

# UC SANTA BARBARA



## International Applicants Admission Guide Fall 2026

[admissions.ucsb.edu/international](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/international)



UC Santa Barbara is part of the 10-campus University of California system, one of the largest and most respected public universities in the world.

### Location

Santa Barbara is located 160 kilometers (100 miles) northwest of Los Angeles and less than two hours from the LAX airport.

### Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara is a tourist destination with excellent outdoor recreation, shopping, restaurants, movies and music.

### Weather

Located on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, UCSB enjoys beautiful year-round weather with warm summers and mild winters.

### Transportation

Biking is the main form of transportation on campus with 11 kilometers (7 miles) of bike paths. Students also have easy access to frequent bus transportation.

#8

public university in the United States  
(Forbes, 2025)

10

national institutes  
and centers,  
including the  
Kavli Institute for  
Theoretical Physics

#8

Best Value  
College - Public  
Institution  
(Princeton  
Review, 2025)

6

faculty Nobel Prizes in chemistry,  
economics, and physics

2,450

courses offered  
each quarter in  
UCSB's three  
undergraduate  
colleges

17:1

student-to-  
faculty ratio

Explore our coastal  
campus by scanning  
the code:



[admissions.ucsb.edu/events](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/events)

## Three Undergraduate Colleges

UCSB offers 85 majors and 51 minors in three colleges: the College of Letters and Science, the College of Engineering, and the College of Creative Studies. [admissions.ucsb.edu/majors](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/majors)

## Pre-Professional Programs

- › Technology Management ([tmp.ucsb.edu](https://tmp.ucsb.edu))
- › Pre-Law Program ([duels.ucsb.edu/professional/law](https://duels.ucsb.edu/professional/law))
- › Pre-Health Program ([duels.ucsb.edu/pre-health-advising](https://duels.ucsb.edu/pre-health-advising))

### College of Letters & Science

- Actuarial Science, B.S.
- Anthropology, B.A.
- Applied Mathematics, B.S.
- Aquatic Biology, B.S.
- Art, B.A.
- Asian American Studies, B.A.
- Asian Studies, B.A.
- Biochemistry, B.S.
- Biological Sciences, B.A., B.S.
- Biopsychology, B.S.
- Black Studies, B.A.
- Chemistry, B.A., B.S.
- Chicana and Chicano Studies, B.A.
- Chinese, B.A. (Mandarin)
- Classics, B.A.
- Communication, B.A.
- Comparative Literature, B.A.
- Dance, B.A., B.F.A. (audition required)
- Earth Science, B.A., B.S.
- Ecology and Evolution, B.S.
- Economics, B.A.
- Economics and Accounting, B.A.
- English, B.A.
- Environmental Studies, B.A., B.S.
- Feminist Studies, B.A.
- Film and Media Studies, B.A.
- Financial Mathematics and Statistics, B.S.
- French, B.A.
- Geography, B.A.
- Geography, Physical, B.S.
- German, B.A.
- Global Studies, B.A.
- History, B.A.
- History of Art and Architecture, B.A.
- History of Policy, Law, and Governance, B.A.
- Hydrologic Sciences and Policy, B.S.
- Italian Studies, B.A.
- Japanese, B.A.
- Language, Culture and Society, B.A.
- Latin American and Iberian Studies, B.A.
- Linguistics, B.A.
- Mathematics, B.A., B.S.
- Medieval Studies, B.A.
- Middle East Studies, B.A.
- Molecular & Cellular Biology, B.S.
- Music, B.M. (audition required)
- Music Studies, B.A.
- Philosophy, B.A.
- Physics, B.A., B.S.
- Physiology, B.S.
- Political Science, B.A.
- Portuguese, B.A.
- Psychological and Brain Sciences, B.S.
- Religious Studies, B.A.
- Russian and East European Studies, B.A.
- Sociology, B.A.
- Spanish, B.A.
- Statistics and Data Science, B.A., B.S.
- Theater, B.A., B.F.A. (audition required)
- Zoology, B.S.

■ Indicates majors also available as a minor.

### College of Engineering

Chemical Engineering, B.S.  
Computer Engineering, B.S.  
Computer Science, B.S.  
Electrical Engineering, B.S.  
Mechanical Engineering, B.S.

#### Five-Year Programs

Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering, B.S./Materials, M.S.  
Computer Engineering, B.S./Computer Science, M.S. or Electrical and Computer Engineering, M.S.  
Computer Science, B.S./Computer Science, M.S.  
Electrical Engineering, B.S./Electrical and Computer Engineering, M.S.  
Mechanical Engineering, B.S./Mechanical Engineering, M.S.

