Admission to the University of California

2023–2024

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Overview

- The UC system
- How to apply
- Freshman admission overview
- Transfer admission overview
- Tuition and financial aid
- UC and campus resources

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The UC system

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We are California

With nine amazing campuses, you can't go wrong.

From the program, to the setting, to the vibe: each of our nine undergraduate campuses has something different to offer.

But no matter which campus you choose, you'll find a culture of academic excellence, and fellow students and faculty who'll inspire you every day.

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UC students

37%
are first-generation college students

27%
transfer to UC from a community college

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Choosing a UC campus

To find your fit within UC, consider…

- Does the campus have a **major** in which I'm interested?
- What **resources and support programs** are available to me and others like me?
- What campus **environment** is best for me?

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Nine campuses, one application

- Opens August 1
- Select which campuses you'd like to receive your UC application
- $80 fee for each UC campus ($95 for international applicants)
- Fee waiver available for up to four campuses for qualified students

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Freshman admission

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Applying as a freshman

You'll start as a freshman if…

You're currently in high school

OR

You've graduated high school, but haven't enrolled in a regular session (fall, winter, spring) at a college or university.

You are still considered a freshman applicant even if you have earned college credit while in high school.

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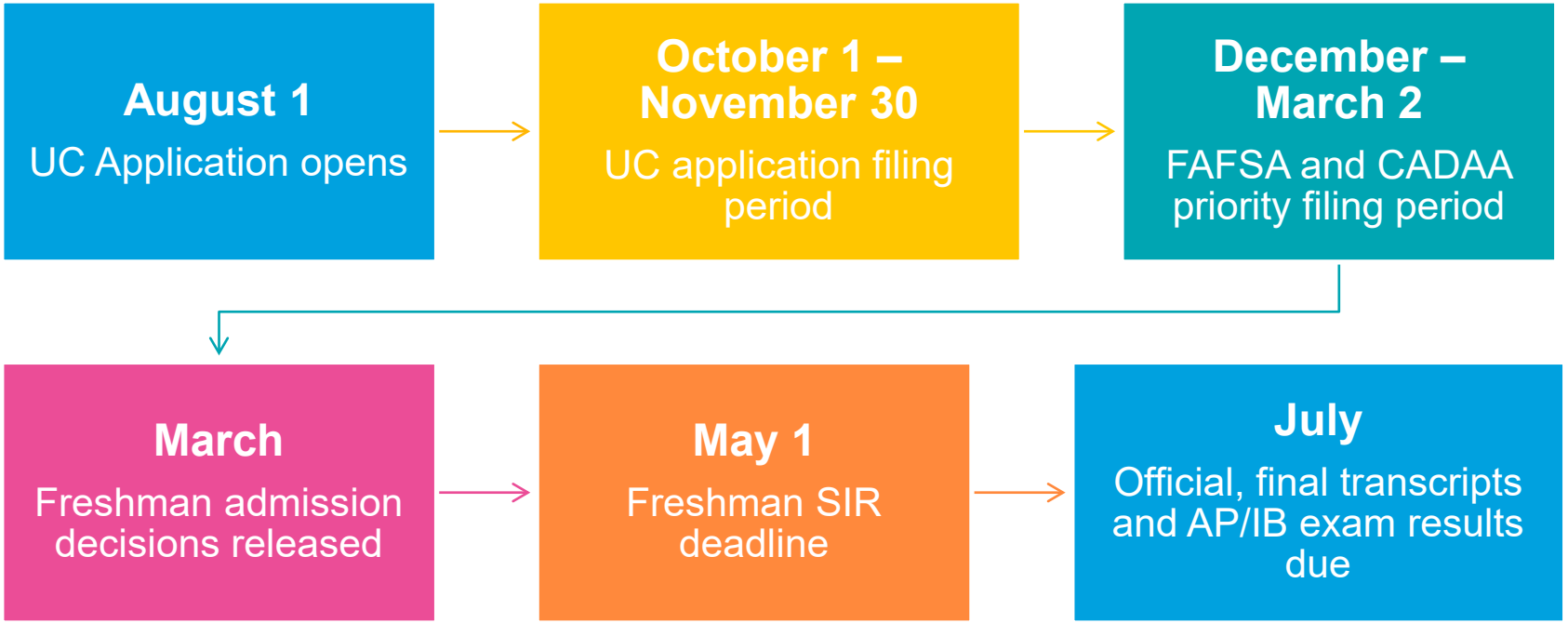
Freshman admission timeline



