# 2016/17

Freshman application
tips and tools for
California students

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

# 1

# Before You Begin

## Gather your information

Having everything you'll need in hand before you start your application means you won't be searching for important information at the last minute. Make sure the information you provide is accurate because you may be asked to verify it at a later time.

## Research your options

There may be different degree programs at several UC campuses that can help you achieve your career goal; knowing what they are will give you more options when you apply. Check which majors are open for the current term at ***http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors***.

**Campus Major Offerings**

| | |
|---|---|
| UCB | http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/ |
| UCD | http://admissions.ucdavis.edu/majors |
| UCI | www.admissions.uci.edu/about/majors_and_minors.html |
| UCLA | www.admissions.ucla.edu/majors |
| UCM | www.ucmerced.edu/academics-undergraduate-majors-minors |
| UCR | www.ucr.edu/academics/undergradmajors.html |
| UCSD | https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/advising/majors-minors/undergraduate-majors.html |
| UCSB | www.admissions.ucsb.edu/allmajors.asp |
| UCSC | http://admissions.ucsc.edu/majors |

## Apply broadly

Applying to more than one UC can significantly increase your chances of being admitted to a campus that will enable you to fulfill your educational goals. We recommend applying to campuses that vary in their admit rates (visit ***http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/*** for the most recent admit rates).

## Pick an email address and stick with it

Campuses email applicants to request or clarify information; they often need a quick response. Provide an email address that you will check regularly. Update your spam filters to ensure that you receive all UC communications.

## Apply at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

**Follow directions.** Answers to common questions appear on every page. If you can't find an answer, contact the UC Application Center at ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net, or call (800) 207-1710 (toll free in the U.S.).

**Save your work.** If you take a break from your application, sign out or click "Next" on any page to make sure your work is saved.

**Review your summary.** Look for any instance where the summary page says "not started" or "in progress." If you didn't intend to leave a question blank, click "Edit" to go back and fill it in.

**Don't forget to click "Submit your application for UC admission."** Your application won't be sent to UC until you do. You will be taken to the receipt page, which shows your application ID. It's a good idea to print this page.

## Write your personal statement in advance

Think of your personal statement as your chance to tell us who you are and what's important to you. What you tell us in your personal statements gives us the context to better understand the rest of the information you've provided in your application. Be open, be honest, be yourself.

**A few tips.** Read each prompt carefully and be sure to respond to all parts. Use specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make. Take time to write, rewrite and edit. Show it to a teacher, counselor or friend for comments, but make sure the words you use are your own. Watch our personal statement video at *http://ucal.us/statementvideo* for more tips from admissions staff and students.

**Finally, relax.** This is one of many pieces of information we consider in reviewing your application. An admission decision will not be based on your personal statement alone.

### Instructions

→  Respond to both prompts, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.

→  You may allocate the word count as you wish, but we suggest each answer be no less than 250 words.

### Prompt #1

Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school — and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

### Prompt #2

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Following the personal statement, there's a section called Additional Comments. Use this space — up to 550 words — to tell us anything you want us to know about you that you don't have the opportunity to describe elsewhere in the application.

## Pursue all potential scholarships

UC campuses and alumni associations award a variety of scholarships based on a student's academic merit, financial need or both. Visit *http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc* to research deadlines and additional requirements.

There are also "restricted" scholarships available to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests or career goals. You can apply for these scholarships in the admission application by matching your own background characteristics and interests to the lists provided. Most students are notified of scholarship awards between March and August.

### Application fees

**Paying your application fees.** UC's application fee is $70 per campus. You may pay online by credit card or be billed. Application fees are non-refundable.

**Applying for a fee waiver.** UC will waive application fees for up to four campuses for qualified students. If you're a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or meet basic criteria for AB 540, you can apply for a fee waiver within the application and find out immediately if you qualify. Fee waivers can't be applied to more than four campuses, regardless of their source (e.g. UC, College Board/SAT).

# 2 Checklist

## Transcripts

You'll need to enter courses and grades from all schools you have attended, including any colleges where you have taken courses. Don't enter information from memory; misreporting your academic record can jeopardize your admission. If you took advanced math and/or a language other than English in middle school, you must report how many semesters you completed.

## Test scores

These include your ACT Plus Writing and/or SAT scores, and any Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or A-Level exam scores. Know the test dates for upcoming exams you plan to take.

## Annual income (optional)

If your parents claim you as a dependent on their tax return, ask them for their annual pre-tax income for 2014 and 2015. Refer to tax records or pay stubs.

## Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (if you have one)

We use your Social Security number or ITIN to verify your identity and match your application to your transcripts, test score reports and, if you apply for financial aid, your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application. It will be kept confidential.

## Citizenship status

You must provide your country of citizenship (or "No Selection" — this is recommended for undocumented applicants). If you select a country other than the United States, you'll need to provide your legal immigration status and the type of visa (e.g., F-1) you hold or plan to hold.

## California Statewide Student ID (optional)

Each K–12 student in California public schools is assigned a 10-digit ID number. If it's not printed on your high school transcript, obtain it from your school counselor or registrar.

## Credit card

You'll need the account number, expiration date, cardholder's name and billing address. (If you'd prefer to pay by check, you can send your payment by mail. Do not send cash.)