### College of Creative Studies

Art, B.A.  
Biology, B.A.  
Chemistry/Biochemistry, B.A., B.S.  
Computing, B.S.  
Marine Science, B.A.  
Mathematics, B.A., B.S.  
Music Composition, B.A.  
Physics, B.A., B.S.  
Writing and Literature, B.A.

### UCSB Minors

American Indian and Indigenous Studies  
Applied Psychology  
Architecture and Urban History  
Astronomy and Planetary Science  
Educational Studies  
Game Studies  
Iranian Studies  
Jewish Studies  
Labor Studies  
Language and Speech Technologies  
Legal Humanities  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies  
Mathematics for High School Teaching  
Media Arts and Design  
Museum Studies  
Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice

Professional Writing (*Tracks: Professional Editing, Writing & Civic Engagement, Multimedia Communication, Business Communication, Science Communication, Journalism*)  
Russian  
Science and Mathematics Education  
Sociocultural Linguistics  
Spatial Studies  
Speech-Language Sciences and Disorders  
Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages  
Theater Production and Design  
Translation Studies







## Housing, Dining, & Student Life



Housing is guaranteed to all students in their first year.

[Learn more: housing.ucsb.edu](https://housing.ucsb.edu)



**16**

Living Learning Communities including Women in STEM, Outdoor Adventure, Multicultural Experience, and more



**35,000+**

students live on or within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of campus



**~500**

student organizations including cultural and educational clubs like the Chinese Student Association, Hermanas Unidas/ Hermanas Unidos, Southeast Asian Union, and more



**28**

sports club teams



# Freshman Admission Requirements

Admission to UCSB is competitive. The Office of Admissions is familiar with educational systems around the world and provides each applicant with a comprehensive review after applying.

[admissions.ucsb.edu/international-freshman-eligibility-selection](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/international-freshman-eligibility-selection)

Apply online: [apply.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu)

## Required Test

For students whose language of instruction is not English, submit scores from the TOEFL (minimum score of 80) **OR** IELTS (minimum score of 6.5) **OR** the DuoLingo English Test (minimum score of 115).

## A Note on ACT & SAT Exams

UCSB will not use SAT/ACT scores in our admission selection.



## International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma students must take a minimum of six IB exams, with three exams taken at the higher level. The overall average must be 5 with no exam score below 4.

## British Systems

You must complete at least five GCSE/IGCSE (O-Level) exams with a 3.4 GPA or higher and at least three GCE (A-Level) exams with a 3.0 (unweighted) GPA or higher and no grade below C to be considered for admission. If you receive A, B or C grades on your GCE (A-Level) exams, UCSB may grant you transfer credit toward your bachelor's degree. The exact amount of credit will be determined after you are formally admitted and provide your official Statement of Results.



## Curriculum Requirements by Country

Generally, an applicant to UCSB will have graduated from a secondary school and earned a certificate of completion that enables attendance at a university in that country.

[admissions.ucsb.edu/international-freshman-eligibility-selection](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/international-freshman-eligibility-selection)

### Australia

**Capital Territory:** Completion of Australian Capital Territory Senior Secondary Certificate with B average

**New South Wales:** Completion of New South Wales Higher School Certificate with 70 average in 90-0 scale or 4 in Bands of Achievement

**Northern Territory:** Completion of Northern Territory Certificate of Education with 14 average

**Queensland:** Completion of Queensland Senior Certificate with HA (B) average

**South Australia:** Completion of South Australian Certificate of Education with 14 average

**Tasmania:** Completion of Tasmanian Certificate of Education with average of HA (B) in AO-SA scale or 14 in 20-0 scale

**Victoria:** Completion of Victorian Certificate of Education with B average

**Western Australia:** Completion of Western Australia Certificate of Education with B average

**Brazil** Completion of Certificado de Ensino Médio (Certificate of Completion of Secondary Education) with a minimum average of at least 7 on the 1-10 scale or an average of at least 70 on the 100-0 scale

### Canada

**Alberta:** Completion of Certificate of Secondary Education Advanced High School Diploma with a minimum average of at least 65

**British Columbia:** Completion of Secondary School Graduation Diploma with a minimum average of at least 73

**Nova Scotia:** Completion of Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma with a minimum average of at least 70

**Ontario:** Completion of OSSD - Ontario Secondary School Diploma with a minimum average of at least 70

**Quebec:** Completion of Diplôme d'études secondaires (General) and two years CEGEP (Colleges d'enseignement general et professionnel)

**China** Completion of Graduation Certificate from upper middle school and Senior High School Graduate Certificate with B average

**France** Completion of Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement de Second Degré/Baccalauréat Général (Baccalaureate of Second Degree Education/General Baccalaureate) with 12 average

**India** Completion of both year X and XII state board or CBSE examinations, with a minimum average of at least 60 and no mark below 45

