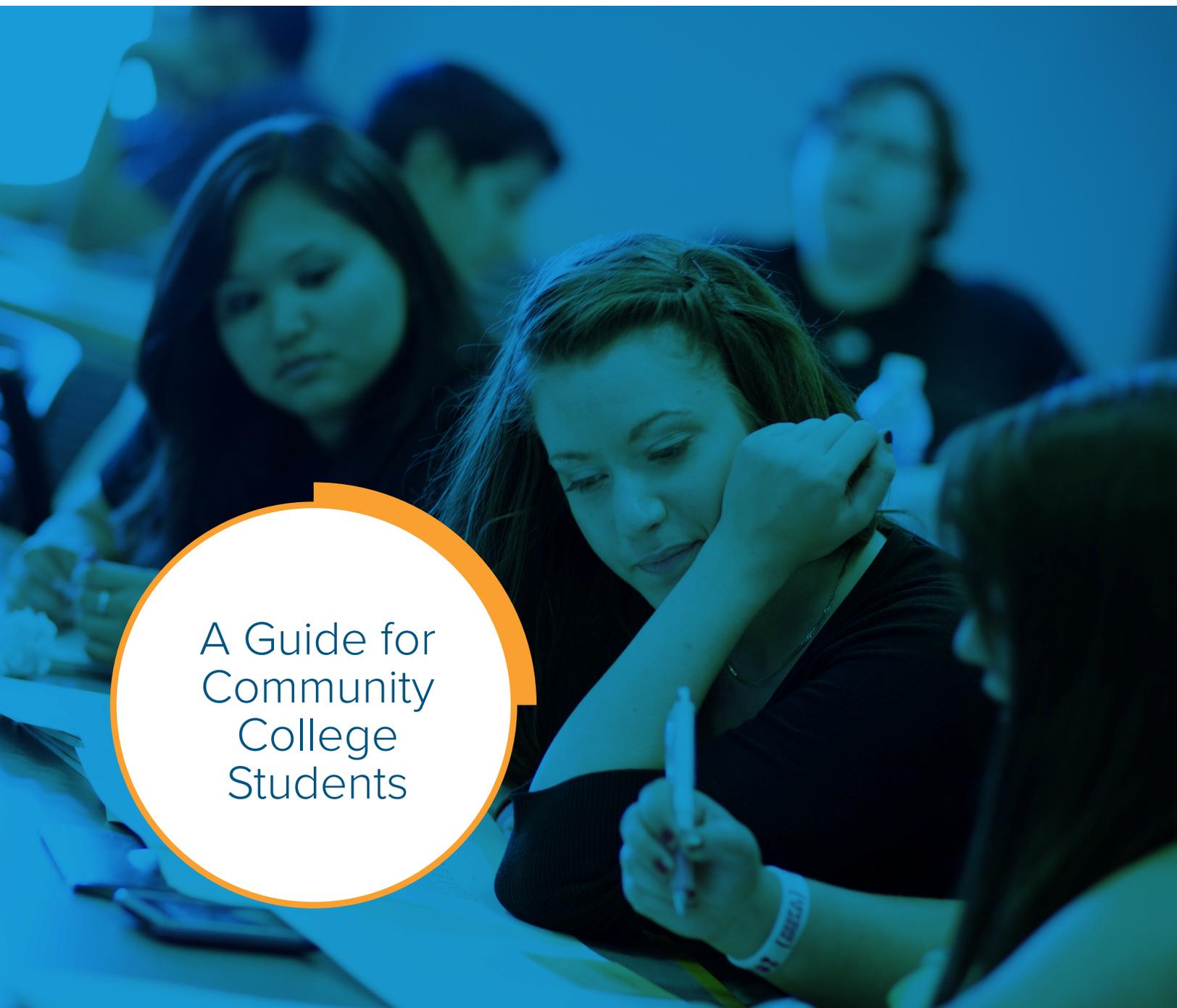




UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
transferprep



A Guide for  
Community  
College  
Students



## Dear Student,

I write this letter to each and every one of you opening this Guide. I know from my own experience how challenging this time in your life is.

It's often a bittersweet moment of being excited over high school completion, but also confusing and daunting to determine your next step. The choices you have or don't have may seem to be pointing you in the direction of your future, and understandably, you have concerns about making the right choice. I remember these feelings like it was yesterday.

Looking back many years later, I can say without question that making a choice to attend a community college with the intent to transfer was the best choice I ever made. It set me on a path that led me to discover my true passion and purpose in the world and helped me grow and succeed academically. Stepping on the campus of my first Alma Mater, Fullerton College changed my life, and I met people both inside and outside the classroom that still influence me to this day. I was well prepared when I transferred to UCSD for my Bachelor's degree, then to UCI for my Master's and Ph.D. I would have never imagined that this was the path I would end up on, and you don't have to have it all figured out now; just take the first step. There will be people and programs and resources to help you move forward, and this Guide is one of them. The University of California team at UCI and our sister campuses have put this helpful information and guidance together to help you navigate this journey. If you are wondering what your future can be if you begin your higher education at a community college, I'll tell you: Anything you can imagine and more. So, in addition to working and planning for your future, don't stop dreaming, and we will be here to help you make those dreams come true.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice Chancellor Educational Partnerships  
University of California, Irvine

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# Navigating the University of California Successfully as a Transfer

Everyone's transfer journey to their respective UC campus is unique, and they're filled with stories of resilience, growth, and transformation. When I arrived at UCI as a first-generation transfer student, I felt miles behind everyone else despite doing my best to keep up. What a whirlwind difference to go from smaller classrooms to large lecture halls, not to mention the shift to a 10-week quarter system! For me, the transition wasn't a smooth one, but if I hadn't stumbled, I wouldn't have found all the amazing mentors who helped me succeed along the way. I learned – "you don't know what you don't know" - so ask questions, discover who you are and who you want to be. Here are a few tips to make the most of your educational experience:

**Start early:** Get to know the resources on your campus. It helps to have a clear understanding of what it will take to set yourself up for success.

