At UC Berkeley, the world’s premier public university, you can excel beyond, exchange ideas and, ultimately, change the world. This flyer provides what you need to know about applying to Berkeley as a freshman.

As a prospective Berkeley undergraduate, you should give careful thought to preparing yourself adequately in reading, writing, mathematics, and other areas related to your intended major. The more comprehensive and challenging your high school or college studies are, the better prepared you will be for UC Berkeley.

**How Admission Decisions Are Made**
Admission is a two-step process: satisfying requirements and selection.

**Satisfying Requirements**
Freshman applicants must meet UC admissions requirements, detailed online at: universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

**Selection**
All achievement—both academic and nonacademic/personal—is considered in the context of your educational circumstances, with an emphasis on the opportunities or challenges presented to you and your response to them. No single attribute or characteristic guarantees the admission of any applicant to Berkeley.

The campus selects its freshman class through an assessment that includes a holistic review of your academic performance as measured primarily by:

- your weighted and unweighted UC grade point average (calculated using 10th and 11th grade UC-approved courses only)
- your planned 12th grade courses
- your pattern of grades over time
- the number of college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), honors and transferable college courses you have completed
- your level of achievement in those courses relative to other UC applicants at your school
- your scores on the ACT Assessment Plus Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test
- your scores on AP or IB exams
- honors and awards that reflect extraordinary intellectual or creative achievement
- sustained participation in rigorous academic enrichment and outreach programs
- your likely contribution to the intellectual and cultural vitality of the campus
- diversity of personal background and experience
- qualities such as leadership, motivation, and concern for others and for the community
- nonacademic achievements in athletics, the performing arts, employment, and/or personal responsibilities

Demonstrated interest in the major and/or sustained academic achievement, particularly in math and science, is an important consideration for applicants to the College of Engineering and the College of Chemistry.

**How to Apply**
You must complete the University of California admission application, including the required personal statement. The application login page is: universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

When you apply to Berkeley, you may apply simultaneously to other UC campuses using the same application.

Do not submit transcripts, test score reports, or other supporting documentation such as awards, photographs, poetry, etc. They will not be forwarded, returned, or retained.

**When to Apply**
The application filing period is November 1–30. Your application must be submitted online no later than November 30. Berkeley does not accept applications for the spring semester.

**Applications available:** early August  
**Filing period:** November 1–30  
**Filing deadline:** November 30 (no exceptions)
FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All UC Berkeley applicants must apply online, using the University of California application. You must satisfy the University of California requirements (below) to enter as a freshman at any of the UC campuses; each campus then undergoes its own selection process from the UC applicant pool.

University of California Requirements

Subject Requirement: Meet the subject requirement by completing a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses (“a-g” courses), with at least 11 finished prior to the beginning of your senior year.

Earn a GPA of 3.0 or better (3.4 for nonresidents) in the “a-g” courses with no grade lower than a C.

Examination Requirement: Meet the examination requirement by taking the ACT With Writing or the SAT by December of senior year. NOTE: UC no longer requires SAT Subject Tests (except to qualify for consideration of admission by examination alone), but certain programs at Berkeley recommend them. (See “Examination Requirement” in this brochure for details.)

Letters of Recommendation

Starting in fall 2015, some freshman applicants to UC Berkeley may have the opportunity to submit letters of recommendation. For the latest information, see: admissions.berkeley.edu/whatsnew

Residents of California

Applicants who are residents of California will be guaranteed admission somewhere in the UC system if space is available and they:

- Rank in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates statewide (according to UC admissions index: universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/california-residents/admissions-index/index.html) or
- Rank in the top 9 percent of their California high school graduating class (the local context), as determined by UC.

Nonresident Applicants

Schools from outside of California do not have approved “a-g” course lists; however, applicants from these schools will be considered in the UC Berkeley holistic review process in exactly the same way as applicants who are from California.

