Pingry

University of California System Application Guidelines

The UC's or the UC System refers to a centralized admissions system for 9 campuses spread across California. These campuses include:

UC Berkeley UC Davis UC Irvine UCLA UC Merced UC Riverside
UC San Diego UC Santa Barbara UC Santa Cruz

Often praised for their research opportunities, diverse campuses and high quality education, it is no wonder that these schools are a popular college choice for high school students. Pingry graduates have or are attending many of the UC campuses. Please note that admission is competitive for all UC schools and UC Berkeley and UCLA are particularly challenging with out of state admission rates of < 10%.

Navigating the UC Application

The UC System has its own unique application platform and does not use the Common Application. Students are able to use one application to apply to all 9 UC campuses if desired. Be aware that you are applying to each school and not the system and will have to choose the campuses you are applying to and pay the $80 application fee for each school. Hence, it is important to identify which school(s) is the best fit for you. Students are safe to apply to as many campuses as they like as schools will not know if you apply to other UC schools. The UC's also have a unique application deadline. **For the class of 2026, the deadline is December 1, 2025**. Get started by clicking the application platform link above and create your account. Once completed you will have to provide information for the following sections of the UC application:

1. About You
2. Campuses and Majors
3. Academic History
4. Test Scores
5. Activities and Awards
6. Scholarships and Support Programs
7. Personal Insight
8. Review and Submit

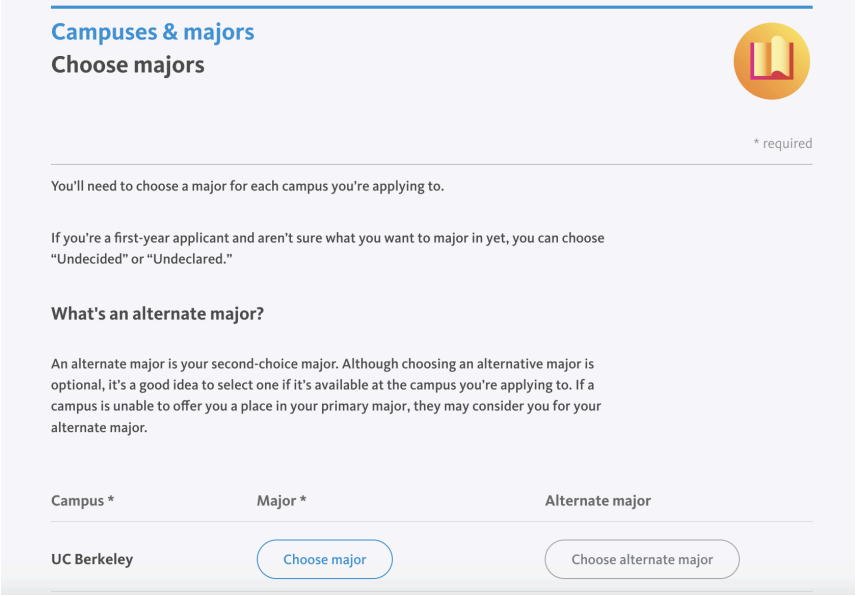
1. About You

This section is relatively straightforward. Students will be expected to submit personal and contact information, citizenship, residency, and income information. Honesty and accuracy are important as information submitted in this section can impact eligibility for scholarship opportunities.

2. Campuses and Majors

This section is where students will be able to identify which UC Campuses they would like to apply to and what their intended majors are. Please speak with your college counselor about the UC campuses you are interested in.

Due to the extremely competitive nature of admission at UCLA and UC Berkeley, it is wise to choose an additional UC school with your application. List your intended major only if you know what that is at the time of your application. If you do list a major, list an alternative major to increase your chances of admission. (UCLA does not allow alternative majors on the application). Otherwise, choose undeclared. To choose a major or undeclared, click on the Choose Major button next to a particular school. Undeclared will either be in the drop down of options or in the College of Arts and Sciences or Letters and Sciences depending on the school. If choosing an alternate major, click on that button and choose the appropriate program. Some schools will allow you to be undeclared in a particular college at that school, i.e. engineering. Choosing undeclared will not impact your chances of admission to UC schools.