**Explore your opportunities:** Attend college fairs! This is an important step to give you the opportunity to learn more about the application process of the many colleges that visit your campus.

**Find your community:** Surround yourself with a positive support network – connect with peers, staff, and faculty on campus. There are many programs, resources, and mentors who are here to support you.

**Ask for help and get involved:** Sometimes it can feel overwhelming to see the abundance of resources available to you, but you may not need them all at once. Take your time getting familiar with all the offerings!

Seek out various campus services which offer guidance and counseling, orientations, tutoring, academic advising, career planning, financial aid, and other student support services. There are programs connecting students to the vast resources empowering them in their personal, academic, and professional endeavors.

For example, at UCI, I have the privilege to serve as the Director for the Student Achievement Guided by Experience (SAGE) Scholars Program. SAGE is a two-year leadership and professional development program for high potential, low-income students. SAGE provides undergraduates with the tools to invest in their future through leadership training, career and graduate school planning, and access to internship, research, and scholarship opportunities.

My advice, be fearless in your pursuit to design a life you want to live and discover who you are, who you want to be, and what change you want to impact in the world. There will be a lot of noise - listen to what speaks to you and don't forget to ask for help. The more you show up, the more you will realize there are people who want to help you succeed!

Neda Moayedi, M.A.  
Director, SAGE  
Scholars Program  
University of  
California, Irvine



# University of California: One System, Nine Undergraduate Campuses



2

## UC BERKELEY

**MASCOT:** Oski the Bear

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Semester

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**

Only accepts fall application

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** No

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.berkeley.edu/>



## UC RIVERSIDE

**MASCOT:** Scotty Highlander

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:** Accepts winter/spring and fall applications

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** Yes

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.ucr.edu/>



## UC SAN DIEGO

**MASCOT:** King Triton

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**

Only accepts fall application

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** No

**WEBSITE:** <https://ucsd.edu/>



## UC DAVIS

**MASCOT:** Gunrock the Mustang

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Only accepts fall application

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** Yes

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.ucdavis.edu/>

## UC IRVINE

**MASCOT:** Peter the Anteater

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Only accepts fall applications

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:**  
Yes

**WEBSITE:** <https://uci.edu/>



## UC LOS ANGELES

**MASCOT:** Joe Bruin

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Only accepts fall applications

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** No

**WEBSITE:**  
<https://www.ucla.edu/>



## UC MERCED

**MASCOT:** Rufus Bobcat

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:**  
Semester

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Accepts winter/spring and fall applications

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** Yes

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.ucmerced.edu/>



## UC SANTA BARBARA

**MASCOT:** Ole the Gaucho

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Only accepts fall application

**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:**  
Yes

**WEBSITE:**  
<https://www.ucsb.edu/>



## UC SANTA CRUZ

**MASCOT:** Sammy the Banana Slug

**ACADEMIC SYSTEM:** Quarter

**TRANSFER APPLICATION TERM:**  
Accepts winter/spring and fall applications

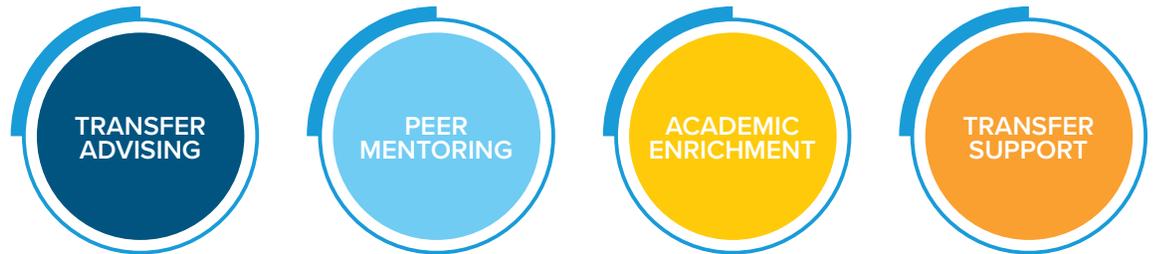
**PARTICIPATES IN UC TAG:** Yes

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.ucsc.edu/>



# University of California Transfer Prep

Transfer Prep is a University of California initiative geared towards supporting prospective transfer students from California Community Colleges and assists them enrolling at a University of California campus. All nine undergraduate campuses participate in Transfer Prep and provide transfer student support across the state of California. Student participation in a Transfer Prep program is free. Transfer Prep program services may include:



Contact the Transfer Prep campus closest to you to learn more about getting support for transferring to a UC campus.

## Berkeley

<https://cep.berkeley.edu/transfer-alliance-project-tap>  
<https://cep.berkeley.edu/community-college-transfer-services>  
[transfer@berkeley.edu](mailto:transfer@berkeley.edu)

## Davis

<https://ua.ucdavis.edu/register/ask>

## Irvine

<https://ccp.cfep.uci.edu/transferprep/>  
[transferprep@uci.edu](mailto:transferprep@uci.edu)

## Los Angeles

<https://www.aap.ucla.edu/units/cccp/#summer-programs>  
[cccp@college.ucla.edu](mailto:cccp@college.ucla.edu)

## Merced

[transfer@ucmerced.edu](mailto:transfer@ucmerced.edu)

## Riverside

[transfer@ucr.edu](mailto:transfer@ucr.edu)

## San Diego

[admissionsreply@ucsd.edu](mailto:admissionsreply@ucsd.edu)

## Santa Barbara

<https://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/transfer-prep>  
[ucsb4me@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:ucsb4me@sa.ucsb.edu)

