How to Transfer to the University of California (UC)



The University of California (UC) system includes 9 undergraduate public universities throughout the state of California. These universities are selective in their admissions criteria and provide enriching environments that foster world-class educational and research opportunities. The annual cost of tuition at the UC’s in 2019-20 is approximately $14,000. Grants, financial aid and loans are available. For specific info about the UC campuses, visit:[www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu) and see your

counselor.

The UC’s are selective in their admission criteria. Meeting “minimum admission requirements” will allow you to apply to the campus and merit an application review. However, it does not necessarily mean you will be selected or admitted to the campus. Often, admission to UC campuses and/or programs is competitive and requires students to satisfy more demanding coursework preparation with a high grade point average. While we have listed the “minimum transfer requirements” below, Columbia College strongly encourages you exceed the minimum requirements. Review this packet and talk to a counselor to discuss how to become a highly competitive candidate.

Funding your UC Education

**Over two-thirds of UC undergraduates receive some gift aid, with an average award of over $16,000.** For California residents, that covers nearly half the cost of attending UC for a full year. Additionally, UC's [Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan](http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc/glossary/blue-and-gold/index.html) ensures that, at a minimum, system-wide tuition and fees are covered for eligible students with parent total incomes of $80,000 or less. For more information, visit: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/blue-and-gold-opportunity-plan.html>

Minimum Transfer Requirements

To transfer to any of the UC campuses, you need to meet minimum admission requirements. The minimum UC admission requirements include:

◆ Completion of 60 UC transferable units

◆ Completion of English and Math general education requirements

▪ Two English courses: English 1A or Advanced Placement Test of 3+ **and** English 1B or 1C or

Hist/Philo 5

▪ One Math Course: Math 2, 6, 12, 16, 18A, 18B, 18C, 26, 28 or Advanced Placement Test of 3+

◆ Four transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas:

▪ Arts and Humanities

▪ Social and Behavioral Sciences

▪ Physical and Biological Sciences

◆ Minimum 2.4 GPA (2.8 for out-of-state students)

◆ Good standing at the last college or university you attended

Strategies to Best Ensure Transfer Success

**It is the recommendation of Columbia College that you exceed the minimum transfer requirements.** Listed below are the typical criteria UC’s base their acceptance decisions upon. Because the pool of students who apply to UC’s is different every year, the level of academic performance necessary for admission to a particular campus or major is different, too. Acceptance rates depend on the number of applicants, their academic qualifications, and available spaces.

To be a competitive applicant:

▪ Maintain a competitive cumulative **and** major GPA

▪ Complete lower division (freshmen/sophomore level) major preparation coursework

▪ Complete lower division general education (GE) coursework (work with your counselor to determine the appropriate general education pattern)

▪ Get TAG’d – Transfer Admission Guarantee

▪ Get involved (internships, volunteer, work, student groups, etc.)

▪ Write a strong personal statement that includes your involvement

▪ TIP: Use the UC Transfer Admission Planner to prepare to apply.

When to Apply

Apply the year before you would like to attend. For example, if you intend to finish your coursework by Spring 2021, you would submit an application or apply Fall 2020.

Spring 2021, Finish coursework

Fall 2020, Submit application

Fall 2021, Transfer

Deadlines

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Application Filing Period – September 1st – 30th

UC Application Filing Period – November 1st – 30th

Resources

Assist, [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org)

Use this website to explore majors and educational programs at UC campuses

UC Admission Website, [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions)

Use this website to explore UC campuses, apply to a UC and find information on transferring to a UC

UC Statewide Transfer Prep Pathways

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/transfer-pathways/>

Provides information on how to become a competitive applicant to UC’s most popular majors, includes information on transfer admission eligibility, general education and major requirements.

TAG <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html>

Use this website to explore the TAG program. Six (6) UC campuses offer guaranteed admission to students who meet specific requirements. (includes Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz

Transfer Roadmap for UC’s

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Transferring to a UC requires exploration, decision-making, and strategic planning of coursework. Focused planning is KEY to transfer success.

EXPLORE, RESEARCH, REFLECT

* Explore your interests, values, skills, and ideal work environments
* Research occupations and educational programs
* Talk with a counselor to discuss options and questions
* Speak with faculty
* Consider taking a Guidance course
  + Guidance 18 – Life Skills for Higher Education (UC and CSU transfer)
  + Guidance 1 – Career/Life Planning (non-UC transfer, CSU only)
  + Guidance 11 – Occupational Exploration (non-UC transfer, CSU only)
  + Additional Guidance classes available, please see the

Schedule of Classes

Select a MAJOR

Select a minimum of 3-5 campuses that offer your major. Utilize [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) to research which schools offer which majors!



Completion of GE + Major coursework + Electives (if needed to reach minimum of 60 UC transferable units)  
 = TRANSFER

**Complete your Major Preparation coursework for each campus. Major coursework is found on** [**www.assist.org**](http://www.assist.org)

Note: Major courses may vary for

each campus. Be mindful of

coursework for each campus and

plan accordingly. Remember, major

courses are NOT typically

“required” BUT are strongly

recommended and make you a much

stronger candidate for transfer.

Complete “**Elective**” classes. Pick additional UC transferable classes to reach the minimum number of units required to transfer (60)

**Complete the appropriate General Education (GE) coursework**

▪ IGETC

▪ IGETC for STEM majors

Note – Certain students will not be best served

following IGETC. Students who intend to transfer

into majors that require extensive lower-division

preparation, such as engineering and some sciences,

should, at times, focus on completing minimum eligibility and major coursework. See [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for details and talk with a counselor!