

FRESHMAN SELECTION

Most campuses have more qualified applicants than they have room to accommodate, so they apply standards that are more demanding than the minimum requirements.

Using a process called comprehensive review, admissions staff look beyond grades to assess applicants' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to them and the capacity each student demonstrates to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus.

To guide the campuses in their comprehensive review of applicants, UC faculty developed the factors listed below. All campuses place the highest importance on academic achievement in assessing applications. However, the review process and specific weight (if any) given to each factor can differ from campus to campus and year to year. Each campus evaluates each application individually and independently from every other campus to which the student has applied.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The factors UC considers for each applicant in the comprehensive review process are:

- Academic grade point average in all completed A-G courses, including additional points for completed UC-designated honors courses
- Number of, content of and performance in academic courses beyond the minimum A-G requirements
- Number of and performance in approved honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses and transferable college courses
- Identification by UC as ranking in the top 9 percent of the student's high school class (eligible in the local context, or ELC)
- Quality of a student's senior-year program, as measured by the type and number of academic courses in progress or planned
- Quality of the academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in the student's high school
- Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas
- Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study
- Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress
- Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus
- Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of a student's high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs
- Academic accomplishments in light of a student's life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status
- Location of a student's secondary school and residence

CAMPUS REVIEW

The comprehensive review process varies by campus. To see how the policy is applied locally, visit the campus websites:

Berkeley

admissions.berkeley.edu/freshman

Davis

ucdavis.edu/admissions/undergraduate/freshman/selection-process

Irvine

admissions.uci.edu/first-year

Los Angeles

admission.ucla.edu/apply/freshman

Merced

admissions.ucmerced.edu/first-year/selection-process

Riverside

admissions.ucr.edu/freshman#comprehensive_review

San Diego

admissions.ucsd.edu/first-year/application-review.html

Santa Barbara

admissions.ucsb.edu/freshman-eligibility-selection

Santa Cruz

admissions.ucsc.edu/freshmen

FRESHMAN SELECTION

FRESHMAN ADMISSION PROFILES

The freshman admission profiles summarize the academic qualifications of applicants and admitted freshmen to each UC campus for the fall term. The profile for each campus is available online.

Please be cautious in drawing conclusions from this information. The numbers are useful only as a general guide to selectivity and not as a predictor of a student's chances for admission to a particular campus.

Berkeley

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/berkeley/freshman-admit-data.html

Davis

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/davis/freshman-admit-data.html

Irvine

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/irvine/freshman-admit-data.html

Los Angeles

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/ucla/freshman-admit-data.html

Merced

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/merced/freshman-admit-data.html

Riverside

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/riverside/freshman-admit-data.html

San Diego

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/san-diego/freshman-admit-data.html

Santa Barbara

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/santa-barbara/freshman-admit-data.html

Santa Cruz

admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/santa-cruz/freshman-admit-data.html

In addition, keep these factors in mind:

- The data reflect the selection process for the previous year's fall term applicants. The selection process and enrollment goals may vary from year to year, therefore the results may differ significantly.
- Aggregated data mask differences in degree of competition for admission among them. Some campuses and colleges admit students directly into individual majors, and the degree of competition among majors may vary widely.
- GPA is defined as a student's GPA in the A-G requirements as calculated by UC. The average high school GPA listed for each campus is computed from 10th and 11th grade coursework, including up to eight semesters of honors courses (no more than four from 10th grade). These GPAs are drawn from application data at the systemwide office.

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to the campus-specific answers on the following pages regarding their policies and procedures for reviewing freshman applicants, please note the following:

- If they are not admitted to any campus to which they applied, California-resident students who are in the top 9 percent in the statewide context or top 9 percent in the local context are guaranteed a place at a UC campus that has space to accommodate them; students are not guaranteed admission to a specific UC campus.
- All UC campuses use the same faculty-approved comprehensive review factors when reviewing applications, but the method of review may differ by campus. Links to campus-specific information describing how applications are evaluated can be found on page 23.
- All colleges and majors are selective at every UC campus and require academic performance above UC minimum admission requirements.
- Responses to the personal insight questions are reviewed to provide perspective and context to an applicant's academic, personal and extracurricular achievements.