## Santa Cruz

<https://admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/transfer-students/transfer-preparation-program/index.html>  
[transfer@ucsc.edu](mailto:transfer@ucsc.edu)

# The Transfer Route:

## A High School to UC Timeline for Transfer

Emmanuel J. Padilla, M.A.  
 University of California,  
 San Francisco  
 Senior Coordinator,  
 UCSF Center for  
 Science, Education and  
 Outreach

HIGH SCHOOL		
Senior Year	September-December	Research the community college campus you want to attend FAFSA/Dream Act applications open October 1st. Apply early to meet the March 2nd priority deadline.
	January-April	Apply to CC (submit an application via <a href="http://cccapply.org">cccapply.org</a> ) Research your top 3 institutions to transfer to; organization is key!
	May- August	Complete orientation Consider taking a summer course at your community college Register for classes/schedule a meeting with a counselor
COMMUNITY COLLEGE		
Year 1	Fall or 0-15+ transferable semester units	Meet with a counselor Develop plan for intended goal (e.g. transfer to 4-year institution, ADT)
	Spring or 16-30+ transferable semester units	Check progress with English and Math Review campus specific transfer progress Meet with a transfer counselor to discuss UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (UC TAG) campuses and eligibility requirements Meet with UC campus representatives
Year 2	Fall or 31-45+ transferable semester units	If eligible, submit a UC TAG Application for fall transfer (term is open September 1-30) Submit college applications (UC application term is open November 1-30)
	Spring or 46-60+ transferable semester units	Maintain eligibility Submit Student Intent to Register (SIR) to UC institution (deadline is June 1) Submit official transcripts and AP test scores if applicable

### KEEP IN MIND!

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR UPPER DIVISION-JUNIOR LEVEL TRANSFER ADMISSION

#### SEVEN COURSE PATTERN

**Two** English composition courses

**One** mathematical concept and quantitative reasoning course

**Four** courses from at least two of the following subject areas

- Arts and humanities*
- Social and behavioral sciences*
- Physical and biological sciences*

#### MINIMUM UNITS

Semester: 60 units  
 Quarter: 90 units

#### MINIMUM GPA

California residents: 2.4  
 Non-residents: 2.8

Complete the required/recommended courses needed for your intended major

Check <https://assist.org> for major preparation requirements for CSU and UC campuses

# Building Your Academic and Career Portfolio

Merryl M. Owen, M.S.  
University of California,  
Berkeley  
Director, Community  
College Transfer  
Services/Transfer  
Alliance Project

It is important to build an academic and career portfolio that will set a strong foundation for your future aspirations as you begin to pursue your higher education at a community college. Here are a few questions and suggestions you should consider as you map out your portfolio:

## What are the core skills that you gain in college?

No matter what your major, you will gain core skills in college that will help you succeed as a student and as you transition to working after you graduate.

- Critical thinking skills: ability to solve complex problems
- Time management skills
- Teamwork skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Basic computer programming skills

## What is your major?

This is a common question for students but can be hard to answer. One of the biggest myths about choosing a major is that it must directly relate to your future career. That is true for some fields like Engineering. But employers also look at your skills and interests and how you would fit on their team.

## What major is best for you?

- One that you find interesting and like studying.
- Important for gaining hands-on experience.
- All majors help you develop core skills.

## Resources

- To find out which transfer institutions offer your major of interest, use this Transfer major explorer tool <https://www.transferbound.com/>
- To further explore majors or careers visit Candid Career. They offer 100's of informational video interviews with professionals from all career areas <https://www.candidcareer.com/>

## The value of extracurricular activities

Participating in extracurricular and volunteer activities can help you feel more connected to others at your college and be important for college and scholarship applications. Reviewers want to know about your character, strengths, and resilience when facing challenges: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/how-applications-are-reviewed.html>

- Opportunities to learn about your interests, develop valuable skills, and can be fun
- Opportunities to develop your activism and leadership skills
- Helps schools, scholarship committees, and employers learn more about your interests

Extracurricular activities can include:

- Student organizations and volunteer work
- Athletic teams  
Employment
- Family responsibilities

## The value of internships

These can be valuable experiences but are not always critical to transferring to a UC. They are an opportunity to learn more about your career interests, gain hands-on experience, and meet professionals in the field.

- Effective way to connect your academic experience with professional work
- Helps gain valuable exposure to the workplace
- Helps develop job skills
- Can give a competitive edge in job searches

## The value of networking

Networking is a way to build and maintain relationships with people you meet at college, at work, and socially. It helps connect with people aspiring to enter a specific career field by talking to those who work there. It also helps them learn more about potential careers and job opportunities. A high percentage of recent college graduates find work through networking.

- Networking takes many forms:
- Talking to friends and classmates
- Attending professor's office hours
- Attending information sessions/job fairs

# CCC Programs and Resources to Consider

The California Community Colleges are made of a diverse student population who identify as first-generation, non-traditional, and/or are of low income. Students who opt to attend community college should research their institution of choice for programs and support resources that will aid them in their academic success. Visit <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services> to learn more or research your campus to see if they offer the following programs and support resources:

## Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS)

**EOPS** is a program for students disadvantaged by social, economic, educational or linguistic barriers. They offer academic counseling, financial aid (such as book vouchers or bus passes) and other retention services.

## CalWORKs

**The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)** program helps students on public assistance access services such as work study, job placement, childcare, skills training, and more.

## Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

**Disabled Student Programs and Services** provide support services to students with physical, learning, and/or psychological disabilities. Services and eligibility may vary from campus to campus.

## MESA

**Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)** programs are offered at certain community colleges with the purpose of advancing transfer-aspiring students in their STEM educational journeys.

Visit <https://mesa.ucop.edu/> to see if your community college has a MESA program.

