UC **SANTA BARBARA**
FAQs from Parents

As your student awaits their admission decision, you likely have many questions regarding requirements and next steps. Below you will find some of the most frequently asked questions from parents and guardians during this time.

Updates 2/17/2022

How can my student apply for financial aid?

U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens are encouraged to apply for federal, state, and university aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). California students who qualify for exemption from non-resident tuition through AB 540 or AB 2000 are asked to apply for state and university aid by completing the California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Students should complete their aid application by the priority deadline of March 2, 2022.

California aid applicants: In addition to completing a FAFSA or CADAA, Cal Grant applicants must also submit a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) by March 2, 2022. Most high schools electronically submit their students' GPA information to CSAC, but all students should check with their high school to verify which method they use.

We strongly encourage *all* students to apply for private scholarships. Students can check with their school counselor for scholarships in their area. If your student is admitted and chooses to enroll at UCSB, they can log onto UCSB's Financial Aid website for reputable scholarships!

How will my student know that their financial aid application has been received?

Approximately one week after your student completes the FAFSA or CA Dream Application, they will receive their Student Aid Report (SAR). Students should carefully review their status and follow the instructions if they need to make any corrections. Our campus will receive their information as long as UC Santa Barbara is listed in the School Selection section. Students do not need to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to confirm that their financial aid application has been received.

How does my student update their financial aid application?

If corrections are needed to your financial aid application, we encourage you to make the appropriate revisions as soon as possible. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships uses the most current information when determining Financial Aid Offers.

To make corrections to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, please visit the following website: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

To make corrections to the California Dream Act Application, please visit the following website: https://dream.csac.ca.gov/

When will my student hear about their financial aid?

Admissions decisions will be released mid-March through the applicant portal. If a student is admitted to UCSB, they applied for financial aid by the March 2 deadline, and are eligible for aid, they will be notified of their financial aid offer on the applicant portal about a week after admissions decisions are released.

What about merit aid, how is that awarded?

Merit aid at UCSB or the Regents Scholarship is decided by a selection committee that conducts a comprehensive review of the freshman applicant pool to determine the student's strength and breadth of academic preparation. Selection is based on a thorough review of the admissions application. To be eligible for the Regents Scholarship, you must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or a non-citizen student qualifying under California Assembly Bills 130 or 131 with outstanding academic qualifications. Only students who fall under these categories are eligible for the Regents Scholarship.

All eligible freshmen admitted for the fall quarter at UCSB are considered for the Regents Scholarship, based on their UC Application for Admission. No additional information is required. UCSB typically offers the scholarship to students within the top two percent of admitted freshmen. Students are notified in March if they have been selected. **Decisions of the Regents Scholarship Committee are final. Appeals are not accepted.**

Are there any need-based scholarships I can apply for?

Yes! All of the scholarships managed by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need, except for the Regents Scholarship. Students must have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) to be considered for an internal scholarship, and preference will be given to those students who complete their application prior to the March 2 deadline. Admitted and enrolled students can log into ScholarshipUniverse to see which scholarships they meet the criteria for, and apply for all of them at once with a single application. However, due to the limited availability of scholarship funds, the majority of scholarships are awarded to continuing students with a demonstrated record of academic achievement at UCSB.

My student sent their official test scores a while ago, but they are still missing in the applicant portal. What do we do?

In the UCSB applicant portal, students can see their self-reported test scores that we have on file under the "Test Scores" tab. We will not be loading SAT/ACT scores into the applicant portal as they will not be used in freshman admissions selection. Other test scores can be self-reported and added to the application, and are visible in the portal under the test scores tab. Since UC campuses do not share official test scores, official AP, IB, and SAT Subject Test scores and transcripts should only be sent if you are admitted and choose to enroll at UCSB.

Our office is in the process of uploading many test scores to our system. **Since official AP, IB, and SAT Subject Tests are not required for admission, we are not prioritizing the upload of those scores to the applicant portal at this time.** We thank you for your patience.

Updates 2/3/2022

How can my student update their personal information with UCSB?
In the UCSB applicant portal, students can update most personal information, which will be reflected in our system within 24 hours. Students can update their name, address, email, text authorization, and phone number in the applicant portal under the "Personal Information" tab.

If students need to update their Social Security number (SSN), they can do so by logging into their UC application. They will need to click on the "update personal information" link to see their SSN. These changes will be sent to all UC campuses to which a student applied and are reflected in our system in approximately 2-3 days.

