The Final Countdown
Advising Seniors for Success

September 2019
I. UC Campuses are one system, but differ in three main ways
   A. Location
   B. Size
   C. Academic Programs

II. All campuses have their unique programs - but are alike in many ways. All the campuses provide access to resources.
   a. Selecting major – For instance, Psychology: while most campuses have the major they are different branches in every campus.
   b. Engineering programs - while many campuses have them, they are selective and not all campuses offer the same options; for example, civil engineering is not offered at all campuses.
   c. The major should be the driving force when looking at a campus. For example, if a student is looking for a Business Administration program only three campuses offer such programs.
   d. Advise students on their interested fields and offer them options.
We talk about how campuses have different cultures, and students should have a sense of that to help them narrow their choices. Here are just a few examples of iconic campus undergraduate traditions.
Pre-Application Submission: Researching campuses

Fun Campus Lore & Traditions

UCLA: Audition for Spring Sing and perform in Pauley Pavilion in front of thousands. Past winners include Maroon 5 and Sara Bareilles.

Merced: Students walk through the Beginning sculpture only twice, once when they arrive on campus and once at commencement.

Riverside: The annual Scream Week includes Zombie Zumba, Fantastical Cooking Demo, Costumed Basketball and, of course, a Haunted House!
Pre-Application Submission: Researching campuses

Fun Campus Lore & Traditions

San Diego: The Watermelon Drop has been around for 55 years. Originally a physics experiment, students continue to elect “Watermelon Royalty” who measure the splat from the 11th floor (167 ft) of Urey Hall.

Santa Barbara: Extravaganza has been an annual tradition since 1979. This music festival has featured Drake, No Doubt, and Cee Lo Green.

Santa Cruz: The Multicultural Festival is a student-run annual festival celebrating UCSC core values of diversity and social justice.
I. Academic Programs
   A. What academic programs are offered?
   B. Comparing similar majors across campuses
      1. For example, UCI offers Psychology, Psychological Science, and Cognitive Science. Important to help your students understand how similar-sounding majors are different.
      2. How does Business at UCR compare to Business Economics at UCLA?
      3. Look up the course catalogs at each university to learn more about the specific curriculum for each major.
   C. Which degree programs are considered highly selective or capped/impacted?
      1. All of the UC campuses are highly selective, but not every degree program at each campus is highly selective.
      2. A capped major is a major that limits enrollment (similar to an impacted major).
   D. Do campuses select by major?
      1. Selecting by major means the university bases its admission decision on whether the student gets into the major. If a student is not selected for the major to which they applied, they
are not admitted to the university.

2. Not all campuses select by major at the freshman level.

3. If campuses do select by major, it is important to encourage your students to still apply to the major they are most interested in, even if it is a highly-selective or capped major.
   a) It’s very possible that it would be harder to switch majors after enrolling, and that it could extend time spent in college.

A. What does their undeclared program look like and does that hurt your chances of admission?
   1. It is perfectly okay to enter college undeclared or undecided!
   2. What does this mean at each UC campus?
   3. Does it hurt your chances of admission? No!
Here is an example of how researching the campuses may help your students. These are examples of different types of majors within the same category. The programs have different requirements, and each campus will have a different approach to their program. Some may require internships and others projects. Some may have a pre-major and others allow freshman to go directly into the major.
Researching these majors ahead of time can help students narrow down their preferences.
This was from a study done by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) in 2015. It outlines what all employers (large, small, domestic, international) look for in recent graduates. Additional information including the 2018 update: [https://www.naceweb.org/about-us/press/2017/the-key-attributes-employers-seek-on-students-resumes/](https://www.naceweb.org/about-us/press/2017/the-key-attributes-employers-seek-on-students-resumes/)

Notice that these are transferable skills learned in many different majors. UC wants to encourage students to pursue a major based on interest, rather than focus on career opportunities later. In many cases, students do not work in their major field, with the exceptions being in the applied and physical sciences.
1. Visit the Campuses
   a) In-person campus tour if possible
      (1) Many schools also offer a virtual tour online
   b) Meet and learn about the experiences of current students
      (1) Think about what you want out of your college experience and be prepared to ask your tour guide
   c) Is the location appealing? Accessible? Welcoming? Do you like the weather (this is important)?
   d) What is located in the community around the campuses?
   e) What sorts of resources do the campuses offer? Will you feel supported?
   f) Is housing available? Is it guaranteed? Do you like the living accommodations?
   g) What does academic advising and support look like?
   h) Talk to your students about fit vs. prestige/reputation
2. Contact the schools to ask about student experiences, resources, etc.
   a) Help your students identify what is important to them in the college selection process and how to ask these kinds of questions
   b) Lastly, have students ask themselves the question - “Do I see myself on this campus.”
Campuses offer different types of tours. These are just examples of what UC offers on many campuses in addition to a general campus tour. In addition, students can tour museums and art galleries on campus that are internationally known for their collections. Students interested in recreation options can often tour the campus recreational facilities as well.
I. No campus will ask for transcripts during the application review process, unless it is essential to the applicant or for clarification.