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Minimum freshman admission requirements

Complete 15 A-G courses

Earn a UC GPA of 3.0 or better (3.4 for nonresidents)

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A-G subject requirements

A-G requirements

- Complete a minimum of **15** A-G courses with a grade of C or better
- Prior to beginning your last year of high school, you must complete 11 of these courses

Note: UC will accept Pass or Credit grades in A-G courses completed in spring 2020 through summer 2021 to meet A-G requirements.

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A. **History** – 2 years
B. **English** – 4 years
C. **Mathematics** – 3 years *(4 years recommended)*
D. **Science** – 2 years *(3 years recommended)*
E. **Language other than English** – 2 years *(3 years recommended)*
F. **Visual and performing arts** – 1 year
G. **College-preparatory elective** – 1 year

UC GPA

UC GPA minimum requirement

- California residents: **3.0**
- Non-residents: **3.4**

Students should aim to exceed this minimum requirement to be a competitive applicant.

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How the UC GPA is calculated

- Includes all letter grades from A-G courses taken during grades 10 and 11 (including the summers after 9–11)
- Grade points are based on the letter grade received; plus (+) and minus (-) grades are not factored
- Up to 8 semesters of extra points are added for passed AP, IB, college-level or UC-approved honors courses

Minimum requirements versus selection

Minimum requirements

- A-G coursework
- UC GPA minimum
- Consistent for all campuses

Selection

- Comprehensive review (13 factors)
- Varies by campus

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Comprehensive review for freshmen

- Academic achievement — GPA, curricular rigor, academic trajectory
- ELC, honors programs, special projects
- Personal, school and family context
- Special talents, skills, awards, leadership
- Life experiences and special circumstances

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Learning more about you: Activities & awards

Activities and awards can include:

- Awards or honors
- Educational preparation programs
- Extracurricular activities
- Coursework other than A-G
- Volunteer/community service
- Work experience

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Learning more about you: PIQs

Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

- Respond to 4 of the 8 prompts
- All questions hold equal value
- 350 words maximum per response
- Focus on the content, not the style, of your writing
- May be used for admission and scholarship consideration

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Campus admission websites

UC Berkeley | admissions.berkeley.edu

UC Davis | ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate

UC Irvine | admissions.uci.edu

UCLA | admission.ucla.edu

UC Merced | admissions.ucmerced.edu

UC Riverside | admissions.ucr.edu

UC San Diego | admissions.ucsd.edu

UC Santa Barbara | admissions.ucsb.edu

UC Santa Cruz | admissions.ucsc.edu

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Campus financial aid websites

UC Berkeley | financialaid.berkeley.edu

UC Davis | financialaid.ucdavis.edu

UC Irvine | ofas.uci.edu

UCLA | financialaid.ucla.edu

UC Merced | financialaid.ucmerced.edu

UC Riverside | financialaid.ucr.edu

UC San Diego | fas.ucsd.edu

UC Santa Barbara | finaid.ucsb.edu

UC Santa Cruz | financialaid.ucsc.edu/index.html

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Course requirement

7-course pattern

- Complete the seven-course pattern with a grade of C (or equivalent) or better in each course

It is recommended that you complete math and English as early as possible.

- **Two** transferable courses in English Composition
- **One** transferable course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning
- **Four** transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas:
  - Arts and humanities
  - Social and behavioral sciences
  - Physical and biological sciences

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Unit requirement

Junior standing

- Complete 60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable college credit
- No more than 14 semester (21 quarter) units may be taken Pass/No Pass
  - *See next slide for Pass/No Pass grading exceptions*

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Pass/Credit grading exceptions

Pass/Credit maximum

- All Pass and Credit grades earned in winter–summer 2020 are excluded from the 14 semester/21 quarter unit maximum of Pass/Credit grades

Pass/Credit for major preparation

- All campuses will accept Pass or Credit grades earned in spring 2020 for major prep courses for all majors **except** Psychology and Cognitive Science majors at Santa Cruz

Students should check with each campus regarding the usage of Pass or Credit grades for major prep courses beyond spring 2020.

