

UC Personal Insight Questions

What do you want colleges to know about you?

2 / 2, Extracurricular

Level:

Reg

Sum hr/wk

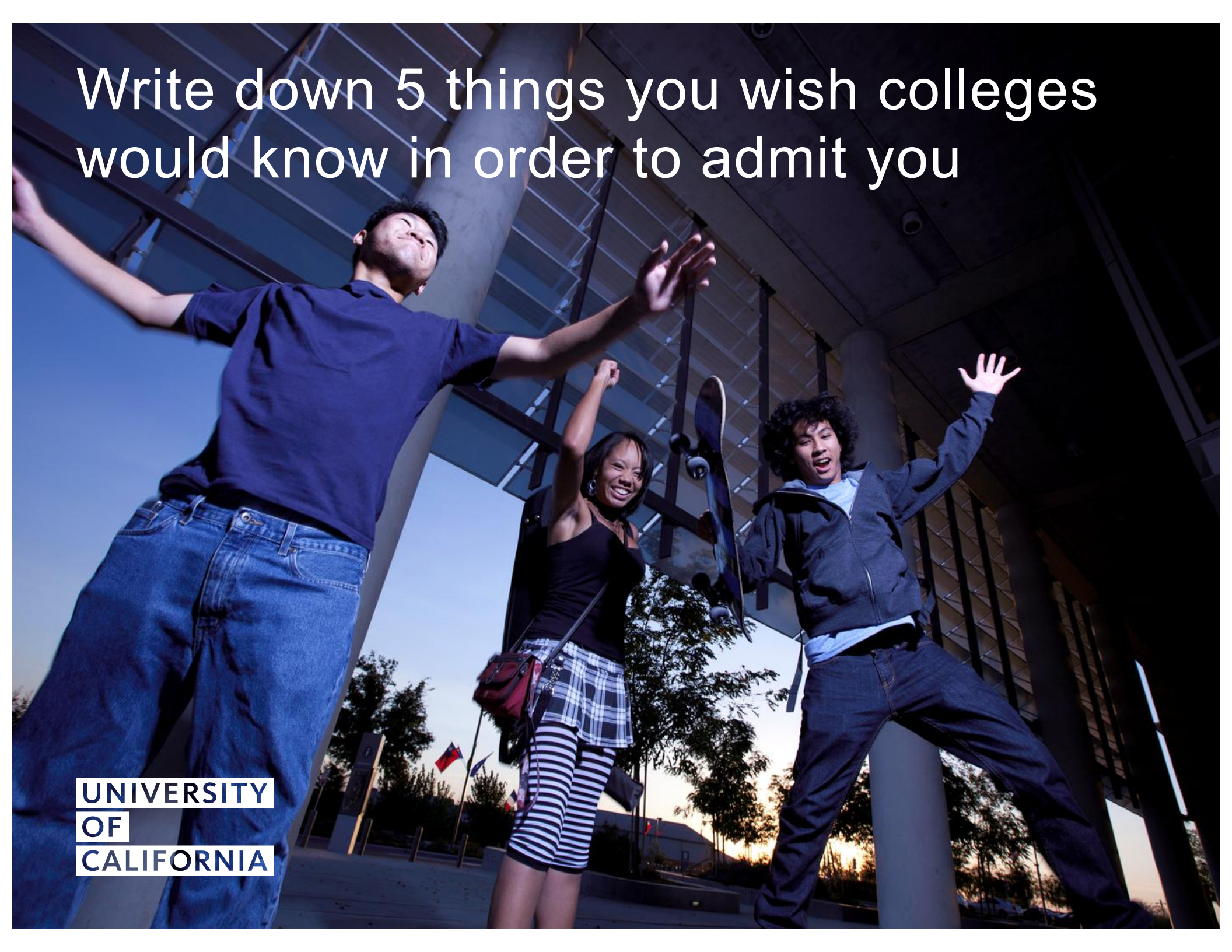
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Use of Earnings

During work, I have never work jewelry. However, I do wear earrings outside of my job.

Write down 5 things you wish colleges would know in order to admit you

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What are the things you should always consider in a piece of writing?

Consider these points for any writing assignment

- What is the purpose of the writing?
- Who is your audience?
- What is the context?

What are the UC's looking for
in your application?

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Comprehensive Review

- Grade-Point Average
- Test Scores
- Courses Completed/Planned
- Honors Courses
- Top 9% Local Context (ELC)
- Quality of Senior-Year Program of Study
- Academic Opportunities in California High Schools
- Performance in Academic Subject Areas
- Achievements in Special Projects
- Improvement in Academic Performance
- Special Talents, Achievements, and Awards
- Participation in Educational Preparation Programs
- Academic Accomplishment Within Life Experiences
- Geographic Location

What information is found elsewhere in your application?

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GPA

Test Scores

Rigor of classes (including senior year)

School information (including ELC)

Extracurriculars

Leadership

Community Service

Awards and Honors

Works experience/Educational programs

Activities & Awards

Coursework Other Than A-G

What was the course name?
Elec Publishing/Graphic Design

During which high school year(s) did you take the course?
 9th 10th 11th 12th After 12th

How much time were you in class?
Hours per Week Weeks per Year
8 20

Briefly describe the course.
(Entries over 160 characters will be truncated. The following characters count as
Character Count: 126 Characters Remaining: 34)

Learn production, distribution, and user interaction to computerbased production of text, graphic design and interactive media.

You have 150 characters to explain each activity – use it!

- Award or Honor
- Educational Preparation Program
- Extracurricular Activity
- Volunteer / Community Service
- Work Experience

Volunteer & Community Service

For what organization did you volunteer?
CASA

During which high school years were you involved?
 9th 10th 11th 12th After 12th

How much time did you devote to the organization?
Hours per Week Weeks per Year
8 40

Briefly describe the organization and your responsibilities.
(Entries over 160 characters will be truncated. The following characters count as
Character Count: 75 Characters Remaining: 85)

Working with and advocating for young children in foster care environments.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A “PERSONAL
INSIGHT QUESTION” AND AN
ESSAY?**

The personal insight questions

Each question aligns to one or more of the 14 comprehensive review factors that campuses consider in their admissions decisions.

- Freshmen must choose 4 out of 8 questions
- Maximum of 350 words for each response
- All questions have equal value; there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others
- Think of response as a written interview
- Responses are *not* essays, but should be well designed and have structure
- Complements information in the application without repeating it
- Provides a deeper perspective on the applicant's life experiences and/or accomplishments

The personal insight questions

1. Describe an example of your **leadership** experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. 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.
3. What would you say is your greatest **talent** or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a **significant educational opportunity** or worked to **overcome an educational barrier** you have faced.
5. 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?
6. Describe your **favorite academic subject** and explain how it has influenced you.
7. What have you done to **make your school or your community a better place**?
8. What is the one thing that you think **sets you apart** from other candidates applying to the University of California?

Dos and Don'ts

DO

- Keep it positive
- Keep it about you
- Focus on high school
- Use everyday language
- Show growth, maturity, and love of learning
- Connect the dots
- Proofread and Edit
- Brag a little bit – you've earned it!

Don't

- Write about others
- Place blame
- Play the victim
- Write it like a text
- Overuse a Thesaurus
- Repeat information
- Be sarcastic, overly witty, or bizarrely creative
- Write philosophically

Tips for Success

- Be reflective in your writing
- Be your authentic self
- Use vivid, specific details and examples
- Explain “what” statements with “why and “how”
- Be concise and succinct – don’t ramble
- Show your passion
- Use additional comments section, but don’t write another personal statement



Take advantage of your resources and relax!

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