II. It is imperative that students work from their transcript! They should not attempt to work from memory; discrepancies between the application and transcript may cause problems after admission.

III. It is important for the student to constantly check their email for up to date information.

IV. Now students can add more to their activities.

Household income and family information:

I. This is used to determine fee waiver eligibility and first-generation status. First-generation status refers to any student whose parents or guardians have not earned a 4-year degree (domestic or international).

Academic Records

The context of the student is essential. Students should discuss not only what courses they took, but take the opportunity to explain if they were unable to take certain courses.

Verification:

Students are subject to verification for academic history, extracurriculars, and PIQs. UC will contact students directly if they are selected.
Application opens August
Check out UCOP for PIQ video, how to present yourself on UC Application and PIQ worksheets
While working on your application:
Questions about application technology? -> UC Application Center or Help icon
Questions about UC eligibility -> Online resources
Questions about specific campuses -> Contact campus directly

After submission:
Before vs After November 20th
Edits to the application information, changes in coursework, D/F grades. (No minor changes to areas outside of academic coursework - please be diligent and double check work before submission)
After Admission Decisions: contact each campus individually regarding D/F grades, coursework changes, or appeals on application decisions and information about next steps or outstanding requirements by campus.

Things to remember:
Have your full name and Application ID or Student ID number ready, depending on who you are calling

Many answers you are looking for are likely already online. Use your available resources to receive answers quickly!
Patience is important. Remind students that campuses admit on a rolling basis, and
to continue to check their email and student portals for the most up to date information available to them.
Need Some Help?

After Submitting the Application

Adding campuses (prior to Nov. 30), reporting new test scores, updating contact information: **Can be done directly in the application**

Changes in Educational History, reporting D/F grades: **Contact the UC application center**

Issues with the student portal: **Contact the campus directly**

Reporting additional honors, awards, extracurricular activities, etc.: **Not likely to make a difference – no need to report**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  COUNSELOR CONFERENCE
Need Some Help?

After Admissions Decisions:

Contact campuses individually for all questions/updates including academic record updates, D/F grades, next steps, outstanding requirements, waitlists, and appeals.
1. When a student is offered admissions to a UC Campus they must understand and fulfill the provision of admissions. Many students do not read those provisions and that could be crucial - every case is different. If a student does not fulfill the provisions of the admission offer, that student is subject to possible cancellation.

2. Remind student not to panic if they are put on the waitlist - rather look at options especially if student was admitted to other UC campuses.

3. Remind students that a UC education is priceless.

4. If the student selects the option in on the waitlist, it is important for the students to select a campus because most decision to take students off the waitlist come out after May 1.

5. If the student was not offered admission, remember that no one factor determines the admission decision.
Decision Time

**If Waitlisted:**
- ACCEPT position on waitlist
- Be mindful of dates and deadlines
- Pursue alternative options
- Review Financial Aid, Housing, etc.
- Finish Strong!

**If Denied**
- This is not the end of your road to higher education
- Appeals (when applicable)
- Transfer Process!!! Transfer Admissions Guarantee/ Transfer Pathways programs

Students should accept an offer of admission to another university by May 1
Senior Year Timeline

Aug/Sept
- Gather info

Oct/Nov/Dec
- Sit for SAT with Essay, ACT with Writing, SAT Subject Tests

November
- Apply for admission

Dec/Jan
- Self-report Nov/Dec test scores & request official scores

Feb
- Comply with any requests for information

March
- Wait for Decisions!

July 15
- Submit official AP/IB test scores

July 1
- Submit official final HS transcript

June
- Graduate

May 1
- Submit Statement of Intent to Register to one campus

April
- Attend campus admit days, review financial aid offers
Useful Resources

UC Counselors website
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions

UC Admissions website
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/index.html

SAT Subject Test recommendations
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/sat-subject-tests.html

UC Tuition & Financial Aid
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/
Thank You

Questions?