

A light orange map of California is positioned on the left side of the page. To its right, the words "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA" are stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font, each word within its own dark rectangular box.

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC Davis ● ★ Sacramento

● UC Berkeley

UC Santa Cruz ●

● UC Merced

UC Santa Barbara ●

●  
UCLA

● UC Riverside

● UC Irvine

● UC San Diego

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu)

## UC Freshman Application Data

### Includes CA and Out-of-California Applicants

This information is taken directly from this University of California link:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/freshman-admit-data.html>

**Please be cautious in drawing conclusions from this information.** The numbers are useful only as a general guide to selectivity and not as a predictor of your chances for admission to a particular campus.

These figures are preliminary, as of June 2021. Some campuses admitted students after that date, which may affect their statistics. In addition, keep the following in mind:

- Data for several colleges on a campus are grouped together, which masks the differences in the degree of competition for admission among them. Some campuses and colleges admit students directly into individual majors, and the degree of competition among majors may vary widely.
- The data reflect the selection process for fall 2021 applicants. The selection process may vary from year to year; therefore the results may differ significantly.
- GPA is defined as a student's grade point average in the "a-g" subjects. The average high school GPA listed for each campus is computed from 10th and 11th grade coursework, including up to eight honors courses. These GPAs are drawn from application data at the system-wide admissions office.

<u>Campus</u>	<u>Fall 2021 Applicants</u>	<u>Admits</u>	<u>Admit Rate</u>	<u>GPA of middle 25%-75% of applicants</u>
Berkeley	112,838	16,395	14.5%	4.12-4.30
Davis	87,141	42,726	49.0%	3.95-4.25
Irvine	107,944	31,261	29.0%	3.96-4.26
Los Angeles	139,485	15,004	10.8%	4.19-4.32
Merced	27,770	24,329	87.6%	3.39-4.00
Riverside	52,676	34,671	65.8%	3.7-4.13
San Diego	118,391	40,616	34.3%	4.07-4.29
Santa Barbara	105,644	30,860	29.2%	4.10-4.29
Santa Cruz	61,820	36,375	58.8%	3.81-4.20

## UC Application Helpful Hints: Activities & Awards

In addition to coursework, grades, and the four Personal Insight questions you choose to answer, the UC wants to know about how you spend your time outside of school and any honors that you have received. It is suggested that you list your most important awards or activities first in each section.

In this section, you want to make sure to give **good descriptions** of each item that you list. Don't forget to include any leadership positions. There is no longer a limit per category, but you are limited to 20 total activities and awards. Avoid using acronyms for the names of clubs or awards; spell them out and explain your level of involvement. The following are the sections as they appear on the UC application with some suggestions of ideas for each category; only include information that is applicable to you.

### **Coursework Other Than A-G**

- Advanced Leadership (ASB): List position held and main functions of what you did in ASB
- Athletic Training (or any other non-A-G Elective on or off campus that relates to your prospective major or interest)
- Teacher Aide: Only include this if you had a special role as a TA like class tutor, helped with 9<sup>th</sup> grade APEX program, etc.

### **Educational Preparation Programs**

*It's OK if you do not have a lot to list in this category.*

- Summer programs at a college or university
- People-to-People travel programs or any study abroad program
- A special program that you were a part of that assists you in getting to college

### **Volunteer and Community Service**

- **Unpaid** tutoring (peers, siblings, community youth, etc.) and **unpaid** internships
- Senior project hours (if volunteer related)
- Church volunteer work, fundraising for charity
- Service-based clubs or organizations: Key Club, Interact, Invisible Children, Dig Pink, Bearcats Recycle, etc.
- Library/hospital/non-profit/other volunteer work
- Caring for a family member (sibling/cousin/grandparent) on a regular basis

### **Work Experience**

- **Paid** tutoring: list subjects tutored and context
- Babysitting/Dog-sitting
- Summer or part-time job: describe duties
- Working at a relative's company

### **Awards and Honors**

- CSF: length of time that you received the honor and how you were granted membership
- Boy scout Eagle or Girl Scout Gold/Silver Awards
- Involvement in CORE, how you qualified for the program and something notable that you did
- Advanced Placement Award granted by the College Board for passing a notable amount of exams
- Extra-curricular awards: Team sports accomplishments, Drama, Debate, Piano, choir, dance

### **Extracurricular Activities**

- Link Crew/ASB/Yearbook/Journalism/Band/Choir/Dance: co-curricular activities that can also be listed in this category
- Sports (at BHS, Club, or Community): list any team accomplishments, position played, or leadership held
- Clubs: describe what you did and any positions held
- Any lessons you have taken or time spent honing a talent or ability: Are you an avid hiker? Guitarist? Surfer? Small business owner?

# PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS: GUIDE FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

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## Getting started

This worksheet is designed to help freshman applicants start the writing process for the personal insight questions in the undergraduate admissions application. Additional hints and suggestions can be found on UC's admissions website at [ucal.us/personalquestions](http://ucal.us/personalquestions).

### What are the personal insight questions?

These questions are about getting to know you better — your life experience, interests, ambitions and inspirations. Think of it as your interview with the admissions office. Be open. Be reflective. Find your individual voice and express it.

While this section of the application is just one part we consider when making our admission decision, it helps provide context for the rest of your application.

### The basics

- You will have 8 questions to choose from. You must respond to any 4 of the 8 questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you: But you should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances.
- All questions are equal: All questions are given equal consideration in the application review process, which means there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.

### Freshman questions & brainstorm exercise

The following exercises are suggestions to help you get started. Remember, you don't have to answer all eight questions — you only need to answer four. So if some questions aren't the right fit for you, that's OK. The important thing is expressing who you are, what matters to you and what you want to share with UC.

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.

How do you define "leader"? List three words that you think describe what a leader is:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Do any of these words apply to you? How? Is there a time in your life when you displayed any of these traits?

2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.

Can you think of a time your viewpoint was unique compared to others? What was the issue or problem from your perspective? Now think of the same situation from the perspective of another person who was there with you. How was your approach different from that other person's?

Was there ever a problem where your imagination and intuition guided you to the solution?

Do you have a passion for music, theater, visual art, dance, etc.? What have you gained from it that has affected other parts of your life?

3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?

List three of your talents or skills:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Were these talents or skills the same a few years ago? What changed? What improved?

Which one of the three talents or skills you listed is the most meaningful or important to you and why? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent?



## PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS: GUIDE FOR FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

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4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Feel free to speak about either an opportunity or a barrier. It's OK if you've experienced one and not the other.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

List any programs or additional classes that have better prepared you for college:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did you find out about these programs or classes? How did you take what you learned and apply it to your schoolwork or other aspects of your life?

### EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS:

Have you faced any barriers or challenges related to school and/or your schoolwork? How did you overcome or strive to overcome them? List three personal characteristics or skills you had to call on to overcome this challenge:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

Have you had a difficult experience in your life? How did you get through it? What did you learn going through this experience? If you're currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends, or with my family?"

6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

Think about all of the classes you've taken at school. Now fill in the blank: I would go to [class name] even if I didn't have to.

It doesn't have to be a class in which you've earned good grades – the important thing is you enjoyed the subject and it impacted you in some way.

(#6 continued)

Maybe there's a course you *haven't* taken at school that you wish you did take or are looking forward to taking in college. How have you pursued your interest in that subject outside of school?

7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

Did you contribute to a positive change at your school or in your community? What steps have you taken to accomplish this? Remember, even small changes can have a big impact. Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort?

8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

From your point of view, what do you feel makes you an excellent choice for UC? Don't be afraid to brag a little. Here are a few lists to help you get started.

What do you value in your life? What's important to you? List three of them here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are you passionate about?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When you attend UC, what three things are you most looking forward to?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Does anything overlap? Is there anything from the lists that you want to expand on?

### Next steps

As you filled out the worksheet, were there any topics that seemed particularly interesting? You might consider answering those questions as part of your application. But the choice is yours! Take your time in selecting which questions to answer and how to answer them. For more information, visit our website at [ucal.us/personalquestions](http://ucal.us/personalquestions).