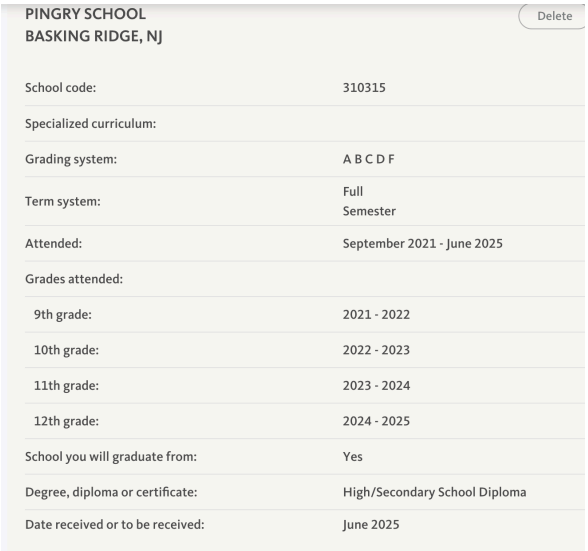
3. Academic History and Testing

High School Information

Students applying from out of state are expected to meet California's A-G course requirements which is essentially a core curriculum. Pingry students generally do not have any problems with these requirements. Click Here for a full breakdown of California's full list of A-G requirements.

- List Pingry as your high school by either typing in our CEEB code, 310315 or our school name. Choose Pingry and then choose ABCD for our grading system.

- UC A-G Courses or core courses are in English, Mathematics, Science, History/Social Sciences, Language Other Than English, and Visual/Performing Arts
- For Term System, choose either Full Term or Semester as all core courses at Pingry are one of these 2 options. You will not be entering Spring Intensives, Health/PE classes, Peer Leadership, Yearbook, Public Speaking and Financial Literacy classes.
- You will also have to enter in the month/year started at Pingry, the month/year of graduation as well as the years for each grade, degree obtained, and date of graduation. We highly recommend that you obtain a copy of your transcript from your college counselor or Pingry's registrar before proceeding. You should see the screen below when completed:



PINGRY SCHOOL
BASKING RIDGE, NJ

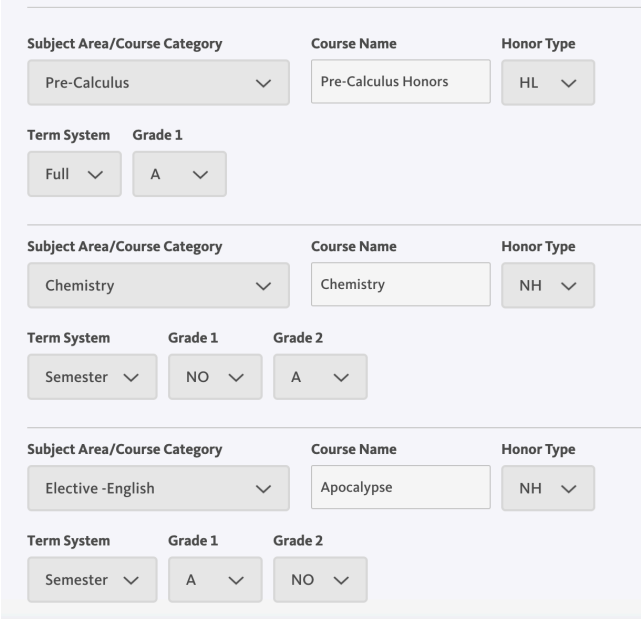
Delete

School code:	310315
Specialized curriculum:	
Grading system:	A B C D F
Term system:	Full Semester
Attended:	September 2021 - June 2025
Grades attended:	
9th grade:	2021 - 2022
10th grade:	2022 - 2023
11th grade:	2023 - 2024
12th grade:	2024 - 2025
School you will graduate from:	Yes
Degree, diploma or certificate:	High/Secondary School Diploma
Date received or to be received:	June 2025

