PRESENTING YOURSELF ON THE UC APPLICATION

Freshman

2021-2022

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Read happening today!

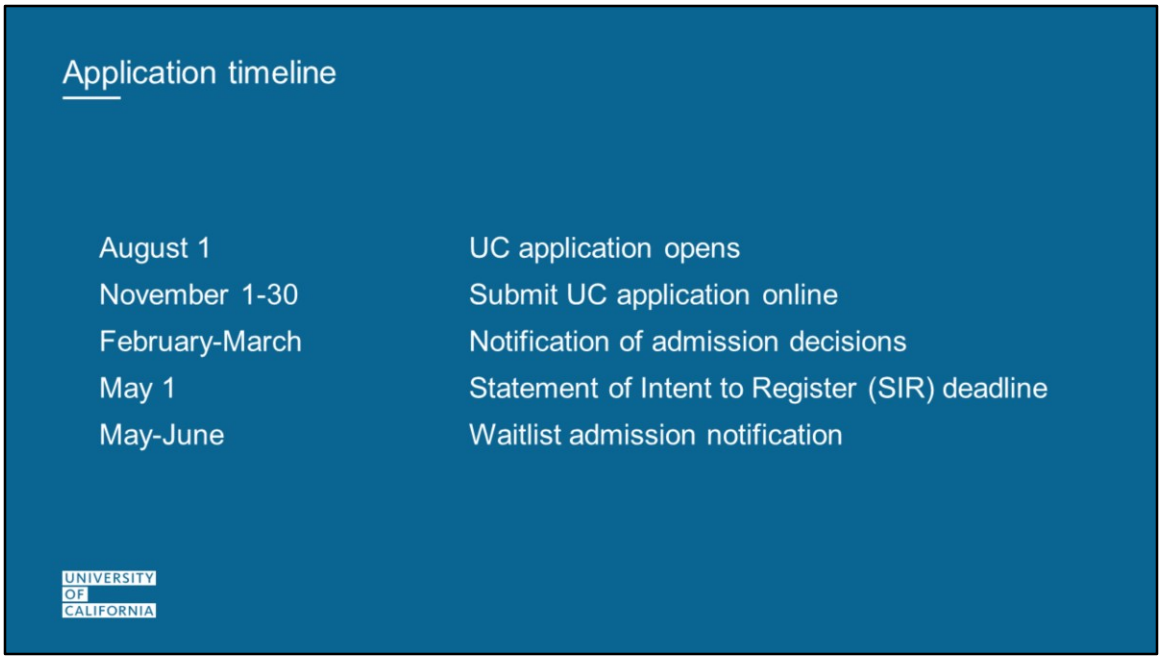
This is a screen shot of the application showing the locations of the campuses. The map will display dependent on the resolution and screen size of the computer or mobile device.

The UC is one of the largest university systems in the world offering undergraduate and graduate programs on campuses located across the state.

<u>Additional Notes for reference:</u>

Campuses with medical centers:
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC San Diego
UC San Francisco

Campuses with schools of law:
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC Hastings College of Law (located in San Francisco)



• **Fall Admission Application:** Opens August 1. For other terms (winter/spring) go to: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/dates-deadlines/

• **Application Submission:** between November 1 and 30. Applicants must meet the deadline; late applications are rarely accepted.

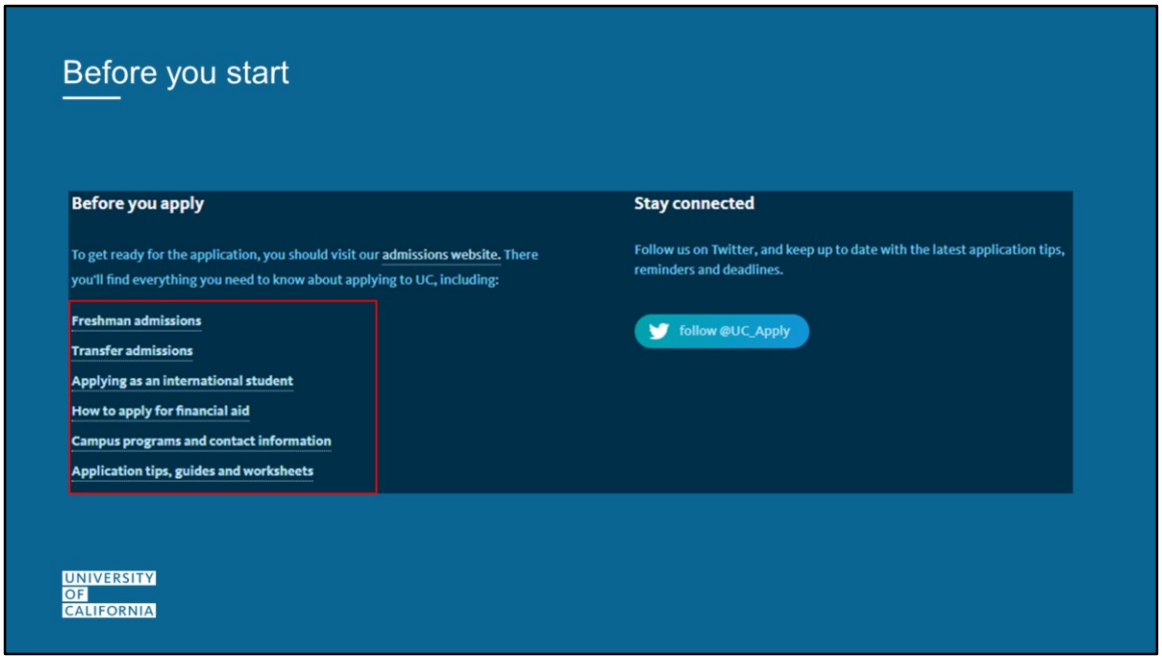
• **Admission Decisions:** Campuses may begin to admit students as early as February 1, but most students will receive notification of admission via the campus' applicant portal during the month of March.

• **Waitlist Offers:** Some students may receive an offer to be placed on a waitlist at one or more campuses. If a waitlist offer is extended, applicants must respond by the stated deadline. UC campuses very rarely make exceptions for a late response.

• **Guarantee of Admission:** In mid-April, applicants who were identified as being in the Top 9% Statewide or Top 9% Local Context (ELC) and met/will meet all admission requirements, *but were not offered admission to any campus at which they applied*, will be sent an email message if another campus has space available to offer them a place. Guaranteed admission is only for California resident students in California high schools.

• **Statement of Intent to Register:** May 1 is the deadline to submit the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) (accept an offer of admission) to ONLY ONE UC campus for all freshman admits who received an offer by April 1. Admit offers received after April 1 will include a corresponding SIR deadline. The SIR deposit is $250.

• **Waitlist Decisions:** Early May to early July, campuses will notify applicants who accepted a place on the waitlist of the final decision on their application.


Before you start
Before you apply
To get ready for the application, you should visit our admissions website. There you'll find everything you need to know about applying to UC, including:
Freshman admissions
Transfer admissions
Applying as an international student
How to apply for financial aid
Campus programs and contact information
Application tips, guides and worksheets
Stay connected
Follow us on Twitter, and keep up to date with the latest application tips, reminders and deadlines.
follow @UC_Apply
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Before you start

BE PREPARED

- Consider your major and campus options
- Get an unofficial copy of your transcripts
- Write your responses to the Personal Insight Questions
- Create a document outlining all your activities, awards and work/volunteer experience

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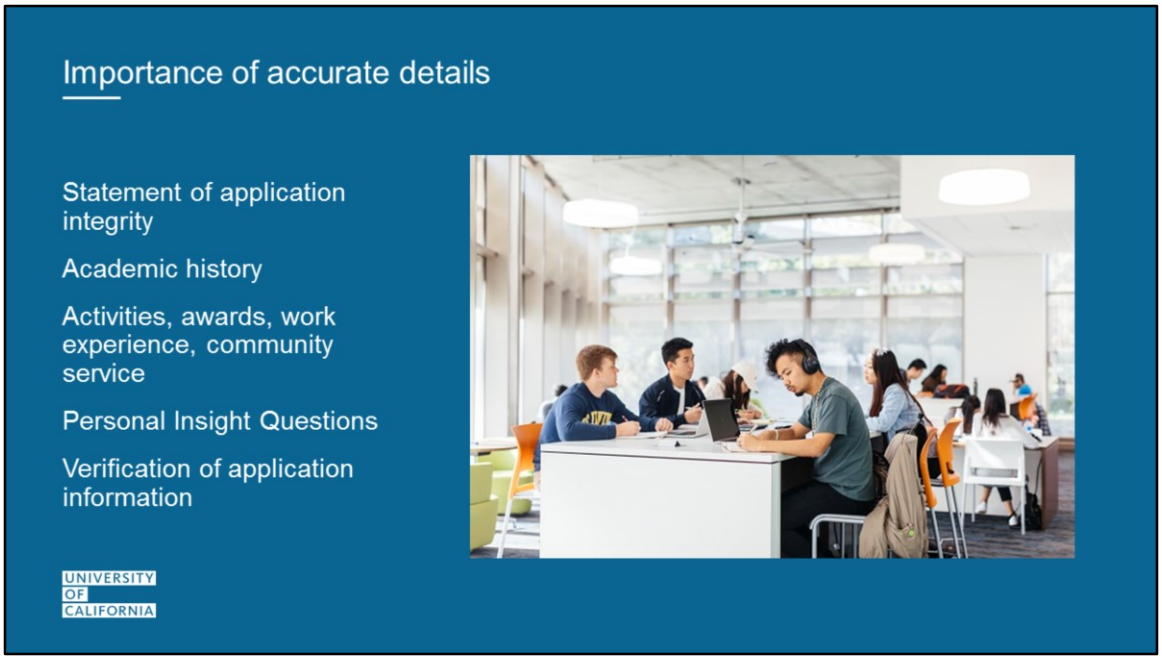
- Begin preparing for the application now – don't wait until November.

- Students should research the campuses now and apply broadly across the system.
  - Learn about the majors offered and all the types of courses needed to earn the UC degree to be fully informed about graduation requirements and plan how long it may take to graduate.
  - Some majors have different names across the system, and may be located in different departments.
  - Some majors are not open to freshman applicants, or for every term.

- Gather materials that will be needed: transcripts/academic records, list of current and planned courses, awards and honors, volunteer program timelines and hours, employment timeline and hours, etc.

- Responses to the personal insight questions are important.
  - Write responses early; refer to UC's online resources for writing tips, a worksheet, and a video to help get started.



Students must thoroughly complete all sections of the application and do so accurately. This is the student's opportunity to tell the admission staff about personal details that make each applicant unique.

Begin by reading the **Statement of Application Integrity**. Click on the link on the log-in page for the application, or go to:
https://admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu/docs/StatementOfIntegrity.pdf

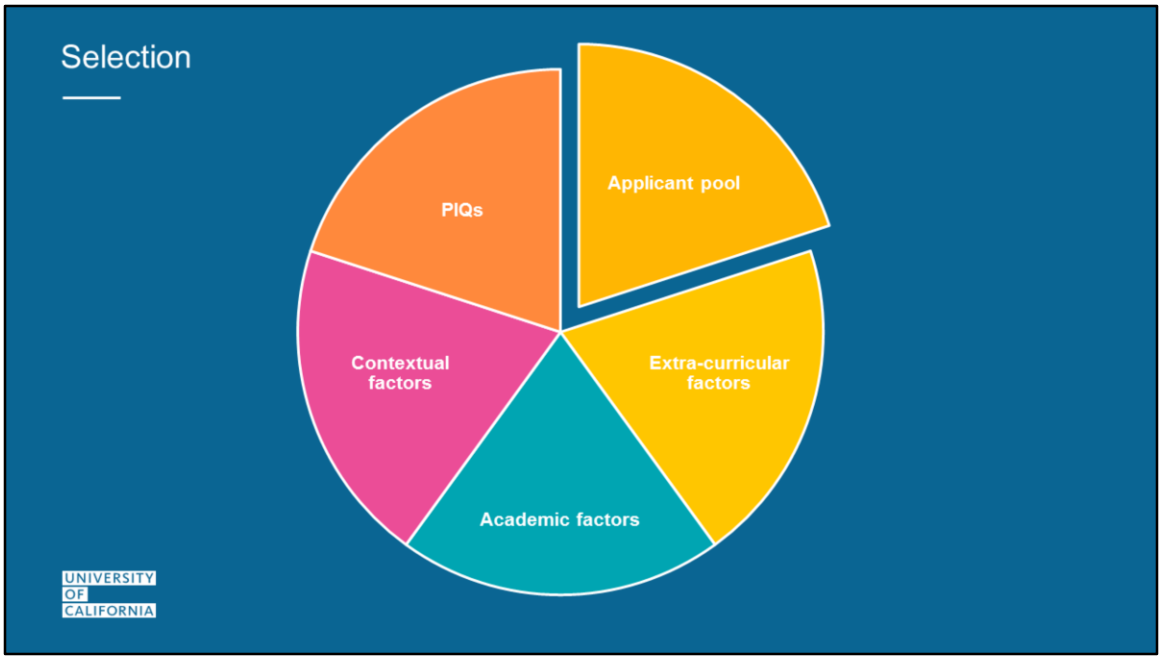
Accuracy of Details:

- **Academic History**: MUST be accurately reported--all enrollment, every school/college, all courses and grades (even/especially if a course was repeated). If a student accepts an offer of admission, UC requires official academic records to verify the information reported.
- **"Additional Comments"** box in the Academic History section can be used to provide detailed information or explanations about specific academic issues – declining grades, course selection issues, etc.
- **Activities/Awards**: Applicants should not exaggerate or fabricate awards or activities because the information submitted is subject to verification.
    - In fact, UC does verify information that students report on the application. It is critical that students do not misrepresent or falsify information, as this is a serious offense and will result in serious consequences. Honesty is the best policy.

To qualify for freshman admission, students must meet UC's subject and GPA requirements:

- **Subject requirements**
  - Complete a specified pattern of college preparatory coursework known as the A-G pattern:
    - History/Social Science (A-requirement): 2 years
    - English (B-requirement): 4 years
    - Math (C-requirement): 3 years
    - Science (D-requirement): 2 years
    - Language other than English (E-requirement): 2 years
    - Visual and Performing Arts (F-requirement): 1 year
    - College-prep Electives (G-requirement): 1 year
  - Please note that these are the minimum number of courses needed; most applicants present additional courses in many of these areas. In order to be a more competitive applicant, we encourage the completion of additional approved courses in as many subject areas in which you are interested and/or as are available to you.
  - The UC approved (A-G) course list for California high schools can be found at: (https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist). [Note: UC does **not** review/approve courses from **outside of California**; nonresidents can however select any CA list to gain a sense of the types of courses acceptable to UC.]
- **GPA requirement**
  - Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all A-G courses
  - We calculate your GPA on all of your sophomore and junior year A-G courses completed with letter grades, including courses completed in summers after 9th, 10th and 11th grades; not just on the minimums.
  - Nonresidents of CA need a minimum 3.4 GPA.

UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding Regents and Chancellor's scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility, or for course placement after you enroll.



Campuses use multiple factors when selecting students. The way in which campuses select students varies, and it is to the student's advantage to include as much information as possible on the application. Admission representatives want to know about the experiences, accomplishments, and challenges of every applicant.

Students should feel free to discuss their roles and responsibilities at work or in community service, share their stories in their PIQ responses, and talk about their educational journey. This is because every student is considered in the context of their own environment which includes, but is not limited to, school, family and geographic region. Students are also considered within the context of the applicant pool for each campus.

Each campus will complete their own individual review of the application independently of one another, which means that they're going to review the information in the application and select students without asking what the other campuses have decided. San Diego will not call Irvine and ask if they have admitted a certain student. Each campus selects students independently.