## Freshman requirements

Freshmen: Your journey to UC starts here

The future belongs to those with the curiosity and determination to shape it for the better. At UC, you can be one of them.

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 freshman, you'll have to satisfy these requirements:

### 1. Complete 15 A-G courses (11 of them by end of junior year)

You need to complete a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses (A-G courses) with a letter grade of C or better. For courses completed during Winter 2020 through summer 2021, UC will also accept a grade of CR (credit) and P (pass). You must complete at least 11 of these courses prior to the beginning of your last year of high school.

The 15 courses are:

a. History	2 years
b. English	4 years
c. Mathematics	3 years
d. Science	2 years
e. Language other than English *or equivalent to the 2nd level of high school instruction	2 years*
f. Visual and performing arts	1 year
g. College-preparatory elective (chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university)	1 year

### 2. Earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better (3.4 if you're a nonresident) in these courses with no grade lower than a C.

**New this year!**

## Exam requirement

UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after you enroll.

**Apply now** for fall 2022.

It's time to turn your plans into action. Get your UC application in by November 30.

**You're at the start of an incredible journey. Let's get going.**

Choosing to study at UC is a major decision. But we're confident you're making the right one. Each campus offers an incredible range of experiences and academic programs. Whether you want to be in a big city, nestled in a redwood forest or on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, there's something for everyone. Come be a part of it.

**What you'll need**

It's a good idea to have everything prepared before you start your application so you're not trying to track down information at the last minute.

- ☐ **Transcripts.** Don't submit your transcripts to UC at this point, but refer to them as you fill out the application to ensure the information you enter is accurate.
- ☐ **Test scores.** UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after you enroll.
- ☐ **Annual income** for last year and the current year (your parents' if you're a dependent; your income if you're independent). This is optional unless you're applying for an application fee waiver or for the Educational Opportunity Program.
- ☐ **Social Security number**, if you have one. We use this to match your application to things like your test score report, final transcript(s) and, if you're applying for financial aid, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- ☐ **Citizenship status.** You must enter your country of citizenship (or "No Selection"). If your country of citizenship is outside the United States, you'll need to provide your immigration status and your visa type.
- ☐ **California Statewide Student ID** (optional). Each K-12 student in California public schools is assigned an ID number. It is printed on your transcript.
- ☐ **Credit card.** If you prefer to pay by check, you can mail your payment.

**Application fees & waivers**

The application fee is \$70 for each UC campus. You can make your payment either by credit card or by mail, just be sure follow the instructions in the application. The application fees are non-refundable.

**Fee waivers**

UC will waive application fees for up to four campuses for qualified students who would otherwise be unable to apply for admission. The fee waiver program is for United States citizens, permanent residents, and applicants eligible for AB540 benefits. Fee waivers can't be applied to more than four campuses, regardless of their source (e.g. UC, CollegeBoard/SAT). If you apply to more than four, you'll need to pay \$70 for each additional choice.

**Applying for a fee waiver**

You can see if you automatically qualify for a fee waiver within the application. If you enter your family size and income in the "About you" section, you will see if you've qualified for an application fee waiver when you select your campuses in the "Campuses & majors" section (a message will appear on that page with real-time feedback about how many campuses you can apply to for free).

**Transcripts & letters of recommendation**

Don't send official transcripts when you apply. If you're admitted to UC, then you must submit final transcripts to your campus admissions office.

UC does not require (nor read) letters of recommendation at the time of application. A campus may ask for them later as part of a supplemental review, so be sure to check your email.

**Getting help**

If you have questions, please contact the application helpdesk:  
[ucinfo@applyucsupport.net](mailto:ucinfo@applyucsupport.net)

Or call the UC Application Center:

- Within the U.S.: (800) 207-1710
- Outside the U.S.: (925) 298-6856

Helpdesk hours:

- Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm PST
- Saturday & Sunday: Closed

November & December hours:

- November 1-21: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. PST
- November 22-24: 8 a.m.-11 p.m. PST
- November 26-27: 8 a.m.-11 p.m. PST
- November 28-30: 8 a.m.-midnight PST
- December 1: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. PST

Closed on the following holidays:

- Nov. 25, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1