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Transfer GPA

GPA minimum requirement

- California residents: **2.4**
- Non-residents: **2.8**

Students should aim to exceed this minimum requirement to be a competitive applicant.

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How the transfer GPA is calculated

- Includes all UC-transferable units attempted, including college courses completed while in high school
- Grade points are based on the letter grade received; plus (+) and minus (-) grades are recognized
- Academic Renewal (AR), Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit, Satisfactory/Non-Satisfactory, Excused Withdrawal (EW), and/or Withdrawal are not included in the GPA calculation

Eligibility versus selection

Major Preparation
- Certain majors may have required or recommended coursework
- Consider taking courses from other CCCs or online UC-transferable courses if your CCC doesn't offer a major preparation course
- Take full course sequences at one CCC

GPA
- Meet or exceed the minimum transfer GPA
- For selective majors, a strong GPA is especially important

IGETC
- Not required for admission; may be recommended for certain campuses/majors
- Full or partial certification is available

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Comprehensive review for transfer

Academic Accomplishments

- Major preparation
- GPA
- Transfer paths
  - TAG
  - UC Transfer Pathway
  - Pathways +
  - ADT

Extra- and Co-Curricular Activities

- Special projects
- Internship/research experience
- Work/volunteer experience
- Participation in UC-sponsored programs
- Leadership
- Special talents, skills or achievements
- Awards and honors

Additional Information

- Life experiences
- Family responsibilities
- Location of college

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Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

- One required question; respond to 3 of the other 7 questions
- All questions hold equal value
- 350 words maximum per response
- Focus on the content, not the style, of your writing
- May be used for admission and scholarship consideration

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Required PIQ for transfers:

Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

What is TAG?

A guarantee for admission to a participating campus and a major, so long as all deadlines and requirements are met.

To be eligible for TAG, students must:

- ✓ Transfer from a California Community College (CCC)
- ✓ Complete over half of their units at the CCC
- ✓ Last attend a CCC before transfer

Students with non-CCC coursework and international students with a F1 or J1 visa can also be eligible for TAG

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Systemwide TAG requirements

- Complete **30** UC-transferable semester units by **September 30**
- Complete **60** UC-transferable semester units by **spring** prior to transfer
- Complete **UC-E and UC-M**
- Meet **GPA** criteria (2.7–3.5) which varies by campus and major
- Review campus-specific **major requirements**

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UC Transfer Pathways and Pathways+

UC Transfer Pathways

A common set of courses that provide uniform major preparation for majors associated with each pathway, at each UC campus.

Pathways+

Completion of a UC Transfer Pathway plus the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG).