Comprehensive review

CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- Academic Achievement
- Personal and School Context
- Special talent
- Life challenges
- Special circumstances

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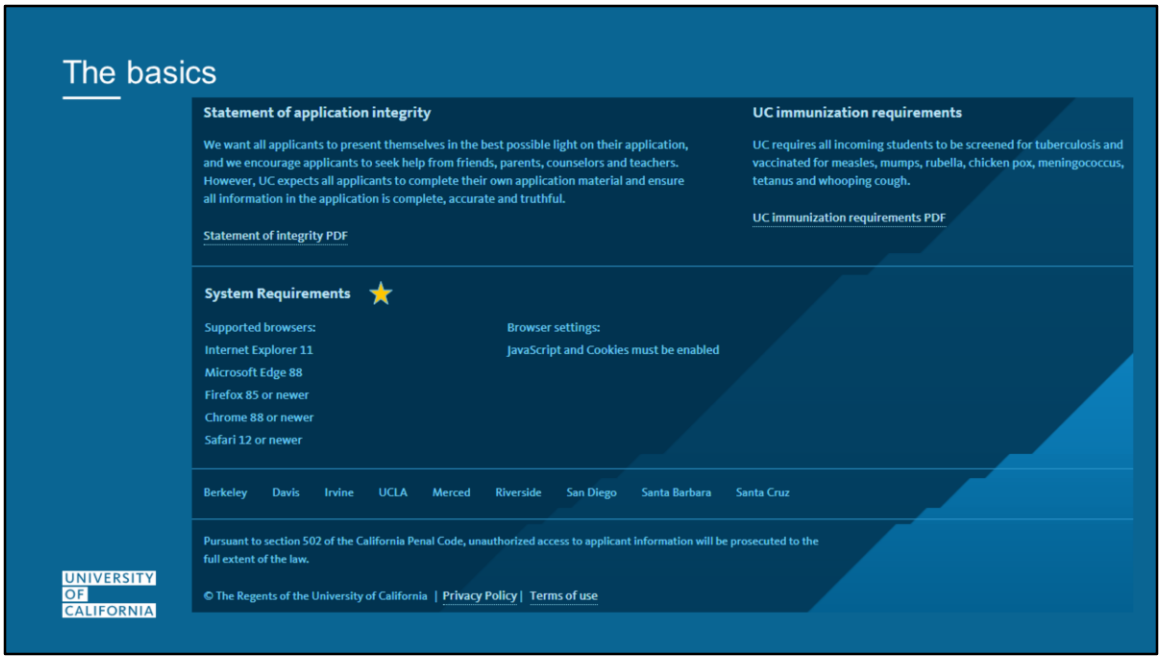
In general, campuses are looking for well qualified students who have taken advantage of the educational opportunities presented to them both inside and outside of the classroom.

The faculty-approved comprehensive review criteria are:

- Grade-Point Average
- Courses Completed/Planned
- Honors Courses
- Top 9% Local Context (ELC)
- Quality of Senior-Year Program of Study
- Academic Opportunities in California high schools
- Performance in Academic Subject Areas
- Achievements in Special Projects
- Improvement in Academic Performance
- Special Talents, Achievements, and Awards
- Participation in Educational Preparation Programs
- Academic Accomplishment Within Life Experiences
- Geographic Location

Campuses will also look at a student's achievement within the context of their educational environment and the resources and opportunities that were available to them. This is found in a number of areas of the application, not just in responses to the personal insight questions.

For more information on comprehensive review, please see:
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/freshman/comprehensive-review/



Browser recommendations
The UC online application functions with the following browser versions: Microsoft Edge 88, Firefox v85 or newer, Internet Explorer 11, Chrome 88 or newer, and Safari 12 or newer.

JavaScript and cookies
Our application uses JavaScript web page functionality and requires cookies. Please make sure JavaScript and cookies are enabled on your browser.

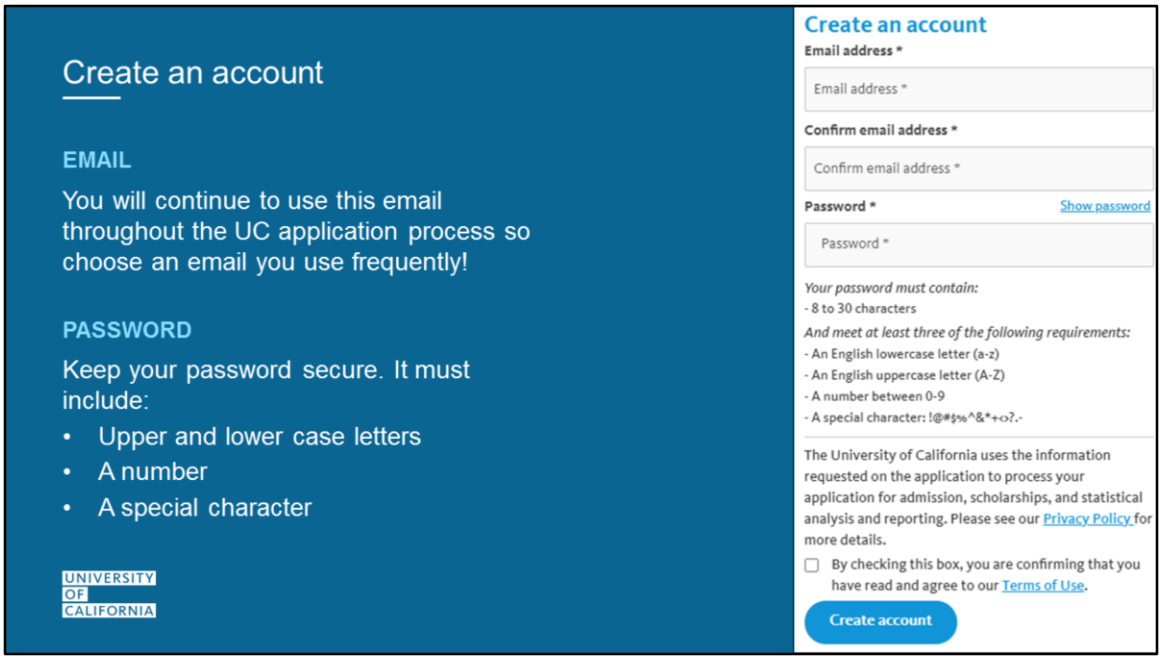
Security
Because it's important to protect the information you provide, the online application is extremely secure — so secure, in fact, that older browsers are not equipped to handle our level of encryption. Please download one of the browser versions listed above to ensure maximum security.

Responsive
The application is mobile friendly so you can use your tablets and other devices.

20-minute timeout for security
After 20 minutes of inactivity, the system will time out.

Character counts
All descriptions and PIQ responses have character counts to show remaining available space.

Save and Continue
In order not to timeout, you will need to click save and continue. If you do not, any information you've entered since the last save will be lost.



Create Your Account

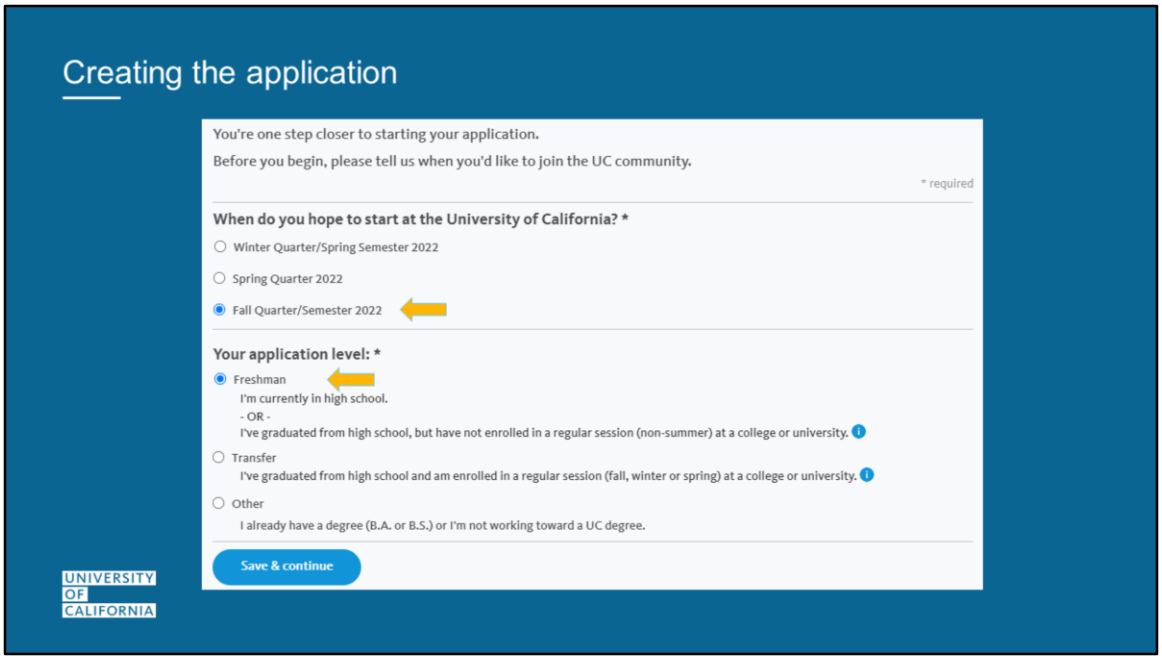
- New users must enter a unique e-mail address and password
- Students should use an email account they will check AFTER graduation as well (preferably not a school email address)
- Applicants will use this same account if they apply again in the future
- If the student's family has multiple applicants or has future applicants, different e-mail addresses must be used for each applicant
- Passwords must be at least eight characters (and must include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols/special characters)
- Create a secret question/answer combination that will be easily remembered
- Be sure to keep login information safe
- Once "Create a New Account" is complete, an e-mail confirming the start of your application will be sent
- Campuses use e-mail to send critical, time-sensitive correspondence to applicants, so provide an e-mail address that is checked regularly and will be kept until enrolling in college
- Remember to adjust e-mail filters to accept mail from UC addresses

Review

- Statement of Integrity **before** starting the application
- Common questions/answers for each page by clicking the "Help" button
- List of Closed Majors: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/majors/

Log In

- First-time users start by clicking "New Account"
- On return visits, enter e-mail and password information under "Sign In"

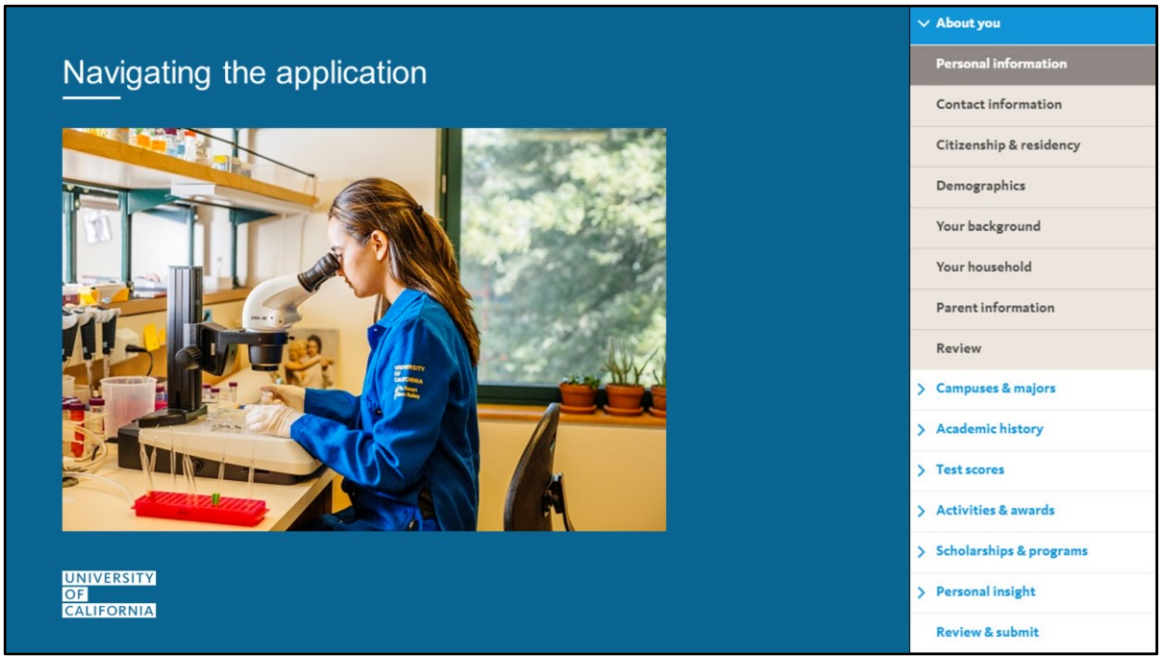


Level: Students must select the appropriate level for which they are applying.

- A freshman applicant is currently in high school or has graduated from high school, but has not enrolled in a regular session at a college or university after high school graduation (with the exception of the summer term immediately following high school graduation).
- A student who has enrolled in a regular term (fall/winter/spring) at a college or university after graduating from high school should apply as a transfer student.
- Middle college and dual enrollment students are considered freshman applicants since they have not graduated from high school with a diploma or GED.

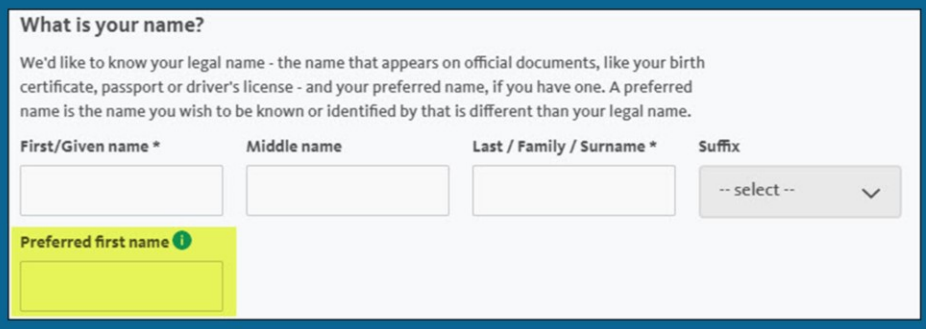
Note:
If students want to refer to a prior application, the option to do so appears on this screen.

LIVE
A LIFE THAT MAKES YOU PROUD
VIVA
GIVE
NO PARKING
CAMPUS CUTS
$15.95
HAIRCUTS



The navigation bar is on the right side of the screen. Students can complete the application in any order, but should complete the About You section first as it contains conditional logic which will be used throughout the application.

About you – preferred name



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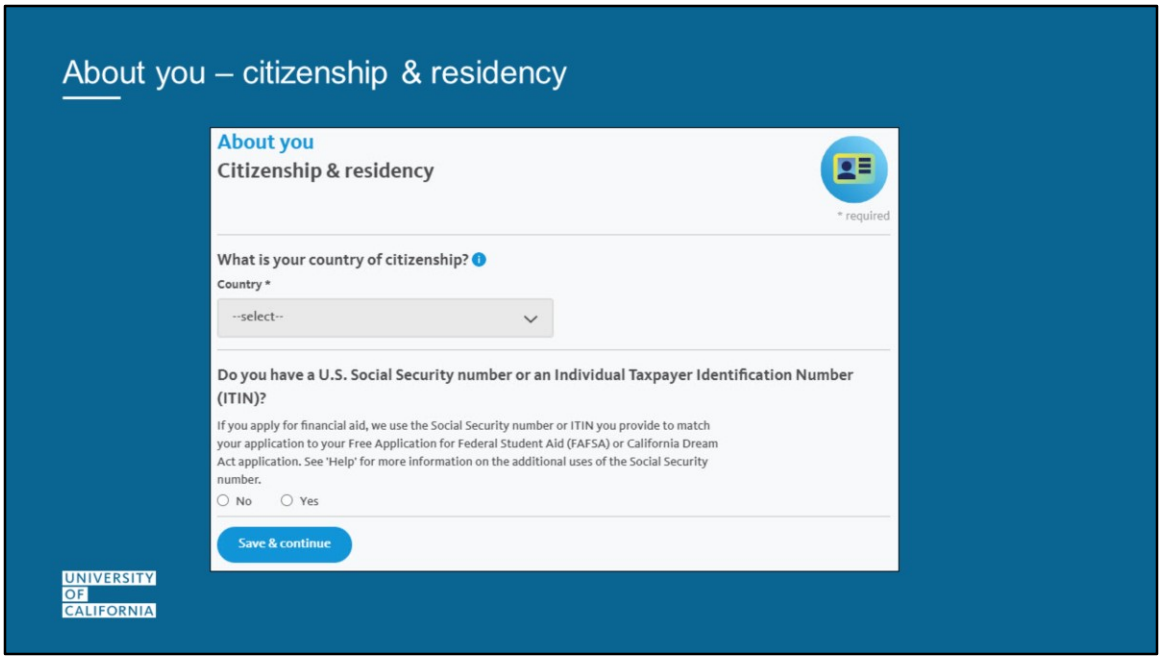


Citizenship

- Applicants must select a country of citizenship from the country drop-down menu.
- Those who choose a country other than the United States will have follow-up questions on permanent residency and/or visa status.