## PUENTE

**PUENTE** at community colleges are academic, counseling and mentoring programs designed to assist students by having them work closely with PUENTE teams so they can reach their transfer goals.

<https://www.thepuenteproject.org/>

## UMOJA

**Umoja** (a Kiswahili word meaning unity) is dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students. Services include community support through the community college process.

For locations and specific services visit <https://umojacommunity.org/colleges-map>

## Undocumented Students

**UndocuLiaisons** are located on California Community college campuses to provide answers and support for undocumented students of all nationalities and backgrounds.

Find your community college UndocuLiaison at <https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Find-a-College?undoculiaisn=true>

# UC TAP & TAG

Melissa M. Chávez, M.A.

University of California,  
Santa Barbara

Assistant Director,  
Transfer Services,  
Admissions &  
Transfer Prep

## UC Transfer Admission Planner

Planning your transfer to the University of California begins with the UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP). The UC TAP tool is an online resource for you to collaborate with your community college counselor and advisors at the UC campuses you are interested in transferring to. With this tool, you can enter your coursework by term and indicate your transfer plan by selecting the UC campuses you would be interested in transferring to and the major you would be interested in studying at each UC.

UC TAP works with Assist.org - the courses you take at your community college are recognized as UC-transferable by assist.org, which then calculates your UC GPA and UC transferable unit totals – two very important things you need to track in order to transfer to UC. In addition, the UC TAP tool will also recognize which courses you enter that will meet the 7-course pattern requirement.

Last but certainly not least – major preparation. In your “transfer plan,” you can indicate which majors you are interested in at each UC campus. The advisors at the UC can then take that information and advise you on required and/or recommended major preparation courses.

Use your UC TAP to:

- Calculate your UC transferable unit totals
- Calculate your UC transferable GPA
- Verify if your courses meet part of the UC 7-course pattern requirement
- Verify AP or IB exam credits meet UC transfer requirements
- Get advice from UC campuses
- And finally, to submit a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)!

Create your UC TAP account at <https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students>

## UC Transfer Admission Guarantee

The University of California has a program that will guarantee your admission to one UC campus. The Transfer Admission Guarantee, or TAG, is a contract between you and your TAG campus. As long as you meet the TAG requirements, you have a guaranteed spot at your TAG campus.

You can only choose one campus to TAG, and it is important to know that not all majors are available via TAG. Once you are ready to transfer, you will submit a Transfer Admission Guarantee through the UC Transfer Admission Planner. Be sure to follow your dates and deadlines, so you don't miss this opportunity!

The TAG is  
available at  
UC Davis, UC Irvine,  
UC Merced,  
UC Riverside,  
UC Santa Cruz and  
UC Santa Barbara

To find out more about UC TAG please visit <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html>



# Comprehensive Review and the Transfer Process

We all know that the admission process is a stressful journey that begins in the fall and continues through Winter and Spring until you enroll in your final destination. Admissions in general, and transfer admissions specifically, have become more selective each year. As a former transfer application reader, I asked myself a simple question, “Can this person succeed at our UC campus?” The following recommendations will assist you in developing and submitting a competitive application.

Santana Ruiz, M.A.  
UC Irvine  
Deputy Director,  
Center for Educational  
Partnerships

## COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW FOR TRANSFERS

Nine factors are taken into consideration for a transfer applicant. This is **not** a checklist but rather the nine general considerations that UC’s use across the system.

1. Completion of a specified pattern or number of courses that meet breadth or general education requirements.
2. Completion of a specified pattern or number of courses that provide continuity with upper division courses in the student’s major, such as a UC Transfer Pathway, AA degree for transfer (offered at CA community colleges only), or UC campus-specific major prerequisites.
3. Your grade point average in all transferable courses-especially in a UC Transfer Pathway or in major prerequisites.
4. Participation in academically selective honors courses or programs.
5. Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate your promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus.
6. Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of your college curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects, or programs.
7. Academic accomplishments in light of your life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, the first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status.
8. Location of the college and your residence.
9. Completion of a UC Transfer Pathway or an AA degree for transfer offered by a California community college.

For more information and the comprehensive review for transfer, visit <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/how-applications-are-reviewed.html>

## TRANSFER ADMISSION PAGES BY CAMPUS

**Berkeley:** <http://admissions.berkeley.edu/transferstudents>

**Davis:** [http://admissions.ucdavis.edu/admission/transfers/tr\\_selection\\_process.cfm](http://admissions.ucdavis.edu/admission/transfers/tr_selection_process.cfm)

**Irvine:** [http://www.admissions.uci.edu/applicants/transfer\\_selection.html](http://www.admissions.uci.edu/applicants/transfer_selection.html)

**Los Angeles:** [http://www.admissions.ucla.edu/prospect/adm\\_tr.htm](http://www.admissions.ucla.edu/prospect/adm_tr.htm)

**Merced:** <https://admissions.ucmerced.edu/transfer/selection-process>

**Riverside:** <https://trc.ucr.edu/transfer>

**San Diego:** <https://admissions.ucsd.edu/transfer/index.html>

**Santa Barbara:** <http://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/applying/transfer/eligibility-and-selection>

**Santa Cruz:** <http://admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/transfer-students/index.html>

# Navigating the UC Application

Jessica Verazas  
University of California,  
Riverside  
Assistant Director,  
Transfer Initiatives

## IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

FALL	August 1	Application opens
	October 1	FAFSA/Dream Act applications open
	November 1-30	Application filing period
	Early January - 31	Transfer Application Update (priority submission)
	March 2	FAFSA/Dream Act applications due
	March 31	Transfer Academic Update closes
	March-April	Admissions decisions released
	June 1	Transfer Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) deadline
	July 1	Deadline to submit all final official transcripts and test scores
WINTER/ SPRING	July 1-31	Application filing period
	August - September 15	Transfer Application Update (priority submission)
	October 15	Transfer Academic Update closes
	September - October	Admissions decisions released
	October 15	Transfer Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) deadline

