prep Electives: 1 year
        a) Any course taken beyond the minimum 14 courses presented above can be considered to fulfill area G.

2. **UC GPA of 3.0 or better (3.4 for nonresidents)**
    1. CA residents must have a minimum of 3.0, and nonresidents a 3.4. The UC GPA uses grades taken in A-G courses in the 10th and 11th grades, including the three surrounding summers. The +/- grades don't count and will not be rounded.

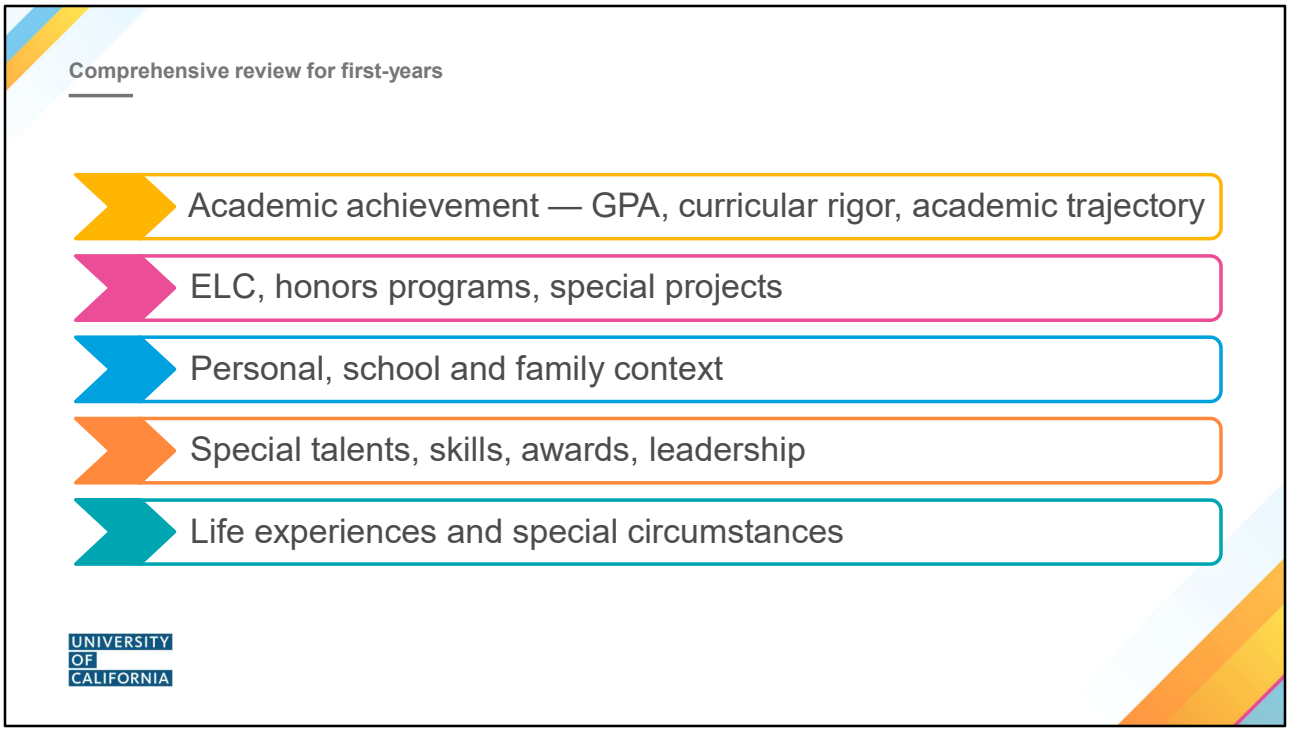
It is important to remember that these are the *minimum* requirements for admission. We encourage applicants to not only meet these requirements, but to exceed them to be more competitive.



Campuses use multiple factors when selecting students. The way in which campuses select students varies, and it is to the student's advantage to include as much information as possible on the application. Admission representatives want to know about the experiences, accomplishments and challenges of every applicant.

Students should feel free to discuss their roles and responsibilities at work or in community service, share their stories in their PIQ responses, and talk about their educational journey. This is because every student is considered in the context of their own environment which includes, but is not limited to, school, family and geographic region. Students are also considered within the context of the applicant pool for each campus.

Each campus will complete their own individual review of the application independently of one another, which means that they're going to review the information in the application and select students without asking what the other campuses have decided. Each campus selects students independently.



It is important to note that this is not a checklist, nor does this list all the factors. This is only intended to show that UC campuses consider many factors and the whole context of the student in and outside of class. Students may meet multiple criteria of comprehensive review, but these are considered by campuses within the context of the entire application.

In general, campuses are looking for well-qualified students who have taken advantage of the educational opportunities presented to them both inside and outside of the classroom. The categories listed here comprise a range of factors that campuses may consider when selecting students. For example, academic achievement includes GPA, honors courses, ELC status, A-G courses, quality of senior year program and achievements in special projects.

ALL UC campuses do a comprehensive review, but there are different methods of Comprehensive review. Think of it like this – all campuses use the same ingredients but may have different recipes. Some are holistic, others are not. The faculty at each campus determines what factors will be used and in what way. Again, this should not be seen as a checklist, where the more "boxes you can check, the more competitive you will be". This is just a list of all the factors that may be used in some way in the review process.

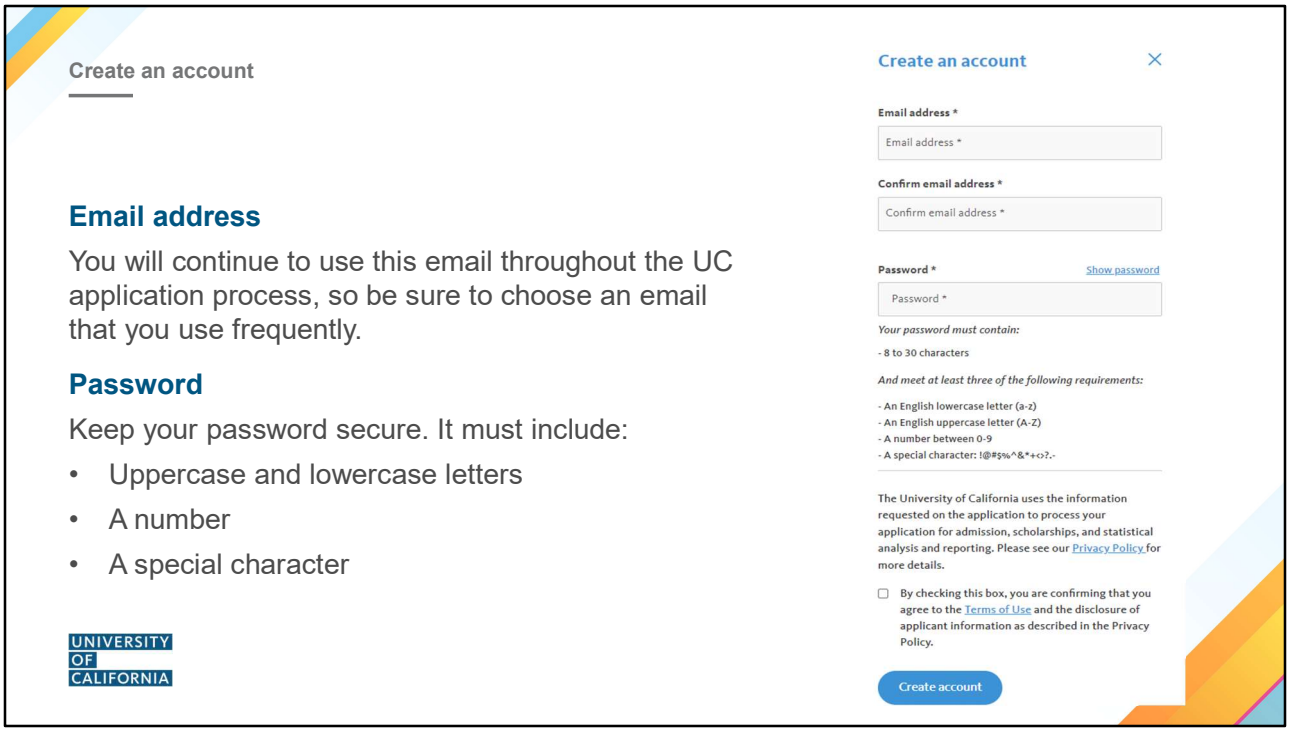
We're also going to look at a student's achievement within the context of their educational environment and the resources and opportunities that were available to them. This is found in a number of areas of the application, not just in responses to the PIQs.

The faculty-approved comprehensive review criteria are:

- Grade point average
- Courses completed/planned
- Honors courses
- Top 9% Local Context (ELC)
- Quality of senior-year program of study
- Academic opportunities in California high schools
- Performance in academic subject areas
- Achievements in special projects
- Improvement in academic performance
- Special talents, achievements, and awards
- Participation in educational preparation programs
- Academic accomplishment within life experiences
- Geographic location

Starting the UC application

Browser recommendations
The UC online application functions with the following browser versions: Chrome 114 or newer, Edge 114 or newer, Firefox 114 or newer, Safari 16 or newer.
JavaScript and cookies
Our application uses JavaScript web page functionality and requires cookies. Please make sure JavaScript and cookies are enabled on your browser.
Security
Because it's important to protect the information you provide, the online application is extremely secure — so secure, in fact, that older browsers are not equipped to handle our level of encryption. Please download one of the browser versions listed above to ensure maximum security.
Responsive
The application is mobile friendly so you can use your tablets and other devices.
20-minute timeout for security
After 20 minutes of inactivity, the system will time out.
Character counts
All descriptions and PIQ responses have character or word counts to show remaining available space.
Save and Continue
In order not to timeout, you will need to click save and continue. If you do not, any information you've entered since the last save will be lost.



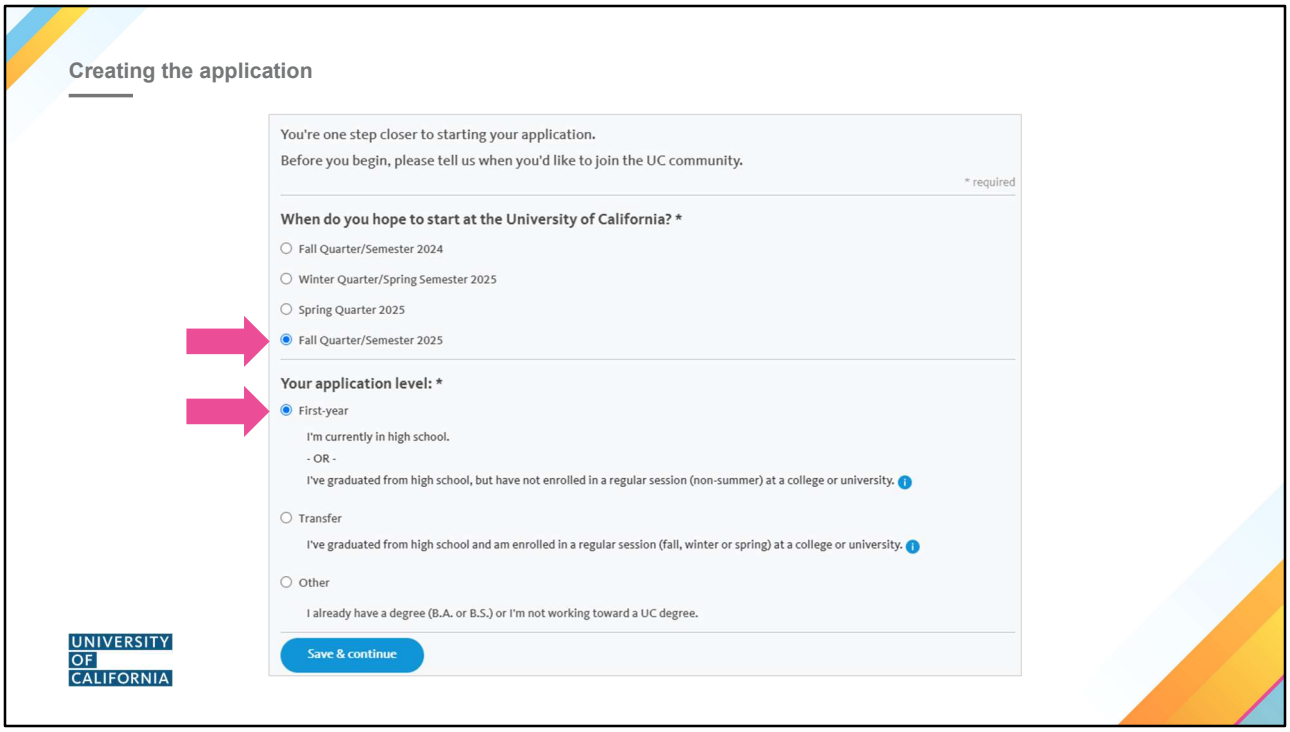
Start your UC application at https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login

Create your account

- New users must enter a unique email address and password
- Students should use an email account they will check *after* graduation as well (preferably not a school-issued email address)
- Applicants will use this same account if they apply again in the future
- If the student's family has multiple applicants or has future applicants, different email addresses must be used for each applicant
- Passwords must be at least eight characters (and must include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols/special characters)
- Create a secret question/answer combination that will be easily remembered
- Be sure to keep login information safe
- Once "Create a New Account" is complete, an email confirming the start of your application will be sent
- Campuses use email to send critical, time-sensitive correspondence to applicants, so provide an email address that is checked regularly and will be kept until enrolling in college
- Remember to adjust email filters to accept mail from UC addresses

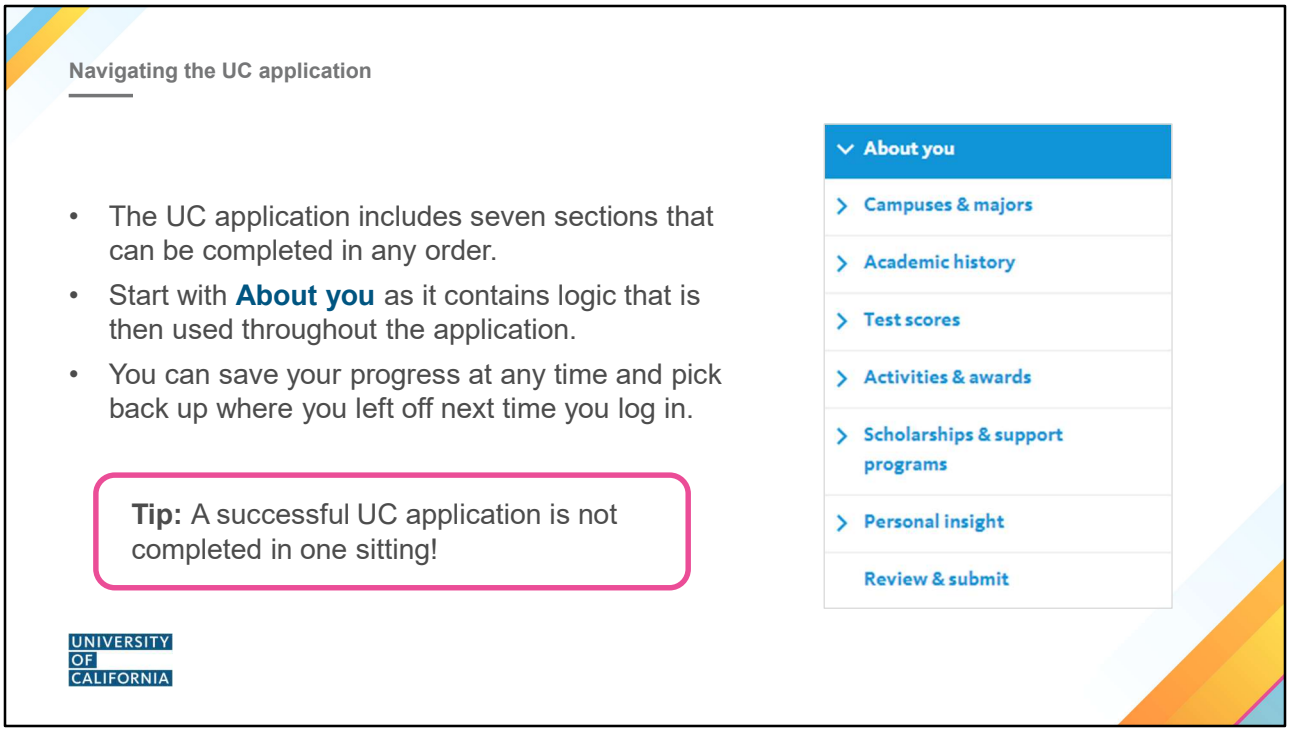
Log in

- First-time users start by clicking "Create a New Account"
- On return visits, enter email and password information under "Sign In"



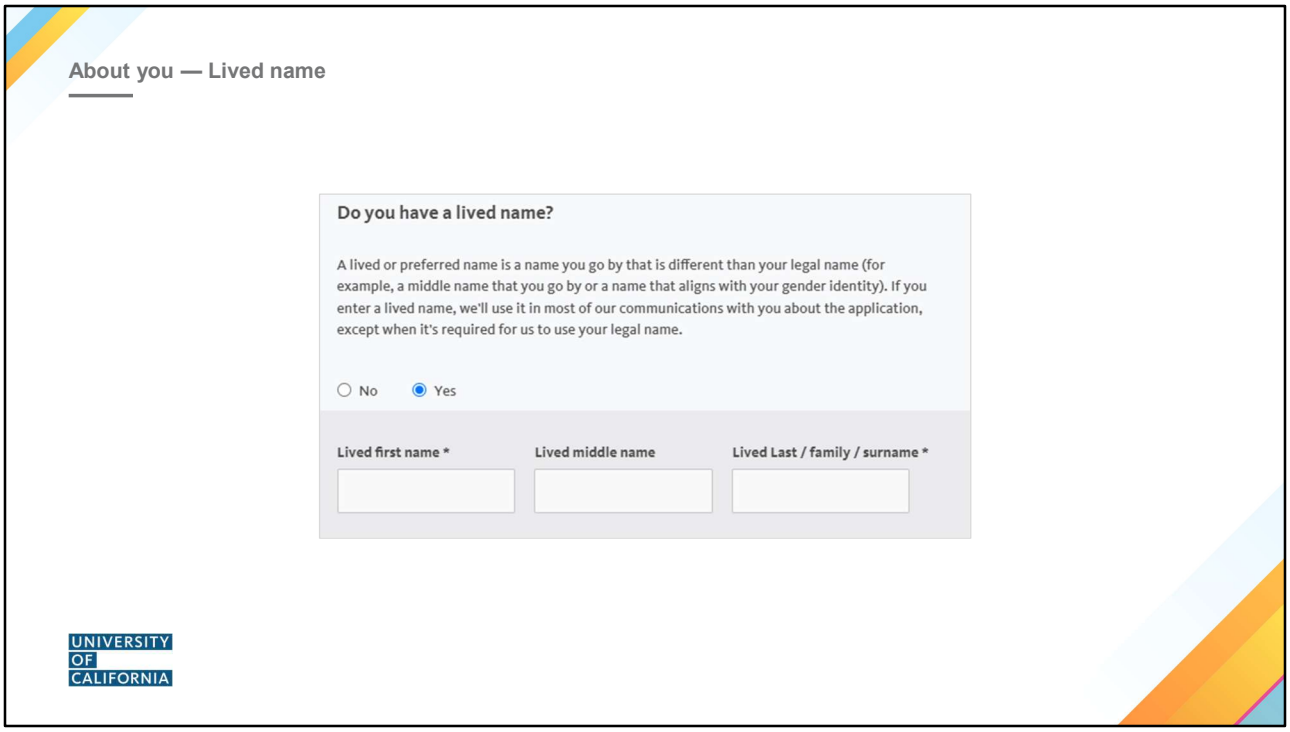
Level: Students must select the appropriate level for which they are applying.