Undocumented Students

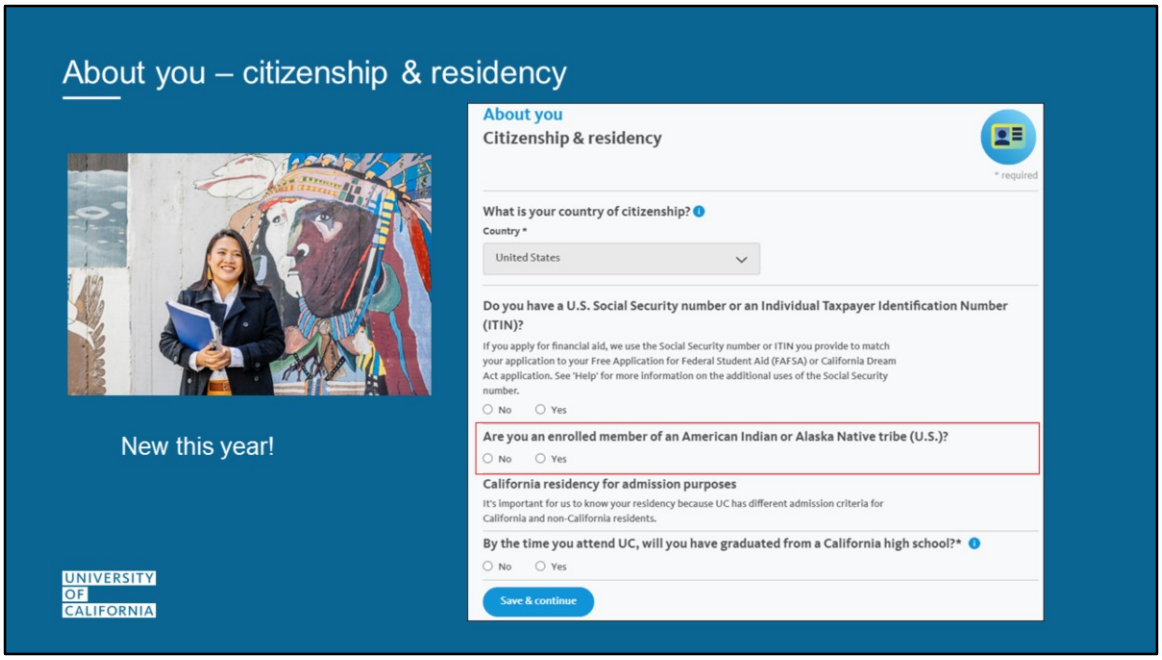
- For country of citizenship, select “No Selection” and follow the directions for the SSN below.

Social Security Number (SSN)

- All applicants who have a social security number (SSN) are required to enter it.
- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) participants and Undocumented students:**
    - Enter a valid SSN, SSN for work purposes, or ITIN if available. Otherwise, leave it blank.
- If an applicant does not have an SSN, he/she may skip that item.
- We use the SSN to accurately and reliably merge test scores (if submitted)

and the federal financial aid application with the admission application.

- SSN, SSN for work purposes and ITIN numbers are encrypted and kept secure.



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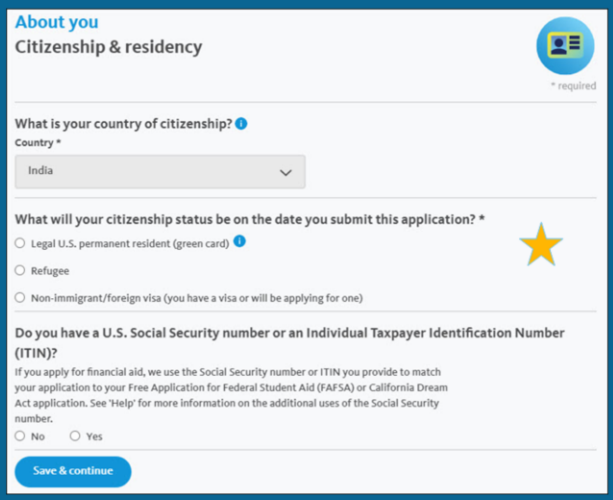
About you – citizenship & residency for non-US citizens



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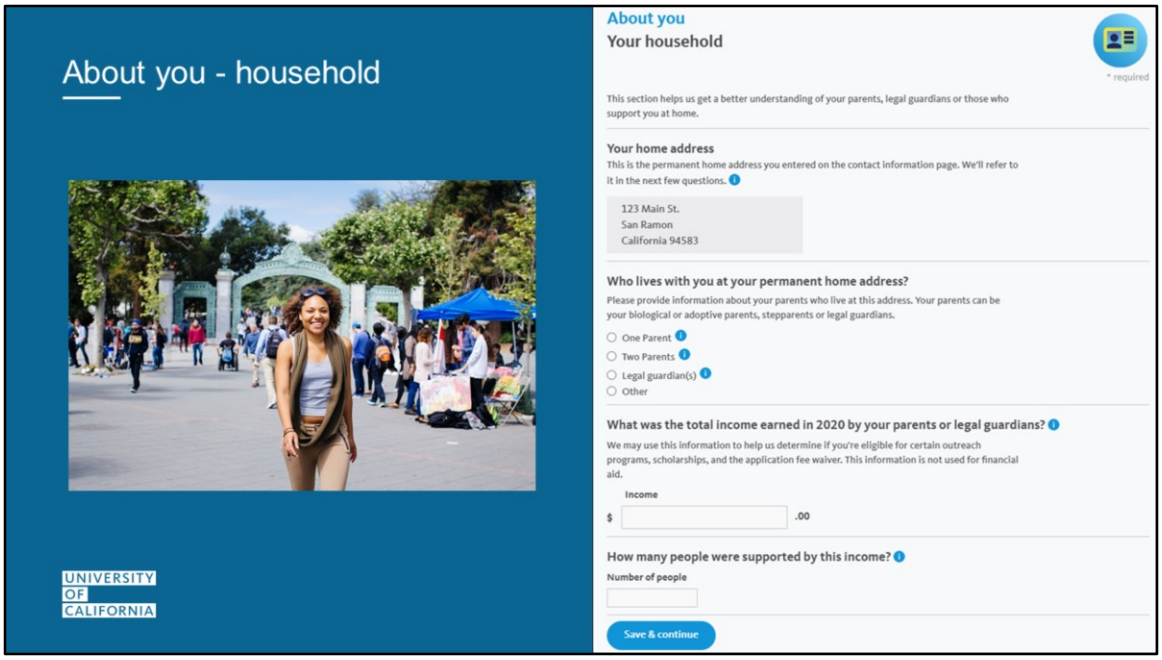
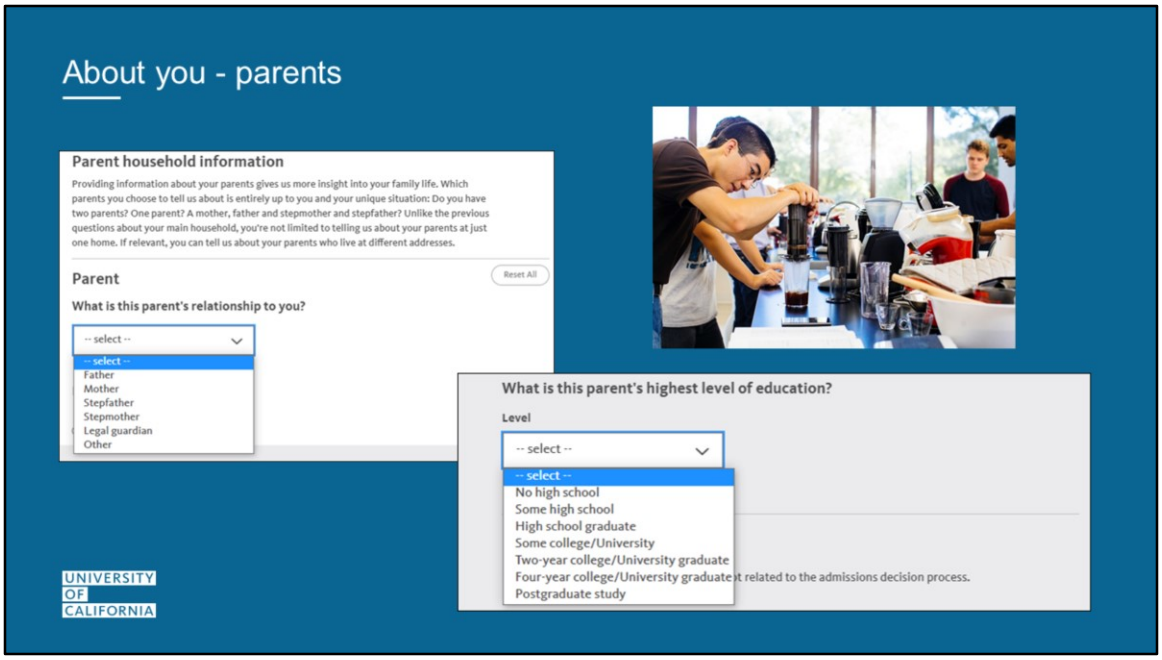


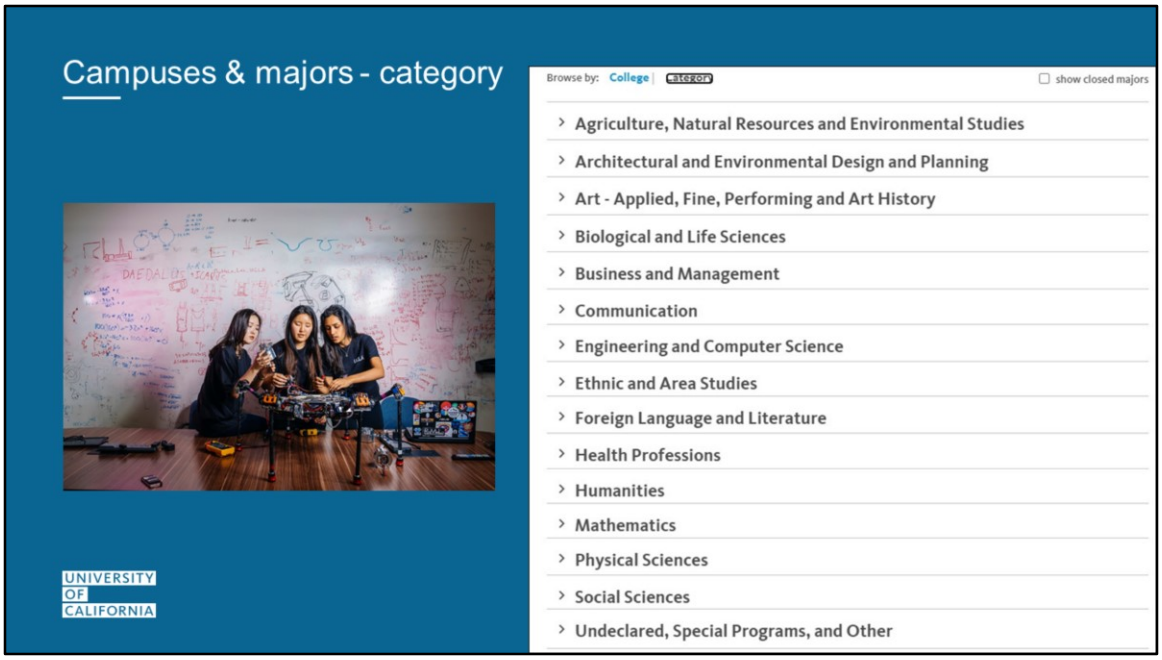
Family Size and Income

- Information about a student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s)' education, income, and family size is used to provide contextual information about the home environment and to determine eligibility for the application fee waiver.
- For more information, students can click on the "I" icon.
- This information is **not** used to determine residency status or eligibility for financial aid.



Entering parental information and their relationship to students helps campus admission staff better understand the family context of applicants.
Students can enter up to 2 parents or guardians.

TS CENTER
CAC GALLERY



This is the view for selecting campuses and majors by Category.

Campuses & majors - college

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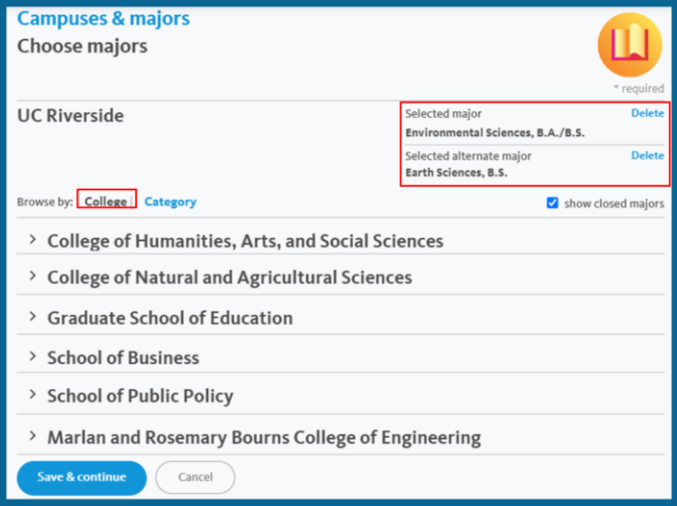
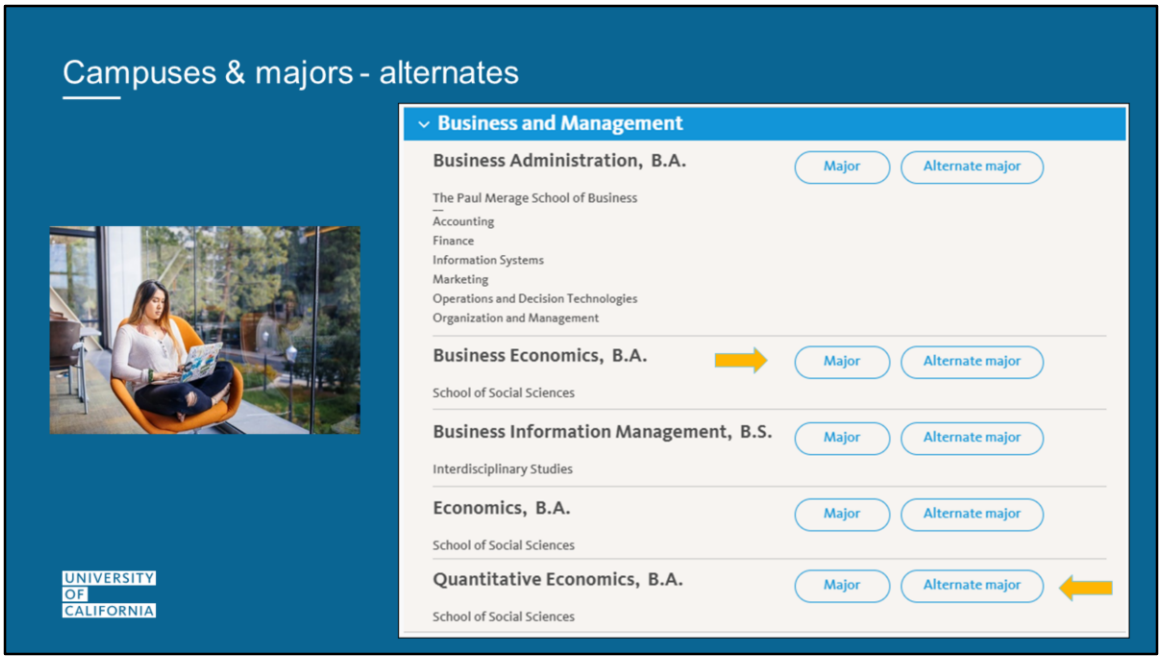


Students can select the College view to see majors grouped within colleges. College view is the default view.