## STEPS TO APPLY:

- STEP 1:** Research which campuses you want to apply to.  
**What to consider:** majors offered, location, campus size, and resources.
- STEP 2:** Research admissions requirements for your specific major(s) at each UC campus you are interested in and which terms are open for admission. (Note: some campuses are open for winter/spring admission).  
**What to consider:** GPA requirements, major preparation, additional general education requirements.  
**Pro tip:** Most UC campuses offer transfer advising for prospective community college students. Make an appointment to get the most detailed information about transfer requirements at each campus.
- STEP 3:** Meet with your counselor at your community college to review/update your education plan to ensure you are on the right track to meet UC transfer admission requirements.  
**Pro tip:** Meet with your counselor at least once a semester.
- STEP 4:** Begin drafting your responses to the UC Personal Insight Questions for transfer.  
**What to consider:** There is one required question that all transfer students must answer. You will then choose three additional questions to respond to from a list of 7 questions.
- STEP 5:** Apply for admission during the application filing period.  
**Pro tip:** Start filling out your UC application (i.e., demographic information and entering coursework) prior to the start of your semester before you get too busy with assignments and homework if you are applying in the fall.
- STEP 6:** Set up your admission portals for each campus you applied to for the most up-to-date admissions information from each campus.
- STEP 7:** Submit your Transfer Academic Update (TAU) during the priority filing period in January.  
**What to consider:** You will submit your final fall grades and any changes to winter/spring planned coursework. If your planned winter/spring schedule changes again, later on, you will be able to submit additional TAU's until March 31st.
- STEP 8:** Be on the lookout for admission decisions between March and April
- STEP 9:** Submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) and complete all winter/spring in progress coursework with passing grades  
**What to consider:** You may have admissions requirements you need to meet, including specific grades in-progress courses.
- STEP 10:** Submit all official transcripts and official test scores by July 1st.

# From Start to Finish:

## A Guide to the UC Application for Transfer

### GETTING STARTED

#### Create an account

- You will need an email and password.
- Use a non-school issued email account (e.g., Gmail, Yahoo)
- Check your email regularly (including your spam folders)

#### Selecting term & level

- The term will be the semester or quarter term you are applying for or when you hope to start at UC.
- Level of the applicant (e.g., freshman, transfer)   
*You are a transfer applicant if you have graduated high school and are enrolled in a regular session (Fall, Winter, or Spring) at a community college or university.*



Source: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/filling-out-the-application.html>

#### Saving information

- Click “Save & Continue” at the bottom of each page to save any entered information.  
*There is a 20-minute inactivity period, after which the application will automatically sign you out.*  
*The page will be marked with a checkmark in the navigation bar on the right-hand side when you have completed a page.*

### SECTIONS

#### About you

- Information about you and your family
- Citizen & Residency  
*Undocumented or DACA students are recommended to select “No Selection.”*

#### Campuses & majors

- Which campuses you are applying to and the majors you are interested in
- You must select a major for each campus you are applying to.

#### Academic history

- Enter all the colleges you have attended or will attend before enrolling at UC, coursework, and grades, and the last high school you attended.
- Refer to your transcripts and report everything as they would appear on official transcripts or academic records.
- If you have entered your academic information into the UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP), you can import your coursework into the application. The email you used to create a UC TAP account must be the same as the one used to create your UC application account.

#### Test scores

- AP exams, IB exams, TOEFL or IELTS, International exams

#### Activities & Awards

- Focus on quality, not quantity
- List the activities and awards that are most important to you.
- Activities do not necessarily need to be through organized, school-sponsored programs.
- There are five categories:
  - Award or honor*
  - Educational preparation programs (any programs that have enriched your academic experiences or helped you prepare for college)*
  - Extracurricular activity*
  - Volunteering/Community service*
  - Work Experience.*

If interested in EOP, applicants will be required to answer the following in 240 characters or less: Why are you interested in EOP?

### Scholarships & programs

- You will have the opportunity to select all scholarship categories that apply to you (there is no limit on the number of scholarships you can select)
- You can also indicate if you are interested in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which provides support services when you are at UC.
- **UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz have EOP programs.**

### Personal insight

- You will need to answer four questions: One question is required, and three are your choice.

### REVIEW & SUBMIT

- This is an overview of the information you have submitted.
- If you have remaining items to complete, you will see a “To Do” next to that section.

### SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

- Confirm your academic information and whether you would like to share your application information with certain people or groups (e.g., scholarship agencies, parents/guardians, counselors, etc.).
- Pay application fees and/or apply for a waiver. either by check/mail or credit card  
Apply for a fee waiver if you did not automatically qualify for one earlier in the application.

### CONFIRMATION

- A confirmation page will appear with important reminders and your UC Application ID Number, which is used to access the various campus student portals  
You will have a portal for each of the campus you apply to
- Many campuses communicate admission decisions and supplemental information requests through their portals
- Print a receipt of your application fees or view and print the entire application



# Comprehensive Review and the Transfer Process

The UC Personal Insight Questions are an opportunity to share a personal insight into who you are beyond your application. For transfer applicants, a total of 4 responses are required:

- There is one required question that requires a response
- Must choose 3 out of 7 additional questions to respond to
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words

**Source:** <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/personal-insight-questions.html>

## REQUIRED QUESTION

Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

## CHOOSE TO ANSWER ANY THREE OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN 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 artistic, 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.
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. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
7. 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?

