



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

www.universityofcalifornia.edu



One UC System: Ten Great Campuses

The University of California offers 9 undergraduate campuses (plus UCSF which offers graduate programs) located throughout the state of California. Each campus is diverse in size, location, and opportunities to undergraduate students.

Review the 9 undergraduate campuses,
compare and contrast!

<http://explore.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Majors vary from campus to campus.
To see what UC has your **major**,
visit <http://www.assist.org>

UCDAVIS

UC UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
RIVERSIDE

UC SANTA CRUZ

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UCLA

UCIRVINE



UCSD

UCSB

UCMERCED

Application Time Line

<u>Date/Deadline</u>	<u>Task</u>
October 1	UC Application Opens
November 1-30	Submit online UC Application
December	Send SAT/ACT test results
March	Notification of Admission
May 1	SIR Deadline – Freshman

* The University of California does **not** use early action or early decision*

Reminders:

- Communication between the Office of Admissions and applicants will occur primarily through e-mail.
- You will have a unique log in at each UC campus to check your application status.
- Keep track of your user name and passwords!!
- Reply to requests in a timely manner.

Freshman Selection

- Every UC campus gets the same application
- Every UC campus you apply to will calculate eligibility with the same GPA and test scores
- Each UC campus will review your application for admission individually using the information in the application
- Each UC campus places a different value on each section of the UC application
- Admission to one UC campus does not guarantee admission to another UC campus (or vice versa).





Comprehensive Review

The University of California believes in reviewing your academic potential. We also look for your ability to demonstrate potential outside of the classroom.

UC campuses are looking to enroll a diverse incoming class. This means we will look at what YOU accomplished based off of what was available to you. We do NOT compare students to one another, nor should you!

Navigating the Application

 UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Cuca Acosta, Fall 2014, Freshman Applicant: : [My Account](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign Out](#)

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

[START](#) > [CAMPUSES & MAJORS](#) > [SCHOLARSHIPS](#) > [ABOUT YOU](#) > [ACADEMIC HISTORY](#) > [ACTIVITIES & AWARDS](#) > [TEST SCORES](#) > [PERSONAL STATEMENT](#) > [SUBMIT](#)

Use the progress bar to navigate to different sections of the UC application.

Review & Submit STEP 1 OF 6

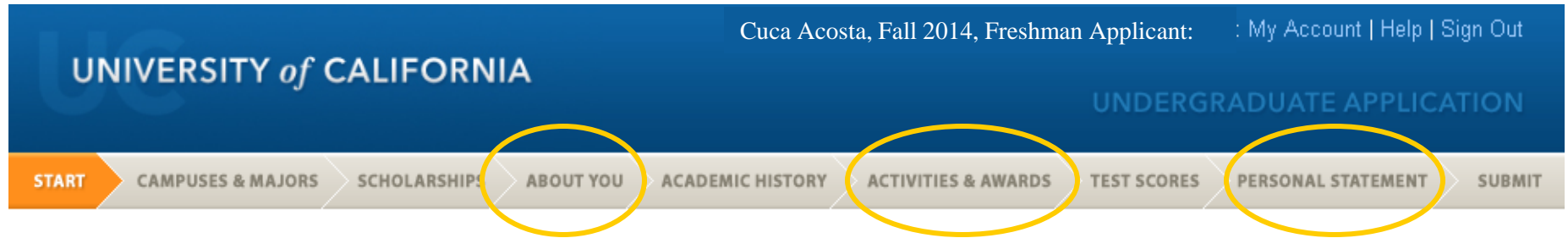
Application Summary

 [Print](#)

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

+ My Account Edit	COMPLETED 
+ Start Your Application	COMPLETED 
+ Campuses & Majors	IN PROGRESS 
+ Scholarships	COMPLETED 
+ About You	COMPLETED 
+ Academic History	COMPLETED 
+ Activities & Awards	IN PROGRESS 
+ Test Scores	IN PROGRESS 
+ Personal Statement	COMPLETED 

Navigating the Application



- Non-Academic factors are often found in these three areas of the UC application.
- It is your responsibility to add information for the admissions staff.