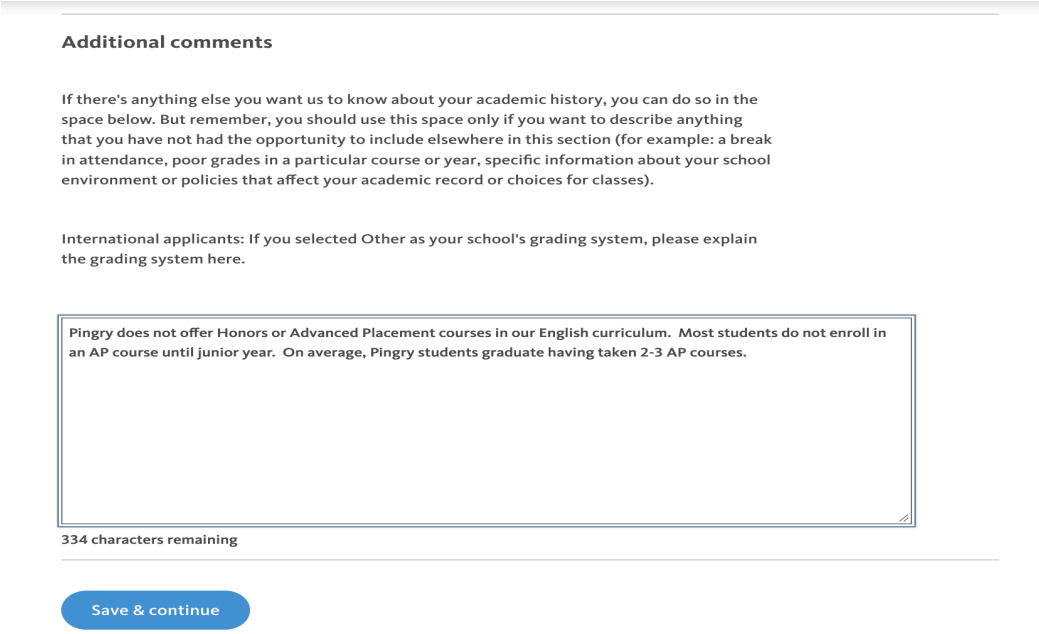
Academic History

- To enter courses: choose the appropriate year, and start entering.
- First, choose the subject area/course category from the drop down box. Categories are History/Social Sciences, English, Mathematics, Science, Language Other Than English, Visual and Performing Arts, and College-Prep Electives.
    - You will see a drop down of subtitles under each subject area.
    - Choose the appropriate title that most closely matches your course. It is OK if it doesn't match exactly as you will be entering the course title in the next box.

    - Search under College-Prep Electives for the Subject Area electives taken in the categories above, i.e. If you take Apocalypse as an English elective, under College-Prep Electives, choose Elective-English.
    - For Pingry interdisciplinary courses, Freedom Honors and German Intellectual History and Philosophy Honors, scroll down to College-Prep Electives and choose Elective-Interdisciplinary.
    - For Computer Science courses, scroll down to College-Prep Electives and choose Elective-Math-Computer Science.
    - For Psychology, choose Elective-History/Social Science
    - For Economics courses, choose Elective-Mathematics
    - For Art History, choose Elective-History/Social Science
- Next, under course name you will type in the exact name of the course as listed on your transcript.
    - For Honor Type, you will choose in the drop down HL for Honors courses and post-AP courses such as Math 6, AP for AP courses, and NH (Not Honors) for all other courses.
- Next, select the appropriate Term System for each course. For full year courses, enter your grade in the box labeled Grade 1. For semester courses enter your grade in either Grade 1 or Grade 2. Use Grade 1 for 1st semester courses and in the box for Grade 2, select No. For 2nd semester courses, select No in Grade 1 and enter your grade in Grade 2. For senior year courses, choose IP for any courses that are in progress and PL (planned) for second semester courses that you plan to take.



- Continue this process for all History/Social Science, English, Mathematics, Science, Language Other Than English, and Visual and Performing Arts courses for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.
- If you took Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry Honors and or Geometry Honors in either 7th or 8th grade, please indicate that along with the appropriate grade level.
- If you started 9th grade at Level 2 or higher in a Language Other Than English Course, please indicate the lower level courses you took in middle school and the appropriate grade level.
- In the Academic History, Additional Information section, please include the following in the Additional Comments Box, “Pingry does not offer Honors or Advanced Placement courses in our English curriculum.”
- Also in the Additional Comments box, please add the following: “Most students do not enroll in an AP course until junior year. On average, Pingry students graduate having taken 2-3 AP courses.”