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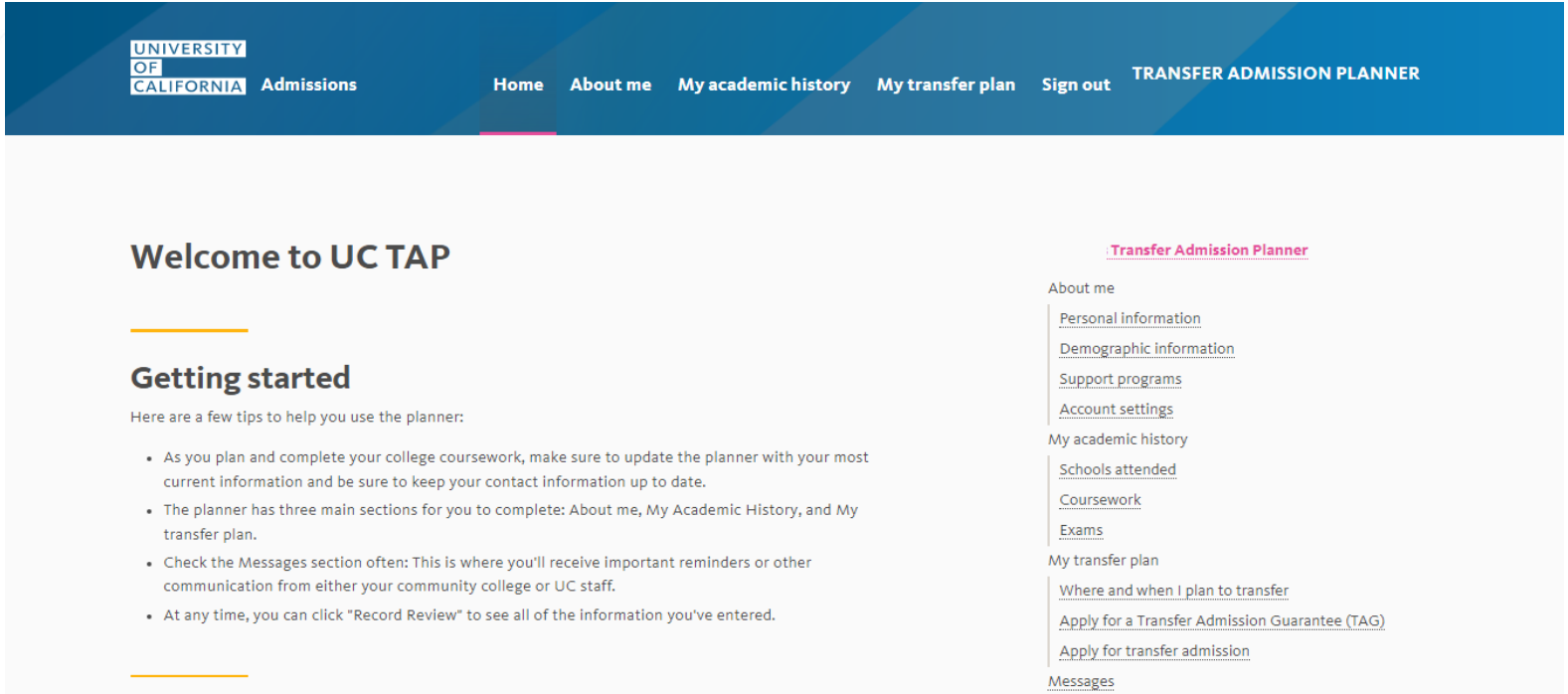
Transfer Admission Planner (TAP)



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Benefits of using TAP

- Facilitates admission advising and tracking of progress
- Can apply directly to the TAG program
- Imports directly into the UC application
- Can indicate areas of interest and participation in UC programs
- Receive communications directly from UC and CCC

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Tuition and Financial Aid

UC Tuition

Multi-year Plan

For systemwide tuition & fees for undergraduates

Incoming undergrads

Each incoming class will have a set tuition

Up to six years

Tuition will remain flat*

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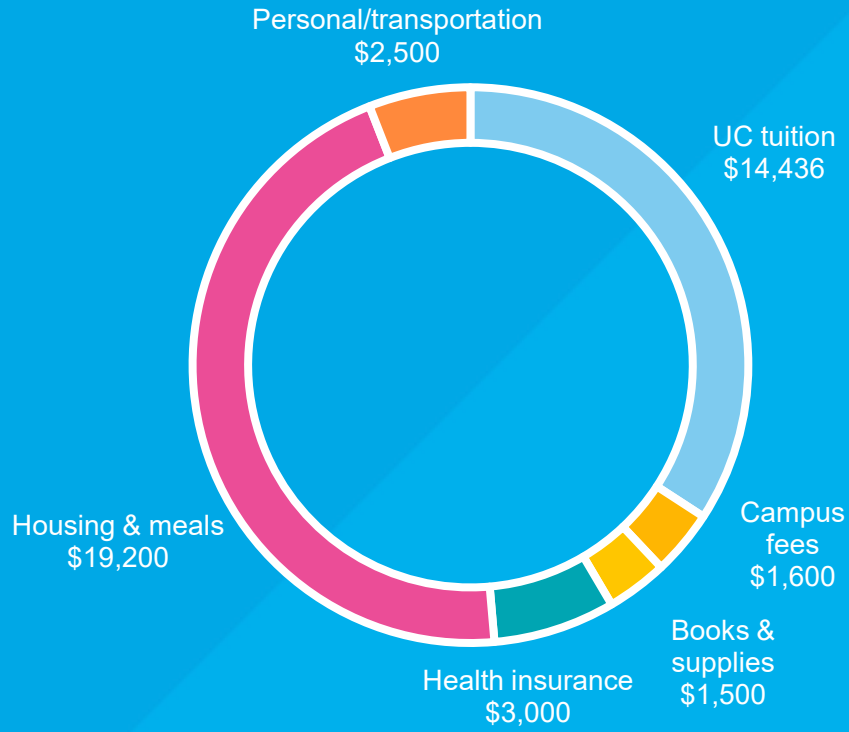
Cost of attendance