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## TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Start early to give yourself ample time for edits and feedback
- Select questions that are most relevant to your experience
- Write persuasively; avoid listing out accomplishments, instead use concrete examples
- Use “I” and “my” statements
- Proofread and edit
- Solicit feedback
- Copy and paste your responses into your application



# After the Application

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## **After submitting your application to transfer, you must stay engaged and track your progress through the Admissions cycle. Be sure to:**

- Check your email regularly. UC campuses will contact you via email and/or your portal, which you will set up with your application.
- Meet all deadlines, especially if additional documents are requested of you.
- Ask questions if you need clarification on any matter.

## **After November UC Application Filing Period:**

- Look forward to your application submission acknowledgment.
- Set up your portal if instructed to do so by your UC campus.
- Do well in all your fall courses.

## **January:**

- Fill out and submit your Transfer Academic Update (TAU) when requested in January, with your fall grades and your updated, planned winter/spring courses.
- Submit any additional information that specific campuses may request of you as well.
- If applicable, submit supplemental application required for your major (e.g Art)

## **January-April**

- During this time, your UC application will be reviewed. Check your email frequently in case campuses have questions about the information you have provided. In most cases, you will be expected to respond within FIVE days to keep your application active.
- If you have questions of your own, contact the Admissions Office directly. If you are a UC Transfer Prep student, your program representative can be a resource to you, too, during the application review process.

## **Mid-March-May**

- Expect an admissions decision from each of your UC campus choices. Campuses post decisions on different dates throughout this period.
- Any offer of admissions is provisional. You must meet the conditions of admissions. Should any information be different from your application (such as a dropped or changed class), please contact the office.
- If you are not admitted and have new and compelling information to share, see if your campus has an appeal process. You must respond quickly.
- Some UC campuses may offer you a waitlist spot. You must accept an offer to be on the waitlist by the stated deadline. Make plans to transfer to another institution since there are no guarantees that you will eventually be given a spot.
- Take advantage of any in-person or virtual events for admitted students to help you decide where you will enroll.

## **June 1**

- To accept an offer of admission, you must submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to your UC choice along with any requested deposit by June 1. If you miss this deadline, your seat may be given to someone on the waitlist.

## **Related Topics**

- Orientation may take place in person or virtually. Most UC campuses will require participation. Sometimes you can enroll in classes early by attending.
- Academic Advising sometimes happens during Orientation, but at other times it takes place after you have finished Orientation. Work with campus and major advisors to learn about how your previous college work might meet requirements and how to create an educational plan through UC graduation.
- Housing is usually handled separately from the admissions process. Check with the housing office at your campus of choice. They will provide information and have separate deadlines and deposits. Look into options both on-campus and off-campus.

### **WHAT IS A TRANSFER ADMISSION UPDATE (TAU)?**

After applying, transfer students are required to submit an update of their grades and course records (even if there are no changes to report) by logging into their UC application and completing the TAU. These updates will ensure that UC campuses have the most current academic information available.

**If you apply for winter/spring admission,** TAUs need to include grades through summer and planned coursework through fall. The priority deadline is September 15.

**If you apply for fall admission,** TAUs need to include grades through fall and planned coursework through summer. The priority deadline is January 31.

# Navigating the University of California Successfully as a Transfer

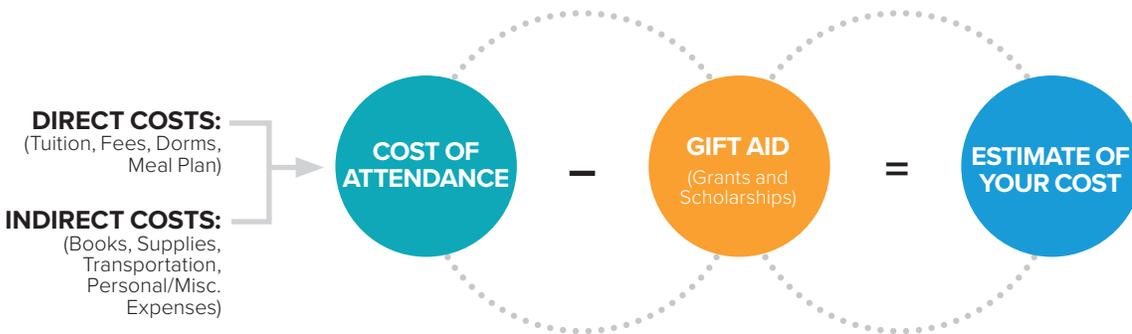
So you have applied for admission to several schools and have completed the financial aid application listing those schools. What happens next?

Well, shortly after receiving an offer of admission, you should also receive a financial aid award letter. Each school presents financial aid award letter information differently. However, they should all have the following key elements that will help you determine if the school is a financial fit for you and your family:

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Financial Aid  
Outreach &  
Communications  
Liaison  
UC Office of the  
President

- 1. Cost of Attendance** – This is the estimated average annual cost to attend a college or university. It includes tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, and other educational costs.
- 2. Gift Aid** – These are the grants and scholarships that have been offered. Think of this as a discount on your cost.
- 3. Loans** – This money you can borrow to help pay the remaining costs after gift aid has reduced your cost.
- 4. Work** – You may also be offered work-study in your financial aid award letter. You can access this award by securing a qualified job. Students with work-study jobs get paid by the hour, and their earnings are limited to the amount offered in their work-study award.

So how do you use these elements to determine how much this year of college will cost you? You can use a simple formula to get your answer:



## FINANCIAL AID OFFERS: WHEN WILL I KNOW

Depending on the UCs you apply to, it will vary when and what type of financial offer is sent to you. Some offers can be preliminary (a pending offer) or official (a set offer). Depending on the UC campus, you may receive a financial aid offer either with or after your admission decision. See the breakdown by campus below:

Preliminary Financial Aid Offer;  
**WITH** admission decision

Preliminary Financial Aid Offer;  
**AFTER** admission decision

Official Financial Aid Offer;  
**AFTER** admission decision



# How to Pay Your Estimated Costs

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Coming up with a plan to cover your estimated costs is essential to your financial success in college, and you may have several options to do this:

**UTILIZE STUDENT LOANS:** Student loans will be a part of your financial aid award offer. We encourage students to borrow only the amounts that they need. Coming up with a plan will allow you to determine how much you will need to borrow. There are two types of federal loans that are typically offered to students.

