University of California Application Tips for 2024

Getting Started:
Apply as a "Transfer." If you have only attended a community college, select "Junior-level transfer – I will complete 60-89 semester units or 90-134 quarter units by the time I enter UC." If you have attended a 4 year college(s) and accrued more than 89 semester units, please see a counselor but you may still be able to click on "Junior-level transfer" and then list all colleges you attended (and any degrees earned) and all your courses in the academic section.

About You:
Under "Citizenship," undocumented and AB 540 students should select "No selection." Students should disclose their Social Security number and Individual Taxpayer ID number if they have one.

Dependent students must provide additional information about their parent(s).

The demographic information section is optional.

Campuses and Majors:
Select campuses that you want to apply to. You can apply to as many UC's as you want. Applications are $70 each, even for international applications attending SMC. A fee waiver calculation is part of the application and eligible students can apply to 4 campuses for free. Next, select the majors at each campus. Selecting an alternate major is optional, but we suggest you select an alternate major to keep your options available to attend a specific campus, even if not to study your first choice major.

Academic History – VERY IMPORTANT SECTION ON THIS APPLICATION
- Students with a TAG to a UC for Fall 2024 should follow the directions on the Transfer Admission Planner page to save time. If the system cannot upload your information from the TAG, enter the information again manually in this section. All others click "Save & Continue."
- List the last high school you attended, even if you did not graduate.
- List college(s) attended. For end date, enter "June 2024" if finishing in Spring 2024, enter "August 2024" if finishing in summer 2024. For the question, "what is your college's term system?" select "Semester with Winter Session" for SMC. If you are not earning a degree at SMC, select "No Degree" from the drop down menu for the question about "What level of degree, diploma or certification you received or will receive."
- YOU ARE REQUIRED TO LIST ALL COLLEGES COURSEWORK AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR TRANSCRIPTS IN THIS SECTION OF THE APPLICATION. THAT INCLUDES NON-TRANSFERABLE COURSES, BAD GRADES, GOOD GRADES, INCOMPLETES AND W'S. IF IT IS ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT, IT GOES ON YOUR APPLICATION.
- If a course does not appear on the drop down menu, scroll to the bottom of the page and click, "I don't see all my courses" and type in your course. Example – Math 18. "Dept" is "Math", "Course No." is "18", "Course Title" is "Intermediate Algebra", "Units" is "3" and your grade.
- "Minimum Requirements" Section: you may be asked if you will meet certain requirements prior to transferring to UC (Entry-level Writing Requirement and the 7-course Pattern). These courses are required for admission and must be completed with a grade of C or better, in progress or planned. No one should click the option, "None planned/not completed." You will also be asked about IGETC certification. IGETC is not a minimum requirement for admission (but talk to a counselor if you are applying to Berkeley).
- If you followed a UC Transfer Pathway, indicate the pathway from the drop down menu.
- The California State Student ID number is not required.
- Under additional comments, we recommend at least one sentence that says, "At this time, my UC GPA is _____." This is your GPA at this moment, without guessing what your Fall 2023 grades will be.

Test Scores:
- Advanced Placement (AP) Scores – Enter all scores, even 1's and 2's. Just taking these exams shows good qualities.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams – If you took them, list them.
- TOEFL or IELTS – If you took them, list them. International students can refer to the document in General Counseling/Transfer Services titled "University of California English Language Proficiency Requirement" for exceptions.
- International External Exams, like British system A-levels, can be entered here.

Activities and Awards:
This section asks you to enter information that you might be required to prove if you are randomly selected for verification. Be truthful about all activities and awards. You are allowed to list a maximum of 20 activities and awards you have earned or participated in. The most recent activities and awards are more meaningful to admission evaluators (e.g. completed since Fall 2021). "After 12th grade" refers to something you have done after your last year of high school.

Scholarships:
There is no limit to the number of scholarships that you can select. Selecting scholarships is optional. Only scholarships that are available at the campuses selected will be displayed.

Personal Insight Questions:
Write these separately in a word document, not on the application site, and cut and paste it into the application. There is no need to give titles to your responses. There is an "Additional Comments" box after the insight questions. These comments should be short and address issues if you want to elaborate on things not covered in the other parts of the application. This is not intended for a fifth personal insight response, so keep it to 'comments'.

Start Submission Process (Not available until October 1, 2023 for Fall 2024 Applicants):
The application performs an academic review on the information reported in the "Academic History" section. Students may be asked to explain any gaps in their education and verify units and applicant level. This may be asked if you have units earned by external exams (like AP or IB), attended non-California community colleges so the system cannot verify unit transferability, or if you forgot to list your planned Winter and Spring 2024 classes. Go back to the Academic History section, and make corrections if necessary, then put a check in the check box.

Release Authorizations:
It is recommended that you read thoroughly and check all the "Releases and Signature" boxes, as this allows counselors and UC evaluators to communicate with each other about your application.

Application Fee Payments:
A fee waiver may be offered and is based upon the information supplied in the application. Students must accept the fee waiver by clicking the box. The fee waiver is good for 4 application fees. After you submit payment by credit card (or indicate you will pay by check), you will receive a confirmation email with your application ID number. Print this and save it!

January 2024:
You must return to the application website, click on "Transfer Academic Update" and enter the grades earned in Fall 2023 classes, and change or reconfirm classes you listed for Winter and Spring 2024. This needs to be completed by January 31, 2024!

Check email frequently, including junk and spam folders, for messages from the campuses!