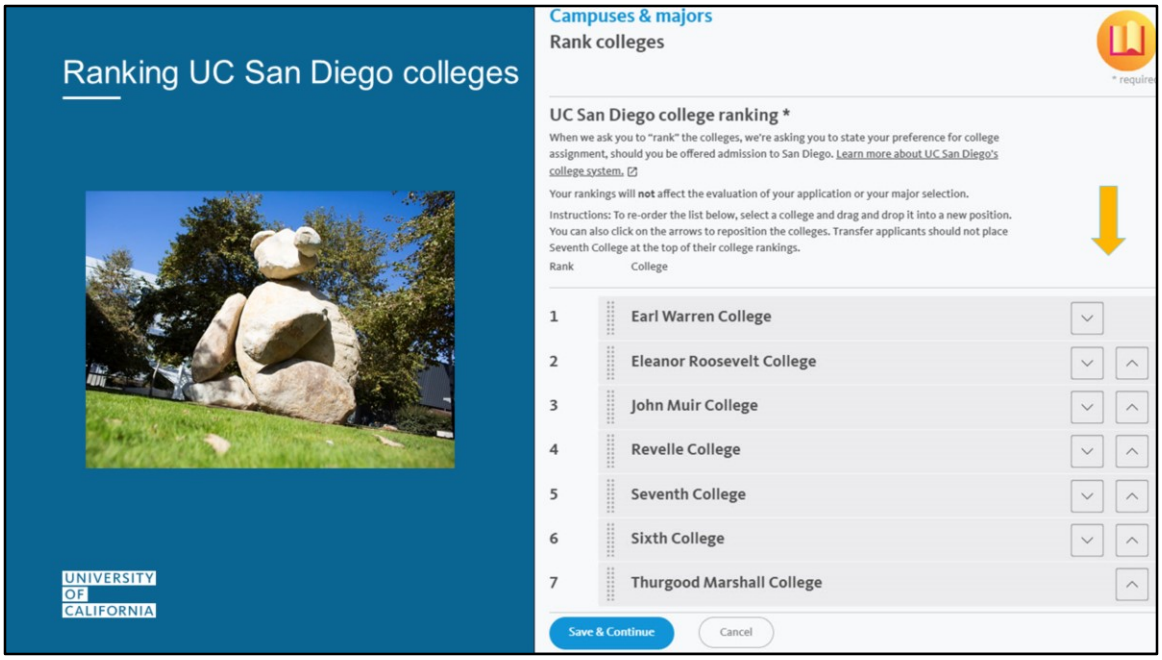


Students can select both a major and an alternate major, if available (alternate majors are not available at every campus).

If a campus is unable to offer the applicant a place in the first-choice major, they ***may*** consider them for an alternate major—be sure the alternate major is in a subject area that the student really wants to study (and in some cases, it should be in a different area of study than the primary major).

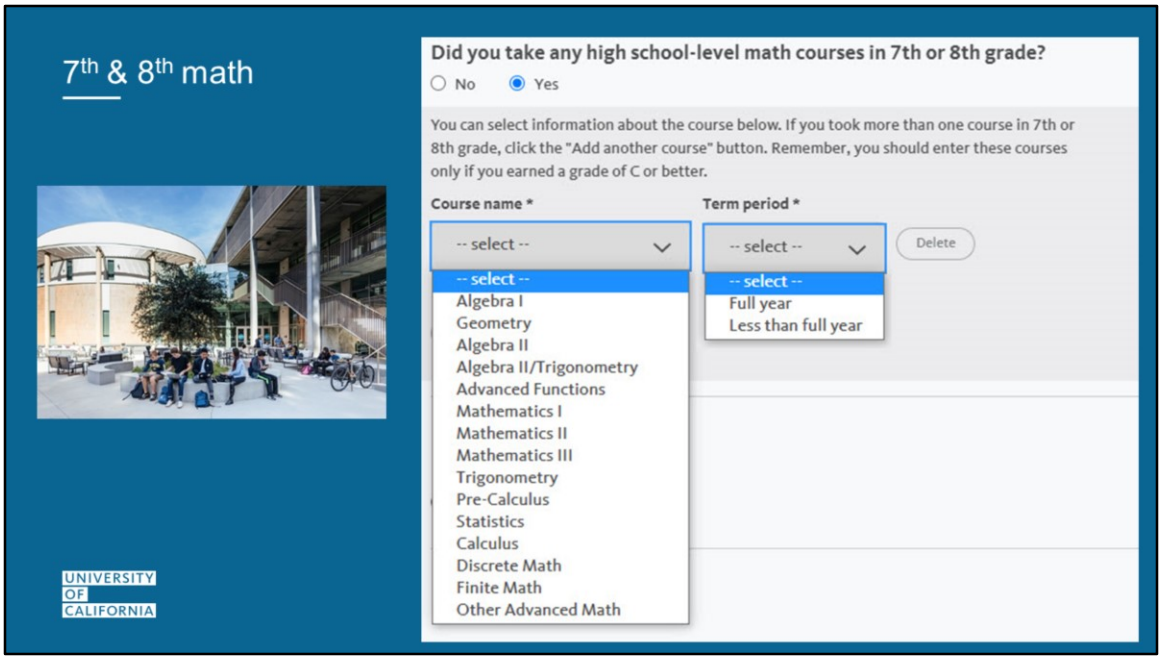
Note that not all campuses will consider students for an alternate major, and that some campuses may have restrictions on changing majors once admitted to that major.

This is an example from UCI.



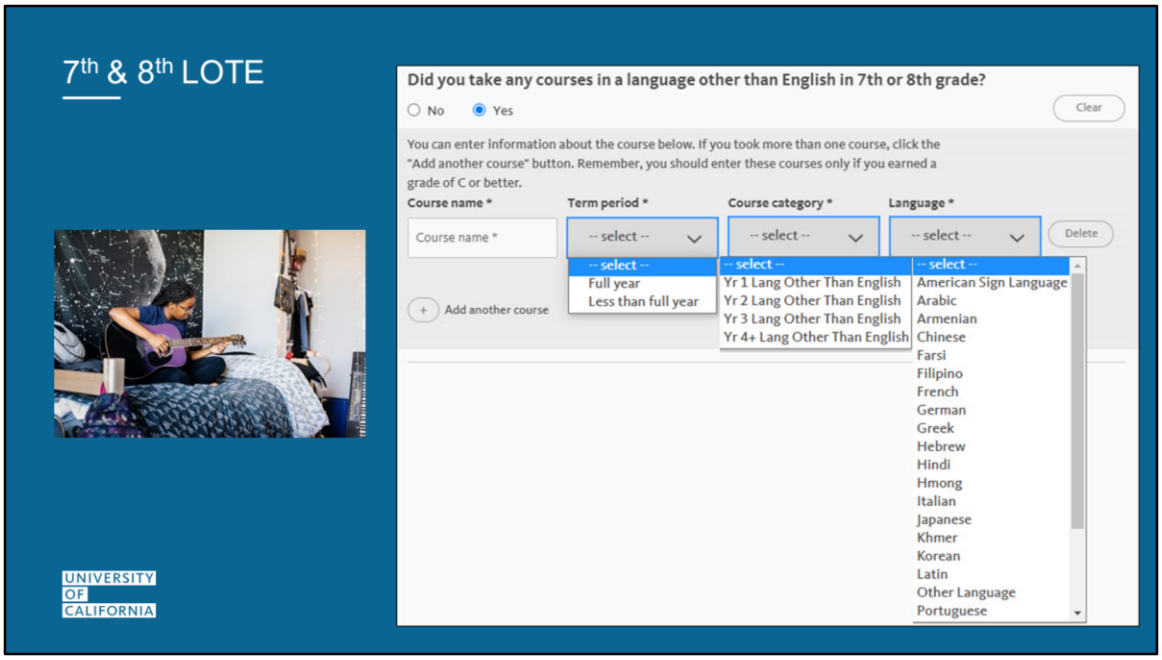
San Diego Colleges

- If a student is applying to UC San Diego, they must rank the colleges in order of preference to have the best chance of assignment to the college of their choice
- The order of ranking of colleges does not affect the chances for admission to UC San Diego
- Boxes to rank the colleges only appear once the student clicks the "Learn more about UCSD college system" link (opens a pop up window). Students should carefully read the information provided to understand the *"theme"* of each college at UC San Diego.



Seventh/Eighth Grade

- 7th & 8th grade courses do not need to appear on the high school transcript.
- Math and Language other than English (LOTE) are the only subject areas that can be met by course work in middle school.
- UC will accept a geometry course completed in middle school.



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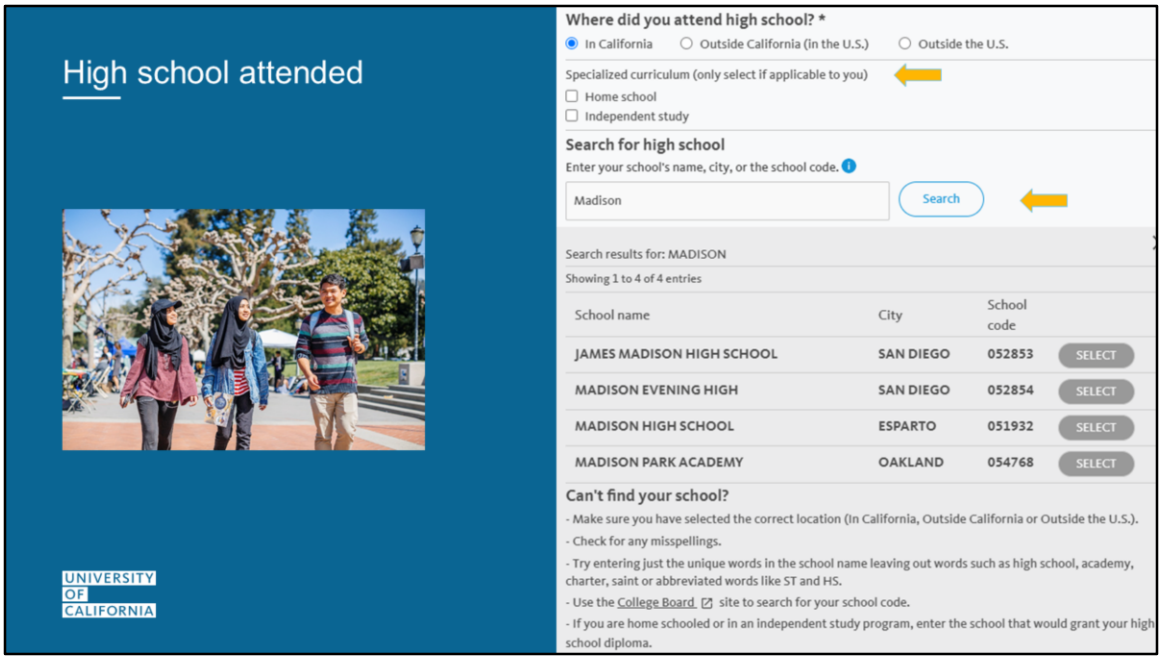
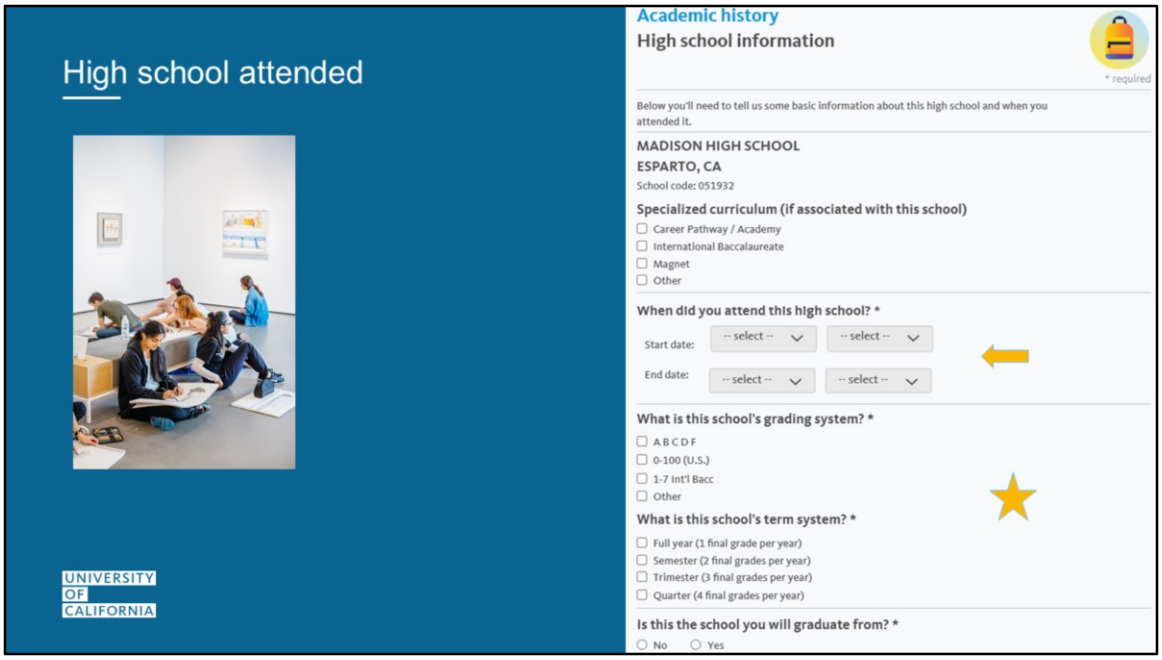


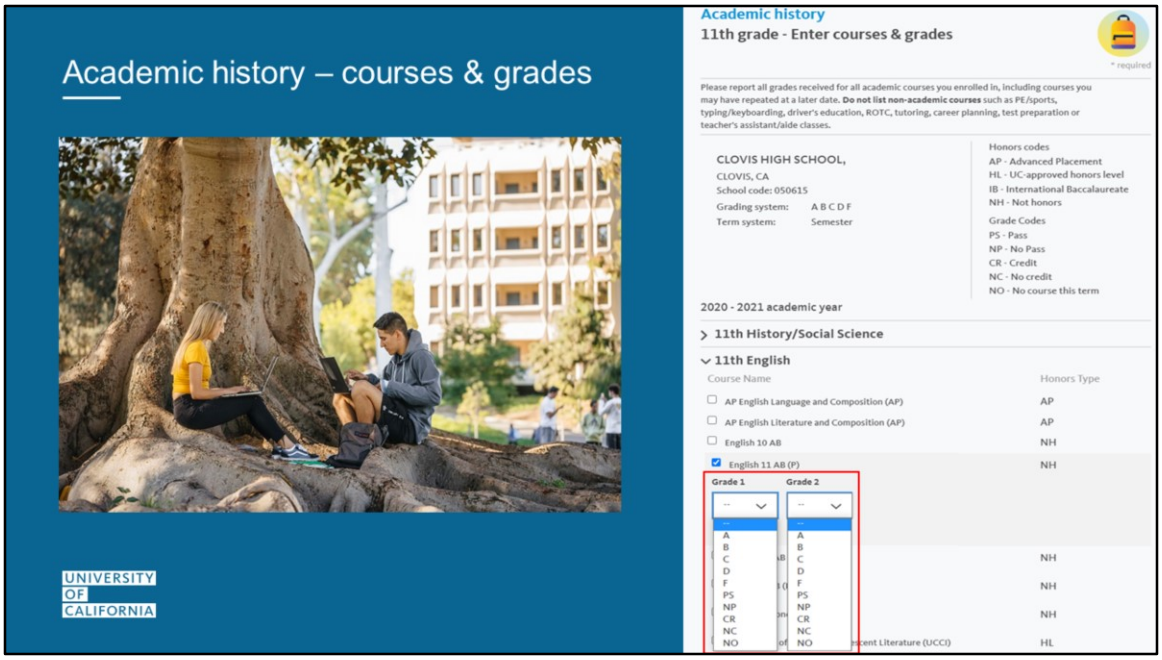
High School Attendance

- Remember to list every school attended beginning with 9th grade, even if 9th grade was considered “middle school.”
- Students can select a specialized curriculum on this screen.
- Students can search for their schools by name, city or by CEEB code.
- If students can’t find their school, it can be added by typing the full name of the school and clicking “Add”