**Japan** Complete Kotogakko Sotsugyo Shosho (Upper Secondary School Graduation Diploma) with a minimum average of at least 4

**Jordan** Completion of Tawjihi **or** Completion of General Secondary Education Certificate (Literary or Scientific) with a minimum average of at least 70

**Kuwait** Completion of Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-A'ama (General Secondary Education Certificate) with a minimum average of at least 80

**Mexico** Completion of Bachillerato with a minimum average of at least 8 average in 10-0 scale or an average of at least 80 in the 100-0 scale

**New Zealand** Completion of year 13 and earn the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3 with an average of Merit (M), obtaining at least 42 credits

**Peru** Completion of Certificado de Estudios de Educación Secundaria Común Completa (Certificate of Completion of General Secondary Education) with a minimum average of at least 12

**Philippines** Completion of 12-year Elementary-Secondary education and receive a High School Diploma after the 12th year with a minimum average equivalent of at least 85

**Qatar** Completion of Al-Thanawiya Aama Qatari (Qatari General Secondary Education Certificate) with a minimum average of at least 70

**Republic of South Korea** Completion of Inmungye Kodung Hakkyo (High School Certificate with a minimum average of at least B or an 80 on the 1-100 scale or 4 or lower average in 1-9 ranking

**Saudi Arabia** Completion of Shahadat Al-Marhalat Al-Thanawiyyat (General Secondary Education Certificate) with a minimum average of at least 75

**Singapore** Completion of at least 5 General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE, GCSE, O-Levels) with at least a 3.40 GPA and at least 3 General Certificate of Education (GCE, A-Levels) with a minimum average of B and with no grade below C

**Switzerland** Completion of Eidgenössisch anerkannte Kantonale Maturität or Maturité cantonal reconnu par la Confédération or Eidgenössisches Maturität, Maturité fédérale, Baccalauréat or Maturità cantonale riconosciuta dalla Confederazione with 5 average

**Taiwan** Completion of Senior High School Leaving Certificate with a minimum average of at least 70

**Thailand** Completion of Mathayom 6 (Certificate of Upper Secondary Education) with a minimum average of at least 70 or 3 average in 4-0 scale

**Turkey** Completion of Lise Diploması (General Secondary School/ Lyceum Diploma) with 4 average in 5-0 scale or 70 in 100-0 scale

**United Arab Emirates** Completion of Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-Amma (General Secondary Education Certificate) with a minimum average of at least 80

**Vietnam** Completion of Bằng Tốt Nghiệp Trung Học Phổ Thông (Senior High School Certificate) with a minimum average of at least 7



## Facts & Figures



2,952  
graduate  
students

23,181  
undergraduates



1,990

international  
undergraduates  
(9% of all UCSB  
undergrads in  
Fall 2025)

**Top Countries  
of Origin:**  
China, India,  
S. Korea, Taiwan,  
Canada, Hong  
Kong, Brazil,  
Turkey, Mexico,  
Japan

### Freshman Class 2025

110,184 applicants  
38% admission rate  
5,050 estimated enrolled

### Transfer Class 2025

18,847 applicants  
59% admission rate  
2,065 estimated enrolled

## Cost of Attendance 2025-2026

Tuition and Fees	\$16,452
Supplemental Tuition and Fees	\$34,200
Books and Supplies	\$1,485
Room and Board	\$21,627
Health and Transportation	\$4,677
Personal Expenses and Phone	\$2,619
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$81,060</b>

Costs in this table are subject to change.

\* Average origination fees for student borrowers.

Tuition and Fees are set for a student's tenure, details are online through the Financial Aid site: [finaid.ucsb.edu](https://finaid.ucsb.edu)

## Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)

OISS helps international students secure a student visa, plan an academic program, and learn about studying in the U.S. through the Culture, Academics, Laws and Immigration (CALI) training. [oiss.ucsb.edu](https://oiss.ucsb.edu)

- › **I-20:** After deposit, the I-20 will be issued by OISS.
- › **Minimum Financial Requirement:** After deposit, financial documentation is required.
- › **Working:** Employment for F-1 visa students is limited.

## Bookmark Now

Dates & Deadlines: [admissions.ucsb.edu/deadlines](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/deadlines)

Resources: [admissions.ucsb.edu/publications-and-videos](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/publications-and-videos)

Celebrate Diversity: [admissions.ucsb.edu/communities](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/communities)

General Questions: [admissions.ucsb.edu/faq](https://admissions.ucsb.edu/faq)



## UCSB Office of Admissions

1210 Cheadle Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2014 | [admissions.ucsb.edu](https://admissions.ucsb.edu) | [admissions@ucsb.edu](mailto:admissions@ucsb.edu) | (805) 893-2881



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