For international students: For academic, language, and test (TOEFL and IELTS) requirements, see the Admissions website: admissions.berkeley.edu/internationalstudents

Subject Requirement

You must complete 15 year-long high school (“a-g”) courses. At least seven of them must be taken in your last two years of high school; 11 need to be taken prior to senior year. If you’re a California applicant, these courses must be included with your high school’s UC-certified course list; for course lists, see the UC website: doorways.ucop.edu/list

Required “a-g” courses:

- History/Social Science: 2 years required. Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, cultures, and geography; and one year of U.S. history or one half-year of U.S. history and one half-year of civics or American government.
- English: 4 years required. Four years of college-preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.
- Mathematics: 3 years required; 4 years recommended. Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in the elementary and advanced algebra and geometry, or you must be enrolled in an integrated sequence that includes sufficient geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses. Options for fulfilling the Geometry requirement may be found at ucoop.edu/aguide/a-g-requirements/c-mathematics/index.html
- Laboratory Science: 2 years required; 3 years recommended. Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of the following three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry, and physics. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry, or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement, as may approved engineering courses or the final two years of an approved three-year integrated science program that provides rigorous coverage of at least two of the three foundational subjects.
- Language Other than English: 2 years required, 3 years recommended. Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition, and culture. Courses in languages other than English taken in the seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.
- Visual and Performing Arts (VPA): 1 year required. A single yearlong approved arts course form a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
- College-Preparatory Electives: 1 year required. One year (two semesters), in addition to those required “a-f” above, chosen from the following areas: engineering, technology, visual and performing arts (nonintroductory-level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the “e” requirement or two years of another language).

Examination Requirement

All prospective freshmen must submit scores from the following college admissions tests:

The ACT With Writing or the SAT. Students may submit official scores from either test. UC will use the highest scores from a single test administration. All testing must be completed by December (for example, when applying for fall 2016, tests must be completed by December 2015).

College of Chemistry and College of Engineering Applicants Only: While SAT Subject Tests are no longer required, the presence of SAT Subject Tests—particularly in a science and Math Level 2—will be considered value added, as would evidence of high academic performance in math and science.

Qualifying in the Local Context

Students ranking in the top 9 percent of students
in their California high school class—at high schools participating in the Local Context program—can qualify for admission to UC. UC will identify the top 9 percent of students on the basis of GPA in UC-approved coursework completed in the 10th and 11th grades. To be designated in the Local Context, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and complete the following “a-g” courses prior to their senior year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Minimum Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History/social science</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Science</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College-preparatory elective</td>
<td>4 year-long courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(chosen from the subjects</td>
<td>or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>listed above or another course approved by the University)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After students enter coursework and grades in their application, UC will compare their GPA to the historic top GPA for their school. Note: Students must complete all requirements (the remaining “a-g” courses, and ACT or SAT test scores) by the end of their senior year.

Admission by Examination Alone

Freshman applicants who don’t meet UC’s minimum requirements may still be considered for admission by earning high scores on the ACT With Writing or the SAT, plus two SAT Subject Tests. To qualify for consideration for admission to UC by examination alone, students must earn a minimum UC Score (see: universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements/examination/index.html) total—calculated according to instructions listed on the UC website—of 410 (425 for nonresidents). In addition, students must achieve a minimum score of 580 on each component of the SAT or 25 on the ACT composite and ACT With Writing test and 580 on each SAT Subject Test.

Nonresident applicants (students living outside of California, within the U.S. or internationally) must meet the same requirements as California-resident students.

Students who qualify by examination alone are not guaranteed admission.

Frequently Asked Questions

What majors do you offer and does my choice of major affect my chances for admission?

There are over 100 majors at Berkeley, grouped by academic discipline in five undergraduate colleges and one school. The colleges—Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Design, Letters and Science, and Natural Resources—accept freshman applicants. The Haas School of Business accepts junior level applicants only. The programs vary in their level of selectivity.

Program descriptions are available at our website. Individual colleges base enrollment goals on such factors as the number of faculty and teaching assistants and available classroom and laboratory space. Because these factors change and student demand varies, admission to one college may be more difficult than to another, and competition may also fluctuate considerably from year to year. In the professional college of Engineering, competition varies among majors, but changes year to year.

» admissions.berkeley.edu/majors

If I’m not sure which college or major is best for me, can I apply to one and switch after I’m admitted?

Although it may be possible to change from one undergraduate college to another after enrolling it may be very difficult, depending on the college. You will be expected to register in courses for the college or major to which you originally applied. We advise you to apply to the field of study that best suits your educational goals. Transfer to another college after admission is subject to a rigorous review process and is not guaranteed.