- A **first-year** applicant is currently in high school or has graduated from high school but has not enrolled in a *regular* session (fall/winter/spring) at a college or university *after* high school graduation (with the exception of the summer term immediately following high school graduation).
    - Middle college and dual enrollment students are considered first-year applicants since they have not graduated from high school with a diploma or GED.
    - *Presenter note:* High school students who graduate mid-year and enroll in college courses during the spring term should still apply as a first-year applicant.
- A student who has enrolled in a regular term (fall/winter/spring) at a college or university after graduating from high school should apply as a **transfer** student.



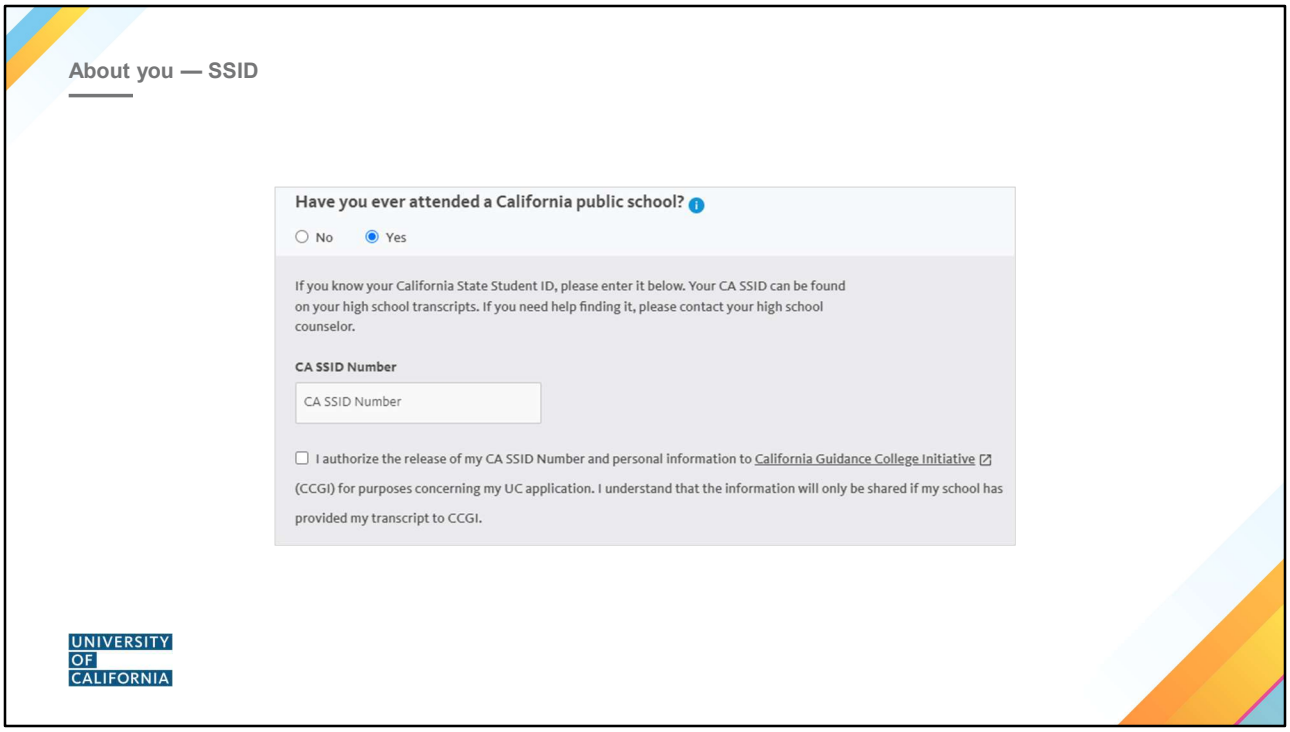
The navigation bar is on the right side of the screen. Students can complete the application in any order but should complete the “About You” section first as it contains conditional logic which will be used throughout the application.

About you



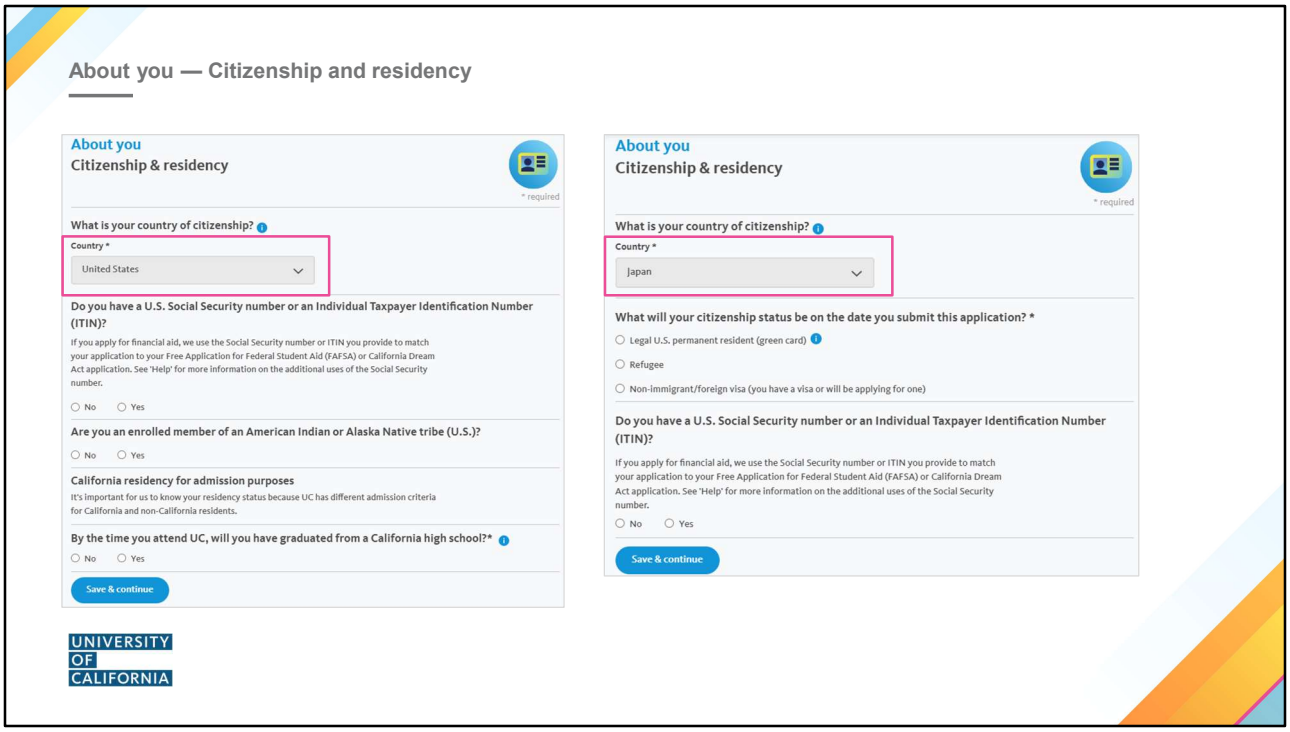
When completing your personal details, applicants have the option to indicate a lived, or preferred name. A lived or preferred name is a name you go by that is different than your legal name (for example, a middle name that you go by or a name that aligns with your gender identity). If you enter a lived name, we'll use it in most of our communications with you about the application, except when it's required for us to use your legal name.

If your legal name is the name you go by, you can select "No" here and move forward. Do not enter your same legal name twice.



Presenter note: The state's Cradle-to-Career System is expanding access to tools and services to navigate the education to employment pipeline. As in previous admission cycles, students will be able to continue to link their CaliforniaCollege.edu and UC application accounts. This linkage ensures the application submission status on the UC application is reflected in the CaliforniaColleges.edu account. Beginning with the fall 2025 UC application, students who attend a CCGI partner high school will be able to import their coursework directly into the UC application from their CaliforniaColleges.edu account using their SSID.

To utilize the course import function, applications must authorize the release of their SSID and personal information to CCGI as shown in this screenshot. More information about the import function is found in the Academic History section.



Citizenship

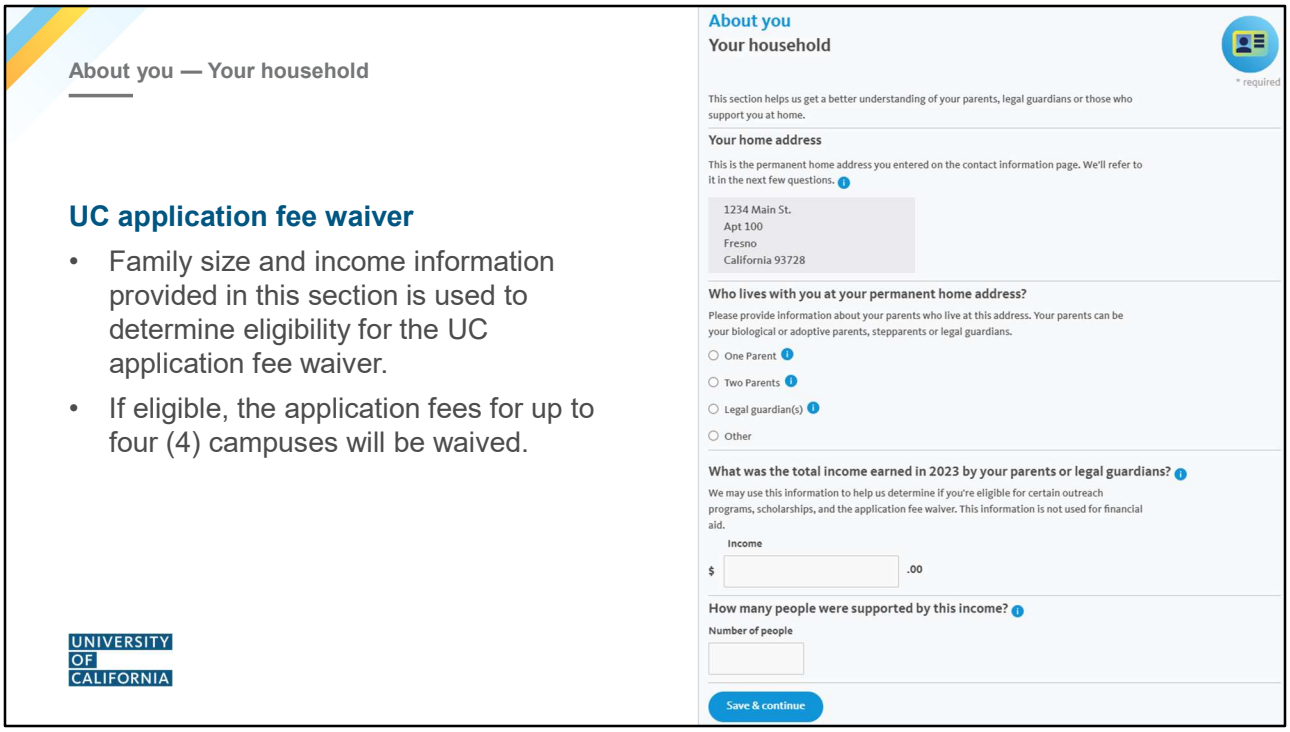
- Applicants must select a country of citizenship from the country drop-down menu.
- Students who are U.S. citizens will have a follow-up question about tribal affiliation. This response, along with CA residency status determined by the Statement of Legal Residence information, will determine whether the student qualifies for the Native American Opportunity Program.
- Those who choose a country other than the United States will have follow-up questions on permanent residency and/or visa status.

Undocumented students

- For country of citizenship, select “No Selection” and follow the directions for the SSN below.

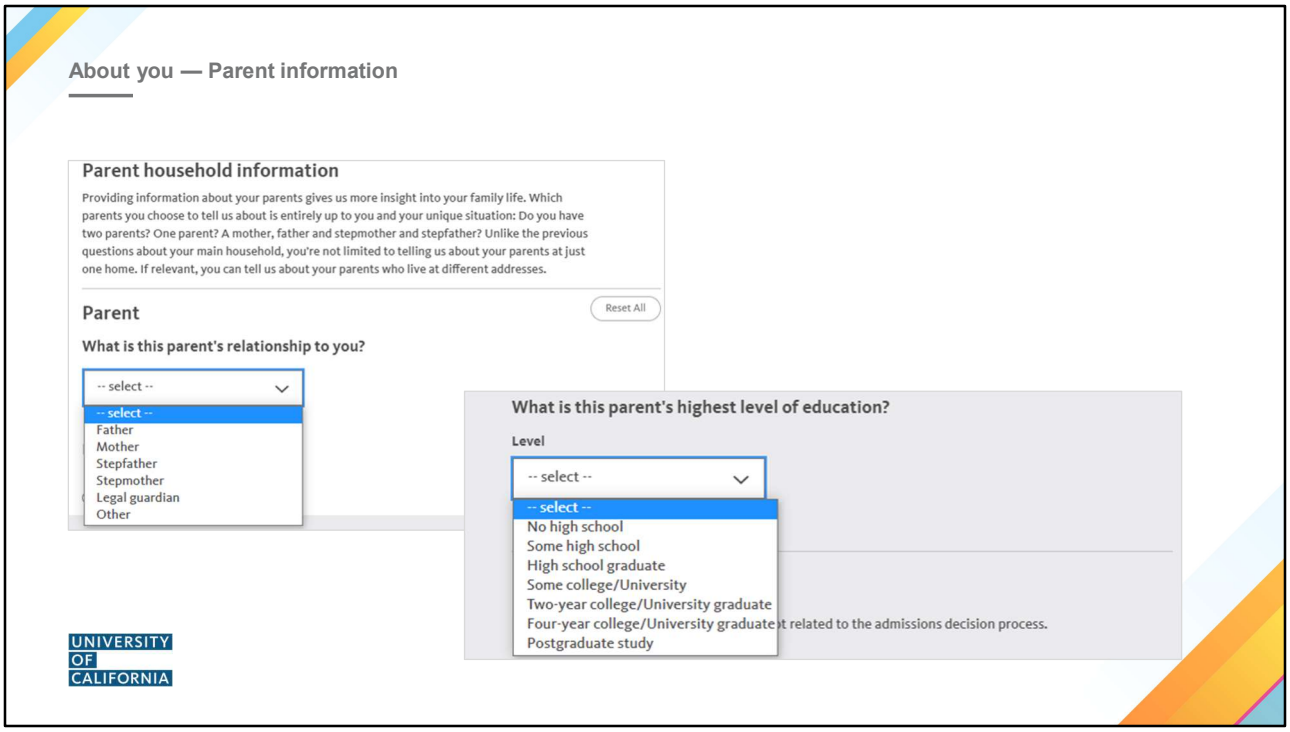
Social Security Number (SSN)

- All applicants who have a social security number (SSN) are required to enter it.
- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) participants and Undocumented students:**
    - Enter a valid SSN, SSN for work purposes, or ITIN if available. Otherwise, leave it blank.
    - If an applicant does not have an SSN, he/she may skip that item.
    - We use the SSN to accurately and reliably merge test scores (if submitted) and the federal financial aid application with the admission application.
    - SSN, SSN for work purposes and ITIN numbers are encrypted and kept secure.



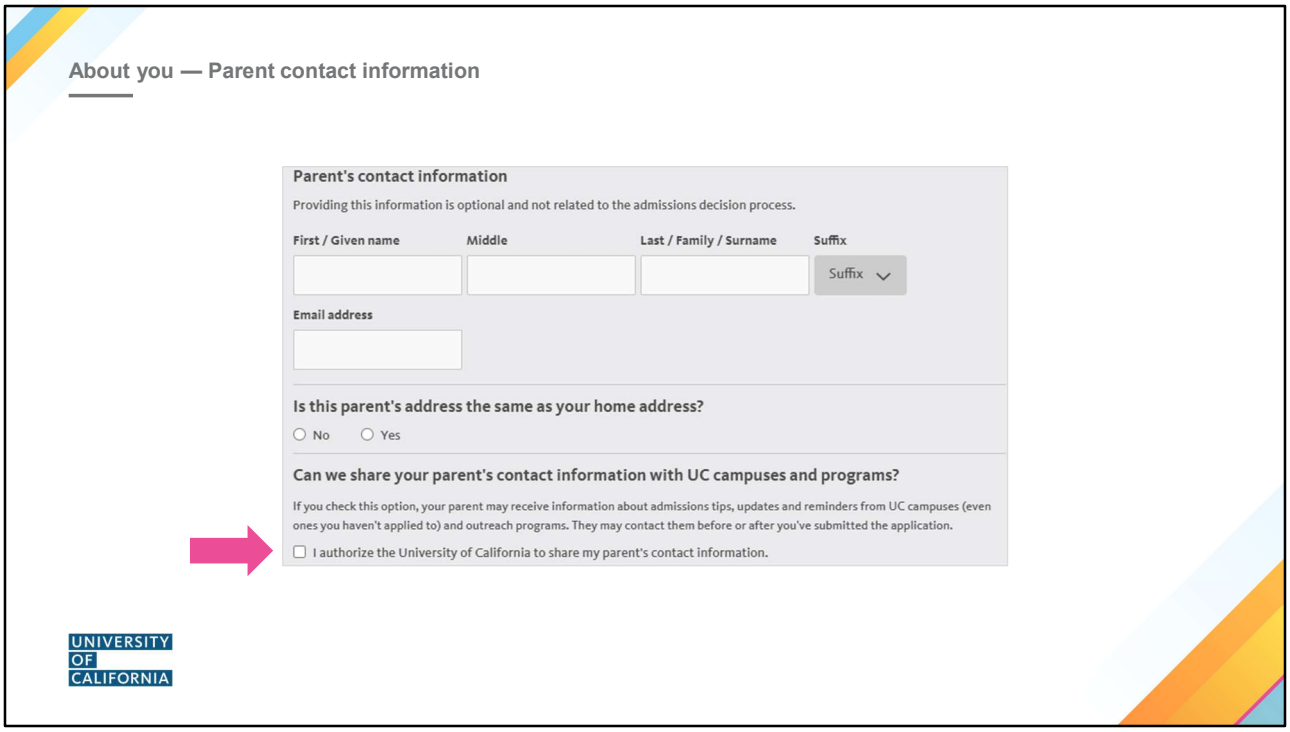
Family Size and Income

- Information about a student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s)' education, income, and family size is used to provide contextual information about the home environment and to determine eligibility for the application fee waiver.
- For more information, students can click on the "i" icon.
- This information is **not** used to determine residency status or eligibility for financial aid.



Entering parental information and their relationship to students helps campus admission staff better understand the family context for applicants.

Students can enter up to two (2) parents or guardians.