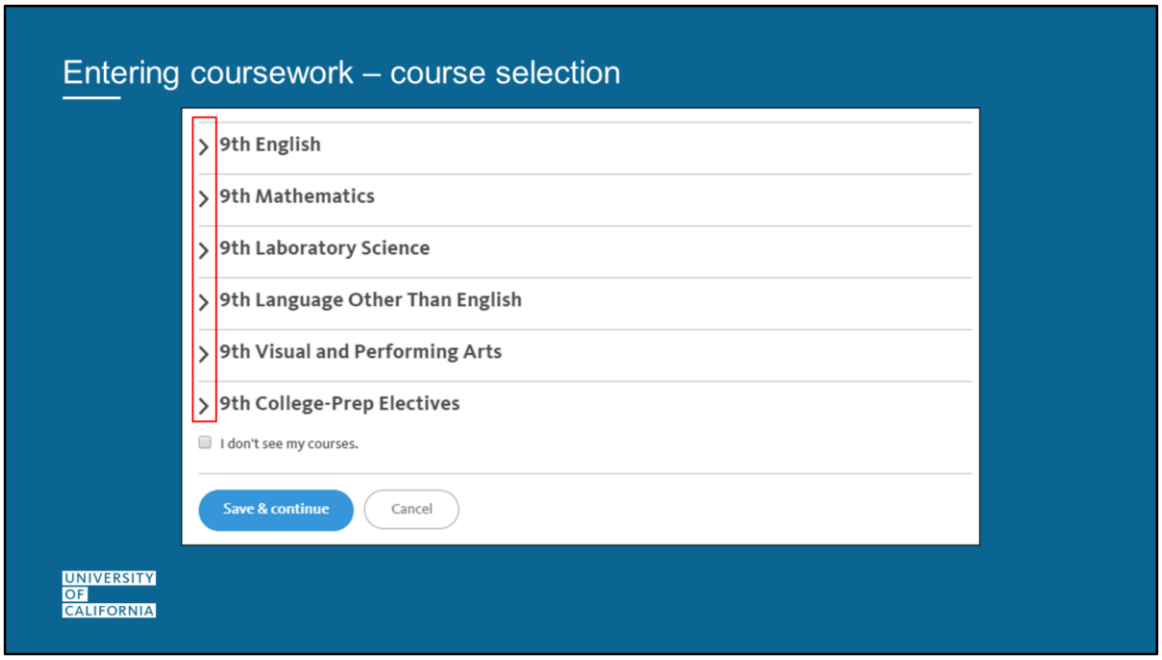


High School Attendance (continued)

- Enter the dates of attendance.
- Students can also choose a specialized curriculum on this screen.
- If this is the same school the student is going to graduate from, enter the certificate/diploma information.
- Enter the grading and term system for the school [multiple grading and term systems may be selected for one school].
- **NOTE:** Students should select the grading scale(s) typically used at their school, even if their school assigned Pass or Credit grades in spring/summer/fall 2020 and/or spring/summer 2021.

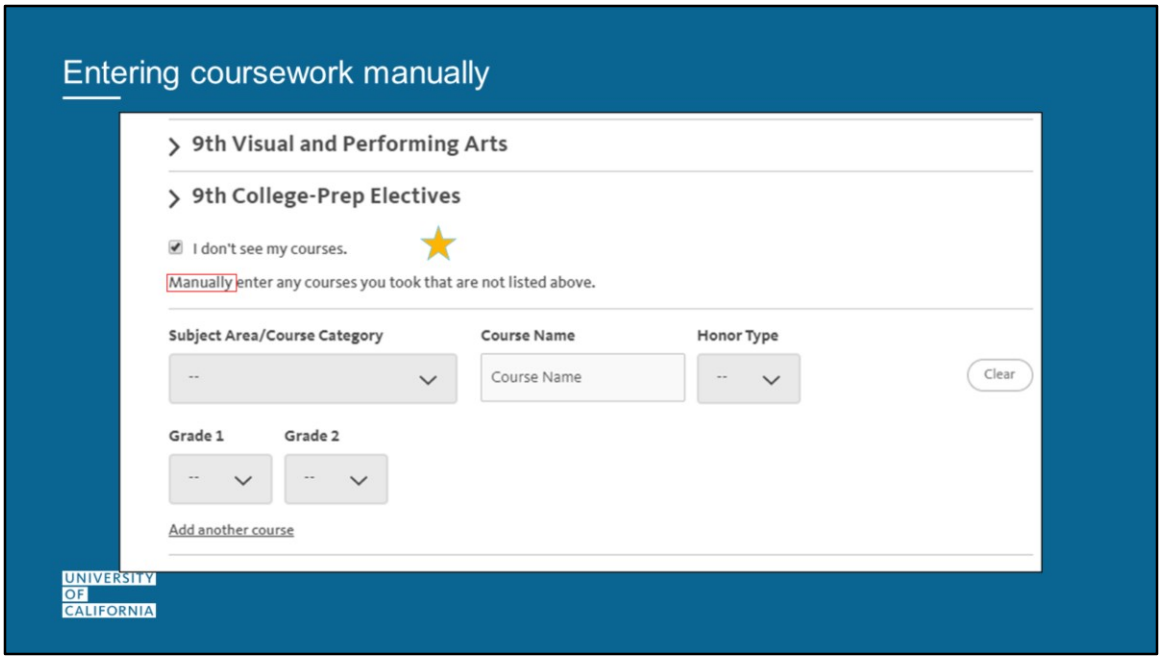


In response to the temporary suspension of the letter grade requirement in A-G courses, courses taken in COVID-19 terms (spring/summer/fall 2020 and spring/summer 2021) will allow students to select PS, NP, CR, and NC as grade options.



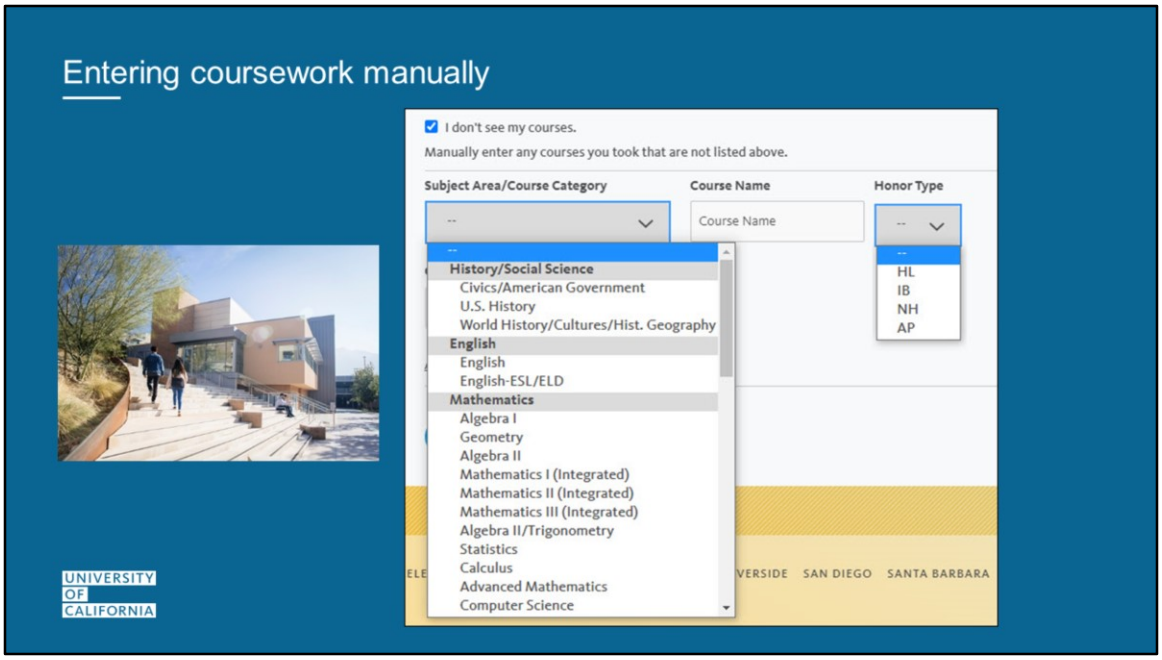
High School Coursework

- Courses are selected or entered by grade level beginning with ninth grade.
- First select the Subject Area/Course Category of the course to be entered (e.g. English, Math, etc.).
- Next, if a student is enrolled in a California high school, select from the course list for the school:
    - To see the courses, expand each subject area.
    - **NOTE:** new California high school courses being offered for the first time in the senior year may not appear on the school's course list until Nov. 1; if you don't see a new course on the list, remember to come back to add it later (but no later than Nov. 30th) before submitting the application.
- Remember to enter your 12th grade courses in progress and planned; indicating that you have no coursework in 12th grade may imply that you have not met minimum admission requirements.



If students do not see their courses, and for all students not enrolled in a California high school, courses must be manually entered as they appear on the student's academic record.

- When entries for each grade level are complete, click save and continue.
- Repeat this process for each grade level, including 12th grade.
- 12th grade course grades will default to "IP – In Progress" and "PL – Planned". If students have already graduated and have senior year grades, manually enter each grade.
- For courses that are only one semester long, select "NO" for the term for which the course was not offered (e.g. Economics offered fall term, for spring term select "NO").
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated.
- Students who attended more than one school should be sure to enter courses under the correct school.



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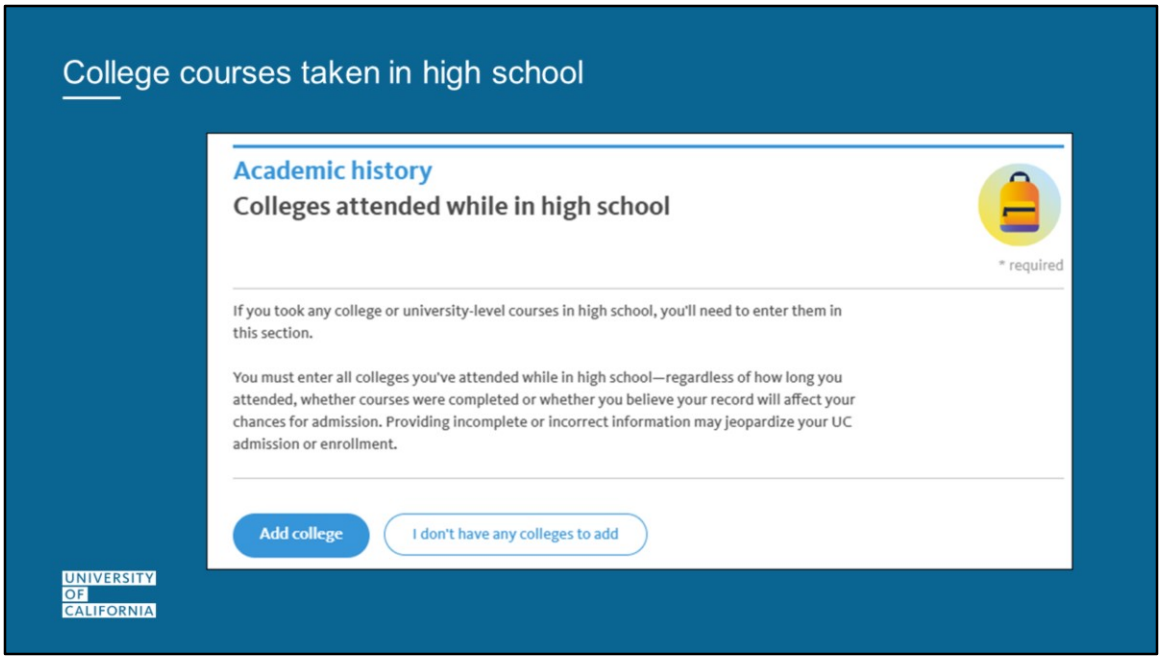
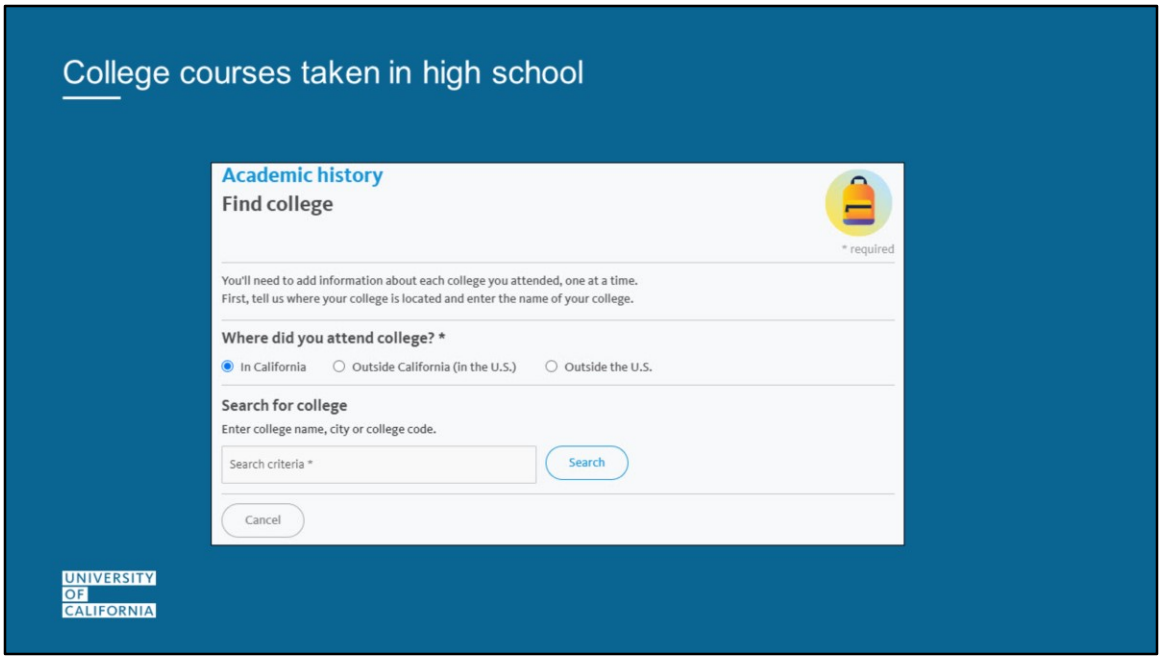


College courses taken in high school

- If any college/university-level courses were completed while in high school, add the college information AFTER the high school information. This includes courses completed through a dual enrollment or middle college program.
- The process is very similar to entering the high school information.