For California residents, the estimated average cost for a new student living on campus in 2024–25 is **$42,236**.

However, most students do not pay the full cost of attendance.



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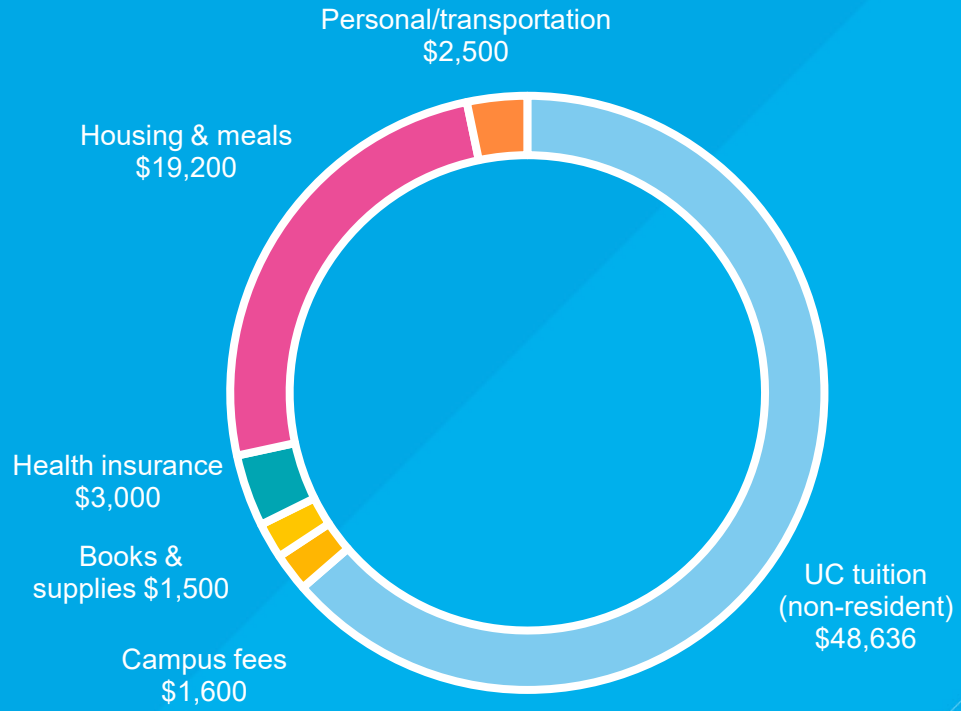
Nonresident cost of attendance

For non-California residents, the estimated average cost for a new student living on campus in 2024–25 is **$76,436**.

Limited financial aid is available for nonresident undergraduates attending UC.



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Grants and scholarships

$2.6 billion

in grants and scholarships available to California students

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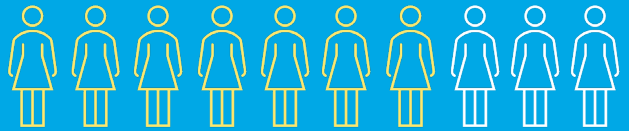
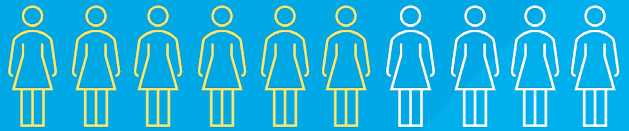
Results for California students

70%



of California undergrads receive grants and scholarships, with an average award of **$18,000**

55%



of California undergrads pay no tuition because of grant and scholarship aid

Want to estimate your financial aid? Check out our campus financial aid calculators.

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UC financial aid programs

For California residents who are eligible for financial aid and with a family income less than **$80,000**, the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan can cover the cost of your tuition, with extra funds available.