# Activities and Awards Worksheet

In addition to your courses and grades, we want to know about any honors you've received and how you spend your time outside of school. Use this worksheet to prepare concise descriptions of your most significant awards and activities. You may list up to five entries in each category, so think carefully about what you want to highlight. Also make sure to fully describe each item (up to 160 characters) for admissions offices to best understand your involvement.

**Coursework Other Than A–G** List the courses you took during high school, other than those approved for UC admission, that demonstrate a particular focus or interest (e.g., language immersion courses or nontransferable college courses).

| Course name | Description of course | Year(s) of involvement 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | After 12th | Hours per week | Weeks per year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |

**Educational Preparation Programs** List your participation in educational or academic preparation programs that are designed to help students prepare for university study. These programs may include academic enrichment programs sponsored by colleges/universities, research programs and study-abroad programs.

| Program name | Description of program | Year(s) of involvement 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | After 12th | Hours per week | Weeks per year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |

**Volunteer and Community Service** List unpaid work only.

| Organization | Description of organization and your responsibilities | Year(s) of involvement 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | After 12th | Hours per week | Weeks per year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |

**Work Experience** List paid work only.

| Job title | Responsibilities | Year(s) of involvement 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | After 12th | Begin mo/yr | End mo/yr | Hours per week (summer) | Hours per week (school yr) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |

**To what use have you or will you put your earnings?**

**Awards and Honors** List and briefly describe the most significant awards you have received since the beginning of 9th grade.

| Award or honor | Description of award or honor | Award or honor type Academic | Other | Date received |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | |

**Extracurricular Activities** List and briefly describe the activities you have been involved in since the beginning of 9th grade.

| Activity | Description of activity Note any leadership positions. | Year(s) of involvement 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th | After 12th | Hours per week | Weeks per year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |
| | | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | |

# 3

# After You Submit

## Print your receipt

You'll want to keep a record of your application ID number and a summary of your application for reference.

## Watch for your application submission confirmation

As soon as you submit your application, you'll receive an email confirming it has been successfully filed. If you do not receive this email, check your spam filter or contact the UC Application Center at ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net, (800) 207-1710 (toll free in the U.S.).

## Order test score reports

Be sure to have the appropriate testing agency send your official results from the ACT, SAT or SAT Subject tests (optional) to UC. If you have a report sent to one UC campus, it will be shared with all the campuses to which you apply. You can confirm receipt of your test scores by logging back in to your application.

If you are admitted for the fall term, you must arrange to have official AP and IB exam scores sent to the campus admissions office no later than July 15.

## Order final transcripts

If you are admitted for the fall term, you must arrange to have final, official transcripts sent to the campus admissions office no later than July 1.

**Note:** Before admittance, you do not need to send preliminary transcripts unless requested by a campus.

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## Applying for Financial Aid

**There's money available** to help you attend UC. If your family income is less than $80,000, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will cover, at a minimum, your systemwide fees if you qualify for financial aid. Your family makes more? You may still be able to get other grants and scholarships. Even if you don't think you'll qualify, apply. It's the only way to be considered for every type of aid possible, including low-interest student and parent loans.

**Apply for aid** between January 1 and March 2, 2016. Here's how:

**Submit a FAFSA or California Deam Act Application.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available at www.fafsa.gov. The California Dream Act Application is available at www.csac.ca.gov. You automatically will be considered for the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan if you submit the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application, and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form.

**Submit your GPA for a Cal Grant.** If you're progressing toward your first bachelor's degree, make sure your school-certified GPA is submitted to the California Student Aid Commission. Many California high schools automatically submit their students' GPAs. If this isn't the case with your school, use the GPA Verification Form, which is available at www.csac.ca.gov (click on "Cal Grant GPA Forms" under "Resources").

**Find out more** about UC's financial aid programs: http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc.

# 4 Making Changes to Your Application

## If you change your phone number, email or mailing address

Update your information at *www.universityofcalifornia.edu/afterapply*.

## If your academic record changes

If you add or drop a course or fail to earn a C or better in a course, you must send in your changes by email to ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net or by mail to UC Application Center, P.O. Box 1432, Bakersfield, CA 93302. Make sure to include your full name, date of birth and application ID.

## If you enroll in a new school or college after applying

Notify the UC Application Center (email or address above) and provide the institution's name and the courses you are taking or plan to take.

## If you want to apply to an additional UC campus

Log in to your UC application at *www.universityofcalifornia.edu/afterapply*. You may add a campus only if it is still accepting applications.

## Important dates and deadlines

| | |
|---|---|
| **Aug. 1:** | Application opens for fall 2016 at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply |
| **Nov. 1-30:** | Filing period for fall 2016<br>Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. PST, Nov. 30 |
| **Jan. 1:** | Filing period opens for GPA Verification Form (required for Cal Grant consideration), Free Application for Federal Student Aid (www.fafsa.gov) and California Dream Act Application |
| **March 1-31:** | Notification of fall 2016 admission decisions |
| **March 2:** | Deadline for applicants for all terms to submit FAFSA, California Dream Act Application and GPA Verification Form |
| **May 1:** | Deadline for fall 2016 admitted freshmen to submit the Statement of Intent to Register to their chosen campus |
| **July 1:** | Final official transcripts due at campus admissions offices for students admitted for fall 2016 |
| **July 1-31:** | Filing period for winter quarter/spring semester 2017<br>See http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors for current openings |