



GUIDE TO FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS FOR UC BERKELEY

DISCOVER. CONNECT. ENGAGE. REFLECT. This is what we encourage UC Berkeley students to do during their four years on campus. UC Berkeley seeks applications from students from all over the world to be a part of our amazing community. We know that choosing your college is a huge decision, so we want to make sure you're prepared for the application process.

Freshman applicants are students who are currently in high school (with or without college coursework completed), or students who have graduated from high school and have taken no college coursework.

Are you ready to #DiscoverBerkeley?

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS

1

The admissions review process goes **beyond** meeting the minimum requirements. 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.

Minimum requirements:

A-G Course pattern
hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide

3.0 GPA for California students
 (3.4 for nonresidents)

2020 FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Reflects middle 50% of students

3.86–4.00
UNWEIGHTED GPA

4.27–4.62
WEIGHTED GPA

1330–1530*
AVERAGE SAT SCORE

29–35*
AVERAGE ACT SCORE

*For students applying to the Fall 2021 term, Berkeley will not use SAT/ACT scores in our admissions process. Visit admissions.berkeley.edu/freshman-policy for more information.

2

Berkeley seeks **authentic and innovative scholars**. Here is what you can do to show us who you are in your application.

We want you to make the most out of your application and take full advantage of each section. Here are a few tips to get you thinking.

For the **academic sections**, make sure to accurately and completely fill out all of the courses and grades you've taken. This

application is self-reported, but we will validate the accuracy of the application after a student is admitted. Use transcripts and test score reports to accurately report your academic information. Berkeley also understands that grades and test scores are static. We get more context about you through other parts of the application.

For the **extracurricular activities section**, report any activities or work experience as completely as possible, including number of hours per week, weeks per year, grade levels, and responsibilities. If there is not enough space in these sections, use the additional comments to provide us 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 and do not do anything just because you think it will look good on your application. **Be yourself.**

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Berkeley has a **diverse admissions review team** with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

There are real people reading each of your applications. Our staff understand that each student's experience is different and can potentially add value to the Berkeley campus. We encourage students to use the application to tell us who they are as candidly as possible. Advocate for yourself and don't be afraid to

tell us your complete story. Whether you are the first in your family to go to college or not, whether you come from a rural town or a large urban city — we see your experience. We are human, and we will consider you as fully as possible

**FRESHMAN STUDENT PROFILE
2020 APPLICANTS**
(Continued)

26.6%
FIRST GENERATION

76.5%
FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

5.2%
FROM RURAL AREAS

4

Your **personal insight questions** are a way for us to get to know you. Treat it like a conversation or an interview.

For the **personal insight questions (PIQs)**, remember that we are not looking for writing samples (we see your academic abilities in the academic sections of the application). Since there is no interview process at Berkeley, 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 four questions that you want to write about and that tell the reader the most about you. Do not choose your questions or your answers based on what you think the admissions office wants to hear. We value your authentic voice.

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Many **resources are available** to answer your questions.

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

- **Application FAQs**
admissions.berkeley.edu/application-faqs
- **Contact Us**
admissions.berkeley.edu/contact-us
- **Register for a Presentation**
apply.berkeley.edu/portal/presentation

- **Call the UC Application Center for technical support**
(800) 207-1710 (within US) or (925) 298-6856 (outside US), or email ucinfo@applyucsupport.net



APPLY AT

apply.universityofcalifornia.edu

APPLICATION TIMELINE

August 1	The UC application is available
October 1	The financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act App) is available
November 1	UC application submission period begins
November 30	Deadline to submit UC application
March 2	Submit financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application)
Late March	Freshman decisions are released

- @UCBerkeleyAdmissions
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Office of Undergraduate Admissions
103 Sproul Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
admissions.berkeley.edu

Connect with us online: admissions.berkeley.edu