For California residents with family income and assets less than **$217,000**, California's Middle Class Scholarship may provide scholarships to help with paying for college costs.

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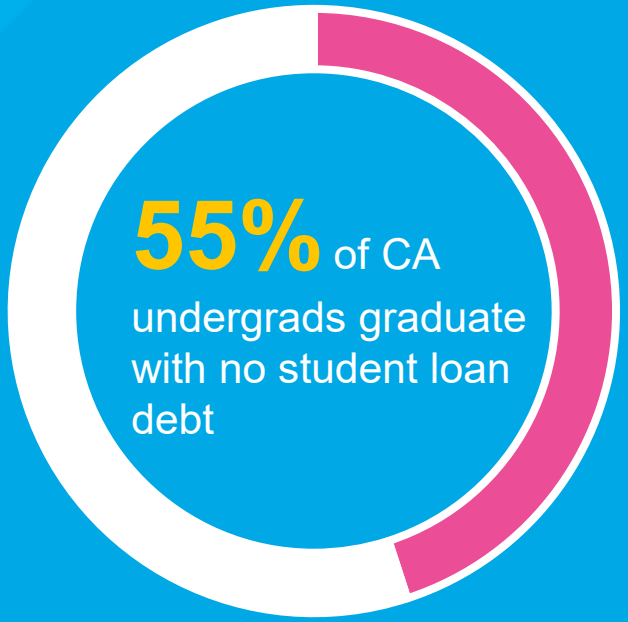
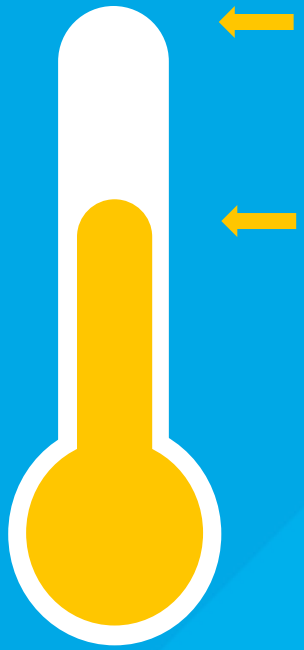
Loans





$28,350
National average

$21,100
UC average

UC students' monthly payments average **6%** of their post-graduation earnings

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Resources

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Freshman admission resources

General admission information
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu

UC admission requirements
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements

UC admission selection process
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/how-applications-are-reviewed.html

Filling out the UC application
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-freshman/filling-out-the-application.html

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Transfer admission resources

General admission information
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu

UC admission requirements
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements

UC admission selection process
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/how-applications-are-reviewed.html

Filling out the UC application
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/filling-out-the-application.html

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Campus major preparation information for transfers

UC Berkeley | admissions.berkeley.edu/transfer-admissions-information-by-college

UC Davis | ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate/transfer/selective-major-requirements

UC Irvine | admissions.uci.edu/apply/transfer-students/requirements.php

UCLA | admission.ucla.edu/apply/transfer/deciding-on-major

UC Merced | admissions.ucmerced.edu/transfer/major-preparation-schools

UC Riverside | admissions.ucr.edu/transfer/majors-preparation-guide

UC San Diego | admissions.ucsd.edu/transfer/transfer-major-preparation.html

UC Santa Barbara | admissions.ucsb.edu/selective-majors

UC Santa Cruz | admissions.ucsc.edu/transfer-students#screening-major-requirements

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Transfer programs and tools

ASSIST.ORG
assist.org

Transfer Academic Planner (TAP)
uctap.universityofcalifornia.edu/students

UC Transfer Pathways
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-pathways

Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/uc-transfer-programs/transfer-admission-guarantee-tag.html

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Campus housing websites

UC Berkeley | housing.berkeley.edu

UC Davis | housing.ucdavis.edu

UC Irvine | housing.uci.edu

UCLA | portal.housing.ucla.edu

UC Merced | housing.ucmerced.edu

UC Riverside | housing.ucr.edu

UC San Diego | hdhughousing.ucsd.edu

UC Santa Barbara | housing.ucsb.edu

UC Santa Cruz | housing.ucsc.edu

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Thank you

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