The UCs want

1. Academics

2. Test Scores

3. Activities-Involvement

4. Essays

5. Special Talents, Skills, and Experiences.


7. All deadlines and all application requirements met

UCs are great schools-Let’s convince you and your parents!!!

1. There is money: Scholarships and Financial Aid

2. There is a reason to go

3. Get help from those who care

Tips for Undocumented (AB540) students

Private Colleges and Other Resources
“What Do the University of California (UC) Campuses Look For?”

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The UCS want...

1. Academics
   a. Grades in A-G classes.
      http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman/subject_reqs.html
      • The UCs strongly prefer students with GPAs higher than 3.0 and even higher for the top UCs.
      • They accept no grades lower than a C-.
      • They only look at 10th and 11th grade grades.
      • They only count full grades. Yes: A or B. No: A- or C+.
      • They look at 9th and 12th grade courses taken, in progress, and planned.
      • Courses taken during the summer before 12th grade can help your GPA.
      • The UCs don’t get your transcripts until the end of senior year, so senior year grades matter. If your grades go down, they will take back your admissions offer.
      • There are ways to meet A-G requirements through testing and high performance in your classes.
         http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman/exam_eligibility.html
         • If you are in the top 4% of your high school class, you will have guaranteed acceptance to one of the top 5 UC campuses. Make sure to put your ELC information on your application.
   b. The difficulty of the classes you’ve taken.
      • The UCs like kids who take honors and AP classes if offered at your school and who even take community college or college classes.
      • They one point to each honors or AP grade. A 3.5 becomes a 4.5, etc.
      • They also count the overall number of honors and AP classes you take. They will allow two full year classes in 10th grade and an unlimited number in 11th and 12th grades.
      • Classes taken at community colleges or four year colleges count as AP or honors classes.
      • They want you to continue taking difficult classes your senior year.
   c. The school you attend.
      • They look at where your school is located, the demographics of the kids, and the courses offered. They do not punish you for attending a school that does not
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offered many advanced classes. They will reward you, however, for taking the
initiative to take college classes.

• They want you to mention in the application if you have taken all the advanced
classes possible at your school or if there are unique features of your schools.
This goes under special circumstances in the essay section.

2. Test Scores

a. SAT Reasoning Tests
• You get waivers that pay for these tests from your college counselor.
• You can take the SATs two times with waivers.
• You sign up for them at collegeboard.com
• For the rest of the 2010 school year, the SATs are offered in May, June, October,
November, and December.
• You get to send scores for free to four colleges each testing. So choose your top
two UCs. You will have to pay $9.50 for extra scores. It’s worth the money,
but wait until you get your two sets of scores before paying this money.
• The UCs count the highest overall test date for your SAT scores.

b. SAT Subject Tests
• You must take at least two of these hour long tests through the class of 2011.
• Your waivers allow you to take each hour long test twice.
• There are 20 subject tests, including Spanish, World History, Math 2 (you can’t
take Math 1), Literature, US History, Biology, Spanish with Listening
(November only), and more.
• You sign up for them at collegeboard.com.
• Again, you can send scores to four colleges for free. Each UC campus is a
separate campus.

c. ACT
• You can take the ACT with writing instead of the SAT Reasoning Test.
http://www.actstudent.org/
• For the UCS, you still need two SAT Subject Tests through class of 2011.
• You can send scores to four schools for free. So use this choice wisely.
• The ACTs have you send by test date.

d. AP and IB tests
• AP and IB tests really show how well you do in school.
http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html
• You must give your AP and IB test scores in the application.
• You do not need to send them to the UCs until you accept the UC you plan to
attend.
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- If you really don’t think you did well, you have until June to cancel your scores. After that they are set in stone on your record.
- Private colleges will ask you to send your scores. So use the free scores for potential private colleges.

3. Activities and Involvement
   - The UCs expect you to have been active in and out of school. They look for consistency, development, leadership, and initiative.
   - Get started with activities in 9th grade. They want you to be active in high school so you will be active in college. Spend at least two years with an activity but try to keep at activities for even longer. That shows your growth and commitment.
   - Put together an activity resume as soon as you can.
   - The UC application has several categories for activities:
     - Extracurricular Activities
     - Community Service
     - Work
     - Special Programs such as GEAR UP, Upward Bound, or others
     - Non A-G courses that show a passion or interest
     - Award and Honors
   - For each category, you get room for five activities
     - List the activity
     - Give the hours and weeks per year
     - Give a one to two sentence description of your role in the box provided for each activity.
     - They look for consistency, development, leadership, and initiative.

- They expect you to use your summers constructively and participate in activities throughout the school year. Childcare and working for your family count. Core family responsibilities can count as an activity.
- They really want students to have tried to make a difference in their communities— including schools, church, sports, music, dance, leadership, and jobs.

4. Essays
   - The UCS require that you write two essays.
   - The total word count for the two essays is 1000 words—about four pages double-spaced.
They want you to be honest about your background, culture, obstacles overcome, and leadership.

They do not read minds. So be honest and let them know how you will enrich their campuses.

They want you to be descriptive and give examples.

Provide descriptive stories to help readers understand what you’ve experienced and accomplished.

We recommend using the Into, Through, and Beyond Approach. See http://getmetocolege.org/hs/application-essay-tips for college essay writing approaches.

Remember, it’s okay to describe challenges and obstacles. But use the 1/3-2/3 rule. For one third, you can describe the challenge, but for 2/3rd you need to show what you learned and how this has made you a better person or student.

