

Alternative Majors FAQ: Opportunities at UCSB

A guide for UCSB applicants who were admitted to an alternate major in the College of Letters and Science.

1. Why wasn't I accepted to my first choice major?

A few excellent applicants were offered admission to an alternate major in the College of Letters and Science. Your first choice major was selective for admission, due to space limitations (or for transfer applicants, due to major preparation requirements). Unfortunately, the ratio of spaces to applications makes admission to particular majors highly competitive. The finite number of seats available in those majors strictly limit the possible enrollments. For transfer applicants, specific major preparation was required and after reviewing your application, we found that you were missing major preparation or did not meet GPA requirements.

2. Can I ask to be reviewed for a different major?

Yes. The change of major request is not considered an appeal. Depending on when the request is received, approval may not occur until after submitting your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).

College of Engineering

To request a change of major into a College of Engineering major, students must first submit a SIR. Students may request a change of major into a College of Letters and Science or College of Creative Studies prior to submitting their SIR.

Students who have submitted an SIR may submit a [Major Change to Engineering Request Form](#) to provide us with your preferred major should space become available.

A response to your request for an Engineering major change will not be considered until after the SIR deadline when we can assess space availability for the college. We understand that waiting for the decision about changing your major may be stressful, however we must first determine if space remains in the Engineering programs after students who are already admitted into Engineering submit their SIRs.

As a reminder, the SIR deadline to UCSB is due May 1 and if you were admitted, you would need to submit your UCSB SIR with the understanding that a major change into the College of Engineering may not be possible. If you SIR, you should do so with the intent to remain within the College of Letters & Science. Late SIRs will not be considered and your \$250 deposit is non-refundable.

College of Letters & Science and College of Creative Studies

- › **Freshman Admits:** To learn about submitting a change of major request to an open major in the College of Letters & Science, visit the [Major Changes](#) page.
- › **Transfer Admits:** Students who have appropriate major preparation in another major may request to be reviewed for an alternate major in the College of Letters & Science. Visit the [Major Changes](#) page for a list of open majors.

3. How do I change into a new major in the College of Letters & Science?

Your first step is to submit your SIR by the deadline in the [Applicant Portal](#). You may change into an open major in the College of Letters & Science before you start at UCSB by consulting the list and following instructions on the [Major Changes page](#). Transfer admits who request a selective major must meet all of the required major preparation before a change of major request can be considered. Depending on your desired major, students often must wait before changing majors on campus. New students should consult with the academic department once on campus in the fall.

4. If space does become available in my first choice major in the College of Engineering, will I be automatically considered?

Yes, for freshmen only. If your first choice major was one in the College of Engineering and a space in that major becomes available, you will automatically be considered for that major. [There is no need to submit a request](#) to change your major back into that first choice major. You will be notified if a space does become available and you're offered a spot.

5. What if I want to pursue a career in engineering or computer science?

If a career in engineering is your goal, consider other programs to which you have been admitted. The College of Letters & Science has many exciting majors, minors, and honors programs. Consult the list below for popular alternative majors and discover career tracks in [Engineering + Technology](#). Note that your college major does not necessarily define your career choice.

- › **Freshman Admits:** Be aware that transferring into the College of Engineering after enrollment at UCSB is very difficult and unlikely. The College of Creative Studies (CCS) does accept applications after enrollment. Interested students should consult with an Advisor in CCS.
- › **Transfer Admits:** Particular majors will not allow entry after admission (e.g. the College of Engineering, Biological Sciences, etc.).

Alternative Major Options:

[Actuarial science \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Chemistry and biochemistry \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Earth science \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Economics \(BA\)](#)

[Statistical science \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Geography \(BA\), and with geographic information science emphasis](#)

[Mathematics \(BA, BS\) and mathematical sciences \(BS\)](#)

[Environmental studies \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Physical geography \(BS\)](#)

[Physics \(BA, BS\)](#)

[Psychological and Brain Sciences \(BS\)](#)