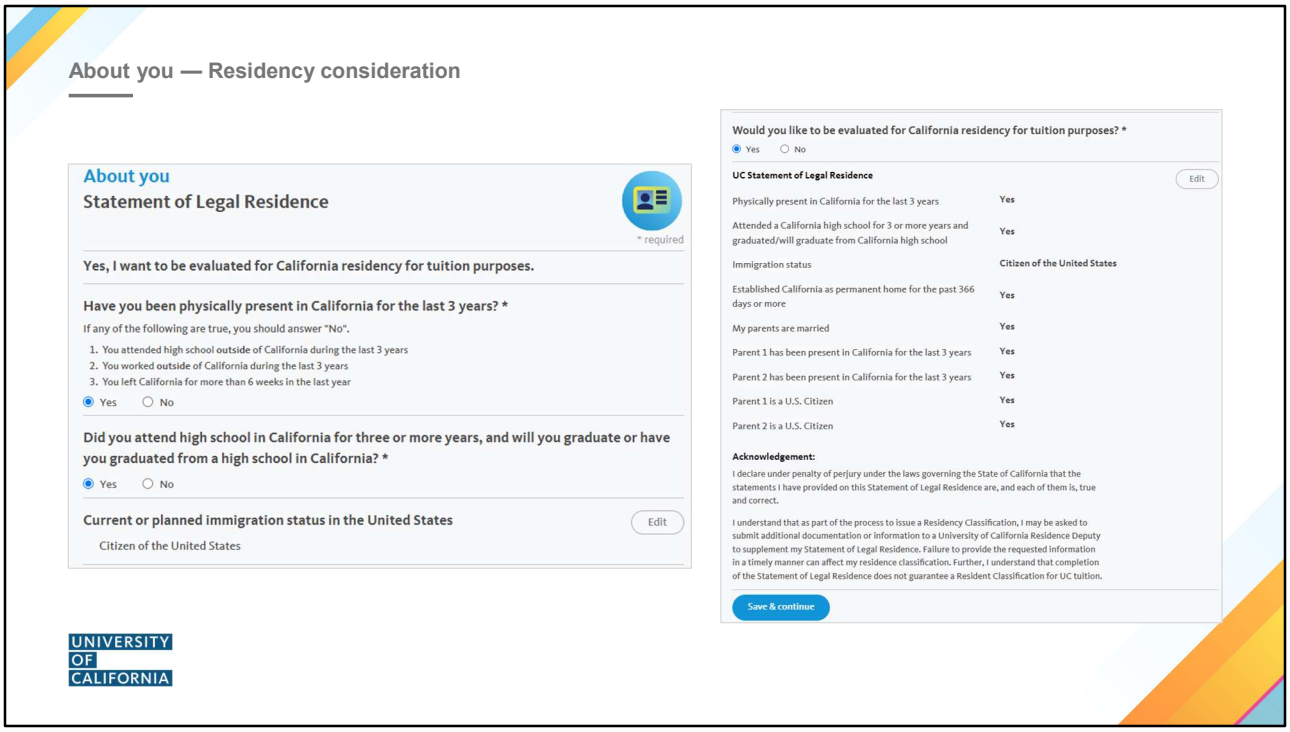
Students have the option to submit contact information for their parents. This is optional and will not influence the admission process. Doing so allows the campuses the option to send parents important admissions updates and information, though they will not receive information about a student's application or admission decision(s).

In this section, UC will collect information to help determine residency for tuition purposes.

Student must choose whether they would like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes or not.

Yes, I want to be considered for California residency for tuition purposes:
- Selecting this option will bring up additional questions about the student's and their parents'/legal guardians' physical presence in California.

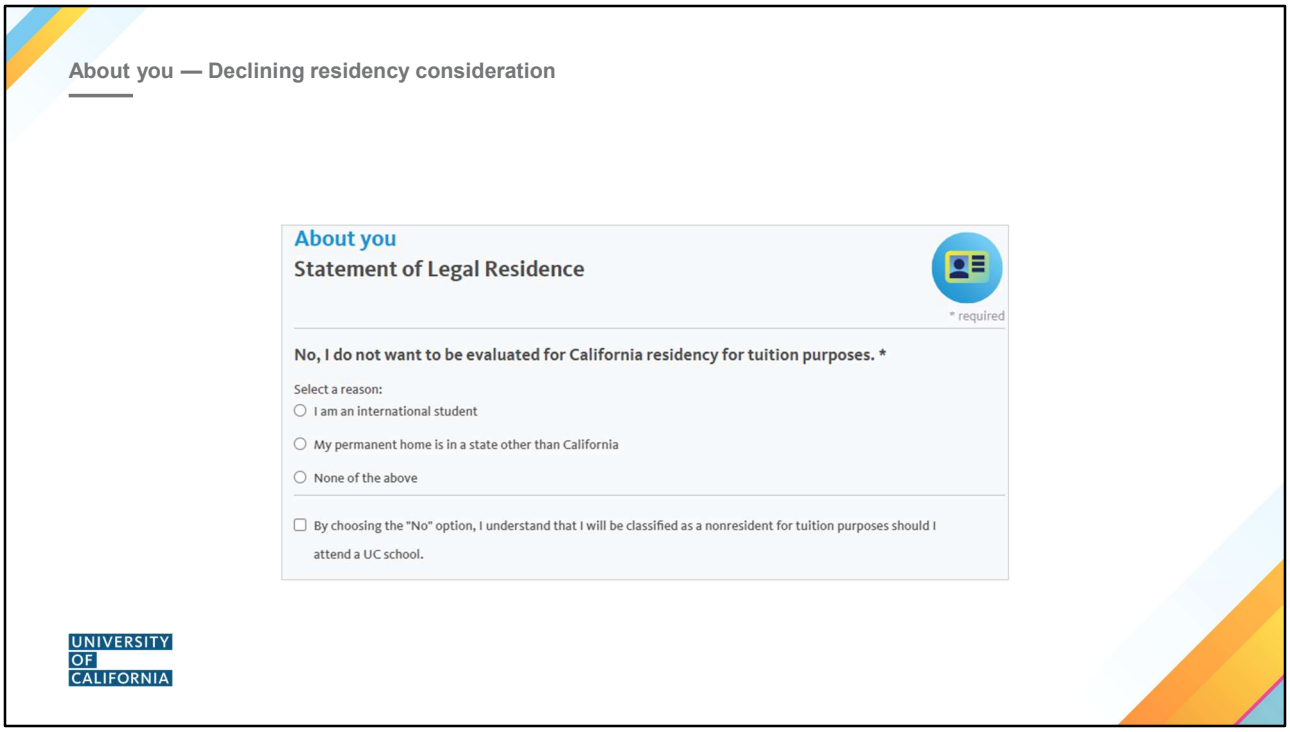
No, I do not want to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes:
- If a student selects this option, they will need to select a reason why they do not want to be evaluated for CA residency.
- They will also need to acknowledge that by selecting the "No" option, they will be classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes.



Yes, I want to be considered for California residency for tuition purposes:

- Selecting this option will bring up additional questions about the student's and their parents'/legal guardians' physical presence in California.
- *Note:* Different prompts will appear for the requested parent information depending on whether the applicant's parents are married and/or live together.

Additional documentation or information may be requested by the campuses for students who wish to be evaluated for California residency. Be sure to respond to any requests in a timely manner.



No, I do not want to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes:

- If a student selects this option, they will need to select a reason why they do not want to be evaluated for CA residency.
- They will also need to acknowledge that by selecting the “No” option, they will be classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes.

About you — Statement of Legal Residence for undocumented students

Undocumented students

- Choose ‘Yes’ when asked if you would like to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes.
- Respond to the question about physical presence in California and attendance at a California high school.
- Choose ‘Unknown’ for parent physical presence in California and US citizenship status.
- Select the appropriate checkbox for AB 540 nonresident supplement tuition exemption.

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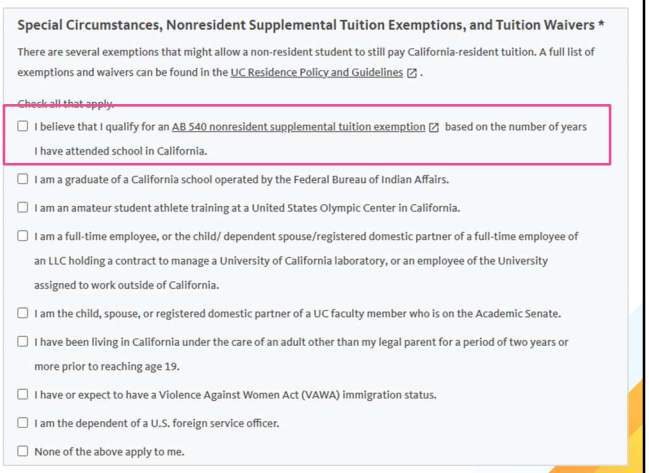
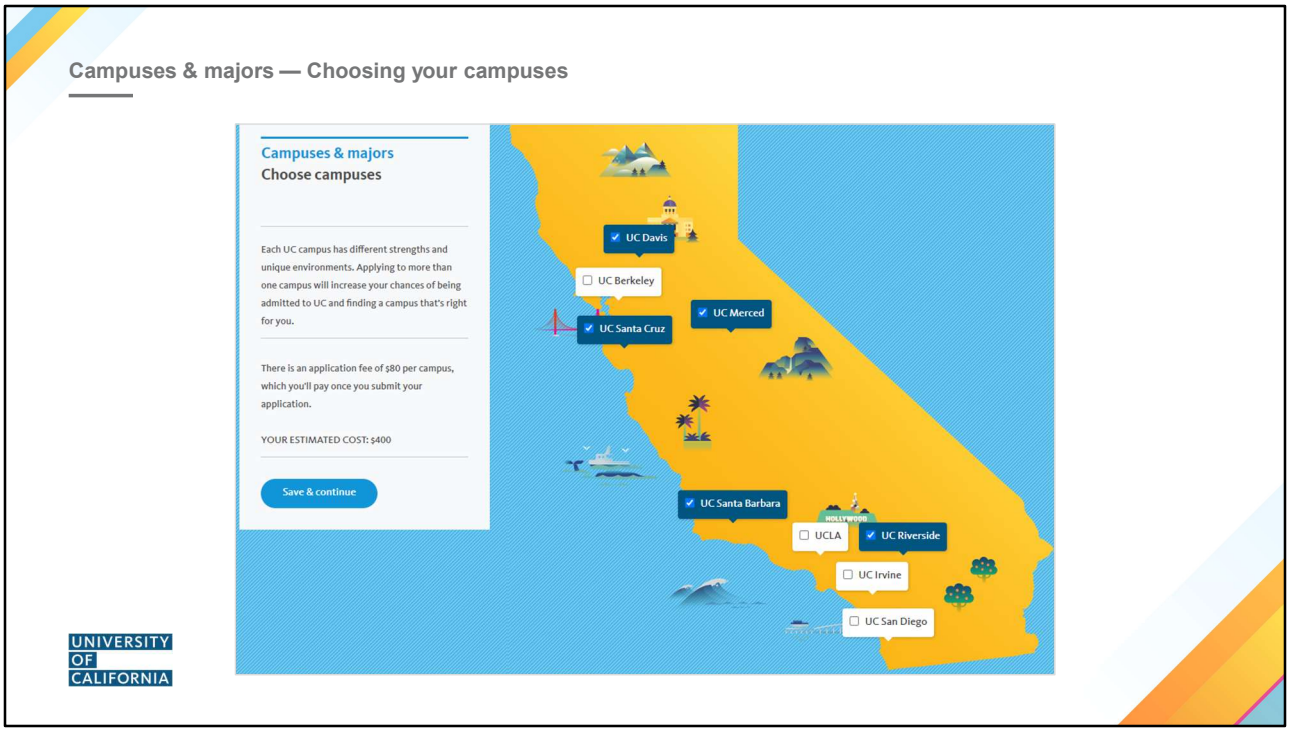


Undocumented students should answer questions as suggested above (assuming they have maintained a presence in California and have attended a California high school). These students will need to provide additional information through the systemwide Statement of Legal Residence (pre-admission) OR to the campus where they choose to enroll.

Further instructions can be viewed at https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/slr-instructions-for-undocumented-students.pdf. This is linked in the UC application.

Campuses & majors



As a reminder, students should only submit ONE UC application. You can choose to send it to as many of the UC campuses as you would like.

There is a fee associated with each campus you select ($80 per campus/$95 per campus for international applicants), but a fee waiver is available for eligible students that will waive the application fee for up to four campuses. Eligibility for the fee waiver is determined by family and financial information provided within the UC application.

Importantly, though you will be able to apply to multiple UC campuses at once, you do not need to "rank" them or indicate any campus preference. All campuses who receive your application will give it a thorough and careful review – independently from one another. You are encouraged to apply broadly across the UC to increase your chances of being admitted to the UC system. All of our campuses – without exception – providing outstanding opportunities for you to learn and grow.

Campuses & majors — Choosing your major(s)

Choosing a major

- For each campus selected, applicants must indicate a major choice.
- Applicants do not need to select the same or similar major at each UC.
- Each UC campus offers an undeclared/undecided option for first-year applicants.

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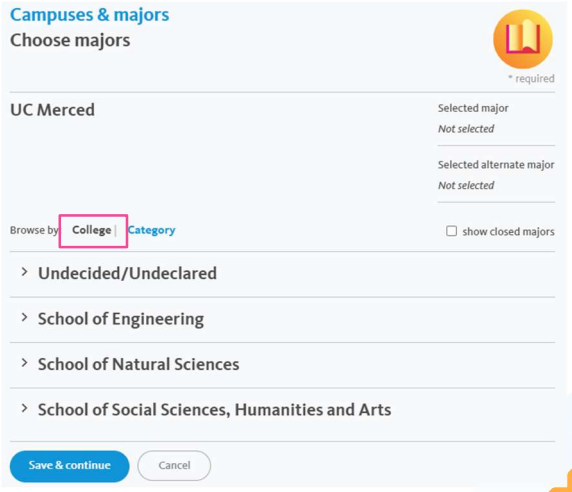
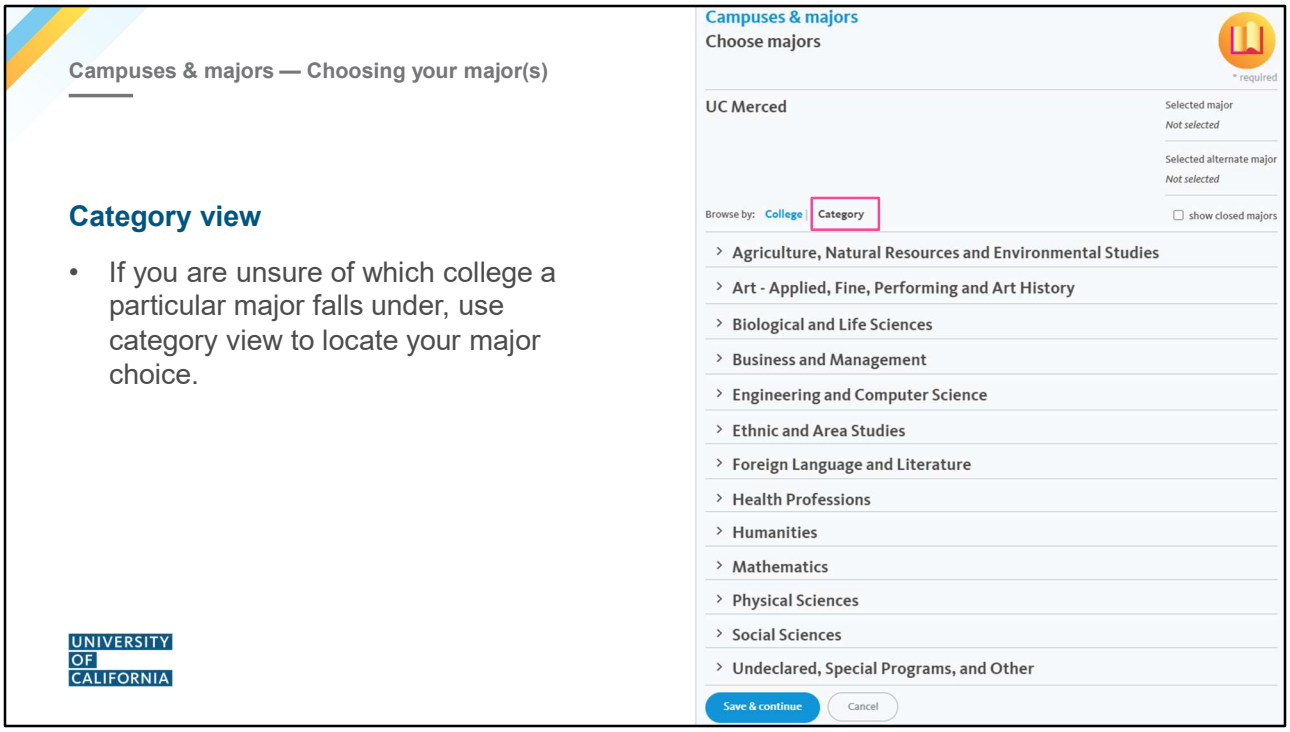


Once you've selected your campus choices, applicants will need to indicate a major selection for each campus. The default view is "College" view, which shows you all available majors by their college placement. By default, closed majors will not appear unless you choose to select the checkbox that reads "show closed majors".

Note: You do not need to select the same or similar major at each UC campus you've selected!



If preferred, applicants can view available majors for each campus by "Category" instead of "College". This may be helpful if you don't know which college a particular major falls under.

Note: You do not need to select the same or similar major at each UC campus you've selected!

Campuses & majors — Alternate major

Alternate majors

- Applicants can choose both a first-choice major and an alternate major for most campuses.
- Alternate majors should be in a subject that a student wants to study.
- Not all campuses may consider applicants for an alternate major.

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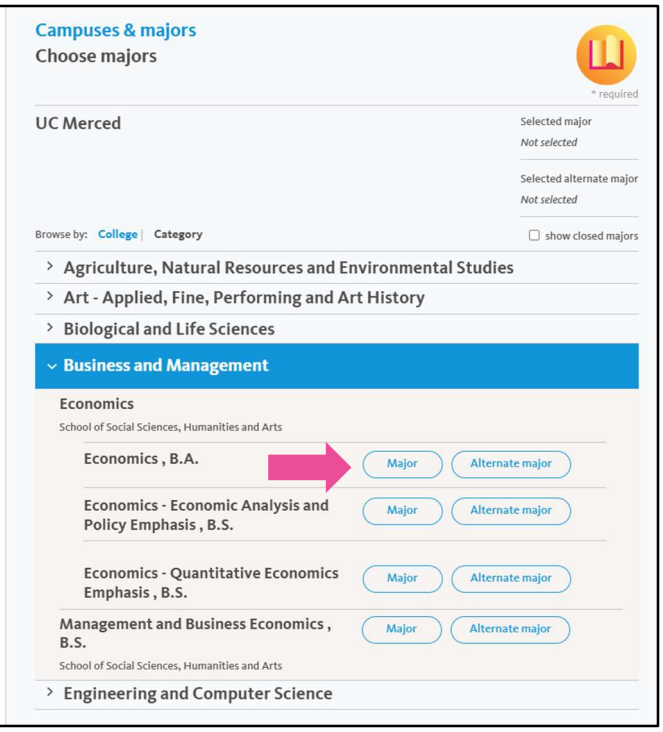

Students can select both a major and an alternate major at all campuses, with the exception of UCLA.

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.

Campuses & majors — Supplemental applications

Supplemental applications

- Some majors may require applicants to submit supplemental materials.
- Requirements for supplemental applications will vary by campus and program.
- Pay close attention to the deadline for supplemental applications!

