

UC SANTA BARBARA Office of Admissions



We Are UCSB

23,000 undergraduates

3,000 graduates

- 
- Davis
 - Berkeley
 - Santa Cruz
 - Merced
 - Santa Barbara
 - Los Angeles
 - Irvine
 - San Diego
 - Riverside

Three Undergraduate Colleges

Letters and Science

- 80 majors
- Liberal arts degree
- Undeclared Option
- Honors Program
- Major not a factor in admission

Engineering

- Competitive Admission
- 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- Senior Capstone projects
- 3 / 5 year B.S./M.S.

Creative Studies

- Selective Admission
- 1-to-1 faculty mentor
- Students produce creative work or conduct original research
- 75% of alumni attend Graduate School

A young man in a blue sweater is seen from the back, talking to a young woman in a black blazer. They are at a career fair with various booths and people in the background. The woman is holding a blue folder and a pen. There are signs for 'ALPHEA OF THE DOME', 'PRODDIE', and 'MAR' visible.

Professional Programs

- Pre-Health Program
- Pre-Law Program
- Technology Management Program (TMP)

Student Research

- Faculty Research Assistance Program (FRAP)
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)



Student Resources

A photograph of a modern student lounge or library. The room is filled with students sitting on red modular seating, many of whom are using laptops. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair is focused on her laptop, wearing a dark jacket with red sleeves and blue jeans. To her right, a young man in a green jacket is also working on a laptop while wearing large headphones. The background shows other students in various poses, some talking, some reading, and others working. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a well-lit indoor space with large windows.

Financial Aid

How to apply? Fill out one of the following:

- FAFSA (Due March 2nd)
- CA Dream Act Application (Due March 2nd)

Scholarships

- Blue and Gold Scholarship
- Middle Class Scholarship
- Undocumented Aid

Financial Aid Cost of Attendance:
finaid.ucsb.edu/cost-of-attendance

Residential Campus

82% of students live on or within one mile of campus



Campus Organizations

- 500 student organizations
- 38 Greek organizations



Athletics

19

Division I
NCAA teams

27

Sport clubs

11

Intramural
sports



Global Presence

- Study abroad options in more than 40 countries
- Open to all majors
- Scholarships available



Gauchos for Life

Alumni network of
220,000+ graduates



UCSB Office of Admissions

UC Application & Personal Insight Questions

Fall 2021

UC SANTA BARBARA

A photograph of two young women sitting on a colorful blanket on a sandy beach at sunset. They are looking out towards the ocean. The background features a rocky cliffside and a palm tree under a warm, golden sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

UC Application

- One application for the undergraduate UC system
- No interviews
- **By invitation only:** letters of recommendation, auditions, portfolios

Cost

\$70/campus (US applicants)
\$80/campus (international applicants)

apply.universityofcalifornia.edu

Start an application: **August 1**

Submit an application: **November 1-30**



Future Freshman

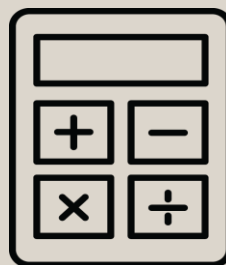
“a-g” Courses

Completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better
(Spring 2020: Pass, Credit allowed)



Minimum GPA

CA: 3.0
Non-Residents: 3.4
As calculated from 10th
& 11th grade grades



Life Experiences

Clubs, sports,
community services,
hobbies, talents and
more...