Remember:

We only know what you add in the application.

UC does NOT conduct interviews, read letters of recommendations, or communicate for clarification!



About You

Information about you and your family
(This section is considered optional)

- **Parents Education Level & Current Employment Field**
- **Family Income** (mandatory if you request a fee waiver)
- **Veteran Status, Foster Care, First Language Spoken, etc.**



Activities and Awards

When we look at your UC application we hope to see:

- **Commitment**
(multiple years of the same activity)
- **Progression**
(learning and growing from your activity)
- **Leadership**
(ex. President, “first chair”, soloist, team captain, Eagle Scout, etc.)

Activities and Awards

Inside This Section

- > Introduction
- > 1. Coursework Other Than A-G
- > 2. Educational Prep Programs
- > 3. Community Service
- > 4. Work Experience
- > 5. Awards & Honors
- > **6. Extracurricular Activities**
- > 7. Review Activities & Awards

* For each of the 6 categories you can enter up to 5 activities

* Average your hours of your activities if they vary during the year.

* You have 160 characters to describe each activity. Make your words count!

Activities & Awards

STEP 6 of 7

Add an Activity

What was the activity name?

Volleyball

During which high school years were you involved?

☒ 9th ☒ 10th ☒ 11th ☒ 12th ☐ After 12th

How much time did you devote to the activity?

Hours per Week

15

Weeks per Year

40

Briefly describe the activity.

(Entries over 160 characters will be truncated.)

Club: 10 hrs/wk for 40 wks, traveling team, ranked 4th in nation; HS: Varsity 3 yrs, co-captain '09, '10, CIF champs 2009

ADD THIS

CANCEL



The Personal Statement

- Two prompts are given as part of the application.
- Answer both prompts
- 1,000 word limit (combined word count for both responses)
- Write this in a word document, cut and paste onto the application.
- Think of this as your interview with the UC admissions office.

The Purpose of the Personal Statement

The Admissions staff on the UC campus would like your personal statement to add:

Clarity – a richer perspective of your life, experiences, and/or accomplishments

Depth – details into your application (academics or extra-curricular activities)

Context – sharing details on your home, school, or community

The Freshman Prompts:

Statement #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.

Statement #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?

The Transfer Prompts:

Statement #1:

What is your intended major? Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had in the field – such as volunteer work, internships and employment, participation in student organizations and activities – and what you have gained from your involvement.

Statement #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?

The Optional Prompt

“Additional Comments”

Statement #3 (optional):

Use this space to tell us anything else you want us to know about you and your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in the application.

Limit your response to 550 words or less.

You should not continue an answer to prompt 1 or 2.

The Optional Prompt

“Additional Comments”

Additional Comments (examples):

- “My High School limits AP course registration to seniors, I had to wait until senior year to register for a course.”
- “I switched from a private boarding school to a public high school junior year when my dad lost his job and our family could not pay the tuition.”
- “No soccer in senior year. Budget cuts canceled the program”

The Personal Statement

START > CAMPUSES & MAJORS > SCHOLARSHIPS > ABOUT YOU > ACADEMIC HISTORY > ACTIVITIES & AWARDS > TEST SCORES > **PERSONAL STATEMENT** > SUBMIT

Personal Statement STEP 1 OF 3

Personal Statement 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.

My world is cooking. When I was ten my father and I enrolled in a weekend cooking class on food fusion. The class sparked a passion in me to cook and created the inspiration for my high schools Cooking Club, which I founded in my sophomore year.

Friday night became my night to cook for my family. I took the role seriously, first I started to read cook books from across the world in search of recipes to try at home. My father and I would work all week to refine the menu, often I would research my dishes online and give a little history report along with the meal. Mid-week my mother and I would shop at the farmers markets in town for each ingredient my dish needed. After a few months I was actually teaching my friends about herbs and spices, explaining cooking techniques and sharing my love of the kitchen.