Save these essays as you can use them in other college and scholarship applications.

5. Special Talents, Skills, and Experiences.

Some UCs have special artistic programs to which you can audition or submit portfolios. For example, UCLA has an acting program. UCSB has a dance program. Irvine has musical theater and dance. UC Santa Barbara has a Creative Studies major that accepts writing samples. These require separate applications in addition to the regular application and auditions.

The UCs also recruit Athletes. Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse and then get started with the recruitment process.


You need to provide your citizenship, residency, and financial status.
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- The UCs cannot use race as a factor in admissions, so they can use income as a measure of diversity. Be honest with your financial information. Use the essays to tell how you’re a survivor. Show your resilience and your power.
- When you apply, say you want to apply for EOP, and be honest with financial information. There are no essays for this part.

7. All deadlines met

- Deadlines. Meet each deadline. No late applications are accepted.
  1. Apply by November 30. The website opens up October 1 but you can’t submit them until November 1.
  2. Submit your tests scores by January 1. The latest SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Test they accept at December.
  3. Submit your Federal financial aid (FAFSA) by March 1. If you don’t have 2010 data, then use 2009 information.
  4. Submit Cal Grants by March 2.
  5. Submit scholarship applications all throughout year

- Follow Application Requirements: You only prepare one UC application and submit it to different campuses.
- You must do the application online.
- Here is a great guide with checklists and information.
  http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/index.html
- You can download this year’s worksheet to get ready.
  http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/counselors/files/applyonline_11-12_freshman_final.pdf
- You need to keep track of your email address, login, and passwords, as the UCs communicate via email.

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1. There is money: Scholarships and Financial Aid.
   a. The UCs just started a Blue and Gold Plan for families making under 70K per year.
      i. The plan offers scholarships, grants, loans, and work study.
      ii. The loans are repayable over at least 10 years. The interest rates are low.
   b. When you apply for UCs, check off that you want to be considered for scholarships.
   c. Here is a site that provides links too many scholarship sites and to each UC’s campuses financial aid page, where they list scholarship information.
      http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying-for-uc/financial-aid/index.html
   d. There is also money outside of the UCs to help you pay for college.
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e. Apply early next year for scholarships as the deadlines are early.
f. Start collecting scholarship information now.

1. Latino College Dollars http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/
3. Hispanic Scholarship Fund... http://www.hsf.net/
4. Maldef Scholarship List...includes scholarships for AB540 students and all Latino students: http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/2010_Scholarship_List.pdf
5. The Asian and Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund: http://www.apiasf.org/
6. College Scholarships with information for athletes and minorities (by ethnicity). http://www.collegescholarships.org/
7. Fastweb is for all around scholarship information: http://www.fastweb.com/

There is a reason to go.

i. They are the best public colleges in the country. There is no comparison.
   • If you want to go to a UC, start talking to your parents now.
   • They have extraordinary majors, students, and activities.
   • They offer you learning, social, and networking opportunities that will last your entire life.
   • Visit the campuses during junior year, the summer between junior and senior year, and senior year.
   • Once you get in, find out about overnight visit programs.

ii. Living on campus is incredibly wonderful.
   • If you want to go to a UC and live on campus, start talking to your parents now. They may worry about you, so let’s reduce their worries.
   • Living in a dorm is awesome. You get to be part of an amazing community of students. Let’s take you and your parents to see a UC.
   • Once you get in, find out about overnight visit programs.

   o Your school has graduates at most UCs who will be more than willing to talk to you and even host you.
   o Your school has parents whose children go to UCS. If you think, your parents would benefit from talking with them, let us know.
   o Your school has teachers and counselors who went to the UCs. Find them.
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- See your counselor for special programs and scholarships such as Posse, Questbridge, and more. They provide full scholarships to private colleges.
- Find out about programs on campuses for diverse students.
- Become Dr. Joseph’s Facebook friend: getmetocollege free advice.
- Check Dr. Joseph’s website once a month: getmetocollege.org/hs
- Email Dr. Joseph any time at rjoseph@calstatela.edu

For undocumented (AB540) students

- The UCs want you and can help you find aid if you work with them early in the process.
- If have lived in the United States and attended school for the past three years, you qualify for in state tuition.
- You do not qualify for any state or federal loans.
- You need to complete an AB540 affidavit to promise you meet AB540 requirements.
- Each campus has an office or program to help you. They offer access to scholarships for AB540 students. Just search for AB540 for each campus. Here are two links.
  - Berkeley: http://ucbmisp.weebly.com/index.html
  - UC San Diego: office and amazing list of resources: http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/finances/fees/residence/ab540.html
- USC has a great guide in English and in Spanish to guide AB540 students through the college admissions and financial aid process. http://chepa.usc.edu/Publications.html
- There are student groups at most UC campuses for AB540 students.
  - UC Davis’s group: http://www.cadreamnetwork.org/ucdavis.html
- YOU MUST START EARLY AS YOU CAN FIND MONEY. BUT IT TAKES MORE TIME.
- Private colleges can give money to AB540 students.
  - Go to college fairs and meet the representatives when they visit your school.
Their deadlines are different. They range from early fall to the majority which are due in January.

We will provide more information about private colleges later.

Private Colleges and Other Resources

- See your counselor for special programs and scholarships such as Posse, Questbridge, and more. They provide full scholarships to private colleges.
- Find out about programs on campuses for diverse students.
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- Check Dr. Joseph’s website once a month: getmetocollege.org/hs
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