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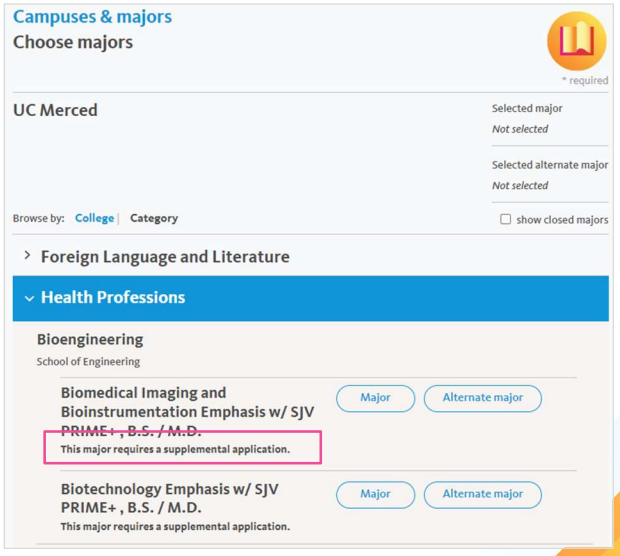
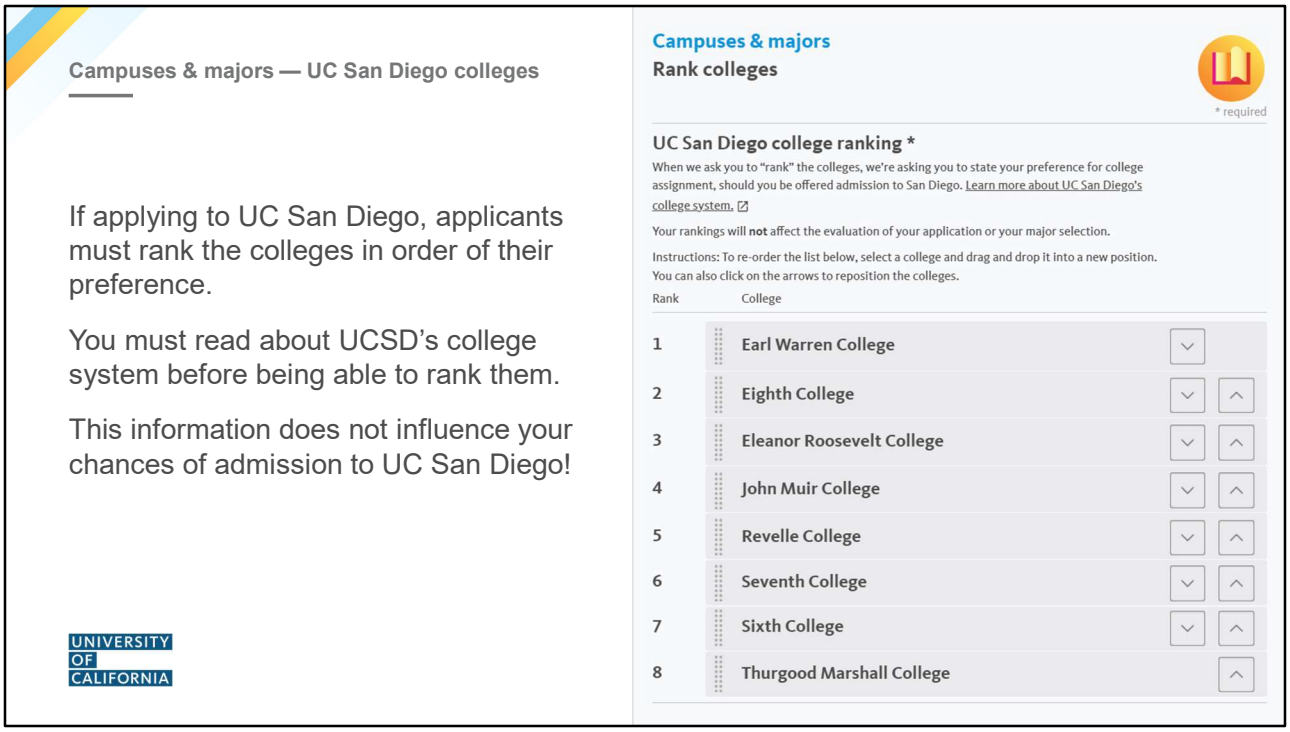


Some majors may require applicants to submit a supplemental application or materials. If so, applicants will see messaging in the UC application when selecting that major. Requirements and deadlines for supplemental applications will vary by campus and program.



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.
- All majors are available in all of the colleges.

Note: Each of the undergraduate colleges has its own campus neighborhood, residence facilities, staff, traditions, general-education requirements, and distinctive educational philosophy.

Academic history

7th and 8th grade coursework

7th and 8th grade

- High school-level courses completed during the 7th and 8th grades can be used to fulfill the **math** and **language other than English (LOTE)** minimum requirement.
- These are the only subject areas that can be met with 7th or 8th grade coursework.

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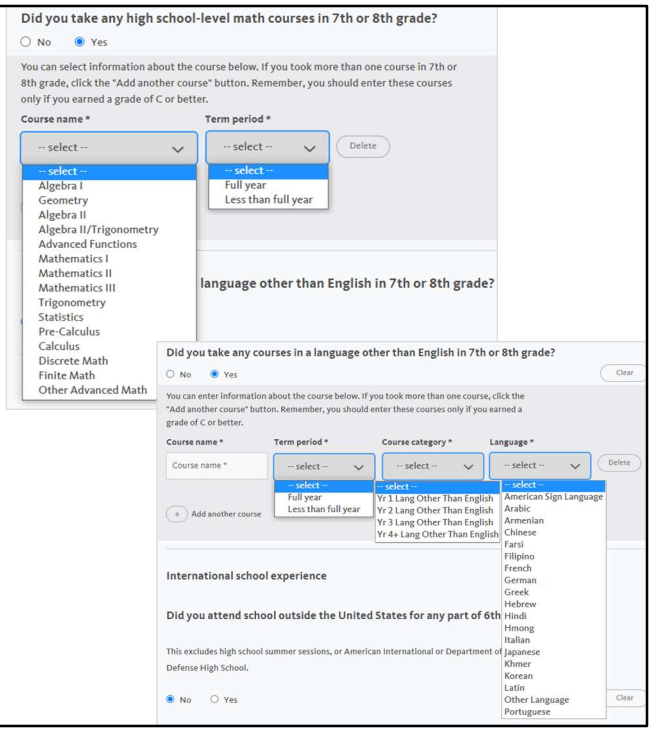
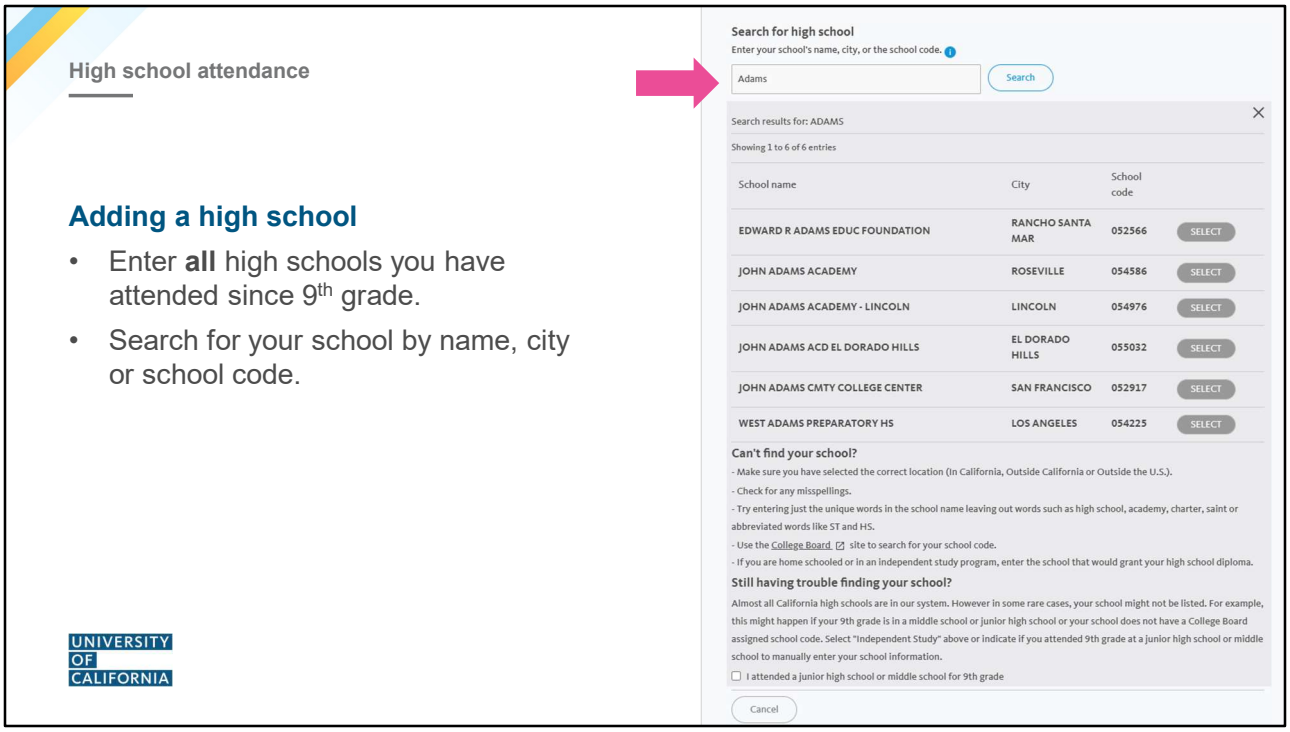


Seventh/Eighth Grade

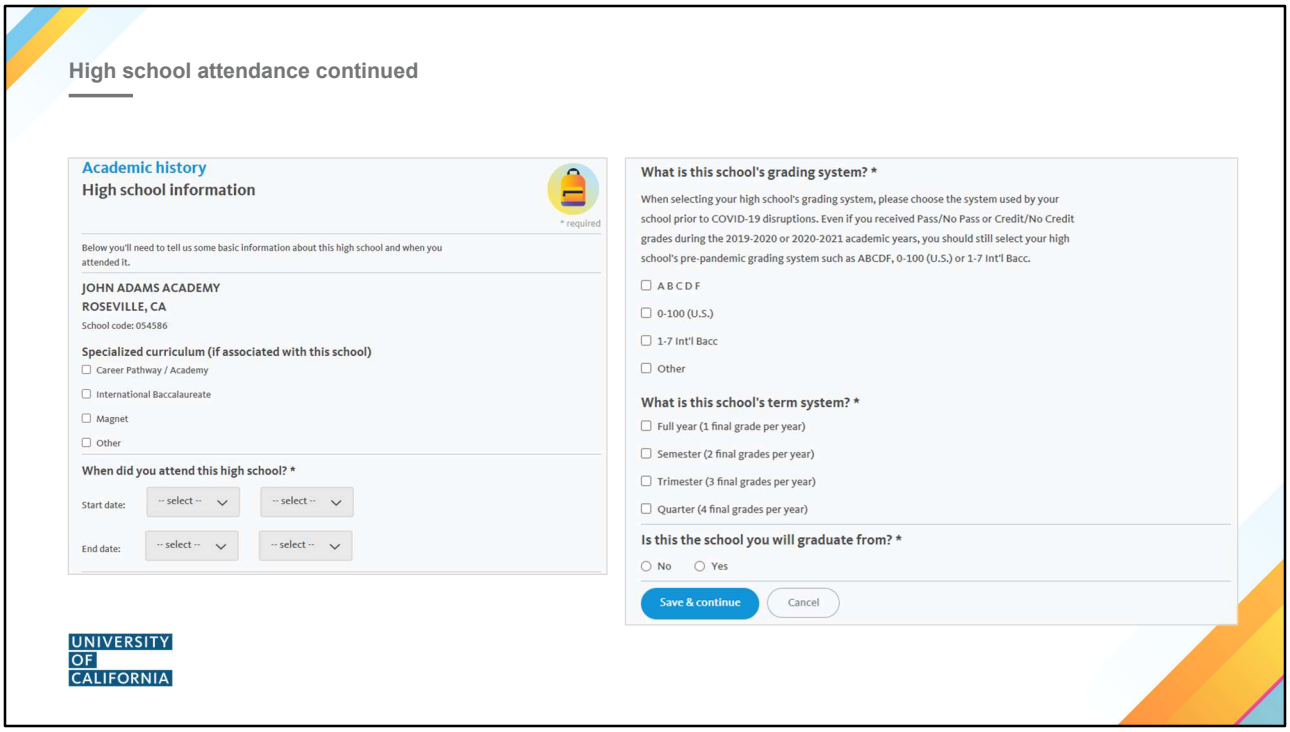
- 7th & 8th grade courses do not need to appear on the high school transcript.
- Math and Language other than English (LOTE) are the only subject areas that can be met by course work in middle school.
- UC will accept a geometry course completed in middle school.

Students who indicate that they attended school outside of the U.S. will be prompted to select the language of instruction for those years.



High school attendance

- Remember to list every school attended beginning with 9th grade, even if 9th grade was considered “middle school.”
- Students can search for their schools by name, city or by CEEB code.
- If students can’t find their school, it can be added by typing the full name of the school and clicking “Add”

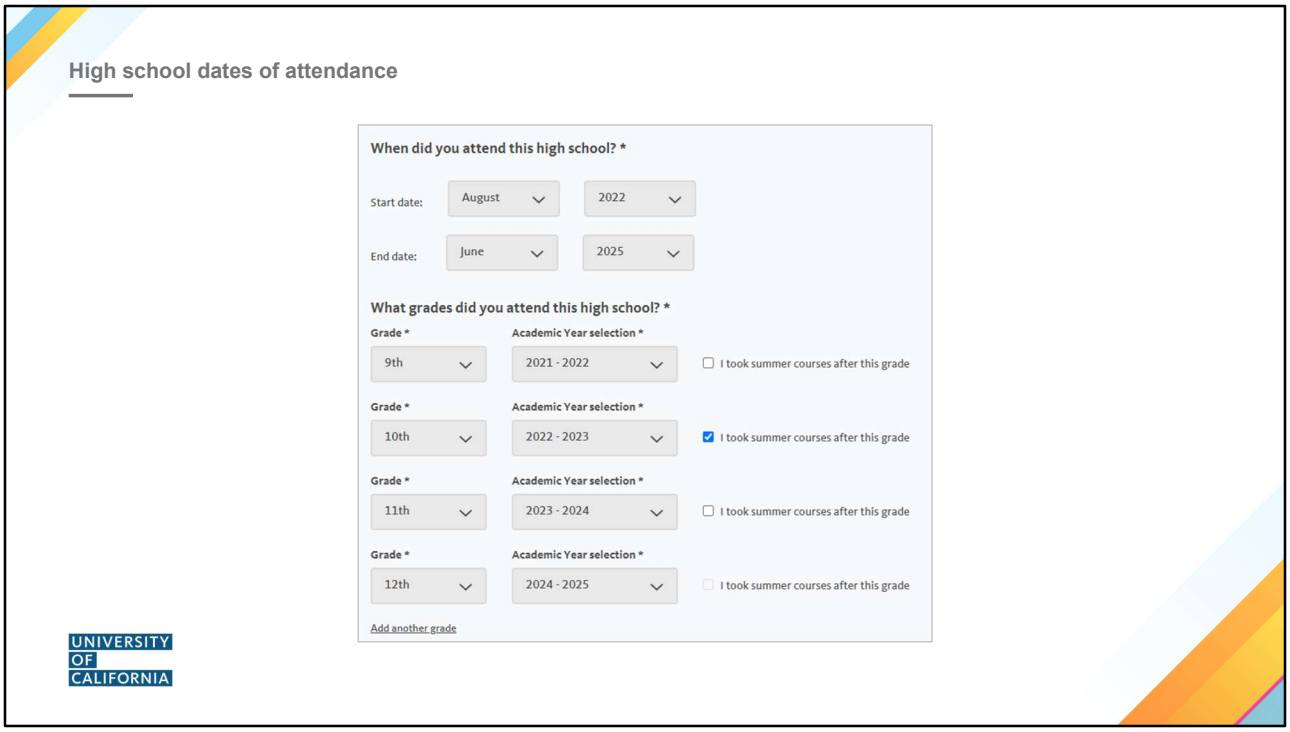


High school attendance (continued)

Once the correct high school has been selected:

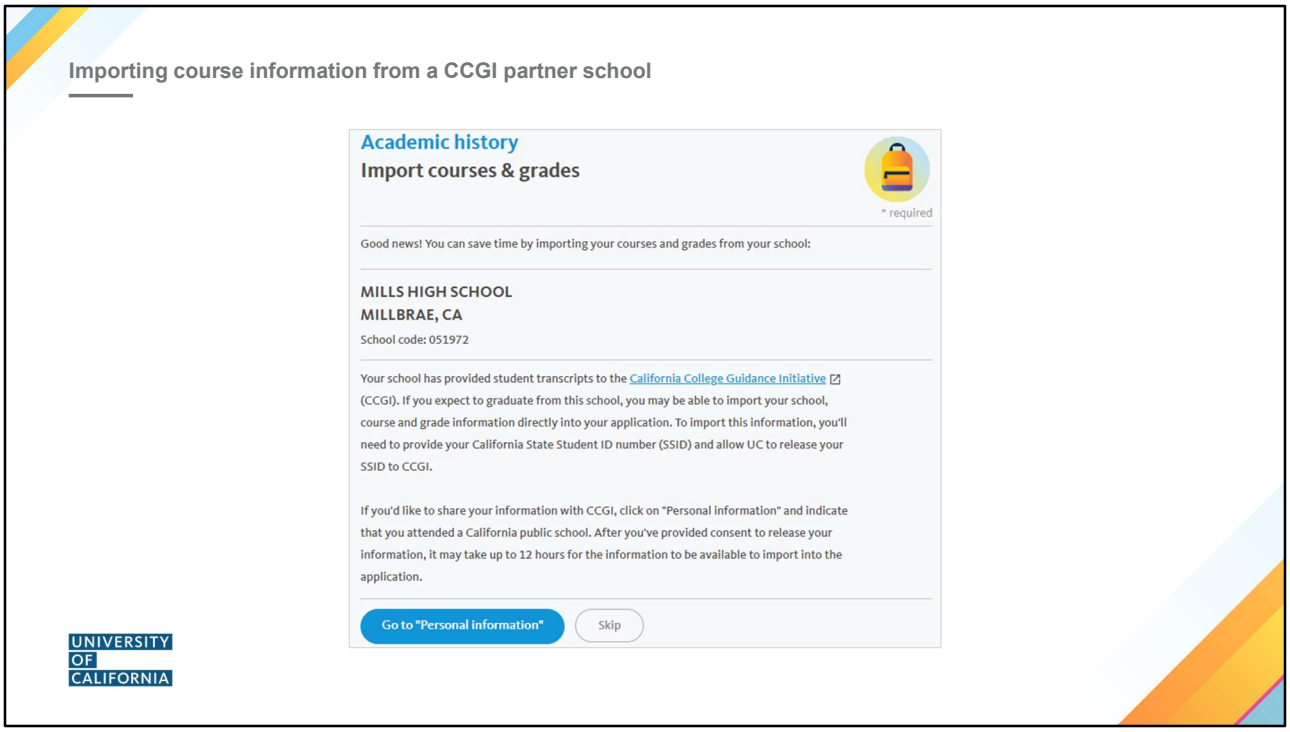
- Enter the dates of attendance.
    - If a student is graduating early, the dates of attendance should reflect.
- Students can also choose a specialized curriculum on this screen.
- If this is the same school the student is going to graduate from, enter the certificate/diploma information.
- Enter the grading and term system for the school
    - *Note:* Multiple grading and term systems may be selected for one school

Be sure to repeat this process for every high school that you have attended since 9th grade!



