2011–2012

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Get a head start on your UC freshman application.

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

UC

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Before You Begin

Gather your information

Having everything you'll need in hand before you start your application means you won't be stuck trying to get a copy of your transcript on the last day. Use the checklist and worksheet on pages 3–4 as your guide.

Research your options

There may be different degree programs at several UC campuses that can get you to your career goal; knowing what they are will give you more options when you apply. Check which majors are open in a given term at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/openmajors.

Campus Major Offerings

UCB	http://students.berkeley.edu/admissions/general.asp?id=20
UCD	http://admissions.ucdavis.edu/academics/majors.cfm
UCI	www.admissions.uci.edu/academics/majors_minors.html
UCLA	www.admissions.ucla.edu/majors
UCM	www.ucmerced.edu/current_students/academics.asp
UCR	www.ucr.edu/academics/undergradmajors.html
UCSD	www.ucsd.edu/current-students/academics/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.

Pick an e-mail address and stick with it

Campuses e-mail applicants to request or clarify information; they often need a quick response. Provide an e-mail address that you'll check regularly and keep until you enroll. 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 our help desk at ucinfo@ucapplication.net, or call (800) 523-2048 (in CA) or (925) 808-2181 (outside CA).

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 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 essays 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.

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 merit, financial need or both. Visit www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/scholarships to research deadlines and additional requirements. You may qualify for more help than you'd expect.

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 $60 per campus ($70 if you're an international student). 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 who otherwise would be unable to apply. You can apply for a fee waiver within the application and find out immediately whether or not you qualify.

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Checklist

Transcripts

You'll need to enter courses and grades from all school 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 will need to tell us how many semesters you completed.

Test scores

This includes your ACT with Writing and/or SAT scores and any Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, TOEFL or IELTS 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 2009 and 2010. Refer to tax records or pay stubs.

Social Security number (if you have one)

We use your Social Security number to verify your identity and match your application to your transcripts and test score reports. It will be kept confidential.

Citizenship status

You must enter your country of citizenship (or "No Selection"). If you select a country other than the United States, you'll need to provide your immigration status and the type of visa you hold (such as H-1, J-2, etc.).

ELC ID number (if applicable)

If you were designated by UC as Eligible in the Local Context, include the 12-digit identification number included in your notification letter.

Statewide Student ID (optional)

Each K–12 student in California public schools is assigned an 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.)

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.

Activities and Awards

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	Years(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 studens 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	Years(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	Years(s) of involvement 9th	10th	11th	12th	After 12th	Hours per week	Weeks per year
		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Work Experience List paid work only.

Job title	Responsibilities	Years(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 wil you put your earnings?

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

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

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

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

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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 acknowledgment

As soon as you submit your application, you'll receive an e-mail confirming it has been successfully filed. Four to five weeks later, you should get another acknowledgment from the UC Undergraduate Application Processing Service confirming your application and fees were received. If you do not receive this acknowledgment, contact the processing service at ucinfo@ucapplication.net, 800-523-2048 (in California) or 925-808-2181 (outside California).

Order test score reports

Be sure to have the relevant testing agency send your official ACT and/or SAT results to UC. If you have a report sent to one campus, it will be shared with all the campuses to which you apply.

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 15.

Applying for Financial Aid

There's money available to help you attend UC. If your family income is less than $70,000, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will cover, at a minimum, your systemwide fees. 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, 2011. Here's how:

Submit a FAFSA. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available at www.fafsa.gov.

Submit your GPA for a Cal Grant. If you're a California resident embarking on 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 "Quick Hits").

Find out more about UC's financial aid programs: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying.

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Making Changes to Your Application

If you change your phone number, e-mail 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, notify the admissions office at each campus where you applied.

If you enroll in a new school or college after applying

Notify the admissions office at each campus where you applied. 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

October:	Application opens for fall 2011 at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
Nov. 1-30:	Filing period for fall 2011. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Nov. 30.
Jan. 1:	Filing period opens for GPA Verification Form (required of California residents for Cal Grant consideration) and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (www.fafsa.gov).
March 1-31:	Notification of fall 2011 admission decisions
March 2:	Deadline for applicants for all terms to submit FAFSA and GPA Verification Form
May 1:	Deadline for fall 2011 admitted freshmen to submit Statement of Intent to Register to chosen campus
July 1-31:	Filing period for winter quarter/spring semester 2012. See www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/openmajors for current openings.
July 15:	Final official transcripts due at campus admissions offices for students admitted for fall 2011.