

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA APPLICATIONS



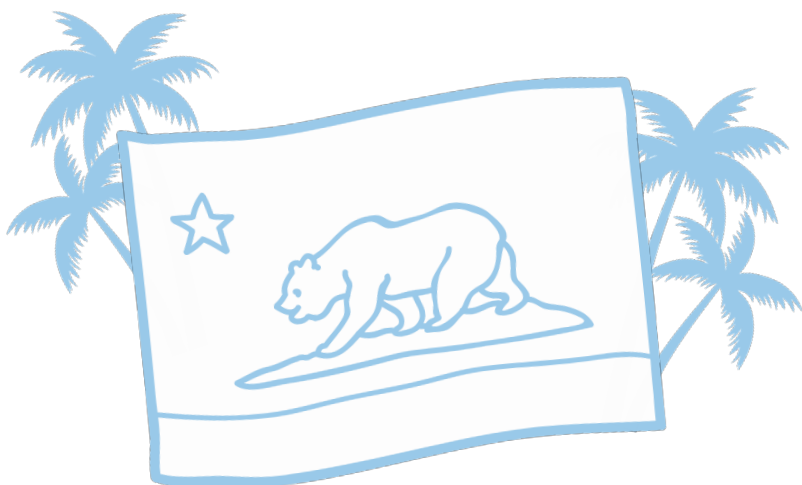
The University of California system uses its own application. It is not wildly different from what you completed for the Common App/SRAR. As with your other colleges, take a minute to explore the UCs before you dive into your application; they are all very active on YouTube, including videos about applying to their colleges.

5 TOP UC TIPS:

- 1 Being **thorough and precise** in your UC application is very important. The UCs do not accept any records from high schools: No transcripts and no teacher recommendations. Each year, UCs ask high schools to upload their school profile and answer questions that they find important in reviewing applications.
- 2 The UC system is test-free, meaning they will **not accept or review SAT or ACT scores**. Your AP scores will be reviewed should you choose to include these exams.
- 3 **UC Berkeley** might ask you to submit teacher recommendations.
- 4 **The UC deadline is firm.** If your application has not been submitted by 11:59 p.m. on November 30, you are no longer an applicant to the UCs.
- 5 You can apply to all UC campuses through the one UC application, but make sure to **pick the campuses you'd actually want to attend**. There is a \$70 application fee for each campus. Learn more about the campuses on back!

SETTING YOURSELF APART:

- Remember that you will have **significantly more room in the UC application's Activities section** than the Common Application. The UC application allows you to list up to 20 different activities on the application. These are divided into different categories (award or honor, educational preparation program, extracurricular activity, other course work, volunteering/community service, and work experience), and each has a different character count limit.
- Students often wonder what to write for their supplemental questions. UC provides clear directions and advice on **how to approach what they call personal interest questions (PIQ)**. These questions are designed to be answered like interview responses. It's important that you answer the prompt clearly with examples to support your responses. Each question is weighed equally, so choose the ones that will help the reader best understand different aspects of you and your story. We strongly recommend referencing this great UC worksheet to help you brainstorm.
- The UC application has two places for you to provide additional information: The first opportunity is after the **Academic History section**, and the other is after the **Personal Insight Question section**. These sections are meant for you to add any other information that the reader needs to review your application holistically. Examples would be explaining curricular choices, special programs you participated in, or unique aspects of your EA experience.





KNOW YOUR CAMPUS:

While each UC campus is special, please note the following:

- **UC San Diego** prioritizes making the campus feel more intimate by placing students in one of seven colleges. Students rank their choices on their UC application if they apply to UCSD. Each UCSD college differs in terms of campus location and housing, and each has different general education requirements. This is a great one-page overview of each college and their unique academic requirements.
- Historically, there tends to be a non-resident admission advantage at **UC Davis, UC Irvine, and UC Santa Cruz.**
- **UCLA and UC Berkeley** have a single-digit admit rate for out-of-state applicants.
- **UC Santa Barbara** admit rate has recently increased for out-of-state applicants.

APPLICATION RESOURCES:

In need of help? You can draw upon multiple resources as you complete your UC application.



Your **college counselor** is happy to review your **application and essays** before you submit.



UC offers a **helpful guide** for admission in addition to information about the portal and FAQs.



UC Santa Barbara offers **virtual workshops** on the topic of culture and identity in the UC application. Check out their **website** in the fall.

REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!