High school attendance (continued)

Beyond the start and end dates, students will indicate which academic year they attended that school and for which grade. They also have the option to indicate whether they took any summer courses after each grade

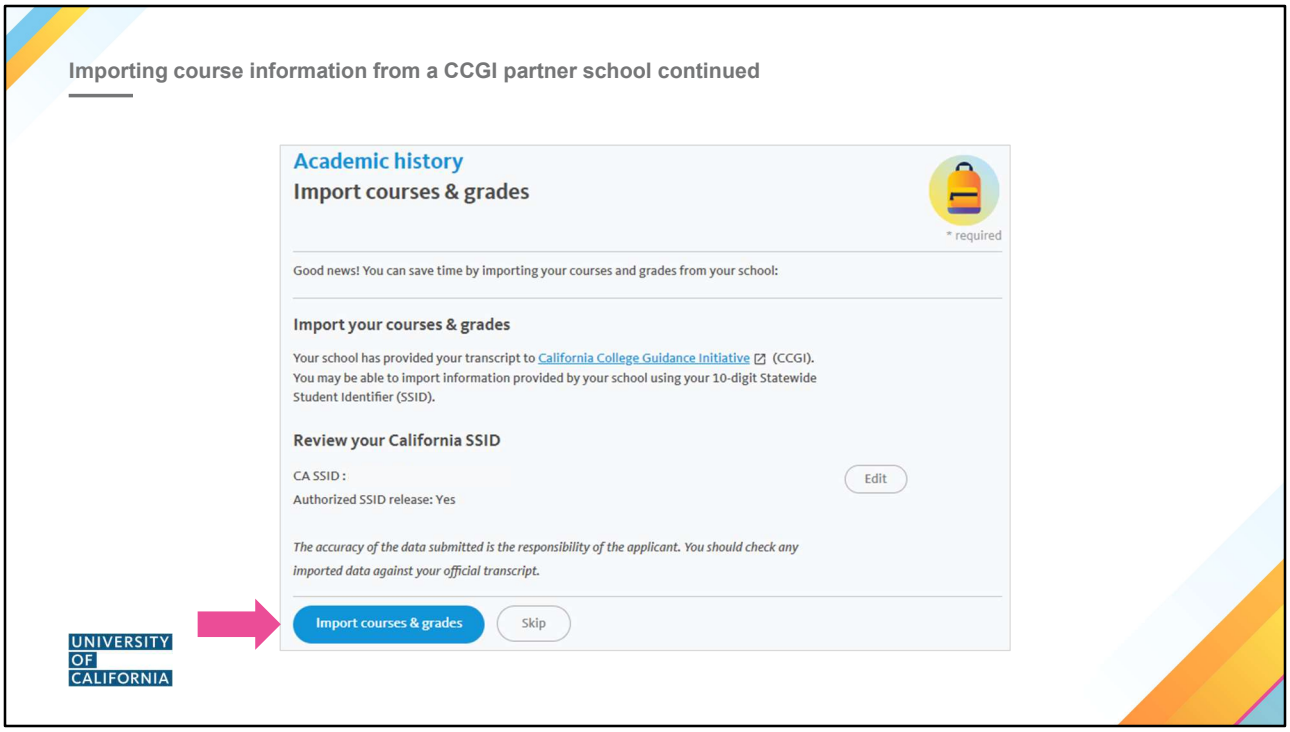


Beginning with the fall 2025 UC application, applicants who are graduating from a CCGI (California College Guidance Initiative) partner school have the option to import their course and grades directly into the UC application. In order to do so, applicants must either:

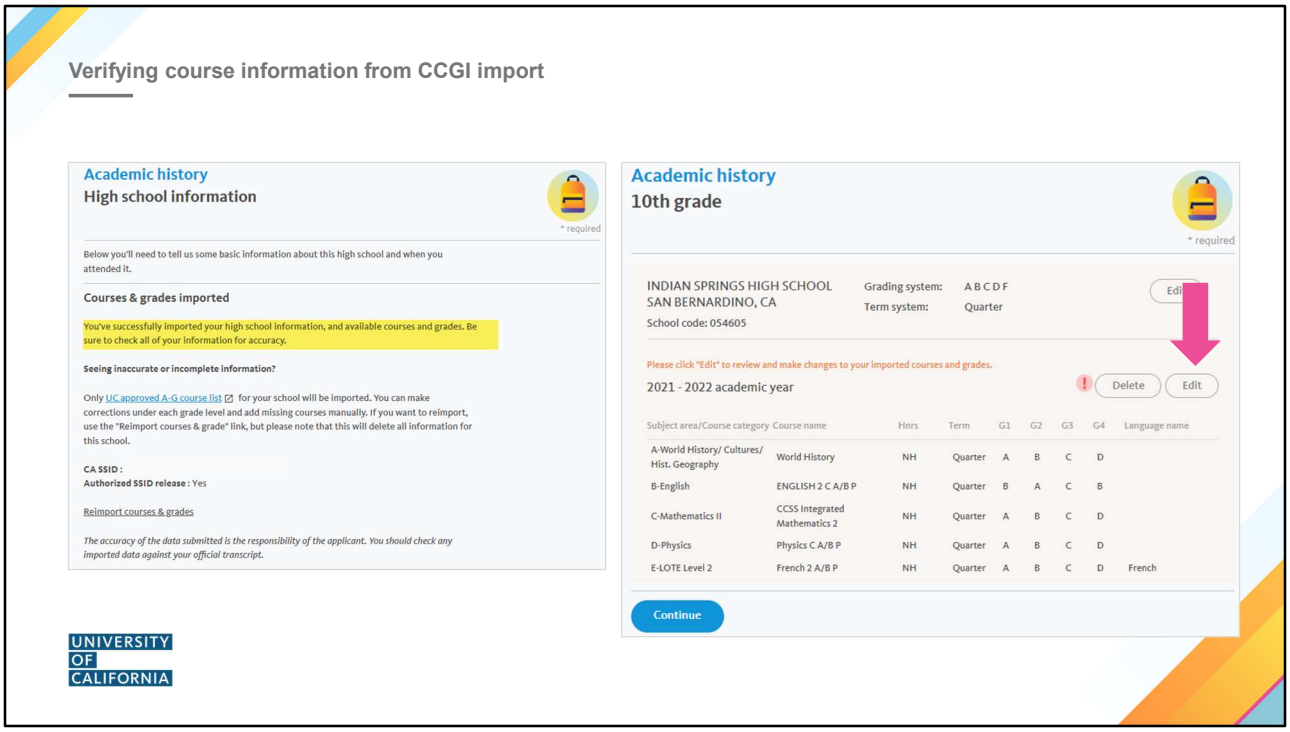
- Start their UC application from the CCGI website **OR**

- Create their UC application and indicate they are graduating from a CCGI partner school. If they do so, they will see the messaging provided on the slide, prompting them to update their information in Personal Information (About you), if needed.
    - In the “About you” section, applicants must:
        - Indicate that they attended a CA public school
        - Provide their SSID number
        - Authorize the release of their information to CCGI
        - If they do so, it may take up to 12 hours for the courses to import. Students are able to select “Skip” to manually enter their coursework.

Importing course information from a CCGI partner school continued



Once the student's data is verified by CCGI, they will be able to import their courses and grades.



Even if applicants import their CCGI course data, they will need to review all of the courses and grades and make any edits as needed. They can manually make corrections to any courses/grades using the "Edit" button.

Note: The import function is only available for CCGI partner schools. If students also attended a non-partner high school, they will need to add that additional high school and coursework themselves as shown previously, and in the following slides.

Course selection

Selecting coursework

Beginning with 9th grade, enter all A-G coursework completed.

- Don't forget 12th grade coursework!
- Include all courses, even those that were repeated or not passed.

Tip: Have an unofficial copy of your high school transcript(s) handy for this section.

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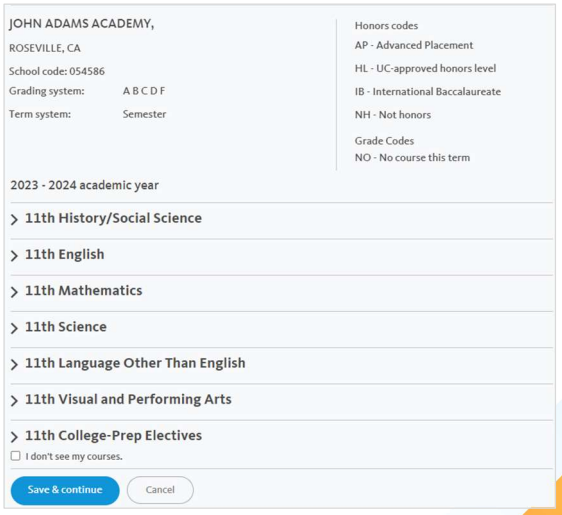

High school coursework

- Courses are selected or entered by grade level beginning with ninth grade.
- First select the Subject Area/Course Category of the course to be entered (e.g., English, Math, etc.).
- Next, if a student is enrolled in a California high school, select from the pre-populated course list for the school:
    - To see the courses, expand each subject area.
    - *Note:* New California high school courses being offered for the first time in the senior year may not appear on the school's course list until Oct. 1; if you don't see a new course on the list, remember to come back to add it later (but no later than Nov. 30) before submitting the application.
- Remember to enter your 12th grade courses in progress and planned; indicating that you have no coursework in 12th grade may imply that you have not met minimum admission requirements.
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated.

Presenter notes – Early graduation

- If a student is graduating from high school a year early, they should fill out the application backwards. Rather than starting with 9th grade and working to the present, they should start with 12th grade and work backwards. This means the 9th grade year will be blank.
- Students who are graduating early should clearly explain this in Additional Comments.

Entering grades

Entering grades

- For all courses, enter the grade(s) received as they appear on your transcript.
- Do not round your grades! UC does not use +/- grading, so a B+ or B- should be reported as a B.
- If you only took a course for a single term, select “NO” for the term in which you did not take the course.

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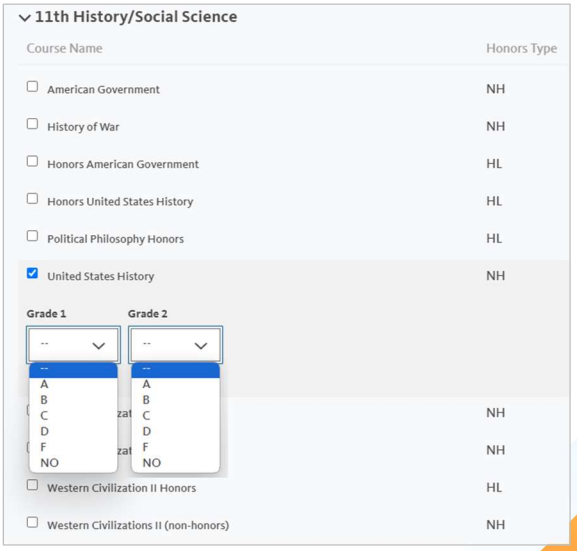


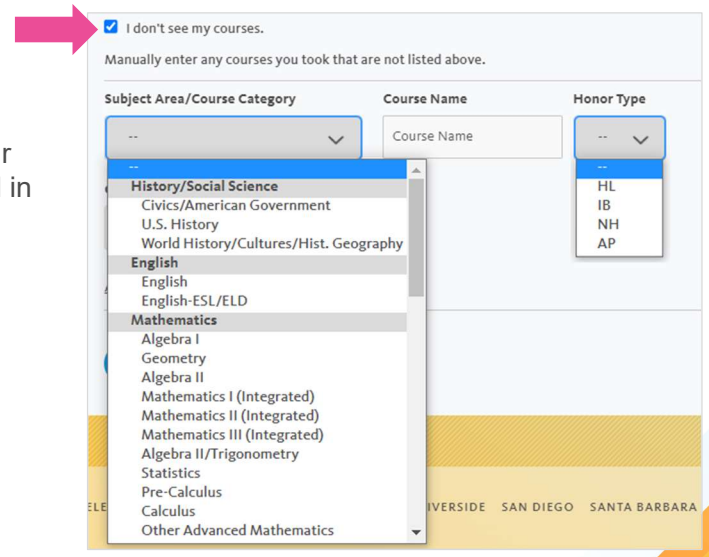
High school grades

- If you entered multiple term types or multiple grading systems for a school, you’ll need to choose the term type and grade system for each course.
- 12th grade course grades will default to “IP – In Progress” and “PL – Planned”. If students have already graduated and have senior year grades, manually enter each grade.
- For courses that are only one semester long, select “NO” for the term for which the course was not offered (e.g. Economics offered fall term, for spring term select “NO”).
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated.

Entering coursework manually

Manual entry

- For students who do not see their courses, or students not enrolled in a California high school, coursework must be entered manually as it appears on the transcript.



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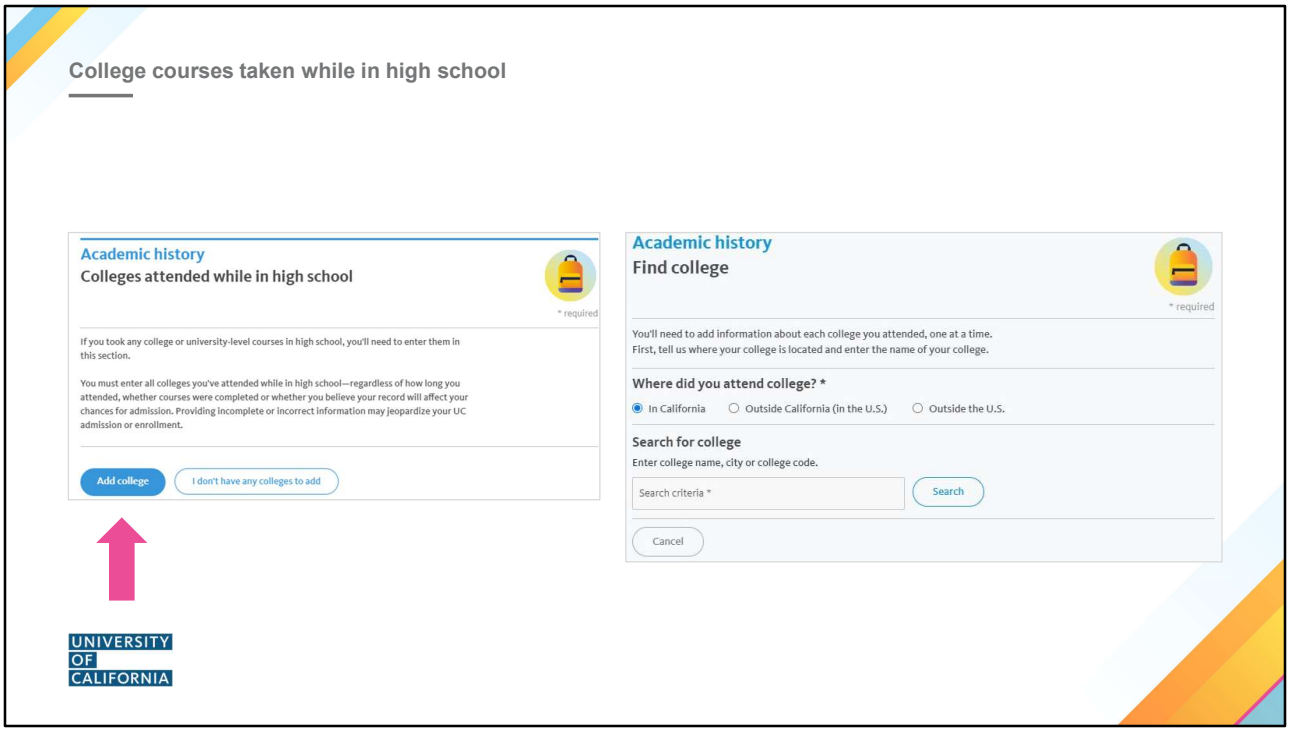
If students do not see their courses, and for all students not enrolled in a California high school, courses must be manually entered as they appear on the student's academic record.

- When entries for each grade level are complete, click save and continue.
- Repeat this process for each grade level, including 12th grade.
- 12th grade course grades will default to "IP – In Progress" and "PL – Planned". If students have already graduated and have senior year grades, manually enter each grade.
- For courses that are only one semester long, select "NO" for the term for which the course was not offered (e.g. Economics offered fall term, for spring term select "NO").
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated.
- Students who attended more than one school should be sure to enter courses under the correct school.

For students attending school outside of California: Report all courses and grades exactly as they would appear on official transcripts or academic records, including the type of honors, if applicable. Only courses clearly designated on your high school transcript/academic record as honors, AP, or IB should be reported as such. If there is no honors/AP/IB designation on the academic record, select NH (not honors).



College courses taken in high school

- If any college/university-level courses were completed while in high school, add the college information *after* the high school information. This includes courses completed through a dual enrollment or middle college program.
    - *Note*: Dual enrollment courses should NOT be reported in both the high school and college sections.
- The process is very similar to entering the high school information.

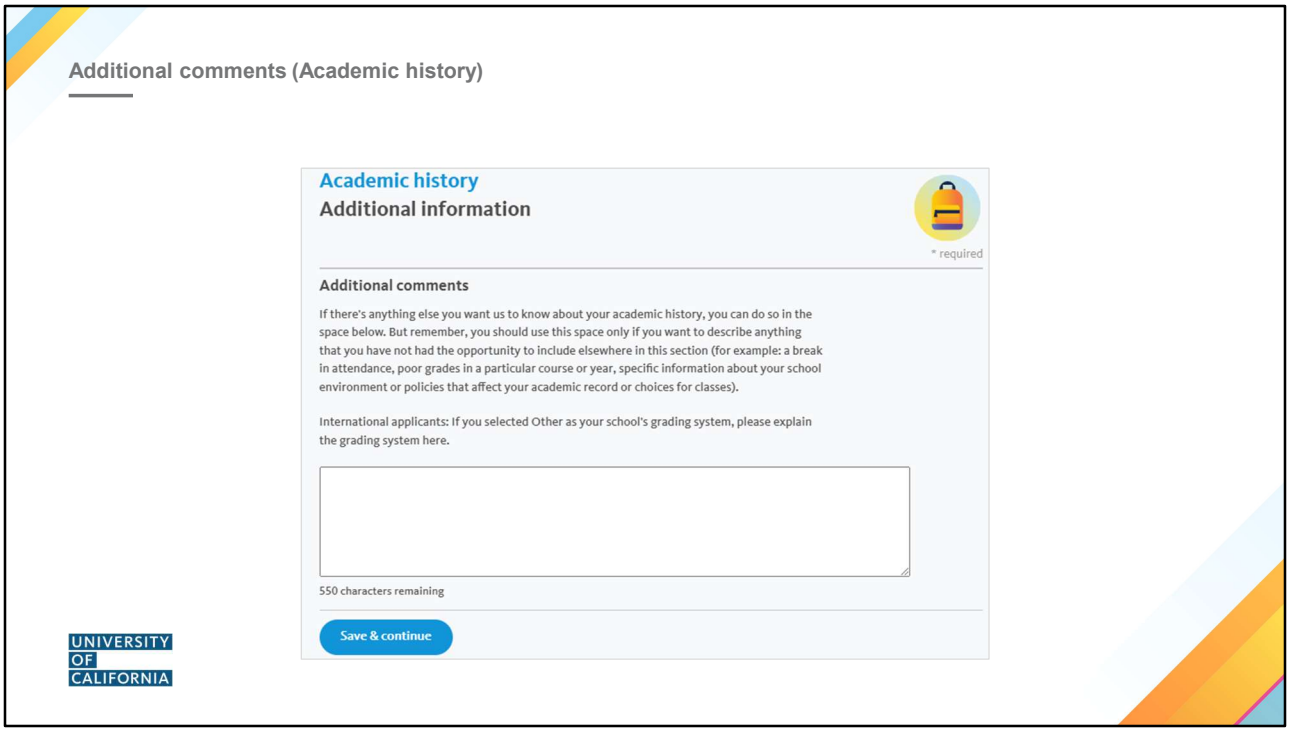
***Only courses worth at least 3 semester/4 quarter units should be reported here. Courses that earned fewer units should be reported in the Activities & awards section of the application.**

College courses taken in high school – finding a college

If courses were taken at a California Community College (CCC), a UC-transferable course list will appear.