**SUBSIDIZED LOANS:** Payments for these loans are not required until six months after graduating or dropping below half-time enrollment in college. These are the most beneficial loans for students because they do not accrue interest while you are enrolled at least half time in college and during the grace period before the loan enters repayment.

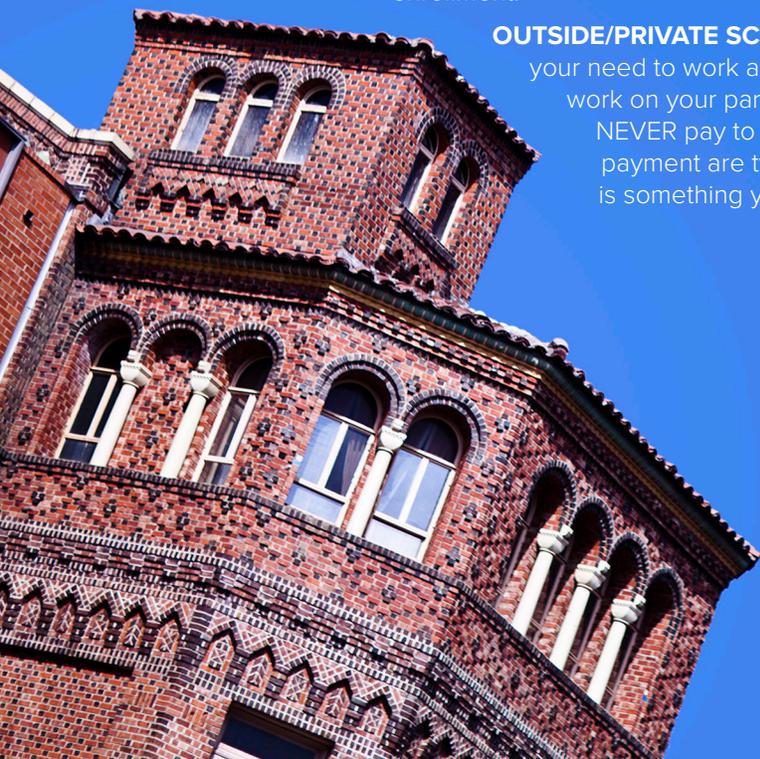
**UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS:** Like the Subsidized Loans, payments for these loans are not required until six months after you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment in college. The difference is that these loans begin accruing interest as the loan is disbursed (“disbursed” is the term used by colleges for funding loans). When it is time for you to begin making payment to your unsubsidized loan, if there is any unpaid interest, that interest will be added to the loan balance in a process called Capitalization.

**WORK-STUDY/STUDENT EMPLOYMENT:** Another opportunity you may see in your financial aid award offer is Work-study. If you do not see a work-study offer, but you are interested in work-study, contact your college financial aid office to inquire about being considered. There are student employment opportunities available in various departments at a college. Typically departments prefer a work-study awardee for student employment opportunities, but it is not always a requirement. Even if you do not have a work-study award and you would like to work in a particular department, it is recommended that you apply for the position you are interested in. Work-study and Student employees are paid an hourly wage.

**SAVINGS/INCOME:** If you or your parents have saved money for your education, figure out how these savings will factor into paying for your college costs. If your parents can offer you money from their current income, you should factor that into your plan as well.

**PARENT LOANS:** The federal government offers loans for parents. This loan will show up as a Parent PLUS Loan on a financial aid award offer. Like the Unsubsidized Loans, interest begins to accrue as the loan disburses, and any unpaid interest is capitalized when the loan goes into repayment. Repayment begins for these loans 60 days after the loan has been fully disbursed, but parents can opt to defer payments until after a student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment.

**OUTSIDE/PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP:** For students attending UC, a great way to reduce your need to work and borrow is to get outside scholarships. These do require some work on your part to find and apply for scholarships. Remember, you should NEVER pay to apply for or search for scholarships. Any services that require payment are typically a scam. Also, searching and applying for scholarships is something you should continue throughout your time in college.



# UC Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan or UC Types of Aid

UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will ensure that you will not have to pay UC's systemwide tuition and fees out of your own pocket if you are a California resident whose total family income is less than \$80,000 a year and you qualify for financial aid — and that's just for starters.

Blue and Gold students with sufficient financial need can qualify for even more grant aid to help reduce the cost of attending.

How to apply: FAFSA/California Dream Act Application + Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (you will be automatically considered when you submit these forms by March 2; there is no separate application for this program)

## WHAT'S COVERED

If you are eligible, your systemwide tuition and fees will be fully covered by scholarship or grant money. The plan combines all sources of scholarship and grant awards you receive (federal, state, UC and private) to go toward covering your tuition and fees.

Students with greater financial need can qualify for even more grant support to help defray other educational expenses (like books, housing, transportation, etc.).

You don't need to fill out a separate application to qualify for the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan. You will receive the benefits of the Blue and Gold plan automatically if you qualify.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Submit a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form by March 2
- California resident or have AB 540 status
- Demonstrate total family income below \$80,000 and financial need, as determined for federal need-based aid programs
- Be in your first four years as a UC undergraduate (first two for transfer students)
- Meet other campus basic requirements for UC grant aid (for example, be enrolled at least half-time during the academic year, meet campus academic progress standards, not be in default on student loans, etc.)

Source: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/blue-and-gold-opportunity-plan.html>

## OTHER GIFT AID TO CONSIDER

### MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Middle Class Scholarship (MCS) program provides funding to help middle-class students attend the University of California or California State University.