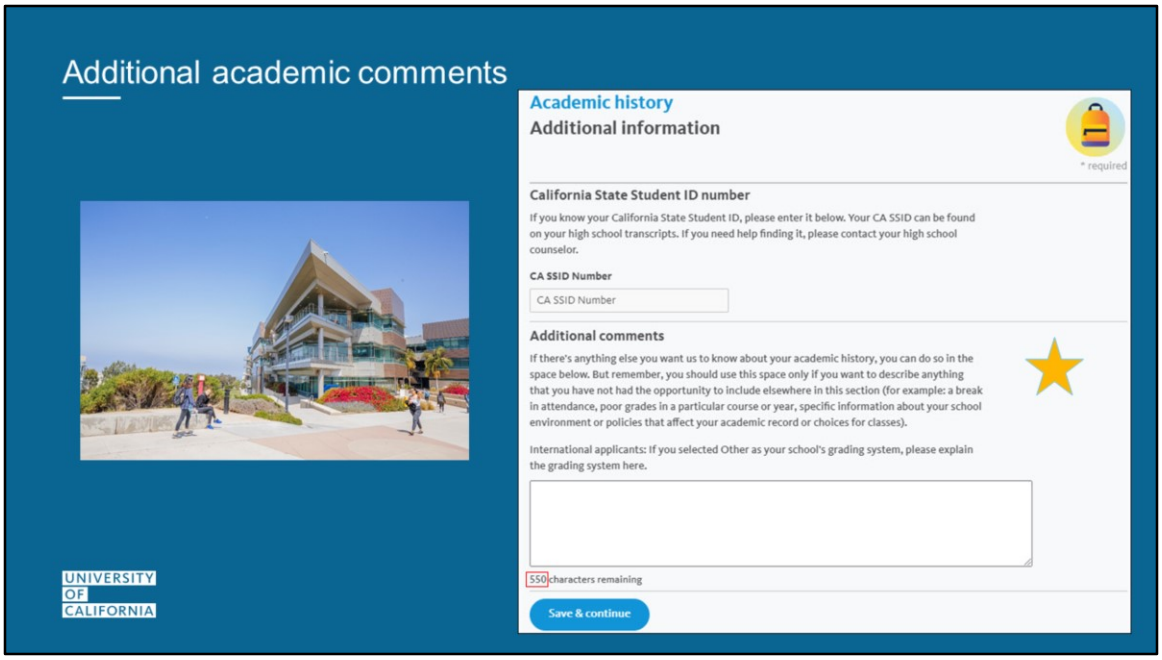
College courses taken in high school

If courses were taken at a California Community College (CCC), a UC-transferable course list will appear.

- Select the course(s) taken, grade earned (or enter IP for In Progress, PL for Planned courses), and the A-G subject area in which the course fits.
- Only report courses taken for a letter grade; courses in which a Pass/Credit/No Credit grade were earned should not be included unless those courses were completed in a COVID term (winter/spring/ summer/fall 2020 and winter/spring/summer 2021)
- Non UC-transferable English and math courses can also be reported in this section of the application.
    - If there are other CCC courses that are not UC-transferable, report them in the "Other coursework" area later in the application.
- **IF** college/university courses were not taken at a CCC, enter each course and grade earned as it appears on the official academic record from the college/university attended.

Students must enter all UC-transferable, as well as non-transferable English and math, courses taken in A-G subject areas;

missing/inaccurate information may be viewed as falsification and result in cancellation of the application.



The additional academic comments text box is an opportunity for students to share any information about their academic history they want campuses to know. Campuses will use this information to better understand the student's academic context.

This space could be used to discuss any significant impacts on your educational experience or context.

If your school changed its grading policy due to COVID-19, **please include** information on the change in this section.

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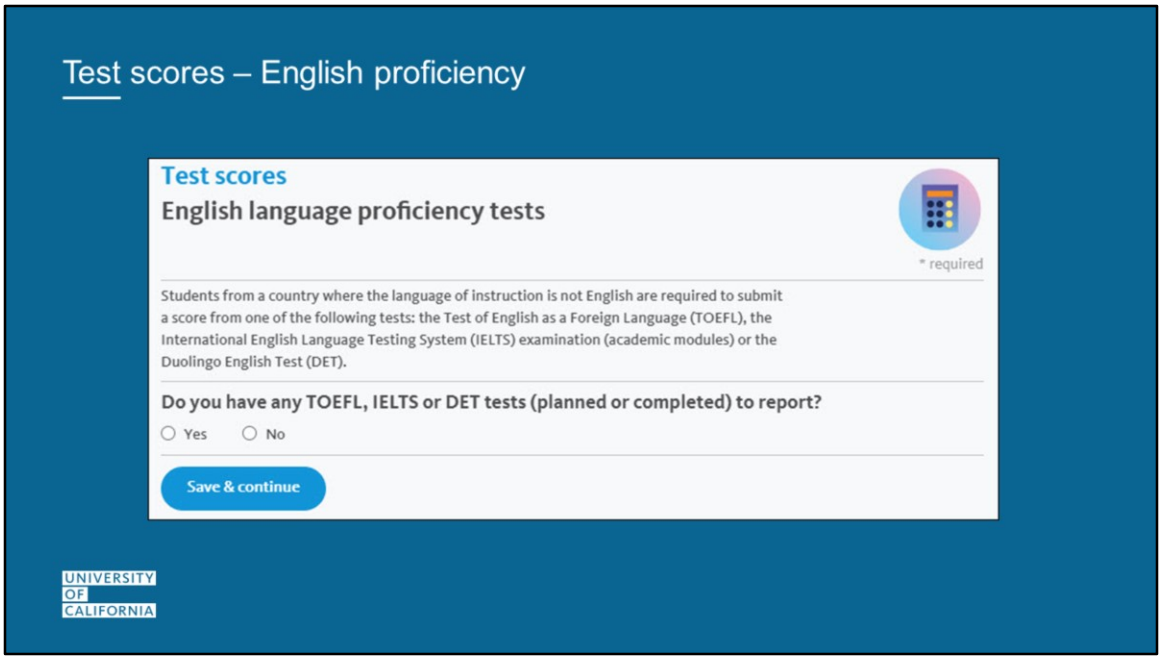

TOEFL/IELTS/DET Exams:

- Students whose college/university coursework was **not** conducted in English and who are not native English-speakers are required to self-report TOEFL, IELTS, or DET results in the application.
- Official English proficiency scores are not required unless/until a student is offered admission to UC. Students will then submit their official scores directly to the campus where they intend to enroll.
- TOEFL scores can be sent to one campus, and all campuses to which you apply will receive them.
- IELTS and DET must be sent to each campus you apply to.

Test scores – English proficiency

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Is this test completed or planned? *

(•) Completed ( ) Planned

When did you take this test? *

Month * Year *

March 2021

Which test did you take? *

Test type *

TOEFL P/B

Registration number *

Have you received your scores yet? *

(•) Yes ( ) No

Scores

Listening * Reading * Writing *

Total:

Do you plan on retaking this test? *

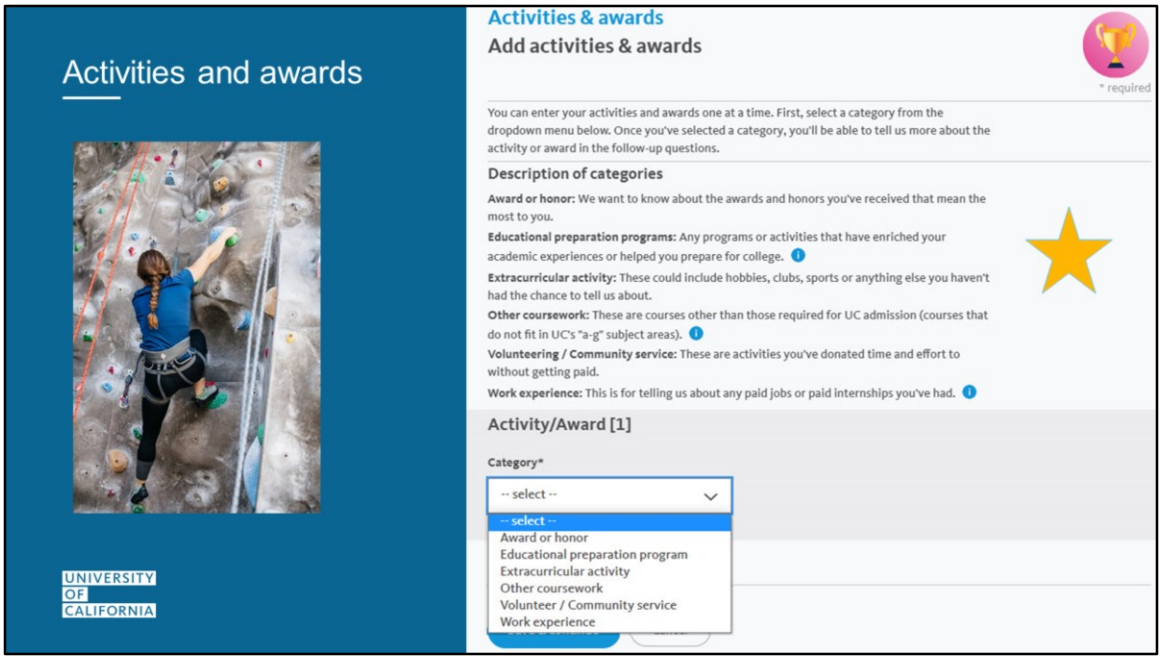
(•) Yes ( ) No

When will you retake this test? *

Month * Year *

Month * Year *

Save & continue Cancel



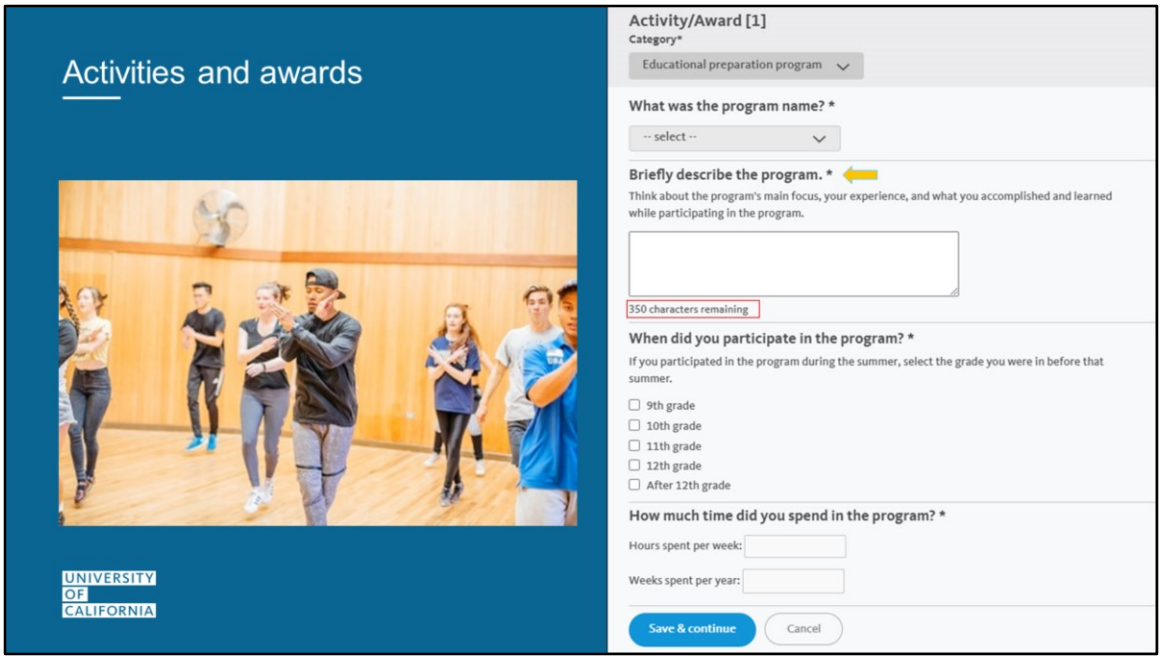
Activities and awards

There are six categories in the Activities and Awards section of the application. Choose experiences that have meaning, illustrate interests, and/or demonstrate leadership.

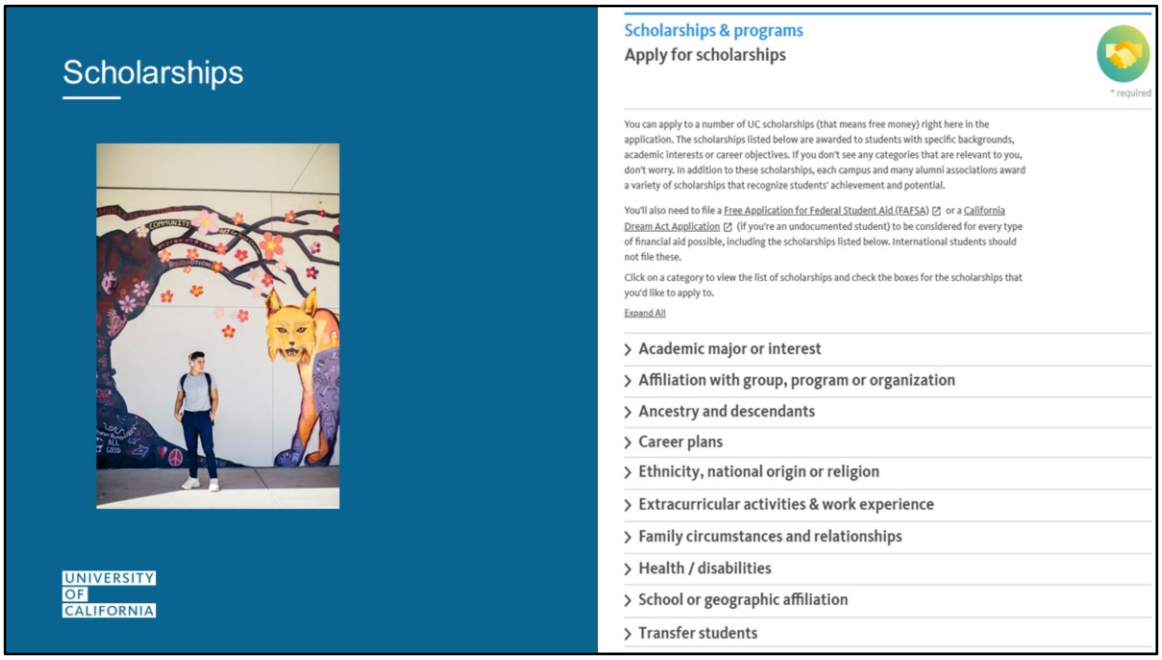
- **Other coursework**- Academic courses that do not fit in the A-G categories of history/social science, English, math, laboratory science, language other than English (foreign language), and/or visual and performing art should be reported in this section. Examples include leadership courses or religion courses. Do not include non-academic courses, such as PE, office/teacher assistant, etc.
- **Educational preparation programs** – Programs include but are not limited to: AVID, Upward Bound, and Gear Up. A list of common programs appear in a drop-down menu. If a program is not included, manually enter it.
- **Community Service** – Consistent participation over time may indicate commitment and dedication.
- **Work Experience** – Demonstrates time management, responsibility and perhaps leadership.
- **Awards & Honors** – Awards which are significant in nature – county-wide, state-wide and national - indicate a high level of achievement with significant competition. School-based awards are more meaningful to readers if context is provided, such as "5th place out of 500 students" to earn award, but even "perfect attendance" can be insightful.
- **Extracurricular Activities** –Continued participation over time indicates passion, commitment, and sometimes leadership. Enter details about each activity.

Activities & Awards Tips:

- Don't use acronyms for names of clubs or awards: Spell them out and explain your level of involvement.
- Don't list the same activity in multiple areas (for instance, listing Honors Society in "Awards and Honors" and "Extracurricular Activities"), but make sure the most important activities are reflected in some way.
- If an applicant did not have the time/opportunity to participate in school and/or community activities, volunteer/paid employment, explain to application readers why – how else did the applicant use their time and was it a choice or a requirement, for example: caring for siblings, elder-care, commitment to doing homework (research projects, papers, etc.). We understand that students are gaining valuable life experience and consider that as part of our comprehensive review.