This is especially true for the College of Engineering which approves few (if any) change of college requests (into Engineering). Transfer to another college after admission is subject to a rigorous review process and is not guaranteed.

» admissions.berkeley.edu/academics

Is it OK to apply as an “Undeclared” major?

The answer varies by college:

• The College of Letters and Science and the College of Natural Resources encourage students to explore a variety of academic areas before choosing a major. Choosing “Undeclared” will not affect your chance of admission to these colleges.

• If you are interested in studying Business Administration, you may apply to the College of Letters and Science as an “Undeclared/Pre-Business Administration” freshman.

• College of Engineering applicants who are undecided about a specific field of study in Engineering may apply to the “Engineering Undeclared” program. Admission to the Engineering Undeclared program is always as competitive as the most competitive major. If you know which field of engineering to study, you should apply for that major.

• The Colleges of Chemistry and Environmental Design do not offer an Undeclared major. You must apply to a specific major.

» admissions.berkeley.edu/colleges

How competitive is Berkeley?

Berkeley receives far more freshman applications than it can admit. For the 2015–2016 academic year, the campus received 78,918 freshman applications for about 14,100 admission spaces, resulting in an admit rate of 17 percent. Consequently, to gain admission to Berkeley, you need to present an academic profile much stronger than that represented by the minimum UC admission requirements.

» admissions.berkeley.edu/studentprofile

What options do I have if I am not admitted to Berkeley?

You may apply to Berkeley later, as a junior transfer student.

» admissions.berkeley.edu/transferstudents

If I have a disability, should I discuss it on my UC application, and if so, how...
Personal Statement Topics For Freshman Applicants

Please read the complete information about the personal statement provided in the application.
These are the prompts you will be asked to answer:

**PROMPT #1**
Describe the world you come from—for example, your family, community, or school—and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

**PROMPT #2**
Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution, or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

What if I am applying to a professional college [such as the College of Engineering, Chemistry, or Environmental Design]? If you are applying to a professional college, it is important that you discuss:
- your intended field of study in your personal statement
- your interest in your specific major
- any school or work-related experience
- any other relevant activities or hobbies

What if I am applying for a scholarship? We recommend that you elaborate on the academic and extracurricular information in the application that demonstrates your motivation, achievement, leadership, and commitment.

What should I write about if I am applying to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)—the support program for students from low-income families in which neither parent is a college graduate?
- Discuss how the program might benefit you.
- Tell us about your determination to succeed even though you may have lacked academic or financial support.

HELPFUL TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN WRITING

We consider all of the following factors:
- academic accomplishments, beyond those shown in your transcript;
- initiative, motivation, leadership, persistence, service to others, special potential, and substantial experience with other cultures;
- any unusual circumstances or hardships you have faced and the ways in which you have overcome or responded to them;
- all achievement in light of the opportunities available to you.

**How can I write an effective personal statement?**
- Thoughtfully describe not only what you’ve done, but also the choices you have made and what you have gained as a result.
- Allow sufficient time for preparation, revisions and careful composition. Your personal statement is not graded on correct grammar, spelling or sentence structure, but these qualities will enhance overall presentation and readability.

After we read your personal statement, we will ask the question, “What do we know about this individual?” If we have learned very little about you, your personal statement is not successful.

**Do I have a better chance of being admitted if I write about unusual circumstances or hardship?**

Having a hardship is no guarantee of admission. If you choose to write about difficulties you have experienced, you should describe:
- how you confronted and overcame your challenges, rather than describing a hardship just for the sake of including it in your application
- what you learned from or achieved in spite of these circumstances

**Why is the personal statement so important?**
As a vital part of your application, the personal statement—consisting of responses to two prompts—is reviewed by the Admissions and Scholarship Offices. At Berkeley we use the personal statement to:
- discover and evaluate distinctions among applicants whose academic records are often very similar
- gain insight into your level of academic, personal and extracurricular achievement
- provide us with information that may not be evident in other parts of the application

**What else do I need to know about the application?**
As you move through the UC online application, you will see areas designated as “Additional Comments.” The Additional Comments sections allow you to enrich or augment information regarding your academic record and other elements of your application.

The Personal Statement section contains a general Additional Comments box. To understand how to use this tool, please see the section under The Personal Statement in this brochure.