FRESHMAN SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING FRESHMAN APPLICANTS	
Does applying Undeclared have any bearing on an applicant's chances of admission?	
Berkeley	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, students interested in a high-demand major in the College of Letters and Science or a major in the College of Engineering are encouraged to select those majors on the application.
Davis	Applying Undeclared or Undeclared/Exploratory does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Irvine	Applying Undeclared does not negatively affect admission chances but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Los Angeles	Applying Undeclared in the College of Letters and Science does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, selecting Undeclared-Engineering does impact admission due to space limitations.
Merced	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Riverside	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. Note: Undeclared is not an option for the Bourns College of Engineering .
San Diego	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, applicants interested in highly selective/capped majors are advised to apply directly to the major. For a list of selective/capped majors see: students.ucsd.edu/academics/advising/majors-minors/capped-majors.html .
Santa Barbara	Applying Undeclared is an option only in the College of Letters and Science . It offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. Undeclared is not an option in the College of Creative Studies or the College of Engineering . Students intending on majors in those colleges should apply directly to the preferred major as movement between colleges later may not be allowed.
Santa Cruz	Applying Undeclared/Undecided does not affect admission but offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, the Computer Science majors (B.A. and B.S.) are selective. Students interested in Computer Science must apply to the major.
For which programs is the intended major a factor in admission?	
Berkeley	Major choice is a factor in admission to the colleges of Engineering and Chemistry . The College of Letters and Science has several high-demand, or "capped," majors that are limited in capacity. Applicants are highly encouraged to indicate their primary major interest for any college to which they intend to apply. For more information, see admissions.berkeley.edu/academic-programs-majors .
Davis	None
Irvine	Major choice is a factor in admission for all majors. Based on selection criteria, applicants are admitted to either a primary or alternate major.
Los Angeles	Major choice is a factor in admission to the schools of Arts and Architecture, Engineering, Music, Nursing, and Theater, Film and Television . Applicants must list a major within the respective school as their primary major.
Merced	None
Riverside	Students are admitted based on the major selected on the application. If a student does not qualify for the selected preferred major, the student will automatically be considered for the alternate major.
San Diego	First-year applicants receive the same application review regardless of major. The selection process will place students into their first-choice major, alternate major or as undeclared (for applicants who are not admitted to a capped major but meet selection).
Santa Barbara	In the College of Creative Studies and the College of Engineering , students are admitted to a specific major. In the College of Letters and Science , students are admitted to a major or a pre-major. If admitted to a pre-major, the student must meet additional requirements at UCSB prior to being in the full major. The Dance BA and Music BM programs require an audition, and direct admission is granted to students who pass the audition. Students interested in the Dance BFA program can audition in their sophomore year. Students interested in the Theater BFA program can be admitted directly to Theater BA and audition for the Theater BFA program at the end of their freshman year.
Santa Cruz	Computer Science (B.A. and B.S.)