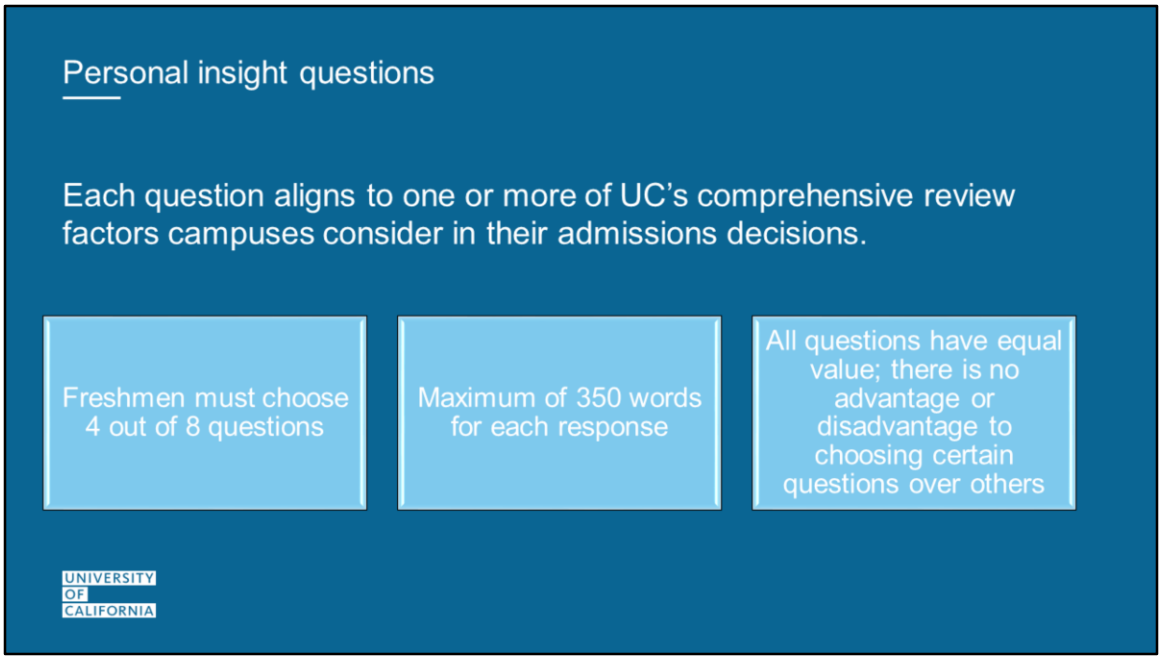


It is important for students to remember to describe their **role, responsibilities and accomplishments** in the activity rather than focusing on describing the activity itself.



Scholarships

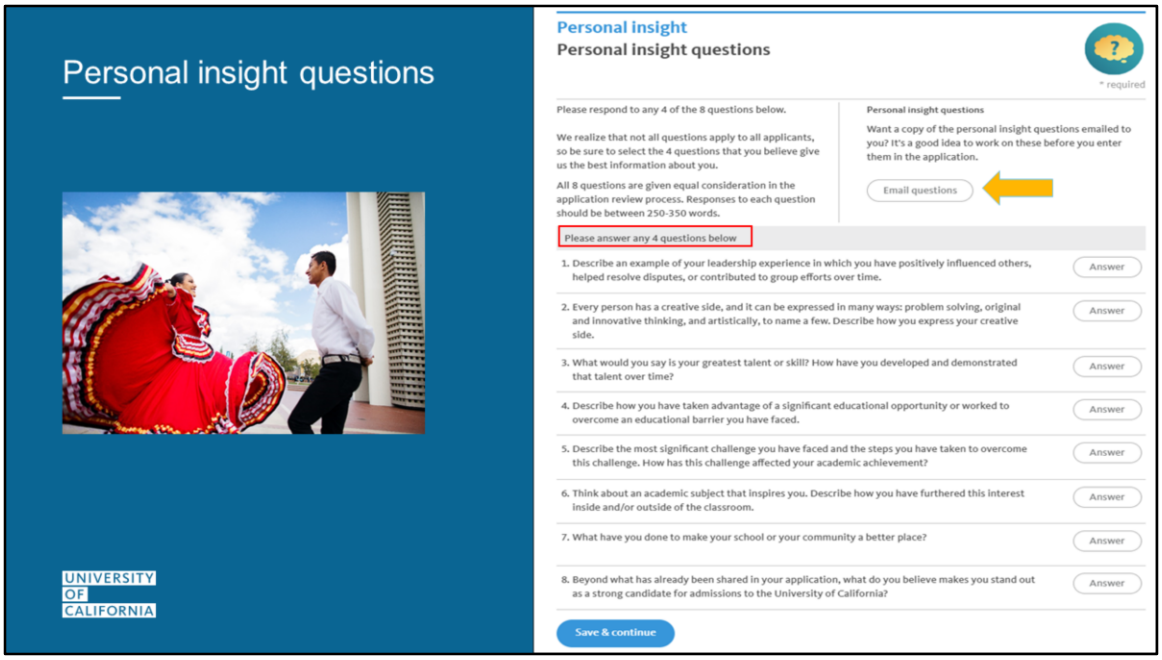
- All UC campuses offer scholarships for students who meet specific criteria.
- The applicant should review each scholarship choice and select all those that match their characteristics, interests, and background. There is no limit to the amount of scholarships students can select.
- Research other campus-based scholarships in the link provided at the bottom of the screen - Learn more: Undergraduate scholarships



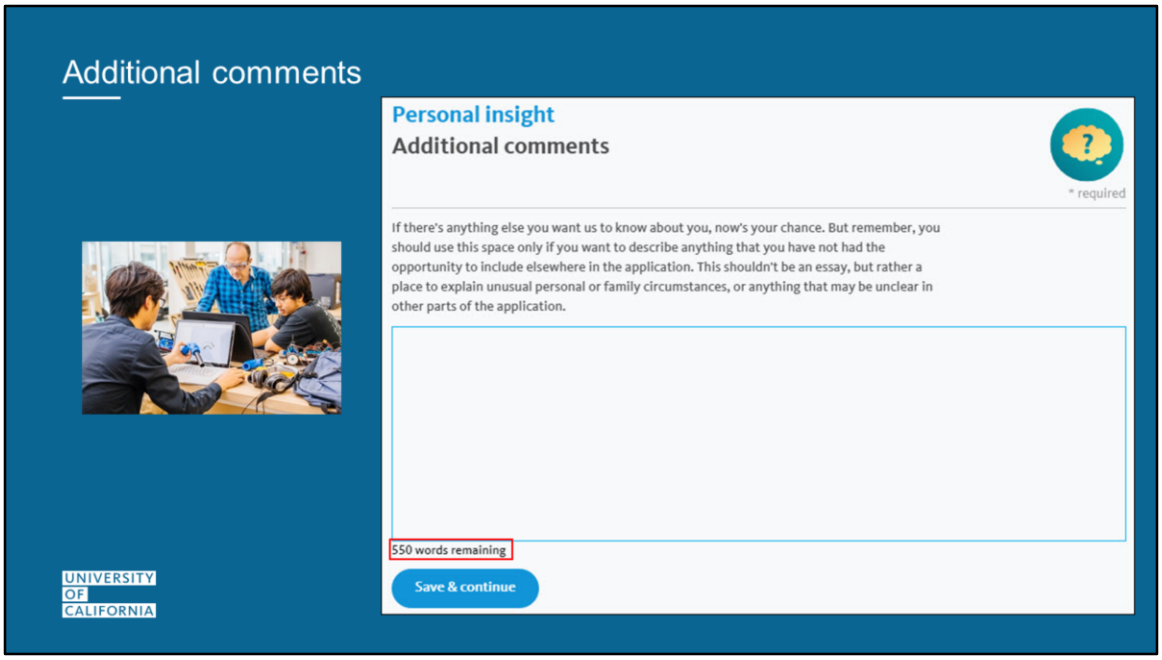
The PIQs should be used to share accomplishments, experiences, talents, decision-making, problem-solving and contextual information. Recall that individuals from around the world have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or your family has been significantly impacted, consider using the Additional Comments section to share any unusual, rare or exceptional information. The PIQs are best utilized to share individual student information to help admission readers hear the students in their own words, learn about the students achievement, perspective and environment that cannot or has not been shared in other parts of the application.

Personal insight questions

- Students should answer the questions that are most applicable to them.
- Remember that these are **personal** insight questions—about the student.
  - It is not an English essay.
  - Admission staff want to learn what the student did and why; what the student learned and how the student applied what was learned to aspects of their life.
  - Students should use "I" statements – I did this, I chose to do that, I learned about . . . . It's their one opportunity to ensure we get to know them.
  - Information on impacts on COVID-19 could be discussed in the additional comments, to allow for students to use the PIQs to tell admission readers about themselves.
- More details and guidance on the Personal Insight Questions can be found at. admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/personal-insight-questions.html



This is a screen shot of the PIQ page. The word count is listed here, and students can opt to have the PIQ questions emailed to them on this screen.



Students can use the additional comments section to explain any situation, circumstance or experience that does not appear anywhere else in the application or is not fully explained in the application. Students can use this space if they have been significantly impacted (beyond what all other students have experienced) by the COVID-19 pandemic or the social justice movement that occurred in spring 2020. The Additional Comments section is not an opportunity for an additional essay.

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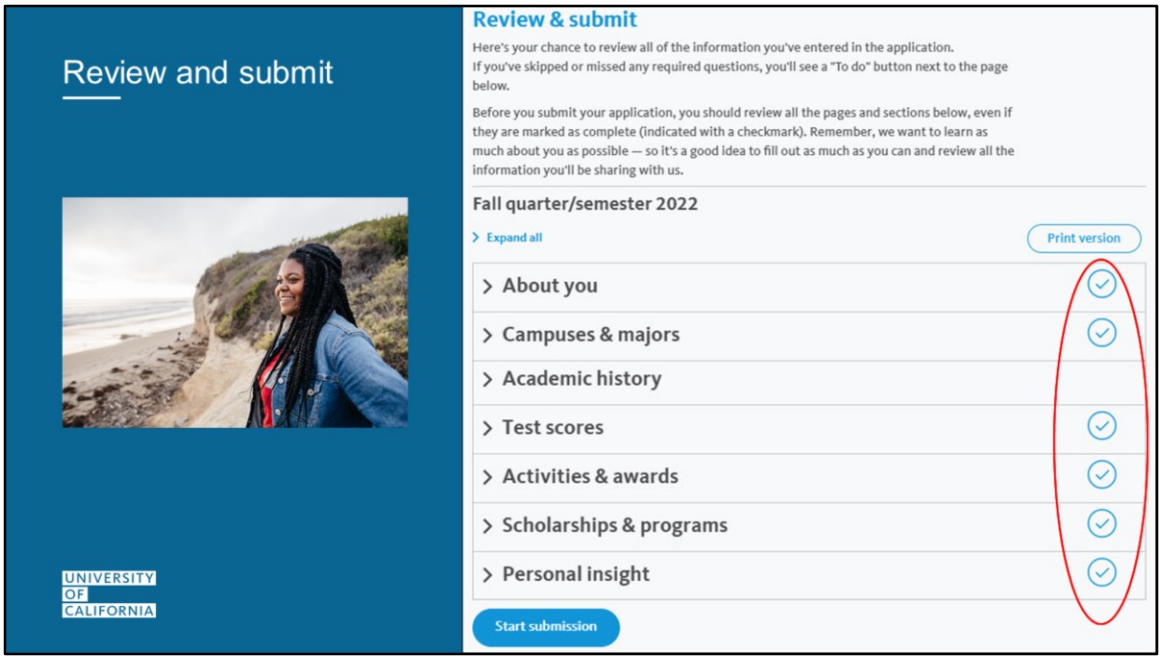
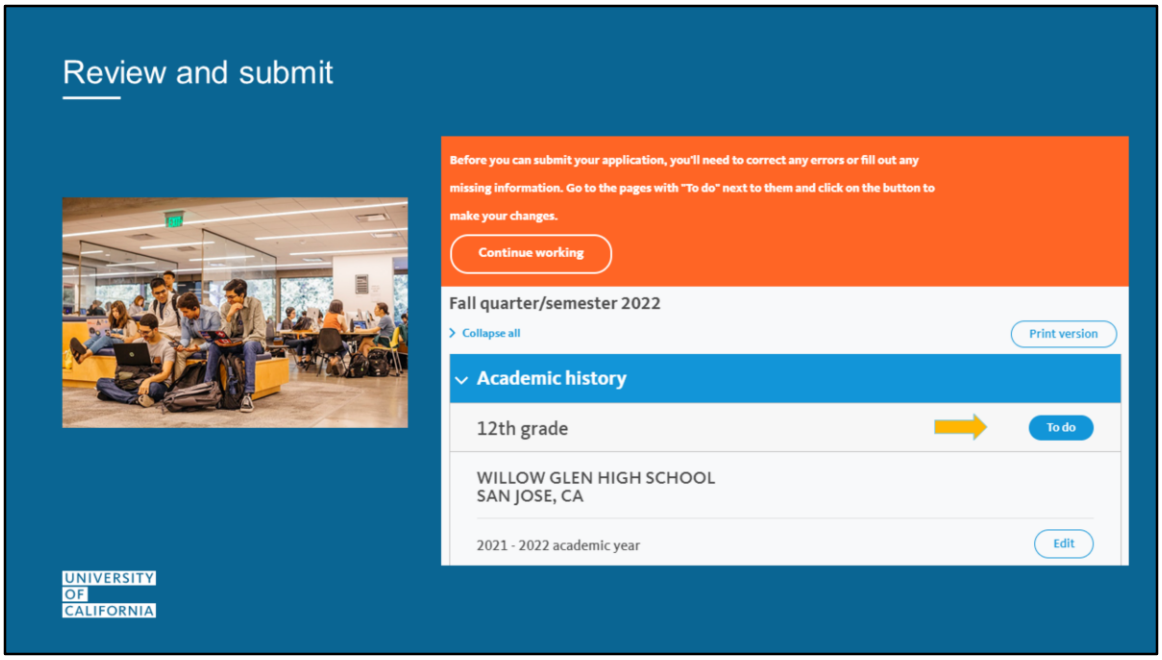


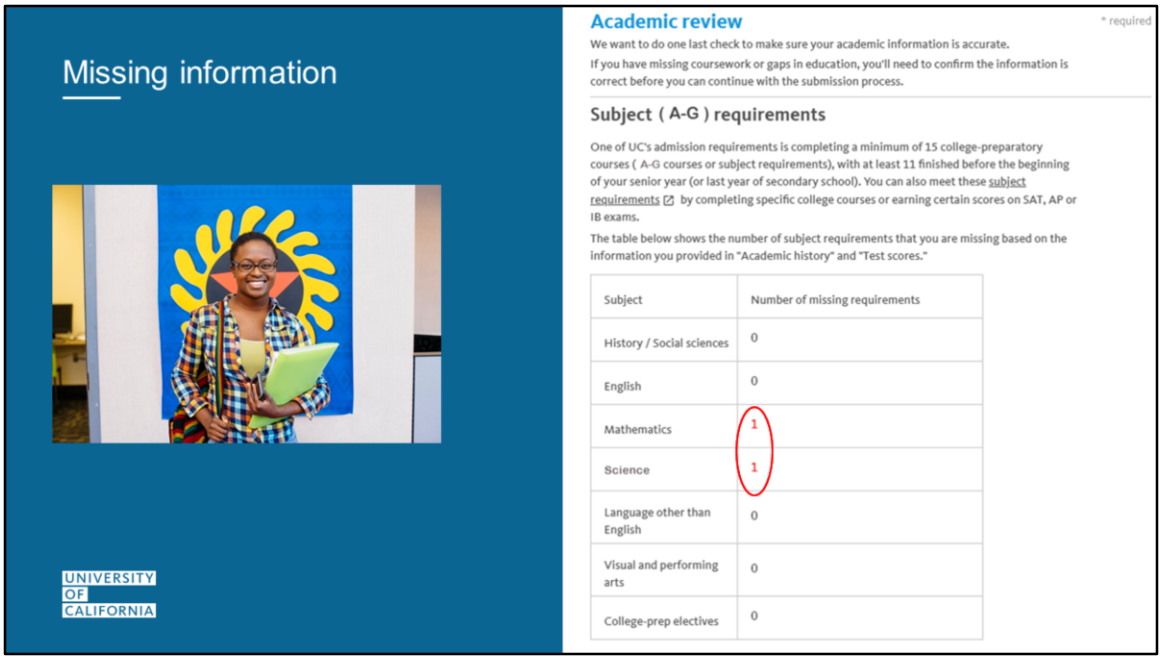
Review and submit

Before submitting the application, students will have the opportunity to review each section. A check mark appears beside the section to indicate that section is complete.



