UC Application Personal Insight Questions: Review and Advice Looking Ahead

Session F
June 14, 2017

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Why did UC change the questions?

- Prompts were last changed in 2008
- Desire to depart from longer format to a short-answer, multiple question format
- Based on feedback, a belief the new format would not only help our applicants, but also help us with admission decisions
- Admission Directors felt it critical to ensure that the written responses received from UC applicants truly provides the type of reflective and personal insights we value at the UC
### Fall 2017 UC Application Freshman Personal Insight Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.</td>
<td>Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?</td>
</tr>
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<td>Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.</td>
<td>Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?</td>
<td>What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.</td>
<td>What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?</td>
</tr>
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Transfer Application Questions

• **Required Question:**
  Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

• Select 3 other questions from the list of 7 questions
What did UC expect to learn from the new questions?

- Applicants get a greater say in the kind of information they want to share

- Students can express who they are and what matters to them in their responses, but also through the questions they choose to answer

- Option over questions to answer gives students greater flexibility and control to select questions most relevant to their experiences and best reflect their experiences

- Questions provide students with better direction and focus on topics important to UC admission offices
Questions Selected by Applicants

Percentage of Freshman UC Applicants Who Answered Each Personal Insight Question

- Q1: 12
- Q2: 15
- Q3: 11
- Q4: 10
- Q5: 16
- Q6: 12
- Q7: 14
- Q8: 11
Questions Selected by Applicants

Percentage of Transfer UC Applicants Who Answered Each Personal Insight Question

- Q1: 12
- Q2: 12
- Q3: 9
- Q4: 9
- Q5: 10
- Q6: 16
- Q7: 7
- Q8: 12
Insight into the UC Personal Insight Question responses for Fall 2017
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<td>Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.</td>
<td>Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.</td>
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<td>Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.</td>
<td>Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?</td>
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Q & A
Thank you.

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