



UC BERKELEY

# GUIDE TO ADMISSIONS

**Berkeley**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



# OVERVIEW

UC Berkeley seeks applications from students from all over the world to be a part of our unique community. We know that choosing your college is a huge decision, so we want to make sure you're prepared for the application process.

## ACADEMICS

Berkeley seeks authentic and innovative scholars. We want you to make the most out of your application and take full advantage of each section. For the academic sections, make sure to accurately and completely fill out your coursework and grades. This application is self-reported, but we will validate the accuracy of the application after a student is admitted. Use transcripts to accurately report your academic information. We understand that grades and test scores are static. We get more context about you through other parts of the application.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For the extracurricular activities section, report any activities or work experience as completely as possible, including the number of hours, weeks and responsibilities. If there is not enough space in these sections, use the additional comments to provide us with more details and context about your story. Berkeley seeks diverse and unique perspectives. It is important to recognize that you do not have to do everything. While clubs and student organizations are great to report, you can also list other activities, such as family responsibilities and work experience. Lean into your eccentricities; Be yourself.

## PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS (PIQS)

Your personal insight questions (PIQs) are a way for us to get to know you. Think about your PIQs as a conversation or an interview. Answer the questions directly and identify examples that tell us the most about yourself. Choose the questions that you want to write about and that tell the reader the most about you. We value your authentic voice.

## APPLICATION RESOURCES

If you have additional questions about your application, here are a variety of ways to reach us:

- ▶ Application FAQs: [admissions.berkeley.edu/application-faqs](https://admissions.berkeley.edu/application-faqs)
- ▶ Contact Us: [admissions.berkeley.edu/contact-us](https://admissions.berkeley.edu/contact-us)
- ▶ Register for a presentation: [apply.berkeley.edu/portal/presentation](https://apply.berkeley.edu/portal/presentation)
- ▶ For technical support, contact the UC Application Center: (800) 207-1710 (within US) or (925) 298-6856 (outside US), [ucinfo@applyucsupport.net](mailto:ucinfo@applyucsupport.net)

# FIRST-YEAR

You are a first-year applicant if you are currently in high school or have graduated from high school and have taken no college coursework in a regular session (fall, winter, spring).

Berkeley uses a holistic review process to assess applications and to build a strong and diverse class. Holistic review means that no single attribute on an application outweighs another attribute. Each application is reviewed in its entirety before a reader makes a recommendation for admission, and all applications are read at least twice by professionally trained readers.

Holistic review also takes into consideration the personal qualities of the applicant, including leadership ability, character, motivation, insight, tenacity, initiative, originality, intellectual independence, responsibility, maturity and demonstrated concern for others and for the community. These factors may be demonstrated in different ways, whether it is participation in traditional clubs/organizations, home life, work life or other life experiences.

## 2023 First-Year Admissions Profile

UNWEIGHTED GPA: **3.89–4.00**

WEIGHTED GPA: **4.28–4.62**

**31.4%** FIRST-GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

**79%** ADMITTED FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**4.49%** STUDENTS FROM RURAL AREAS

*All ranges reflect the middle 50 percent of first-year students admitted for fall 2023.*



# TRANSFER

You are a transfer student if you have completed college coursework during a regular session at a college or university after high school (the summer session immediately following high school graduation does not count).

Berkeley uses a comprehensive review process to assess applications. Comprehensive review considers the personal qualities of the applicant, including leadership ability, character, and demonstrated concern for others and for the community. These factors can be demonstrated in different ways, whether it is through participation in traditional clubs/organizations, home, work or other life experiences.

The breadth requirement varies across all colleges. You can find your major/college breadth requirement by visiting **ASSIST.org** Under articulation agreements:

- ▶ Select your college
- ▶ Select UC Berkeley under Agreements with Other Institutions
- ▶ Click View Agreements

Students applying from outside of the California Community College system can follow the same steps and select any community college from the drop-down list.

Applicants must have a minimum 60 UC transferable semester units (90 UC transferable quarter units) by the end of the spring prior to fall matriculation. Applicants must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all transferable college-level coursework for most majors. Some majors (e.g. engineering) require higher GPAs in major preparation coursework. Check **ASSIST.org** for more details. All transfer applicants are required to submit a UC Transfer Academic Update and fill out Berkeley supplemental forms in January after they apply.

## ADDITIONAL TRANSFER RESOURCES

- ▶ Transfer Policy Guide: **bit.ly/UCBTransfPolicy**
- ▶ Transfer Student Center: **transfers.berkeley.edu**

### 2023 Transfer Profile

GPA: **3.62–3.96**

**91.6%** ADMITTED FROM CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**43.8%** FIRST-GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

*All ranges reflect the middle 50 percent of transfer students admitted for fall 2023.*

# INTERNATIONAL

You are an international student if you are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident. For information on expectations by country, visit: **bit.ly/UCBIntlAdmissions**

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

Most international students must complete an English proficiency exam. Proficiency in English is critical to success at UC Berkeley. If you've completed all your secondary school/high school in a country where English is not the language of instruction, you can demonstrate proficiency by taking one of these exams and earning the required scores:

- ▶ **6.5 or higher** on the IELTS
- ▶ **80 or higher** on the TOEFL
- ▶ **115 or higher** on the Duolingo English Test (DET)

For more information on language requirements and for other ways to prove English proficiency, visit:

**bit.ly/UCBEngProficiency**

## BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Support and resources designed to enhance the academic experiences of international students are available through the Berkeley International Office (BIO). BIO offers services in advising, immigration, advocacy and programming to the UC Berkeley campus community. For more, visit their website: **internationaloffice.berkeley.edu**

**International students must apply as first-year or transfer students. There is no separate application for international students.**



# APPLICATION TIMELINE

Submit your application  
Oct. 1–Nov. 30 at:

[bit.ly/ApplicationUC](https://bit.ly/ApplicationUC)

- AUGUST 1** ● The UC application is open
- OCTOBER 1** ● UC application submission period begins
- NOVEMBER 30** ● Deadline to submit UC application
- DECEMBER 1** ● The financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act App) is open
- JANUARY** ● Submit Transfer Academic Update and Berkeley Supplemental forms
- MARCH 2** ● Priority deadline to submit financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application)
- LATE MARCH** ● First-Year decisions are released
- APRIL** ● Transfer decisions are released



## Not sure where to start?

Scan this code or visit  
[admissions.berkeley.edu/start](https://admissions.berkeley.edu/start)  
to begin your UC Berkeley journey.

Connect with us online: [admissions.berkeley.edu](https://admissions.berkeley.edu)



@CalAdmissions



@UCBerkeleyAdmissions

**Berkeley** Office of  
Undergraduate Admissions