- Select the course(s) taken, grade earned (or enter IP for In Progress, PL for Planned courses), and the A-G subject area in which the course fits.
- Only report courses taken for a letter grade; courses in which a Pass/Credit/No Credit grade were earned should <u>not</u> be included
- Non UC-transferable English and math courses can also be reported in this section of the application but will need to be entered manually.
    - If there are other CCC courses that are not UC-transferable, report them in the "Other coursework" area later in the application.
- **IF** college/university courses were not taken at a CCC, manually enter each course and grade earned as it appears on the official academic record from the college/university attended.

Students must enter all UC-transferable, as well as non-transferable English and math, courses taken in A-G subject areas; missing/inaccurate information may be viewed as falsification and result in cancellation of the application.



The additional academic comments text box is an opportunity for students to share any information about their academic history they want campuses to know. Campuses will use this information to better understand the student's academic context. This section is not required, but for applicants who choose to submit information, there is a 550-character limit.

This space could be used to discuss any significant impacts on your educational experience or context. For example, are AP/Honors-level courses at your high school limited to certain grade levels? Were you prevented from taking any intended courses due to a schedule conflict, school policy, or curriculum change? Did you experience any significant breaks in your school attendance?

UC does not consider SAT, ACT or SAT Subject test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. Test scores submitted as part of the application may be used as an alternate method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after matriculation at UC.

Students who plan to use test scores to meet a minimum subject requirement or for course placement should take their tests no later than December of the senior year/last year prior to high school/secondary school graduation.

Students can self-report ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject test scores in the admission application, but they must first submit the application without scores. Once the application has been submitted, the student can log back into the application to report scores. If a student self-reports a test score, they should provide the official score report when they receive an offer of admission from UC.

English language proficiency

English language proficiency

- Only students who have fewer than three years of high school in the U.S. and whose primary language of instruction outside the U.S. was **not** in English are required to demonstrate English proficiency.
- Official testing scores are not required until a student is offered admission to UC.

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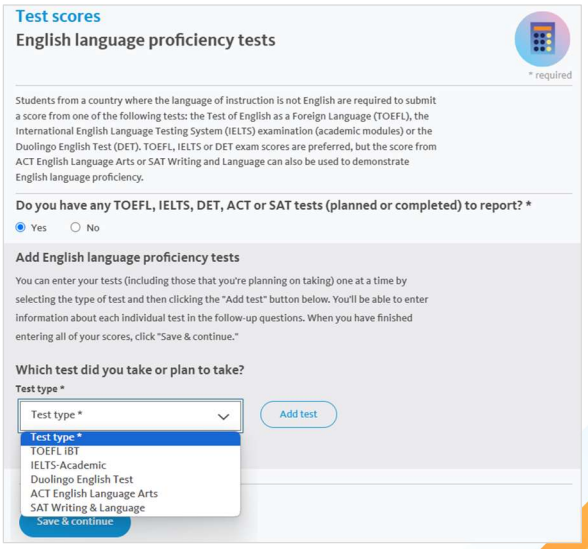
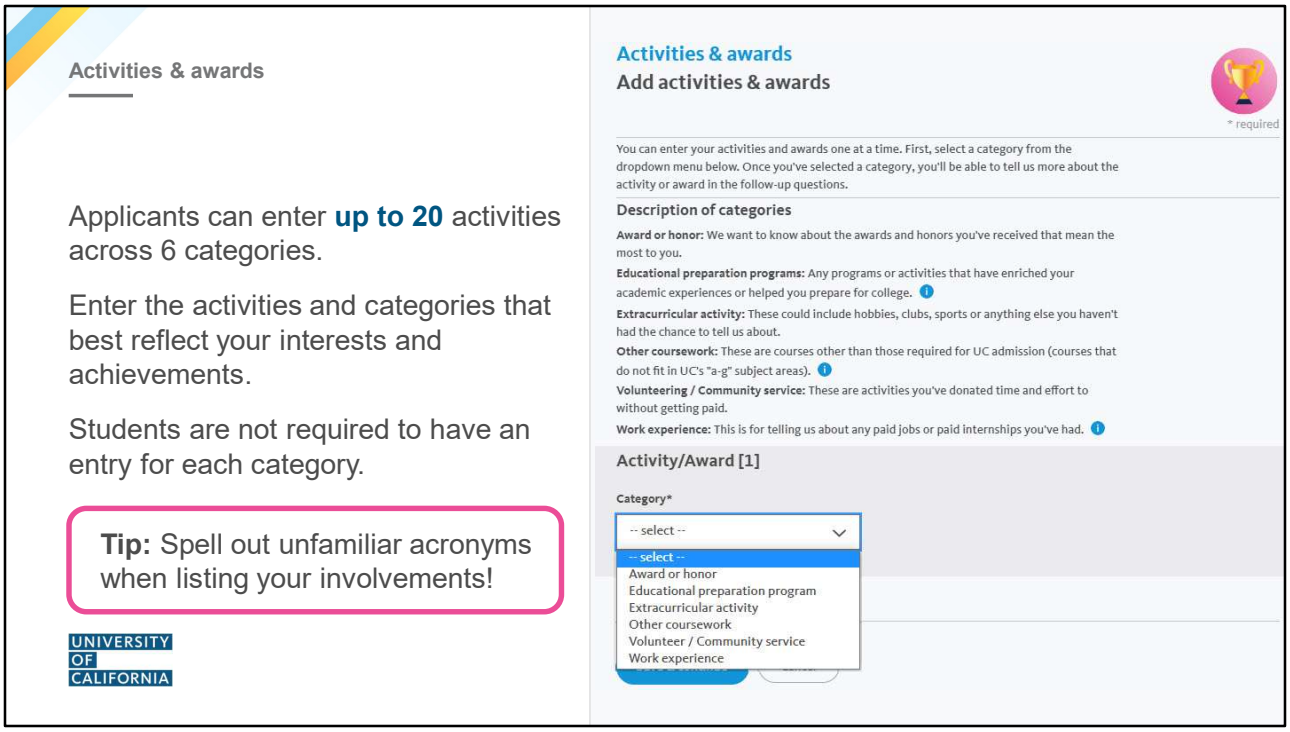


English proficiency exams

- Students who will have fewer than three years of high school in the U.S., whose primary language of instruction outside the U.S. 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, as well as certain AP and IB scores, to satisfy English proficiency in lieu of TOEFL, IELTS or DET.
- **Only students who need to demonstrate English proficiency should report SAT or ACT scores here.** Students who wish to report SAT or ACT scores for the purpose of meeting the Area B (English) subject requirements or for placement purposes after enrollment at UC will report their scores AFTER submitting the application.
- Official English proficiency or SAT/ACT 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



Activities and awards

- There are six categories in the Activities and Awards section of the application. Choose experiences that have meaning, illustrate interests, and/or demonstrate leadership.
- Students will have twenty spaces to enter their activities
- Not all 20 entries have to be from the same category. Students should do their best to categorize activities in a way that makes sense to them. We wanted to allow students the flexibility and choice to enter the activities that best reflect **their** interests and achievements.
- Additionally, applicants don't need to have something in each of the categories.

Awards & Honors – Awards which are significant in nature – county-wide, state-wide and national - indicate a high level of achievement with significant competition. School-based awards are more meaningful to readers if context is provided, such as "5th place out of 500 students", but even "perfect attendance" can be insightful.

Educational preparation programs – Programs include but are not limited to: AVID, Upward Bound, and Gear Up. A list of common programs appear in a drop-down menu. If a program is not included, manually enter it.

Extracurricular Activities –Continued participation over time indicates passion, commitment, and sometimes leadership. Enter details about each activity.

Other coursework- Academic courses that do not fit in the A-G categories of history/social science, English, math, laboratory science, language other than English (foreign language), and/or visual and performing art should be reported in this section. Examples include leadership courses or religion courses. Do not include non-academic courses, such as PE, office/teacher assistant, etc.

Volunteer/Community Service – Consistent participation over time may indicate commitment and dedication.

Work Experience – Demonstrates time management, responsibility and perhaps leadership.

Activities and Awards Pro-Tips:

- Avoid using acronyms for names of clubs or awards.
- Explain level of involvement in detail. Remember, what's important is what YOU did, not just what the activity is.
- Avoid listing the same activity in more than one section. Students should not repeat the entries, even if they might fit into more than one category.
- If an applicant did not have the time/opportunity to participate in school and/or community activities, volunteer/paid employment, explain to application readers why – how else did the applicant use their time and was it a choice or a requirement? For example: caring for siblings, elder-care, commitment to doing homework (research projects, papers, etc.). We understand that students are gaining valuable life experience and consider that as part of our comprehensive review.

Activities & awards continued

When describing the activity, focus on your **role, responsibility** and **accomplishments** rather than just describing the activity itself.

Don't forget to select the 12th grade checkbox if you plan to continue this involvement in your senior year!

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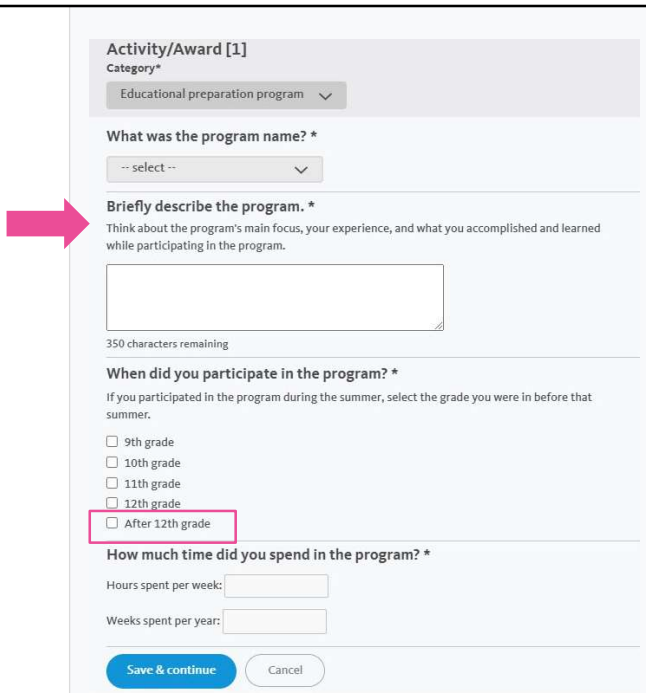
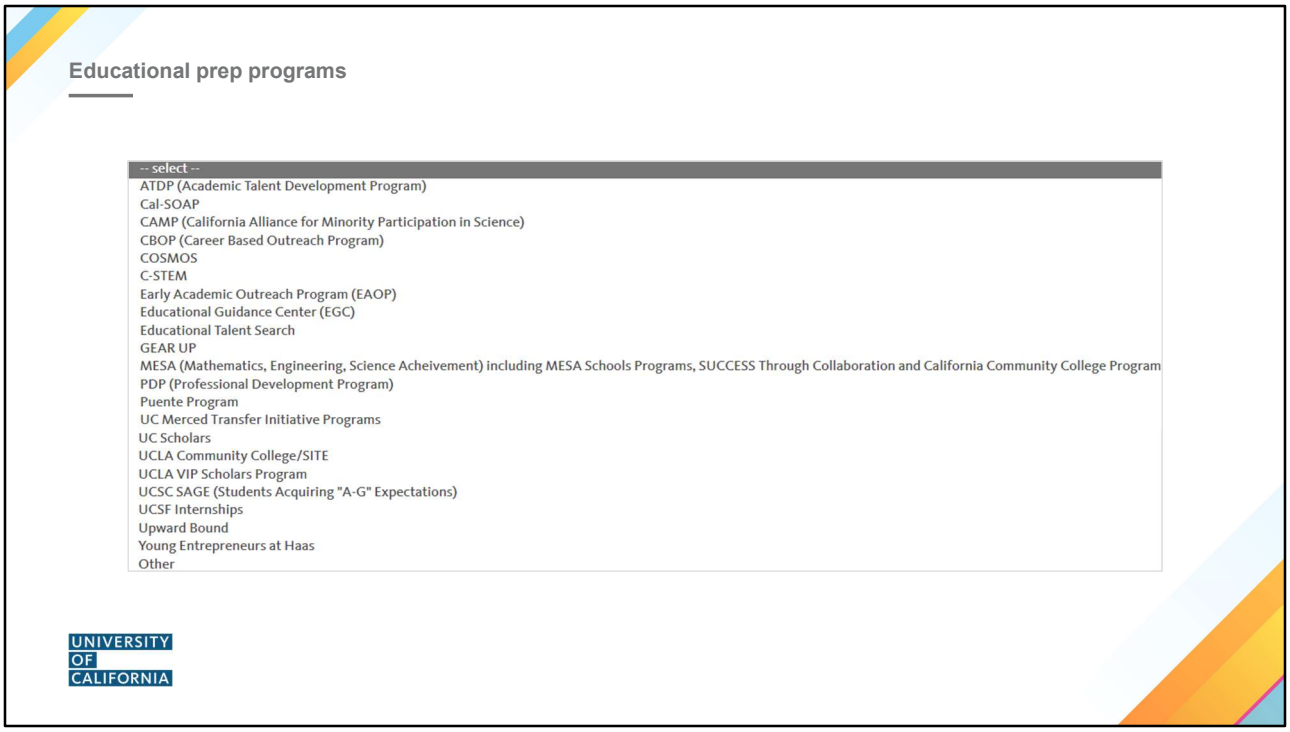
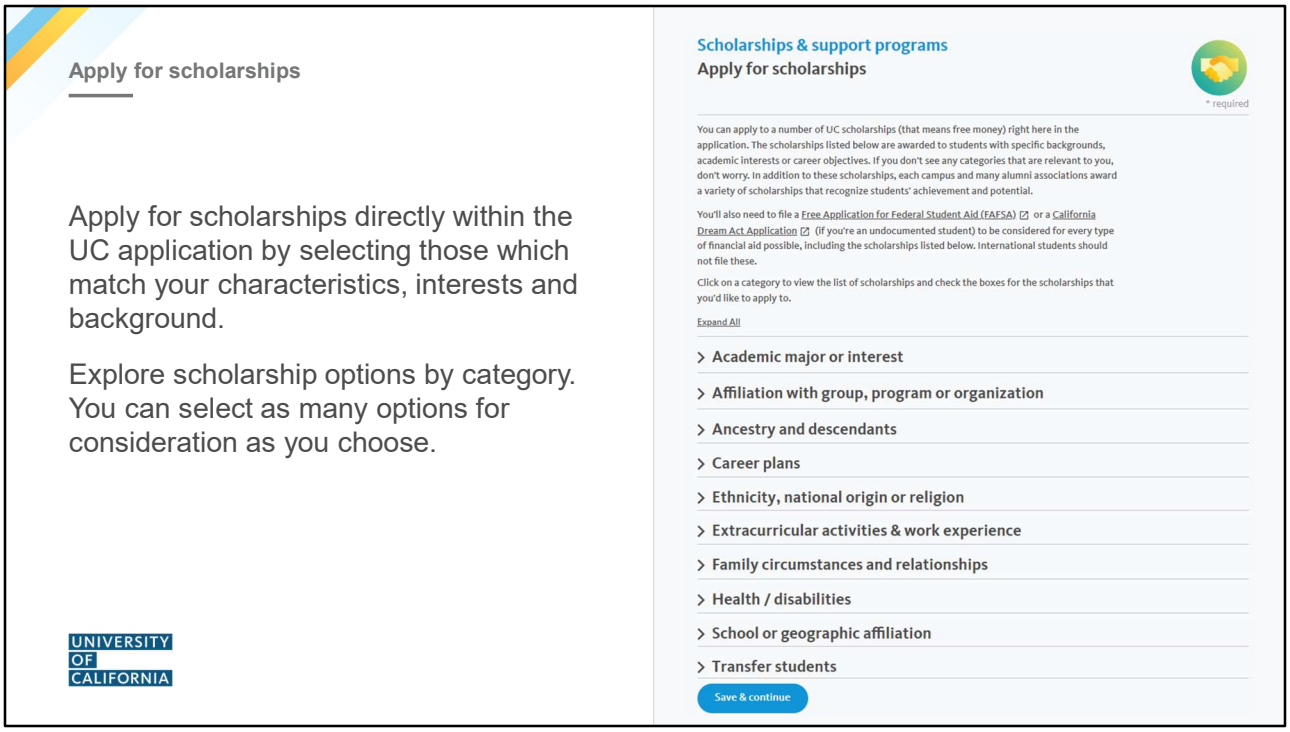


It is important for students to remember to describe their **role, responsibilities and accomplishments** in the activity rather than focusing on describing the activity itself.



If you took part in an educational preparation program, select the program from the list. If your program is not listed, choose “Other” and manually enter the name of the program.

Scholarships &
support programs



Scholarships

- All UC campuses offer scholarships for students who meet specific criteria.
- 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.