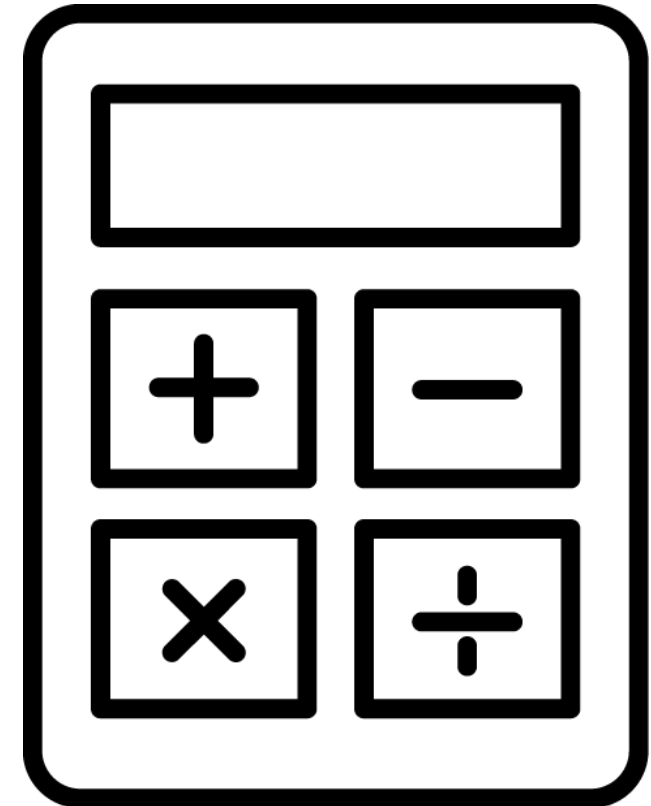


UC “a-g” Requirements

Academic Coursework	Requirement (Recommendations)
a. History or Social Science	2 years
b. College-Preparatory English	4 years
c. Mathematics*	3 years (4 years recommended)
d. Science	2 years (3 years recommended)
e. Language Other than English*	2 years (3 years recommended)
f. Visual/Performing Arts	1 year from single discipline
g. College-Preparatory Elective(s)	1 year beyond the minimum ‘a-f’ courses required

GPA Requirement

- Minimum: 3.0 for CA residents
- GPA is calculated from "a-g" courses taken in 10th and 11th grades (including summers after 9th, 10th, and 11th grade)
- GPA is weighted using:
 - Advanced Placement (AP)
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)
 - Transferable college coursework
 - CA high school students – UC Approved Honors



“Activities and Awards” Section

- Selection for admission includes activities outside the classroom
- UC does NOT have a preference between extracurricular activities
- Students can enter up to 20 activities!

✓ -- select --

- Award or honor
- Educational preparation program
- Extracurricular activity
- Other coursework
- Volunteer / Community service
- Work experience

Add activities & awards

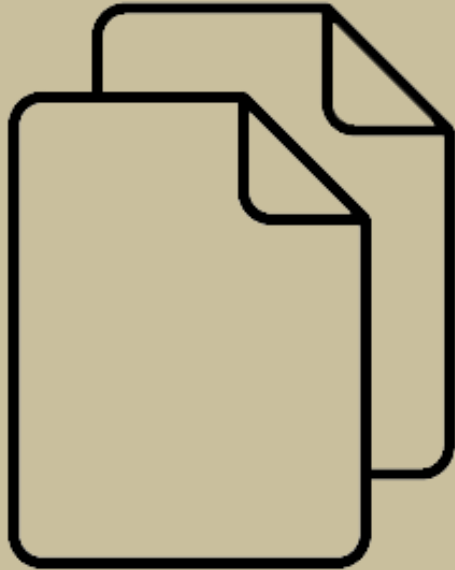
You've told us what you did inside the classroom, and now you'll have the opportunity to tell us about what you're most proud of outside the classroom. We're looking for quality, not quantity - which means that even though you'll have room to tell us about 20 activities and awards, make sure to focus on the ones that are most important to you. Choose experiences that demonstrate commitment, responsibility, leadership, and most of all, genuine interest.

> **1. Educational preparation program** Delete Edit
Cal-SOAP

> **2. Extracurricular activity** Delete Edit
Track & field varsity team

[Add another activity or award](#) [I've finished adding activities](#)

Personal Insight Questions



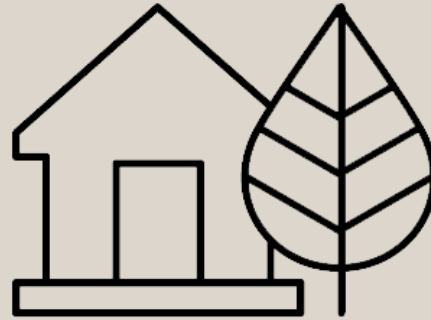
- **8** questions – respond to **4**
You cannot respond to more than 4!
- **350** words per response
- All questions have equal value
There is no advantage to answering one question over another
- View as your personal interview on paper