Apply online at the University of California website: universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
> admissions.berkeley.edu/starthere

**THE PERSONAL STATEMENT**

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- provide us with information that may not be evident in other parts of the application

**What does Berkeley look for in my personal statement?**

Berkeley’s freshman admission policy has been developed under the general guidance of University of California Regents’ policy and Berkeley campus Academic Senate recommendations. The Academic Senate’s Committee on Admissions, Enrollment and Preparatory Education, and the Undergraduate Admissions Coordination Board regularly review this policy.

**Nondiscrimination Statement**
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State Law and the University’s nondiscrimination policies, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), gender identity, pregnancy/childbirth and medical conditions related thereto, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. This nondiscrimination policy covers student admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. It also covers faculty (Senate and non-Senate) and staff in their employment. For information on other groups, including student applicants and current students, go to the “Resolving Discrimination Issues” section of the Campus Climate and Compliance Office website at ccac.berkeley.edu/resolving.shtml.
You are asked to respond to two prompts, both of which you must answer, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.

- You may allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words.
- Stay within the word limit as closely as you can. A little over—1,012 words, for example—is fine.

**Read all instructions thoroughly.**

The most common mistake applicants make is to skim the instructions or to rely on information received from others. Think carefully about how to distribute your word count.

- Your personal statement—consisting of responses to two prompts—is your chance to tell us who you are and what’s important to you. Think of it as your opportunity to introduce yourself to the admissions and scholarship officers reading your application. Be open and honest. What you tell us in your personal statement gives readers the context to better understand the rest of the information provided in your application.

- You can use the personal statement to give us information about your achievements that you have not provided elsewhere in the application. Read each prompt carefully and be sure to respond to all parts. Use specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make.

**Think carefully about how you will respond to each question.**

Each year more students apply to Berkeley than we can admit. Our selection process involves comparing your application to those of other highly qualified students who share similar experiences—serving as student body officers or leaders of organizations, chairing committees, playing sports, traveling, and accruing significant work or volunteer experience. In composing your personal statement:

- distinguish yourself by writing about your own experience in a way that sets you apart from other applicants;
- tell us if you have contended with a serious illness or disability, if you are the first in your family to attend a college or university, or if you have other special circumstances which may have affected your academic achievement;
- tell us how you achieved academic success in spite of any obstacles you may have faced. If you have had no barriers to success in your life, describe how you have taken advantage of the opportunities available to you.

**Think about your accomplishments and what you have gained from them. You may:**

- write about the way in which an activity or experience changed an attitude, crystallized a conviction, or helped you to establish a goal.
- focus on your life as a student, your participation in an outreach program or internship, or the hours you must work in order to help your family.
- tell us if you were prevented from enrolling in college preparatory classes because you were required to complete vocational education, academy courses, or pre-scheduled classes that are not on the approved UC course list.

The Additional Comments can be especially useful for applicants who are not residents of California, to help give the application readers a better understanding of or to clarify the context of your academic environment.

**Plan for prep time.**

- Begin writing early enough so that you can refine and improve your personal statement, allowing one or two days between drafts.

**Write your own personal statement!**

- Write a personal statement that reflects your original thoughts. Ask advice of whomever you like, but do not use anyone’s published words but your own. This includes “Internet” essays.
- Write in your own voice. Use vocabulary and phrasing that are comfortable for you. Try not to consult a thesaurus too often; trust your own words to convey your message.

**Proof, edit, and share your personal statement.**

- Ask a trusted friend, teacher, counselor, or parent for comments. Ask this person: “What works? What doesn’t? What sounds like me? What doesn’t? If you didn’t know me, would this personal statement tell you enough about me? Is it clear and understandable?”
- Get help from someone who has not previously read your personal statement and who pays attention to detail. Remember, a carelessly written essay makes a poor first impression.

**Some “dos”:**

- Compose your personal statement in word processing software. Don’t type directly into the application. This way, you will have the opportunity to print copies for review.
- Once you’re finished with your essays, save them in plain text and paste them into the space provided in the application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared.

**Some “don’ts”:**

- Don’t try to be hilariously funny or wildly creative—it’s difficult to do and may not achieve the effect you are seeking.
- Avoid clichés.
- Don’t mistake a list of accomplishments for an essay. A list repeats information found elsewhere in the application, adds little to our understanding of you as an individual, and is not helpful in supporting your application.