The dinner together acted as a showcase for my culinary talent and it helped to create a bond for my family. The joy of cooking made me start a blog in high school. Every week I would post my recipes online and explain what my family meals were like. I noted the triumphs and of course the disasters, all of which were a learning experience for me in patience and in persistence. I often had to try a recipe five or six times before it was perfect.

My dedication to cooking melted into other areas of my life ...

Word count: 252(Statement 1) + 4 (Statement 2) = 256

Personal Statement 1 and 2, when added together, can be no more than 1,000 words

Inside This Section

- > Introduction
- > **1. Personal Statement 1**
- > 2. Personal Statement 2
- > 3. Additional Comments

Questions?

[Can I edit my personal statement after pasting it into my application?](#)

[Why does my word-processing](#)

Cut & paste your response into the application.

Notice that there is no spell check or grammar check.

Notice that your word count will add your two responses!

◀ PREVIOUS

NEXT ▶

Think outside the box for your topic!

(Not your writing style.)

- **Personal triumphs or challenges** – if you decide to talk about a challenge or triumph, do not forget to explain what you learned from the experience.
- **Leadership opportunities** – we value leadership at many levels (i.e. family, school, or community).
- **Experiences outside the classroom** – your statement can be about experiences that have made an impact on your life (i.e. travels, church/temple, work, youth groups, or your family).
- **Disabilities** – if you are living with a disability, feel free to talk about it in the context of your ability to succeed.
- **Culture** – if your culture has influenced who you are, talk about it. Let it add to the picture we form of you as a person and as a student.

Stay focused!

Avoid common mistakes

- Don't be campus specific!
One UC application for all 9 of us.
- Humor (jokes and sarcasm are not helpful)
- Creative writing (poems, scene setting, or clichés)
- Quotations or Dialogue – we want to know your thoughts, not someone else's.
- Analogies or Metaphors
- Story Telling

Stay focused!

Avoid Common Mistakes Cont.

- Generalities – stick to facts and specifics you want us to know about yourself.
- Repetition – you do not need to talk about the same topic in each response. Give us new information we cannot find in other sections of the application.
- Hard-luck stories without a purpose - you do not need to overcome a challenge to gain admission to UCSB so do not make one up.
- Stretching the truth – just be honest. Most lies reveal themselves to us in the admissions process.

UC Home Page:

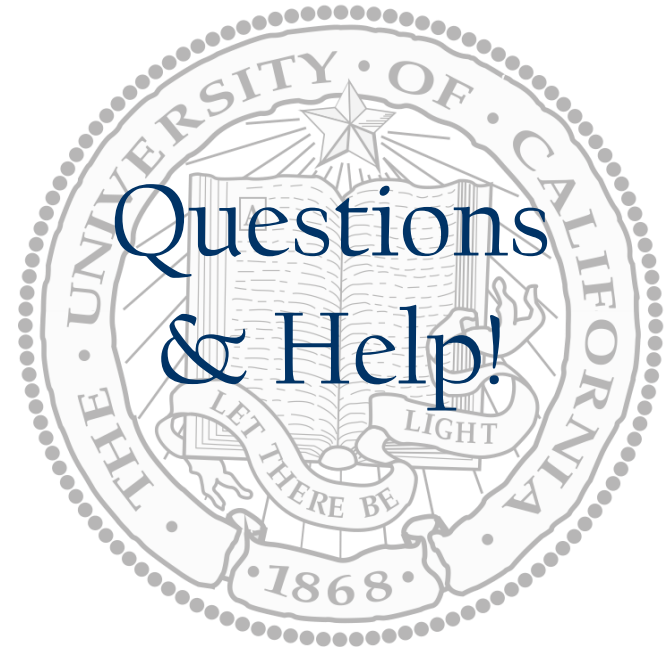
www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Admission Requirements:

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

Online Application:

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply



**Questions
& Help!**

UC Application Processing Service - General Help Desk

(800) 207-1710 toll-free in California (661) 336-5723 outside California

(925) 521-9280 TDD/TTY or email - ucinfo@applyucsupport.net

Questions?

UC Santa Barbara
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