Personal Insight Questions



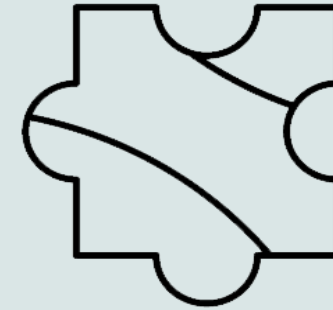
Clarity

Richer perspective of your life, experiences and/or accomplishments



Context

Sharing details on your home, school or community



Depth

Details into your application (academics or extracurricular activities)

Personal Insight Questions

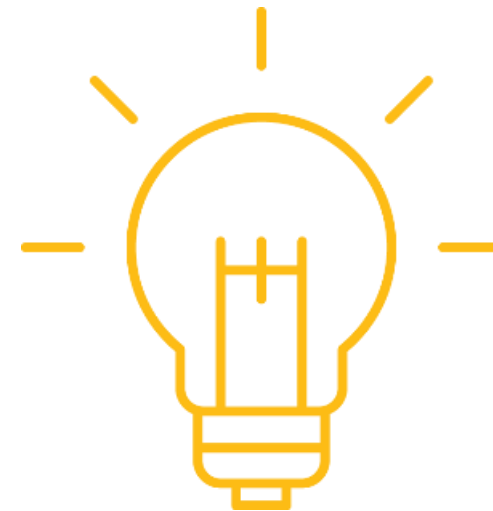
1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.

Personal Insight Questions

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?
6. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this inside and/or outside of the classroom.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admission to the University of California?

Picking Your Topics

- Do not write what you think UC's want to hear. Just tell us about yourself.
- Keep it focused on YOU.
- Each campus receives the same copy of your responses
 - *Do not be campus specific!*
- Don't stretch the truth, just be honest.
- What did we not ask you? What information do you need/want to share with admissions?



Stay focused! Try to avoid:

Acronyms

We won't look it up, spell it out

Quotations or Dialogue

We want to know your thoughts and words, not someone else's

Philosophy

Don't ask questions, just tell us what you mean

Creative Writing

No poems, clichés or haikus

Titles

No need to re-state the prompts

Flowery Language

Keep it specific and use your regular vocabulary

Story Telling / Scene Setting

We don't need to be in the moment with you

Keep it Professional

No slang, abbreviations

Jokes or Sarcasm

Inappropriate use of humor is not helpful

A Note on the Writing Process

- Always tie it back to yourself
- Use “I” or “my” statements
- It’s not an essay, structure is not graded
- Make the examples relevant to yourself today, bring the reader forward to explain who you are in high school
- Must be your own words



PIQs and COVID-19

- You should not assume that we know your particular circumstances
- Help us understand your CONTEXT
- Questions for you to consider:
 - How did your learning change?
 - How did your home life change?
 - How did your activities and involvement change and how did you adjust?

Additional Comments

Student can use this space to tell us anything else they want us to know about them

- Academic or Non-Academic
- Do not continue one of the PIQ responses!

Examples:

“Due to COVID-19 and the stay at home orders, I could not participate in activities during the second part of my junior year.”

“I had the choice of P/NP or letter grades during spring 2020, I chose _____ option because...”

“My school limits AP coursework, I had to wait until my junior year to take AP courses.”

Reminders

- Communication between the Office of Admissions and applicants will occur primarily through email
 - Reply to requests in a timely manner
- Admissions decisions are posted on the UC campus portal
 - Keep track of username and passwords!
- We do not need transcripts with the UC Application
- Coursework updates: only after you are admitted & choose to enroll
- Do not forget about dates and deadlines

Reminders

Date	Task
August 1	Access UC application
November 1-30	Submit UC application
December	Last exam which can be used
March 2	Submit FAFSA or California Dream Act application
Mid-March	Freshman decisions posted
May 1	Freshman SIR due
Summer after graduation	Submit official transcripts & test scores

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Resources

- Find Your Major
ucsb.edu/academics/undergraduate
- UCSB Virtual Tours and Resources:
admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/visit-ucsb/virtual-tours
- UC Application
apply.universityofcalifornia.edu
- Personal Insight Questions Worksheet
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions/index.html

Welcome home, future Gaucho

admissions.ucsb.edu/info

Questions?

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