Support programs

You can also indicate interest in two of UC's many support programs for students — the **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)** and **UC's Foster Youth Programs.**

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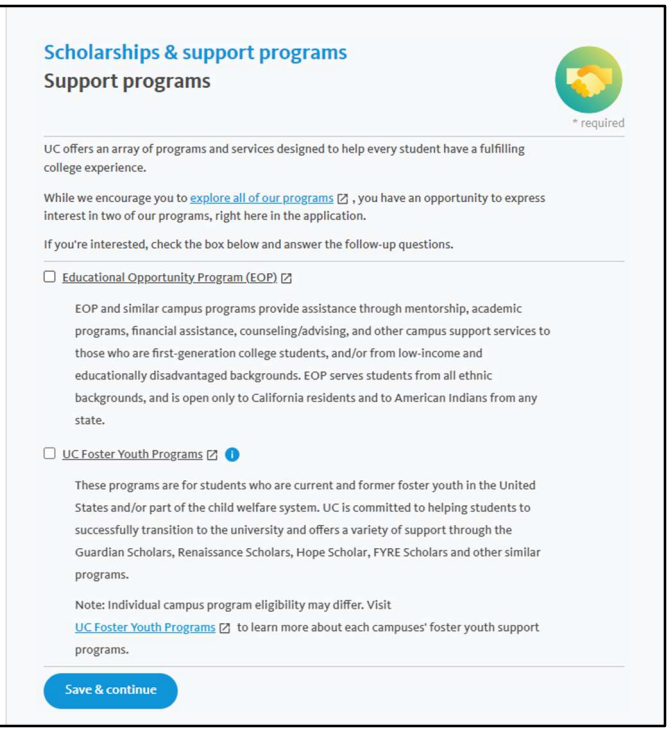
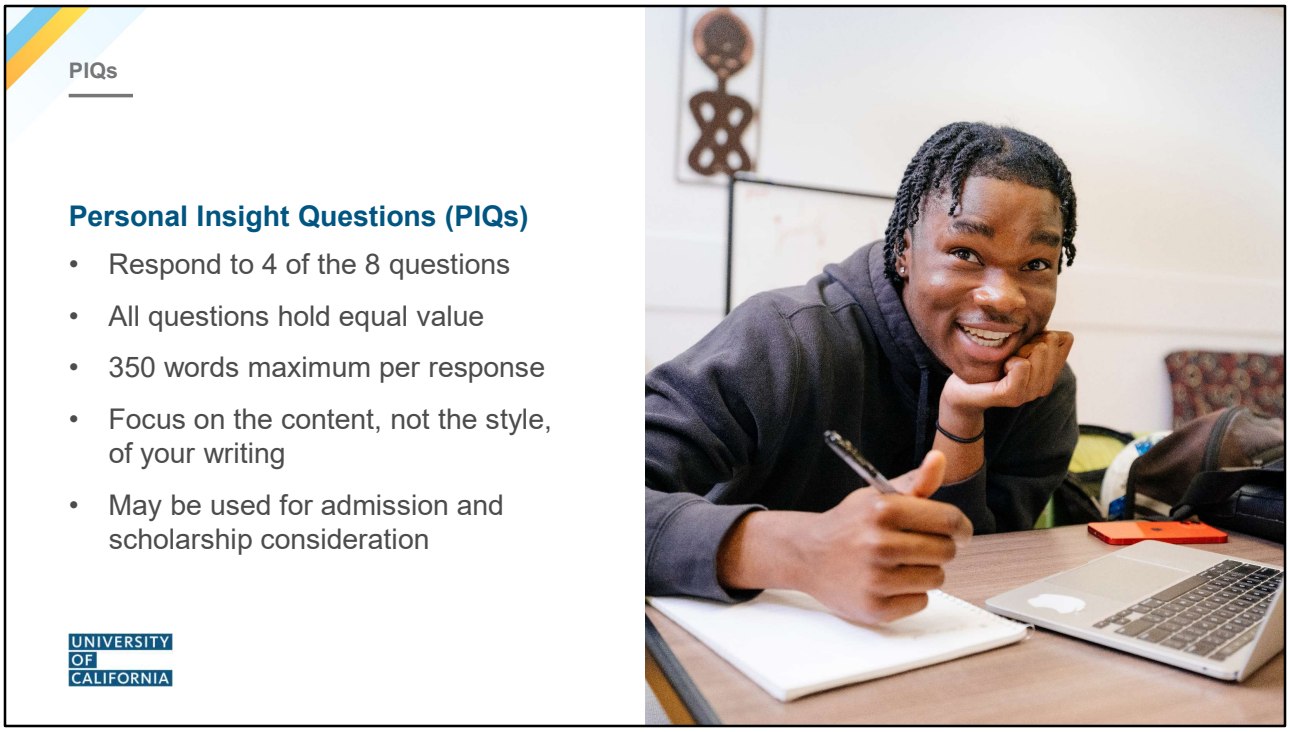


If selected, additional follow-up questions will be presented to the applicant.

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 four (4) of the eight (8) questions. All questions have equal value, so respond to the 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.

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 a fifth PIQ question!

Remember that these are **personal** insight questions—about the student.
- It is not an English essay.
- Admission staff want to learn what the student did and why; what the student learned and how the student applied what was learned to aspects of their life.
- Students should use "I" statements – I did this, I chose to do that, I learned about . . . . It's their one opportunity to ensure we get to know them.

More details and guidance on the Personal Insight Questions can be found at.
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/personal-insight-questions.html

PIQs continued

Work on your PIQ responses in a separate document to check for spelling and grammatical errors. Once ready, copy and paste them into the UC application.

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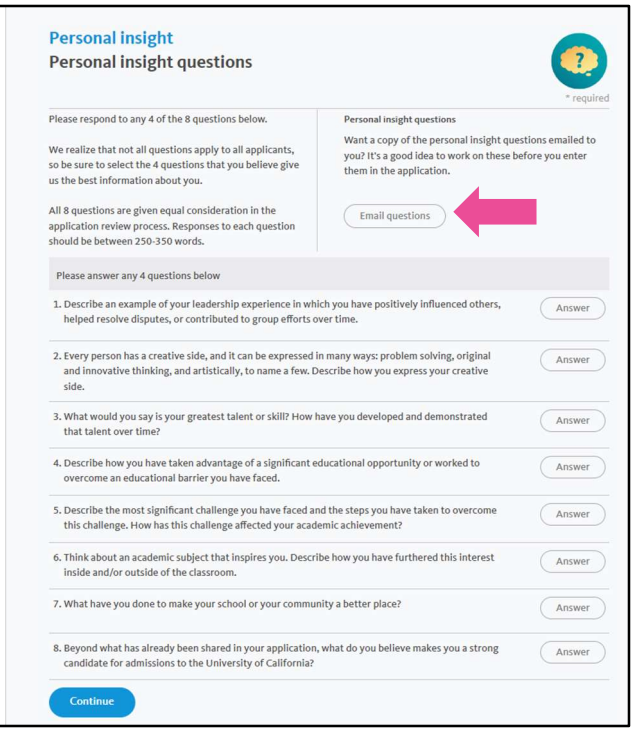
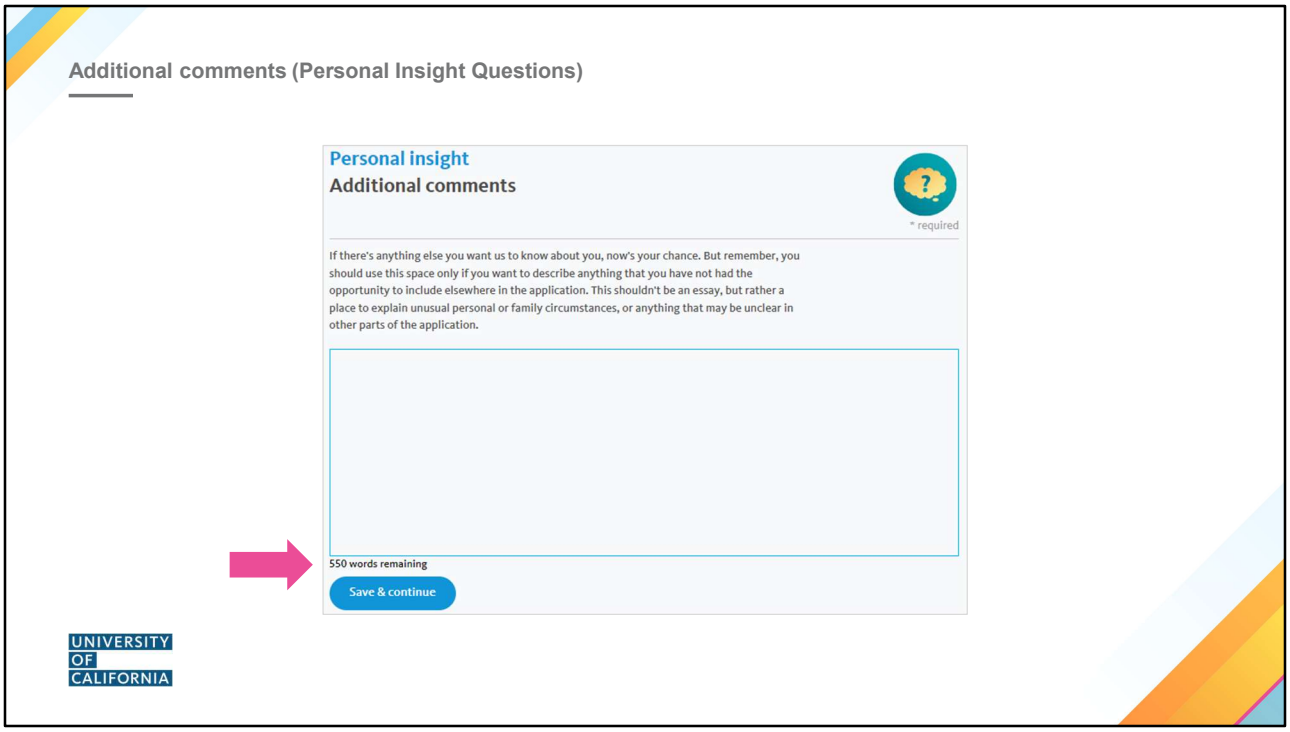


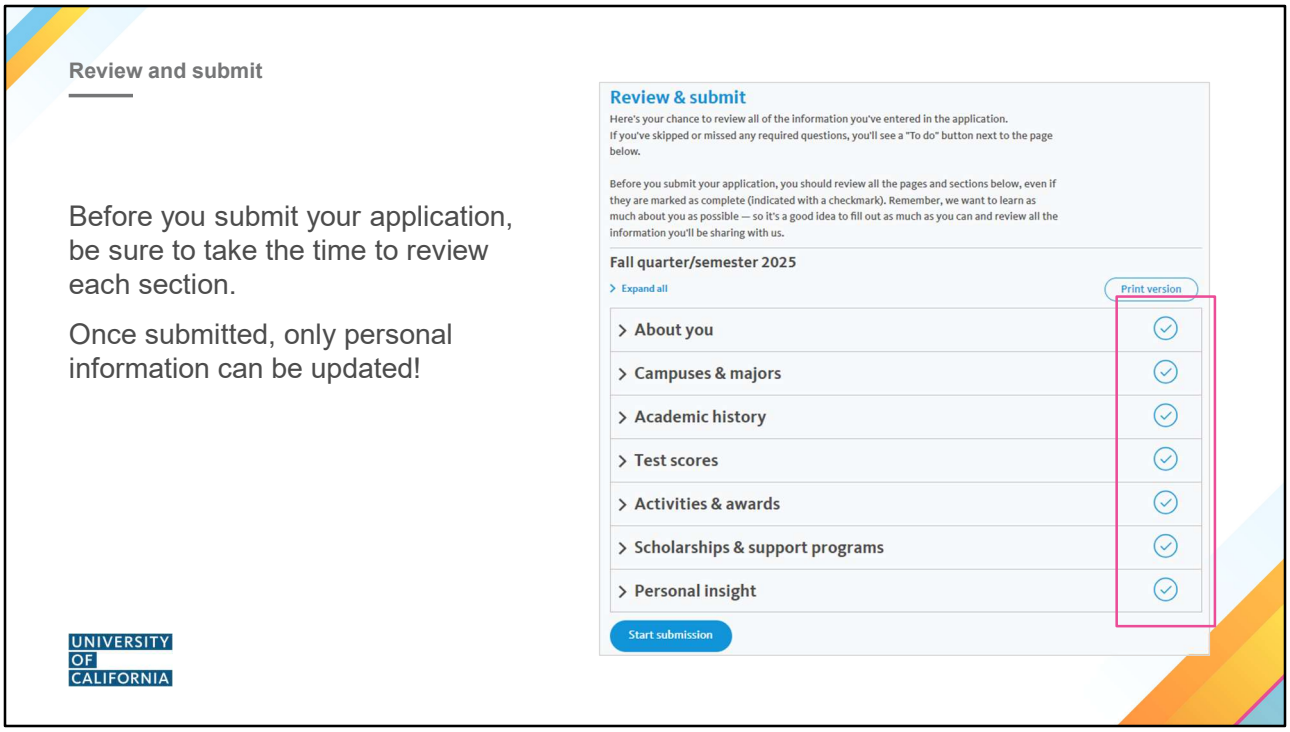
This is a screen shot of the PIQ page. The word count is listed here, and students can opt to have the PIQ questions emailed to them on this screen.

Applicants should work on their PIQ responses in a separate document (e.g., Word document) and then copy and paste them into the UC application once ready. The UC application does not allow for tools such as grammar and spell check!



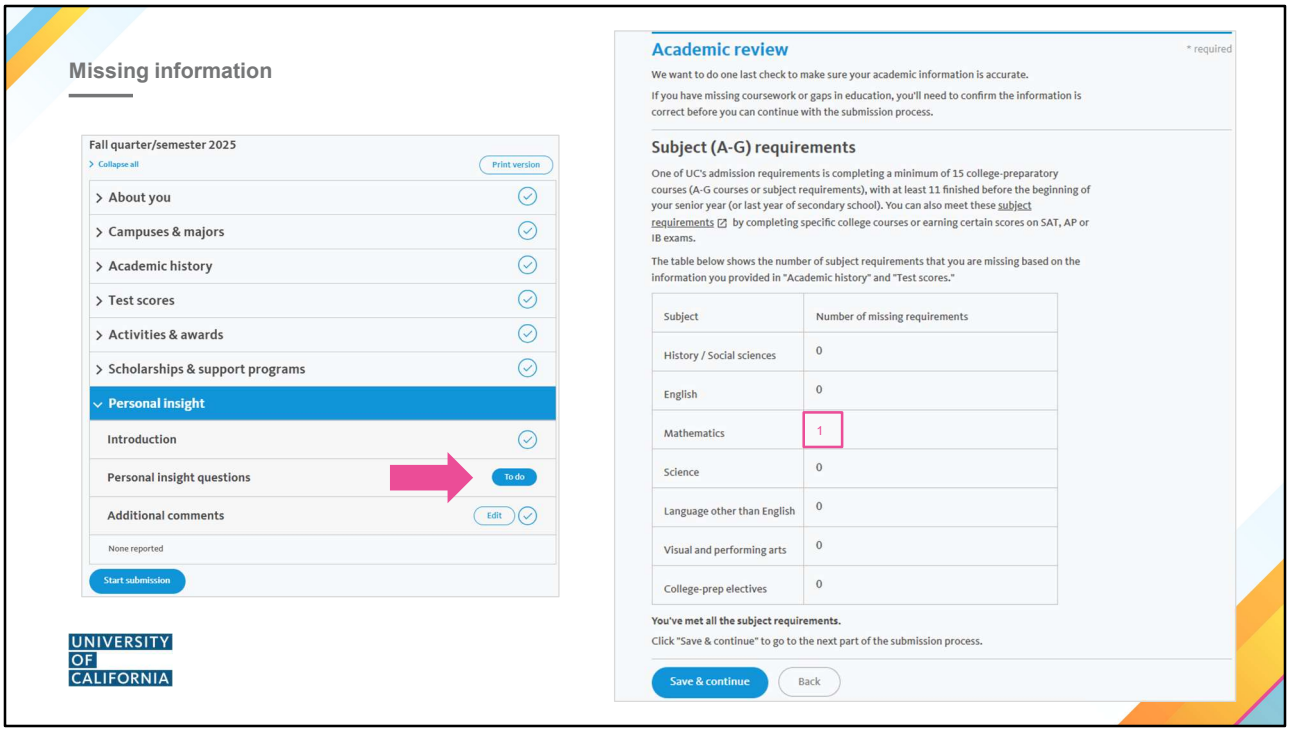
Students can use the additional comments section to explain any situation, circumstance or experience that does not appear anywhere else in the application or is not fully explained in the application. The Additional Comments section is not an opportunity for an additional PIQ response!

Submitting the UC application



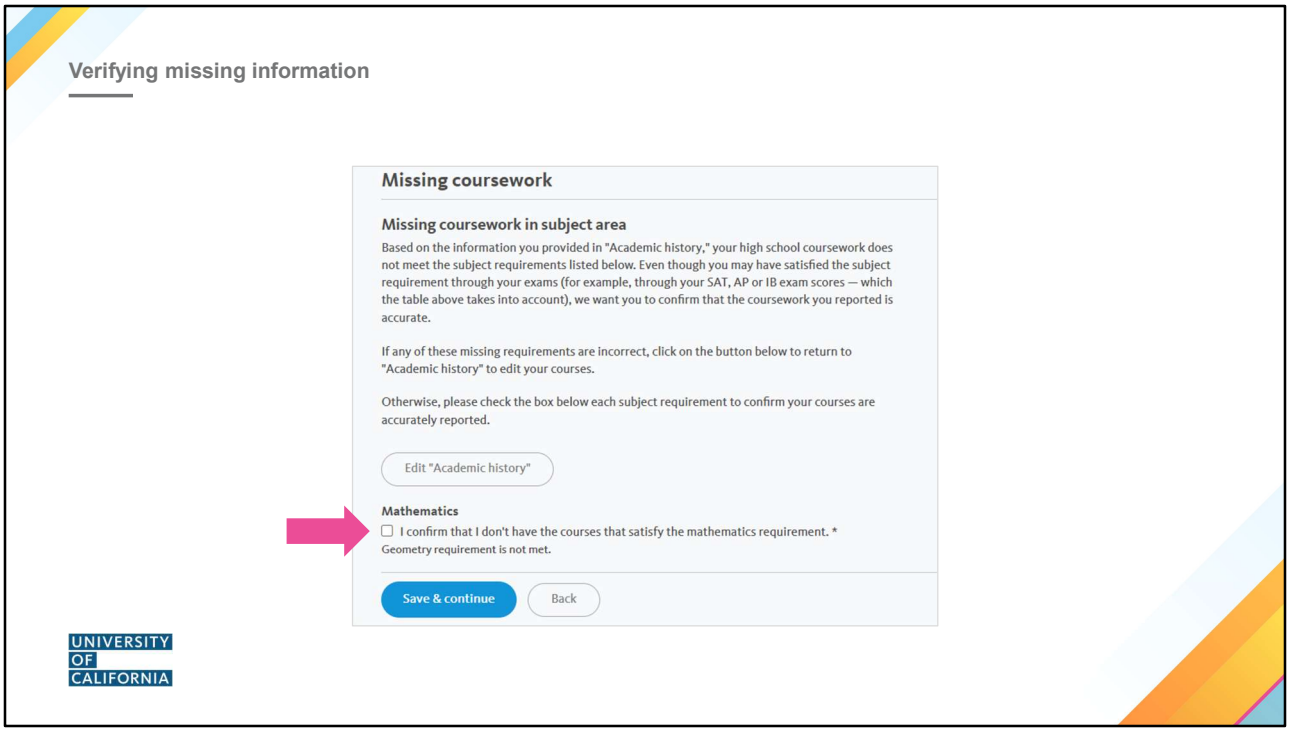
Review and submit
Before submitting the application, students will have the opportunity to review each section. A check mark appears beside the section to indicate that section is complete.

Important: Once submitted, only personal information can be updated (name, email address, etc.) Students should carefully review the application and ensure it is thorough and complete. They will **not** be able to update their coursework and/or grades, activities or PIQ responses.