FRESHMAN SELECTION

Does the campus consider students for an alternate major?	
Berkeley	Berkeley only guarantees review of an applicant's first-choice major.
Davis	Yes. Applicants are encouraged to list an alternate major, but not in the same area as the primary major (e.g., Computer Science Engineering with alternate Computer Science in the College of L&S). Occasionally, we admit to the alternate major.
Irvine	Yes. Applicants are considered for admission to their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major.
Los Angeles	UCLA only guarantees review of an applicant's first-choice major.
Merced	Yes. Applicants are considered for their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major.
Riverside	Yes. Applicants are considered for their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major.
San Diego	Yes. Applicants to a capped major are encouraged to select an alternate, uncapped major. We will consider the applicant's alternate major if we are unable to admit to the first choice.
Santa Barbara	Yes, when space is available. Students applying in Engineering and Creative Studies are encouraged to choose an alternate major in a different college from their first-choice major.
Santa Cruz	Yes. In particular, students proposing Computer Science (B.A. and B.S.) are encouraged to choose an alternate major.
Which of the campus's majors require an audition or submission of supplemental materials?	
Berkeley	Applicants to the Haas School of Business Global Management Program and the Management, Entrepreneurship, and Technology (M.E.T.) Program can expect to complete a supplement to their original application. Applicants will be sent instructions via email after the application submission period.
Davis	Those who wish to major in Landscape Architecture must apply to the Pre-Landscape Architecture major. After students have enrolled at UC Davis they will be required to submit a separate major application to the department in February to be considered for formal acceptance to the Landscape Architecture major. For more information visit: humanecology.ucdavis.edu/landscape-architecture-major .
Irvine	Dance and Music require an audition. Art requires the submission of a portfolio.
Los Angeles	All majors in the following professional schools require submission of additional materials, including but not limited to a supplemental application, portfolio or audition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Arts and Architecture • School of Music • School of Nursing • School of Theater, Film and Television See our professional schools' websites for details and deadlines.
Merced	None
Riverside	None
San Diego	Students applying to Music, Theatre and Dance or Visual Arts may submit an optional portfolio/audition video.
Santa Barbara	Auditions are required for Dance BA and Music BM . Students interested in Dance BFA can audition in their sophomore year. Students interested in Theater BFA can audition at the end of their freshman year. College of Creative Studies requires submission of Work in Evidence of Talent for the Art, Music Composition, and Writing and Literature majors.
Santa Cruz	None

FRESHMAN SELECTION

Which colleges/schools or majors are most selective at the freshman level?	
Berkeley	Majors in the colleges of Engineering and Chemistry are the most selective. Additionally, the College of Letters and Science has several high-demand, or “capped,” majors that have limited capacity. For more information, see admissions.berkeley.edu/academic-programs-majors .
Davis	Majors in the College of Engineering and Computer Science in the College of Letters and Science are the most selective.
Irvine	The following majors are the most selective: Business Administration, Dance, Music, Nursing Science and all majors in The Henry Samueli School of Engineering and The Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science .
Los Angeles	Majors in our professional schools are most selective. For detailed information about the freshman admission process, refer to www.admission.ucla.edu/prospect/Adm_fr.htm .
Merced	Majors in the School of Natural Sciences and the School of Engineering are the most selective. Students are encouraged to complete precalculus or higher before applying.
Riverside	Majors in the Bourns College of Engineering and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences .
San Diego	All Engineering majors and Biological Sciences, Data Science, Physics and Public Health
Santa Barbara	The College of Engineering is generally the most competitive; however, the College of Creative Studies requires faculty review and can be highly selective.
Santa Cruz	The Computer Science majors (B.A. and B.S.) may be more selective than other majors.
What method of comprehensive review does your campus utilize? *	
Berkeley	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Davis	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Irvine	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Los Angeles	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Merced	Fixed weight incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors considering both academic factors, weighted at 70%, and nonacademic factors, weighted at 30%.
Riverside	Fixed weight incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review criteria that are used to calculate an Academic Index Score.
San Diego	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or non-academic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Santa Barbara	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors. Every achievement, academic or non-academic, is considered within the context of the opportunities available to the applicant.
Santa Cruz	Holistic review. Achievements, academic or nonacademic, are considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.

* “Holistic” means that no single factor carries a specific weight consistently across all applications in the admission review; instead, the review incorporates an individual’s circumstances, educational context and what each individual has presented on the application. “Fixed weight” means that various factors are weighted (e.g., could be 50/50, 75/25, etc.) in the admission review and the weighting is consistent across all applications.