To learn more visit <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/middle-class-scholarship-program.html>

### CALIFORNIA DREAM LOAN PROGRAM

The California DREAM Loan Program provides eligible undocumented AB 540 undergraduates with the option to borrow loans to help cover the cost of attending UC.

To learn more visit <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/dream-loan-program.html>

# Transfer Housing

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Housing for transfer students varies from campus to campus. When deciding whether to live on campus, there are important factors to take into consideration. To help guide your decision, begin first by weighing your preferences. Remember, once you make your decision, you will be living there for the academic year.

## CONSIDER

### Cost

Is cost a top priority for you? The cost of housing varies even within a campus. More affordable options might not include certain amenities.

### Commuting in/around campus

Specific housing options are closer than others to the campus. Ask yourself what walking commute you are comfortable with. Are resources such as grocery stores near campus? If not, what type of public or free transportation, if any, is available to students?

If you have a vehicle, consider researching the parking at your campus and/or living community. Ask if parking is included in your housing cost or if it is an added cost. If you choose not to bring a vehicle, does the institution offer transportation in and around campus?

### Amenities

What amenities do you need and/or prefer? If your campus is located in an area that is warmer throughout the year, are you comfortable not having air conditioning? Additionally, are you comfortable sharing a room and restroom, if so, with how many?

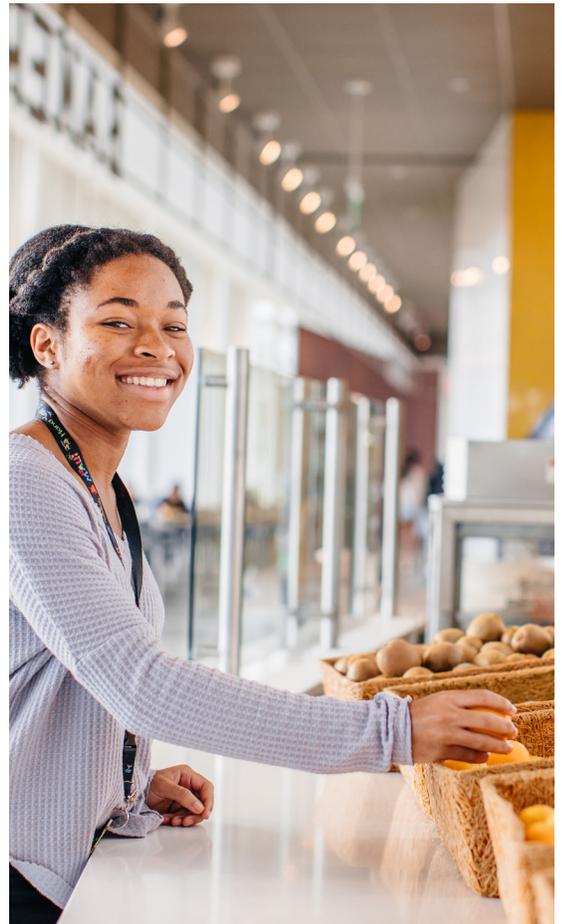
### Living Preferences

What type of experience are you looking for? Do you prefer a private and quiet space, or are you looking to have high interactions with other students? Consider what type of living experience you prefer when studying.

## FACTORS TO ASK ABOUT

Once you have weighed your preferences and have a better idea of the type of housing you are looking for, start researching and begin to ask specific questions as they pertain to:

- Guaranteed housing: Do they offer guaranteed housing for incoming transfer students?
- Housing Options: Research transfer housing options at the campus beforehand as you may be required to list in order of preference more than one housing option you want to be considered for
- Housing application: Does your campus require a housing application? It is important to be mindful of important deadlines.
- Roommate Survey: Some campuses will ask you to complete a roommate/living style application. Be honest about your living space and roommate preferences.



Generally speaking, there are two types of housing options available to students. The chart below provides a breakdown of each type of housing.

TYPE OF HOUSING	BEDROOM OPTIONS	OTHER ROOMS	AMENITIES
Apartment Style	Single private room, shared room with one person	Shared living room, kitchen restroom (or private restroom)	Air conditioning, private community study rooms, pool
Communal Living	Shared room: double or triple	Shared living room, kitchen, restroom with multiple people	Community room

Deadlines for Housing Applications will vary from campus to campus. Be sure to pay attention to the deadlines specific to the campus you want to attend so that you do not miss the opportunity to secure housing.

### HOUSING WEBSITES BY CAMPUS

**Berkeley:** <https://housing.berkeley.edu/>

**Davis:** <https://housing.ucdavis.edu/>

**Irvine:** <https://housing.uci.edu/>

**Los Angeles:** <https://portal.housing.ucla.edu/>

**Merced:** <https://housing.ucmerced.edu/>

**Riverside:** <https://housing.ucr.edu/>

**San Diego:** <https://hdhhome.ucsd.edu/>

**Santa Barbara:** <https://www.housing.ucsb.edu/>

**Santa Cruz:** <https://housing.ucsc.edu/>



## USEFUL LINKS

### **ARTICULATION:**

<https://www.assist.org>

### **CAREER/MAJOR EXPLORATION**

<https://www.transferbound.com/>

<https://www.candidcareer.com/>

### **CCC WIDE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

<https://www.cccco.edu/Students/Support-Services>

### **UC TAG/TAP**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html>

<https://uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students>

### **UC COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/how-applications-are-reviewed.html>

### **FILLING OUT UC APPLICATION**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/filling-out-the-application.html>

### **UC PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/personal-insight-questions.html>

### **UC FINANCIAL AID**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financialaid/types-of-aid/blue-and-gold-opportunity-plan.html>

### **UC TRANSFER:**

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/understanding-uc-transfer/>

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