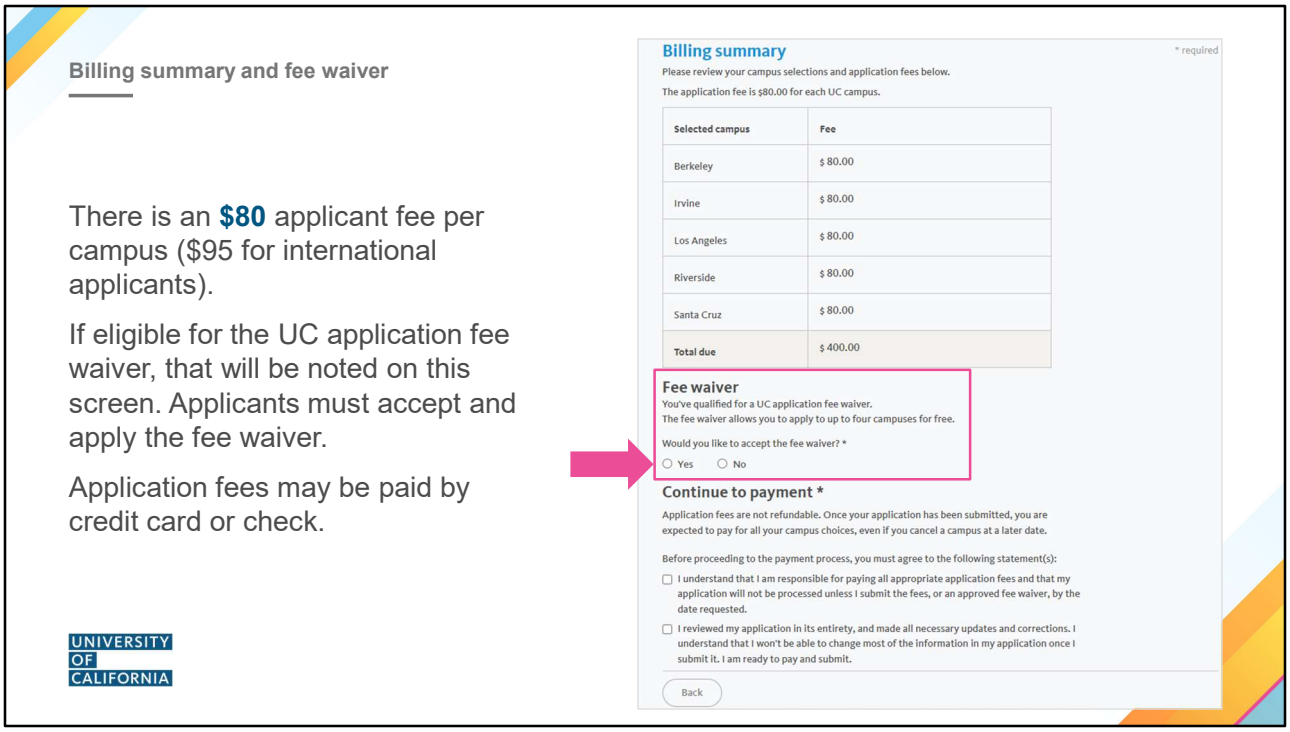
Review and submit
Students will be prompted to correct any errors before they can continue with the submission process.

Missing Information
Students will be able to see what is missing on the application after the warning screen. This screen shot is an example of a student missing a year in the Math subject area.



If the student sees the missing coursework error, they have the option of editing the Academic History or confirming that the information is correct.

Missing coursework will not prevent the student from submitting the application, as long as they confirm that the information is correct.



Application Fees:

- For U.S. citizens or permanent resident students, the application fee is $80 per campus.
- For International and non-immigrant applicants, the application fee is $95 for each campus selected.
    - If an international or non-immigrant student currently attends school in the U.S., however, they may be eligible to pay the lower application fee of $80 per campus.
- The application tool will advise of the fee amount on this page.

Fee Waiver:

- A fee waiver is automatically calculated for California and domestic residents. The fee waiver calculator is activated from answers about the applicant's family size and income.
- If a fee waiver is granted, ***the applicant must select "Yes" to accept the fee waiver.***
- If an applicant decides not to answer those questions, they *may* qualify for a fee waiver but would not receive one.

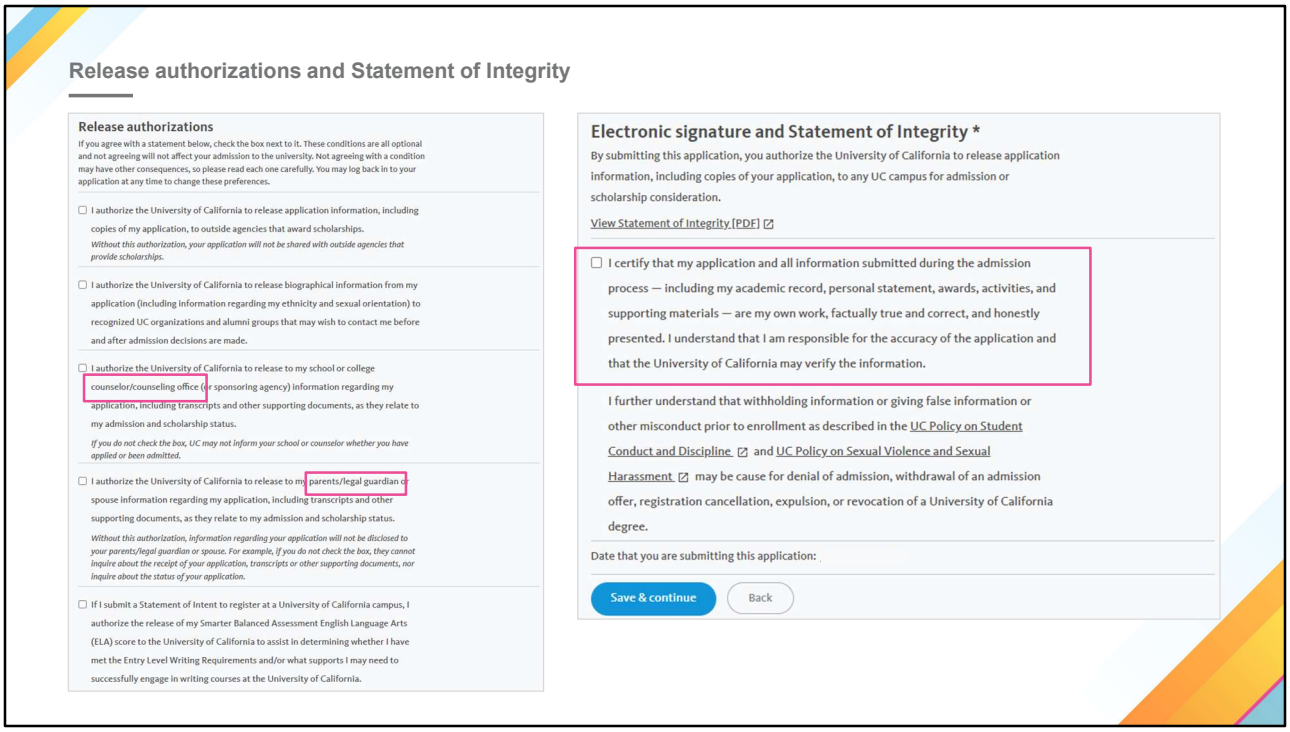
If the applicant makes a mistake on the family income amount, they can correct the information with an 'edit' button; eligibility for the fee waiver will automatically re-calculate with the revised information .

Fee Waiver Eligibility

- For U.S. citizens or permanent residents or students who have attended a CA high school for at least 3 years, if students meet the low-income criteria used to qualify for free and reduced lunch, they will qualify for a UC application fee waiver for up to 4 campus choices but will be responsible for payment for any additional campus(es) to which they choose to apply.
- Students in California on a visa are not eligible for the UC application fee waiver.
- UC also accepts the College Board, ACT or NACAC fee waiver. Only one waiver may be used.

Payment:

- Application fee payment is required and non-refundable.
- Payment may be submitted by credit card in the application tool; **or** by mailing a check or fee waiver if a student didn't qualify for the UC application fee waiver but meets criteria established by the waiver provider.



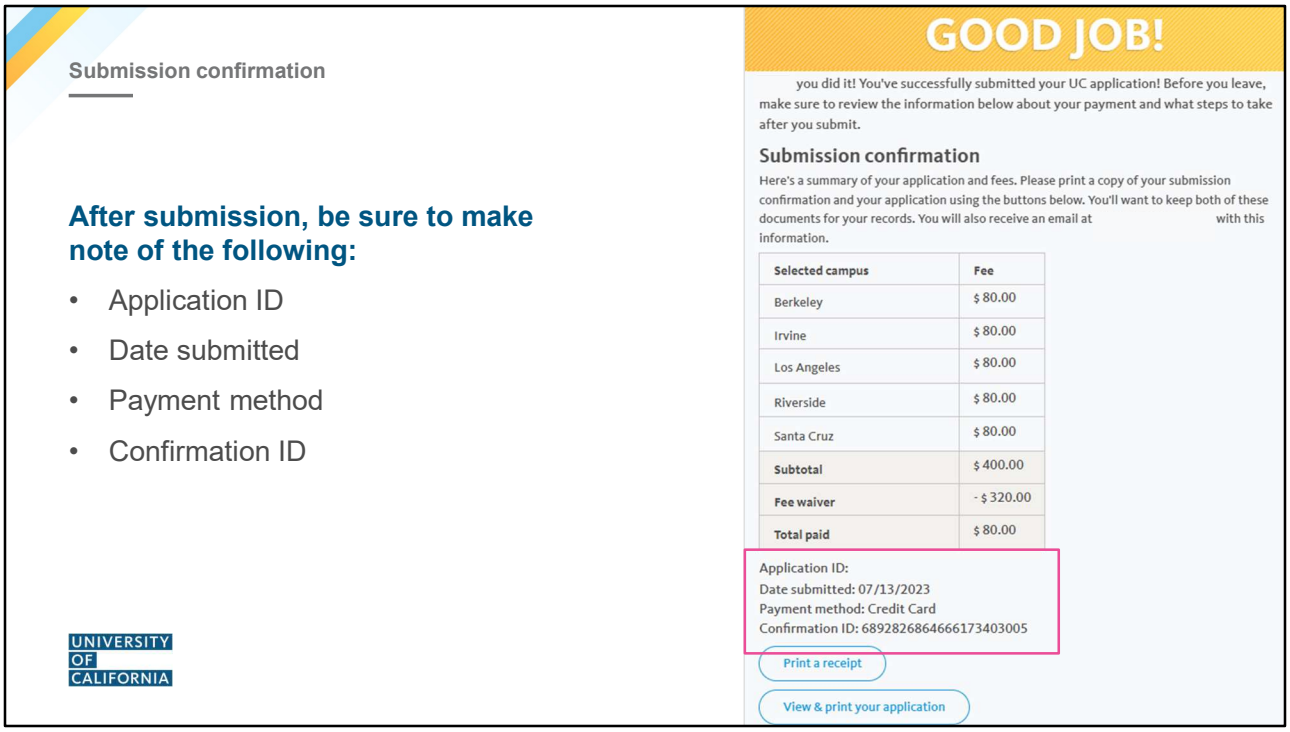
Release authorizations and Statement of Integrity

The application cannot be submitted without the applicant's electronic signature and acknowledgement of the Statement of Integrity.

The Statement of Integrity is to affirm that all information in the application is accurate and the personal insight responses were written by the applicant. **If information is withheld, such as poor grades, or falsification is detected, the application is subject to cancellation.**

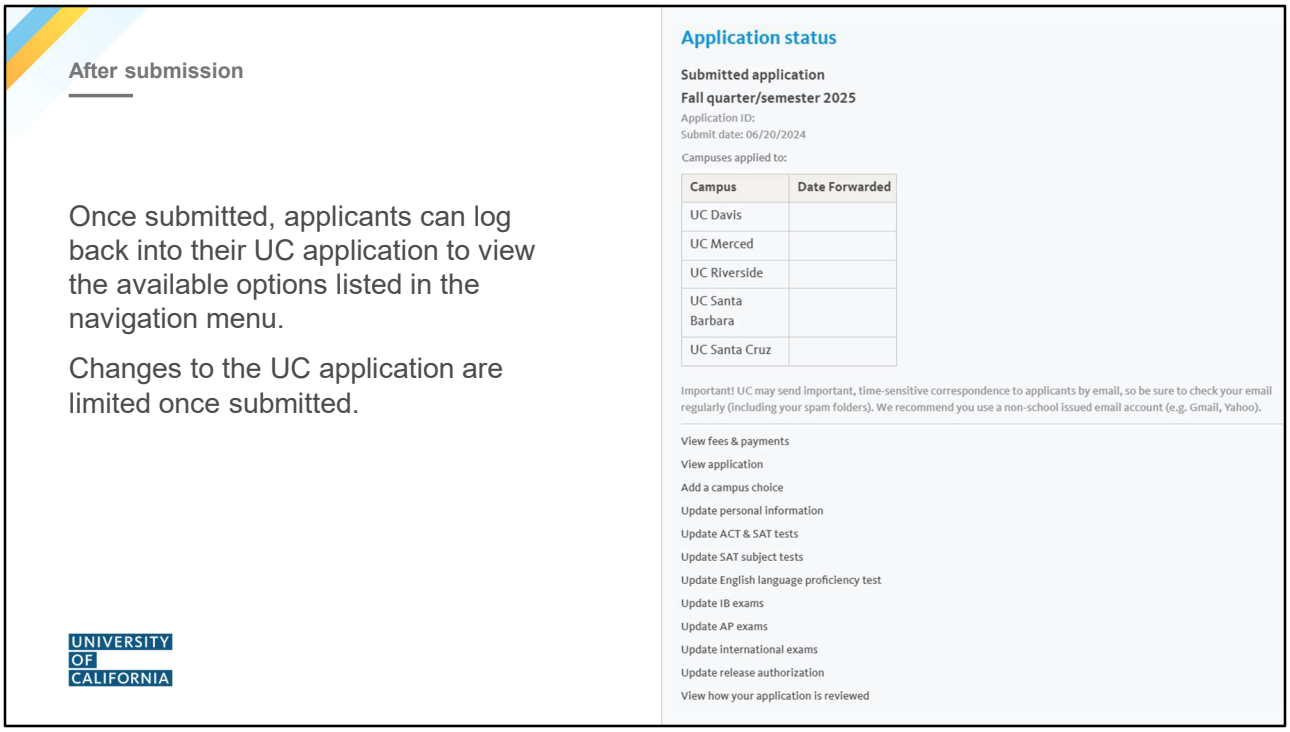
Signature Releases

- Review and check the release authorizations to share application information with scholarship agencies, parent/guardian, counselors and/or UC organizations and alumni groups.
- Electronically sign and date the application to verify accuracy and acknowledge that the applicant is the author of their personal insight responses.
- The electronic signature also authorizes the release of official examination score(s), if submitted, to all UC campuses to which the student applied.
- Information in the application is subject to verification. If an applicant is selected for verification, non-compliance will result in cancellation of the application and the application fee will not be refunded.



Students should keep their application ID in a secure place, as this will be used throughout the admission process, including decision release occurring in the spring.

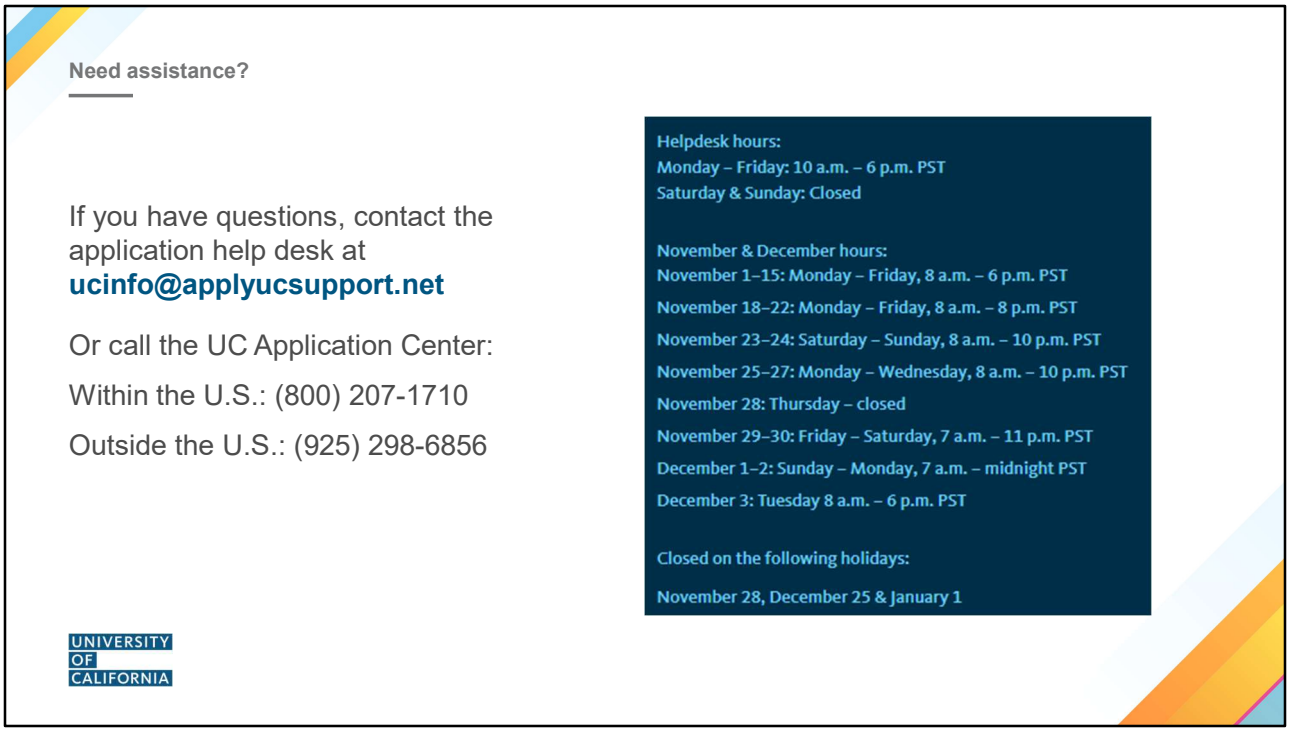
This screen will show the complete list of campuses applied to, fees, fee waiver, application ID, date submitted, and payment method. Applicants will also receive confirmation via email.



Application Status
After submission, a student can log back into their application and see the following menu. Here students can see when their application was forwarded to the campus. Updates can be made in any of the sections listed on this screen, so keep in mind that Academic History and adding Activities and Awards or editing the PIQs is not an option once you submit.

Note: Students who wish to self-report SAT, ACT or SAT Subject test scores for the purpose of meeting the Area B (English) or for placement after enrollment can use the "Update ACT & SAT tests" or "Update SAT subject tests" to report their scores. They cannot report scores during the original submission of the application.

Resources



The UC application Help Center is available to help students navigate and complete the UC application.

Updated hours reflect the December 2 extended deadline for fall 2025 applications

First-year admission resources

General admission information
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu

UC admission requirements
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements

UC admission selection process
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/how-applications-are-reviewed.html

Filling out the UC application
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/filling-out-the-application.html

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Campus admission websites

UC Berkeley | admissions.berkeley.edu

UC Davis | ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate

UC Irvine | admissions.uci.edu

UCLA | admission.ucla.edu

UC Merced | admissions.ucmerced.edu

UC Riverside | admissions.ucr.edu

UC San Diego | admissions.ucsd.edu

UC Santa Barbara | admissions.ucsb.edu

UC Santa Cruz | admissions.ucsc.edu

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Thank you

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