How can my student update their test scores?
In the UCSB applicant portal, students can see all of their self-reported test scores that we have on file under the "Test Scores" tab. If students need to update self-reported test scores, they can do so by logging into their UC application and making changes in the "test scores" section. These changes will be sent to all UC campuses to which a student applied and are reflected in our system in approximately 2-3 days.

Students may see that we are "missing" official test scores in their portal. **Please note that we do not require official transcripts or test scores at this time.** If we have students' self-reported test scores as shown in their portal, there is nothing further we need at this time. Students should only send official documentation if we contact the student and make the request; otherwise please expect to send official documents in July.

Can we visit the campus?
The Visitor Center has reopened and is now offering limited guided and self-guided visit options. Check out our Campus Visits webpage for more details. Registration is required for all guided tours. As we navigate campus safety guidelines and a reduced student

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UCSB

staff, we are only able to update our calendar in 2-3 week increments. If you are interested in visiting in March or April, you can expect visits to become available in late-February and early-March, respectively.

We appreciate your patience during this time. If you have questions, you can reach our Visitor Center team at eventmanager@sa.ucsb.edu.

How will my student know that their application was received?
In December, an email was sent to your student, confirming that their application was received. In January, we sent another email that gave them information about logging into their UCSB applicant portal. Students can access the applicant portal on our UCSB Admissions website under "My Status" or click here. We encourage all students to view the applicant portal tutorial first to make sure they understand the portal login process.

Can my student change their major at this time?
Students can request a change of major before admissions decisions are released. Students can send a request to admissions@sa.ucsb.edu listing their current major choice and their requested major using their UC application email. The message should include their full name, Application ID or UCSB Perm number, and a list of all fall grades (if available). The subject line should read "Major Change Request." We do not guarantee changes of major into the College of Engineering or the College of Creative Studies.

Can my student change their senior year course schedule?
We are aware that changes to a student's schedule may be necessary due to course availability or academic performance in the first semester. Due to the number of applications we are reviewing, we cannot advise on what students should do with their course schedule. Please be aware that changes to the curriculum that hinder students from completing the a-g minimum requirements will be subject to cancellation. Your student should review their course requirements with their high school counselor if they are dropping a course. If your student is admitted and chooses to enroll at UCSB, they can notify our office at that time with any coursework changes.

My student misreported a course or forgot to add an activity on their application - can we send updates to their application?
Due to the volume of submissions, we cannot update freshman applications once they are submitted. We will make an admissions decision based on the self-reported information provided in the UC application. After admissions decisions are posted on the UCSB portal, students can reach out at that time with any coursework changes, edits to their academic history, or appeals. We will not update the Activities/Awards section or Personal Insight Questions.

Can my student send their fall 2021 senior year grades for consideration?

The Office of Admissions will not review senior year grades for admission consideration. We will make an admissions decision based on the self-reported information provided in the UC application.

My student has letters of recommendation. Can we send those?

We know that parents, counselors, teachers, and friends alike have tremendous confidence in our applicants and their extraordinary accomplishments.

UC admission policy articulates that letters of recommendation are not part of the initial application process. Some campuses may request additional information for a subset of students when more information is required to complete their review. Beyond those special requests made by a campus, UCSB will not consider unsolicited letters as part of our selection process to ensure a fair and equitable review for all applicants.

When are admissions decisions released?

Admissions decisions for freshman applicants will be released mid-March on the UCSB applicant portal. If your student is admitted to UCSB, they will also find their "Steps to Enrollment" on the applicant portal, which will detail their next steps in the process of becoming a UCSB student.

My student is experiencing difficulty logging into their applicant portal. What should they do?

We recommend that students first view the applicant portal tutorial. If they are still experiencing difficulties logging in to their applicant portal after viewing the tutorial, please have them send an email to ucsb4me@sa.ucsb.edu using the email address from their UC application. Students should include their perm number or application ID in the email. Our counselors can further assist them via email.

Their portal shows missing test scores and transcripts. Should we send those?

We will not be loading SAT/ACT scores into the applicant portal as they will not be used in freshman admissions selection. AP scores, IB scores, or English Language Proficiency Exam scores can be self-reported and added to the application and will be visible in the portal under the "Test Scores" tab. Since UC campuses do not share official test scores, official test scores and transcripts should only be sent if your student is admitted and chooses to enroll at UCSB.

How can I access my student's admission information?

The Office of Admissions is very limited in the amount of information we can share with parents, guardians, and counselors. Only the student will be given direct access to their applicant portal. We are also limited in the information we can provide via phone or email. Parents and guardians are encouraged to speak with their student directly about the admissions process and any steps the student may need to complete.