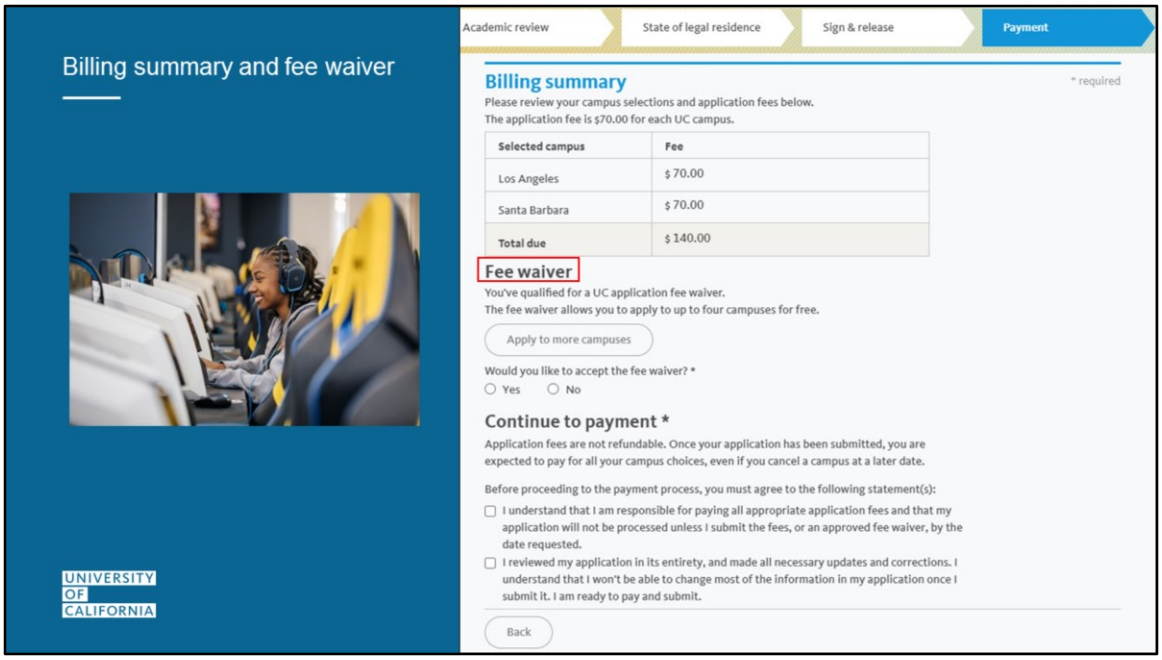
Review and submit

Students will be prompted to correct any errors before they can continue with the submission process.



Missing Information

Students will be able to see what is missing on the application after the warning screen. This screen shot is an example of a student missing the Math and Science subject area requirements.



Application Fees:
- For U.S. citizens or permanent resident students, the application fee is $70 per campus.
- For International and non-immigrant applicants the application fee is $80 for each campus selected.
    - If an international or non-immigrant student currently attends school in the U.S., however, they may be eligible to pay the lower application fee of $70 per campus.
- The application tool will advise of the fee amount on this page.

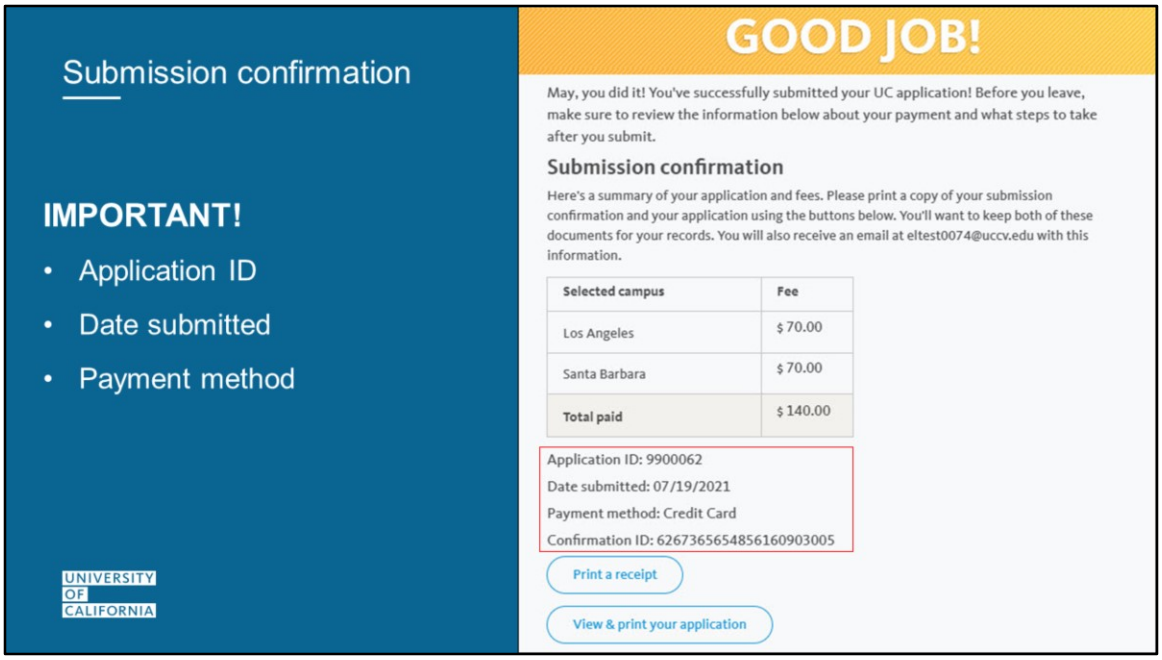
Fee Waiver:
A fee waiver is automatically calculated for California and domestic residents. The fee waiver calculator is activated from answers about the applicant's family size and income.
- If a fee waiver is granted, ***the applicant must select "Yes" to accept the fee waiver.***
- If an applicant decides not to answer those questions, they *may* qualify for a fee waiver but would not receive one.

If the applicant makes a mistake on the family income amount, they can correct the information with an 'edit' button; eligibility for the fee waiver will automatically re-calculate with the revised information .

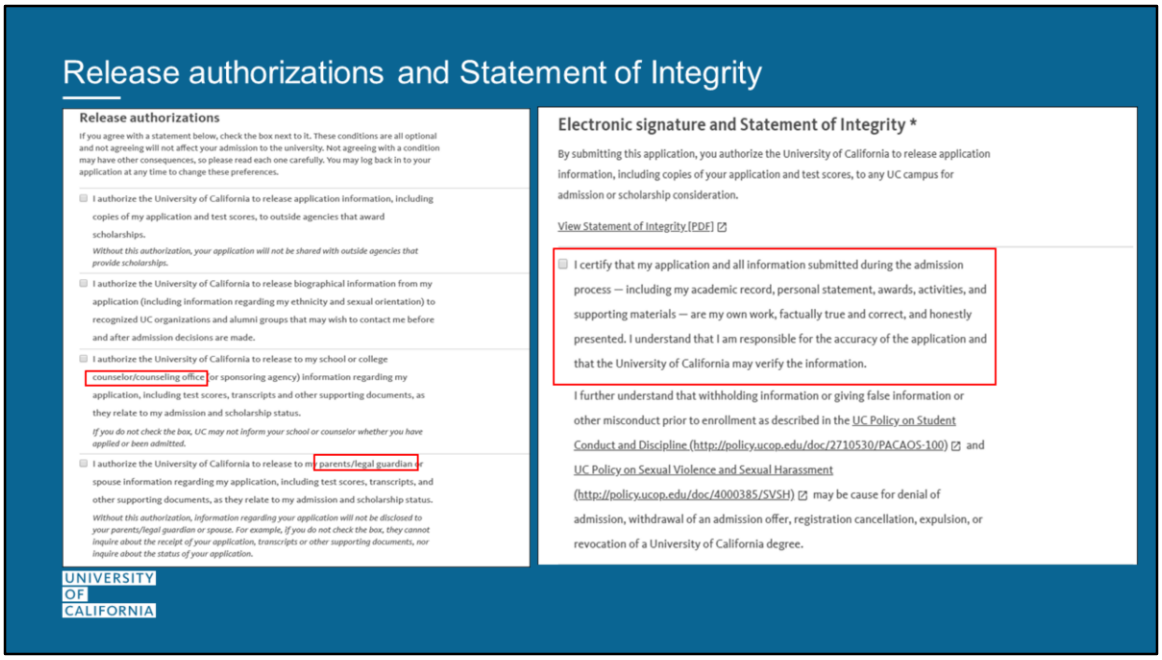
Fee Waiver Eligibility:
- For U.S. citizens or permanent residents or students who have attended a CA high school for at least 3 years, if students meet the low-income criteria used to qualify for free and reduced lunch, they will qualify for a UC application fee waiver for up to 4 campus choices but will be responsible for payment for any additional campus(es) to which they choose to apply.
- Students in California on a visa are not eligible for the UC application fee waiver.
- UC also accepts the College Board, ACT or NACAC fee waiver. Only one waiver may be used.

Payment:
- Application fee payment is required and non-refundable.
- Payment may be submitted by credit card in the application tool; **or** by mailing a check or fee waiver if a student didn't qualify for the UC application fee waiver but meets criteria established by the waiver provider.

Sandwiches
How Do I Find The Sweet Spot?



Students should keep their application ID in a secure place, as this will be used throughout the admission process, including decision release occurring in the spring. This screen will show the complete list of campuses applied to, fees, fee waiver, application ID, date submitted, and payment method.



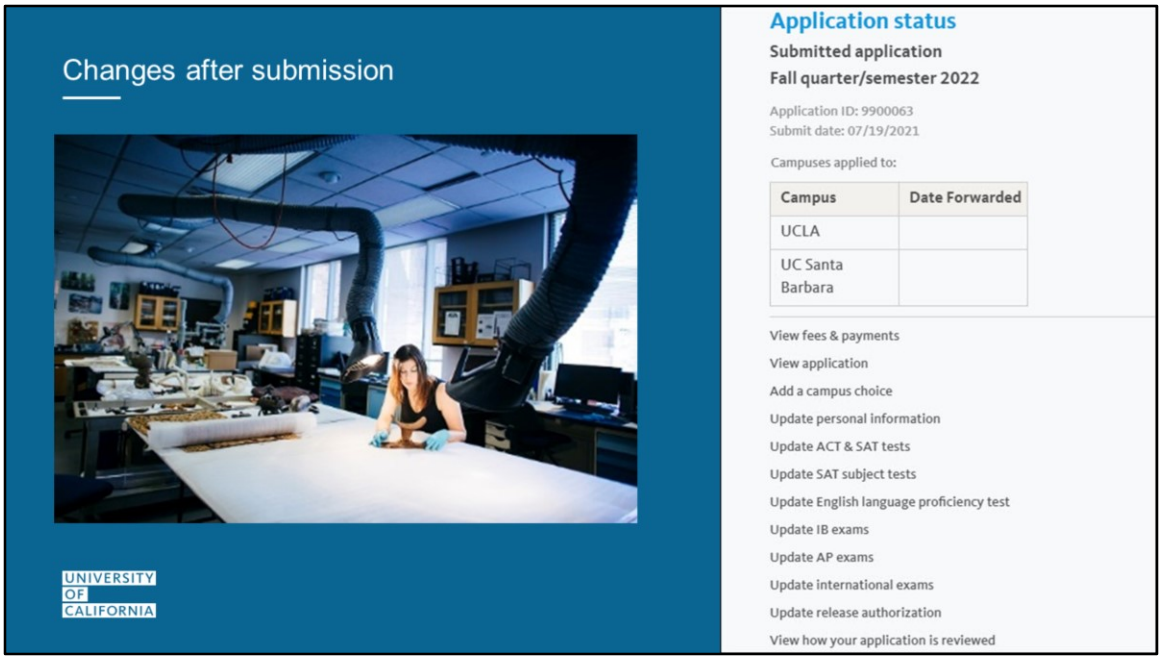
Release authorizations and Statement of Integrity

The application cannot be submitted without the applicant's electronic signature and acknowledgement of the Statement of Integrity.

The Statement of Integrity is to affirm that all information in the application is accurate and the personal insight responses were written by the applicant. **If information is withheld, such as poor grades, or falsification is detected, the application is subject to cancellation.**

Signature Releases

- Review and check the release authorizations to share application information with scholarship agencies, parent/guardian, counselors and/or UC organizations and alumni groups.
- Electronically sign and date the application to verify accuracy and acknowledge that the applicant is the author of their personal insight responses.
- The electronic signature also authorizes the release of official examination score(s), if submitted, to all UC campuses to which the student applied.
- Information in the application is subject to verification. If an applicant is selected for verification, non-compliance will result in cancellation of the application and the application fee will not be refunded.



Application Status

Here students can see when their application was forwarded to the campus.
Updates can be made in any of the sections listed on this screen, so keep in mind that Academic History and adding Activities and Awards or editing the PIQs is not an option once you submit.

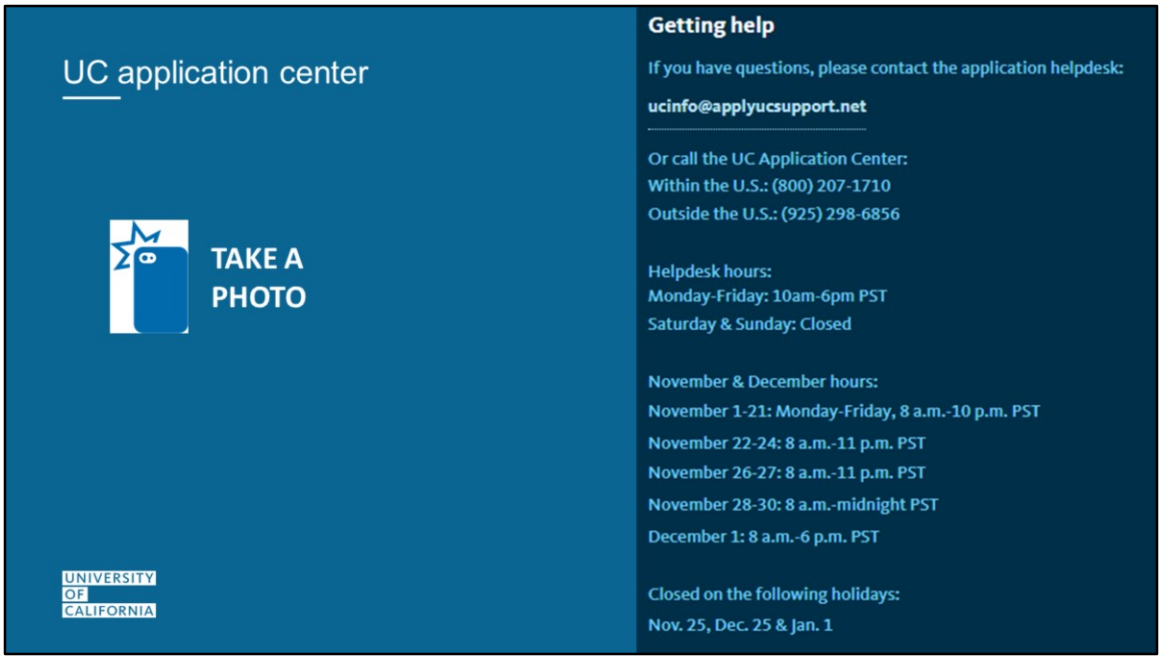
If you need to make changes to your application

You can make only a few changes to your application once it's submitted, including updating your contact information and your exam scores. You can also apply to additional campuses if they're still open. To make any of these changes, go to "Application status."

- Additionally, under application status, California resident students are notified if they meet the Top 9% Local Context (ELC) criteria.

Minor changes to activities, awards, volunteer work, employment or personal insight responses are unlikely to have an impact on the admission decision. However, if a student has significant updates in any of these areas, they should notify each campus directly.

Note: Test scores on the SAT/ACT are NOT an admission requirement. If students have reported any scores, those can be updated but they are not required.



When presenting live, this is a good opportunity for students to take a photo of the contact information for the UC application center.

THANK YOU

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