- If you have attended another high school besides Pingry, you will have to enter that school as well following the directions above.
- **You will not list any courses taken including Spring Intensives, Health/PE classes, Financial Literacy, Peer Leadership, Yearbook, or Public Speaking in your academic history.**

Testing

- All UC schools are test blind so you will not be submitting SAT or ACT scores.
- The UC application does want to see AP scores for all AP tests taken.
- In this section, you will list the exam taken, date taken (if applicable), and score. If you will be taking the test later this year, list the date under the planned date.

4. Activities and Awards

There are 20 available slots for your activities and there are 6 categories for activities: Award or Honor, Educational Preparation Program, Extracurricular Activity, Other Coursework, Volunteer/Community Service, and Work Experience.

Description of categories

Award or honor: We want to know about the awards and honors you've received that mean the most to you.

Educational preparation programs: Any programs or activities that have enriched your academic experiences or helped you prepare for college.

Extracurricular activity: These could include hobbies, clubs, sports or anything else you haven't had the chance to tell us about.

Other coursework: These are courses other than those required for UC admission (courses that do not fit in UC's A-G subject areas).

Volunteering / Community service: These are activities you've donated time and effort to without getting paid.

Work experience: This is for telling us about any paid jobs or paid internships you've had.

- You do not have to fill all 20 activities and you have up to 350 words for a description of each activity.
- Use action verbs to describe your activities and discuss areas of impact if appropriate.
- You can copy and paste your activities from your Common Application or SCOIR.
- You will also be asked what grades you participated and how much time spent per week and year.

5. Scholarships and Support Programs

You can apply to a number of UC scholarships in the application. The scholarships listed are awarded to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests, or career objectives. Check the box of the scholarship in each category that applies to you. Each campus may also award a variety of scholarships that recognize students' achievements and potential. If you apply for any scholarships, you will need to file a FAFSA form to determine eligibility. UC's are public schools and most financial aid will be need based as opposed to merit based. Please note that certain scholarships may require an additional application. UC offers an array of support programs and services designed to help every student have a fulfilling college experience. Under Support Programs, check the appropriate box that applies to you.

6. Personal Insight

The Personal Insight Questions (PIQ's) are about getting to know you better-your life experiences, interests, ambitions, and inspirations. Think about the PIQ's as your interview with the admissions office. Be open, reflective, and find your individual voice and express it. A few tips are:

- Present your information and ideas in a focused, thoughtful manner.
- Use specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make. Focus your examples on the present and near past.
- Tell us about yourself. We want to know about your personal triumphs or challenges, leadership opportunities, and experiences outside the classroom that are not already identified in your application.
- Use your own voice. Your answers should reflect your ideas and be written by you alone.
- Relax. An admissions decision will not be based on your responses alone.

There are 8 prompts and you will have to respond to 4 of them. Responses should be between 250-350 words and all 8 questions are given equal consideration in the application process. You may be able to use part of your Common App essay and or other supplemental questions for the UC PIQ's. We recommend that you speak to your college counselor to discuss this further. Current PIQ's on the UC Application are as follows:

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. Think about an academic subject that inspires you. Describe how you have furthered this interest inside and/or outside of the classroom.

7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

8. 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?

There is space under the PIQ's for additional comments. Use this space ONLY if you want to describe anything that you have not had the opportunity to include elsewhere in your application. THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN ESSAY, but rather a place to explain any unusual personal or family circumstances, or anything that may be unclear in other parts of your application

7. Review and Submit

Before you submit your UC application, you should review all sections.
There is an option to print your application which we recommend so you can accurately review all information that you have entered. The application will notify you if you are missing any information or have any errors that need to be corrected.

Final Thoughts

Please note that certain academic programs on specific campuses may require an additional application. Music and Dance students will also have to register for an audition that typically takes place in January or February. As you do with your Common Application, take your time and review your work. You can save information that you enter as you go so you can always come back to complete your application. Speak with your college counselor as needed for guidance and

support. Below are additional resources to assist you in completing the UC application:

UC Application Quick Tips

Video Tutorial courtesy of the UC Santa Barbara Admissions Office