**Use the Additional Comments box wisely.**

The Personal Statement section contains a general Additional Comments box. This can be used to:

- convey any information that will help us understand the context of your achievement.
- list additional honors and awards, more activities and leadership elements, volunteer activities, etc.
- share information regarding a nontraditional school environment or unusual circumstances—any important information which has not been included in any other area of the application.
- share information about a disability

Don’t forget that there is another Additional Comments box in the grades section of the application, where you can add supplemental academic information.

**How do i get more information?**

**Apply online**

universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

**Sign up for more information:**

admissions.berkeley.edu/signup

Help is available online at:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
admissions.berkeley.edu

UC Admissions Information
universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

UC-approved high school courses (California only)
doorways.ucop.edu/list

UC-approved California community college courses
assist.org (NOTE: Non-California U.S. residents can view this website to see if similar courses—in terms of title and content—exist and these will be considered in the same manner as applicants from California, during the review process.)

Berkeley Academic Guide
guide.berkeley.edu
UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY
Chemical Biology
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
   also offered in the College of Letters and Science

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Bioengineering
Civil Engineering
Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences
Energy Engineering
Engineering Mathematics and Statistics
Engineering Physics
Environmental Engineering Science
Industrial Engineering and Operations Research
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Engineering Undeclared: only available to freshman

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Sustainable Environmental Design
Urban Studies

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE
Arts & Humanities
Art, History of
Art, Practice of
Celtic Studies
Classics:
   Classical Civilizations
   Classical Languages
   Greek
   Latin
Comparative Literature
Dutch Studies
East Asian Languages & Cultures:
   Chinese
   Japanese
   English
Film
French
German
Italian Studies
Music
Near Eastern Studies:
   Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern
   Art & Archaeology
   Near Eastern Civilizations
   Near Eastern Languages and Literature
Philosophy
Rhetoric
Scandinavian
Slavic Languages and Literatures (Russian/East European/Eurasian cultures; Russian Language and Literature; Czech, Polish, or Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian Language and Literature)
South and Southeast Asian Studies
Spanish and Portuguese:
   Hispanic Languages and Bilingual Issues
   Iberian Language and Literature
   Latin American Literatures
   Luso-Brazilian Language and Literature
   Spanish Language and Literature
Theater, Dance and Performance Studies:
   Dance and Performance Studies
   Theater and Performance Studies
Undeclared: only available to freshman

Biological Sciences
Integrative Biology
Molecular and Cell Biology:
   Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
   Genetics, Genomics and Development
   Immunology and Pathogenesis
Cell and Developmental Biology
Neurobiology
Public Health
Undeclared: only available to freshman

Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Astrophysics (including Astronomy)
Chemistry
   also offered in the College of Chemistry
Computer Science
Earth and Planetary Science:
   Atmospheric Science
   Environmental Earth Science
Geology
Geophysics
Marine Science
Planetary Science
Mathematics
   Applied Mathematics
   Mathematics
Operations Research and Management Sciences
Physics
Statistics
Undeclared: only available to freshman

Social Sciences
African American Studies
Anthropology
Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies
Chicano / Latino Studies
Economics
Environmental Economics and Policy
   also offered in the College of Natural Resources
Ethnic Studies
Gender and Women's Studies
Geography
History
Linguistics
Native American Studies
Political Science
Psychology
Social Welfare
Sociology
Undeclared: only available to freshman

Interdisciplinary Studies
African American Studies
American Studies
Asian Studies:
   China
   Japan
   Asian Studies (Multi-Area)
Chicano / Latino Studies
Cognitive Science
Development Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies
Latin American Studies
Legal Studies
Media Studies
Middle Eastern Studies
Peace and Conflict Studies
Political Economy
Religious Studies
Undeclared: only available to freshman

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Conservation and Resource Studies
Environmental Economics and Policy
   also offered in the College of Letters and Science
Environmental Sciences (biological, physical, social)
Forestry and Natural Resources
Genetics and Plant Biology
Microbial Biology
Molecular Environmental Biology
Nutritional Science
Society and Environment

HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Business Administration: Two-year program for juniors and seniors; freshman applicants cannot apply directly to the major but may apply to the College of Letters and Science, Undeclared—Pre-Business Administration.

This list is for general reference. For the most