HOW WE BEGAN

Modeled on Oxford University in England, UC Santa Cruz was designed as a cluster of decentralized small colleges, where students could have daily contact with their professors, while still being part of a large research university. It was a bold approach, informed by the ideal of a college community where faculty and students were closely connected. From the outset, UC Santa Cruz was a move toward a campus built primarily for undergraduate studies with a research emphasis.

This innovative approach, coupled with the physical beauty of the campus setting, bore fruit in the most wonderful way — a campus culture that cherished the exploration of new ideas in service of solving large problems.

Today, UC Santa Cruz continues to embody its founding principles for the current generation of students: Smaller classes where faculty and students co-create new knowledge in a safe and respectful environment that creates global citizens with the will to engage in complex problems.

It is this deep and abiding respect for approaching the great challenges of our day that makes UC Santa Cruz a compelling choice. Our students do not merely learn a subject, they help create new knowledge in the service of humanity. In addition, the faculty take great pride in teaching the students how to think, not what to think.

“Conceiving of a research university built around small residential colleges, with an emphasis on undergraduate education, close faculty-student interaction, and human-scale community life, was Kerr’s contribution to the UC system and not incidentally imaginative institutional response to the contemporary student movement’s critique of the multiversity as a sort of dehumanizing intellectual factory system.”

Clark Kerr and the Founding of UC Santa Cruz
Social Justice, Environmental Stewardship, and Diversity & Inclusion

A Perspective Like No Other

From the very beginning, UC Santa Cruz has fostered an environment of independent thought in the pursuit of knowledge. It is this cherished belief in the power of new ideas that led to the development of the Human Genome Browser, right here on our campus. We were the first to map the human genome and our first step was to post it for free and open access on the web to benefit the world!

Our perspectives are as unique as our location. Through an academically rigorous approach that values interdisciplinary problem solving, UC Santa Cruz is a recognized R1 research institution (very high research activity) where faculty and students work side-by-side to solve problems on a truly global scale.

This combination of innovative thought, commitment to social and environmental justice issues, and the value we place on diversity in all its forms, creates a launching pad for our students to make their mark in the global community.

Proudly achieving the designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) - In 2015, UC Santa Cruz earned the HSI designation, and kicking off the work of creating programs and grants, centered on positive educational outcomes for Latinx students. Today, UC Santa Cruz is one of more than 472 universities to meet the federal benchmark as a Hispanic Serving Institution. The designation has paved the way for three multi-million dollar grants dedicated to supporting Latinx and underrepresented students at the university.
Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz
Professor, Astronomy and Astrophysics
In addition to a distinguished research career in theoretical astrophysics, Professor Ramirez-Ruiz, winner of the $5 million Niels Bohr Professorship, makes it his life work to nurture and support students with a passion for the stars.

Robin Hunicke
Associate Professor, Director of Art and Design: Games and Playable Media
Co-founder of Funomena, Professor Hunicke researches and teaches cutting-edge game design. Her titles include the award-winning PlayStation game Journey, as well as Boom Blox, MySims, and TheSims.

Carol Greider
Distinguished Professor of Molecular, Cell, and Developmental (MCD) Biology
Greider, a Nobel laureate noted both for her ground-breaking research and her passion for diversity in science, joins our faculty in October 2020. She works with telomeres, critical structures that maintain the ends of chromosomes, and discovered telomerase, the enzyme that maintains telomere length. Greider’s pioneering research led to her sharing the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Angela Y. Davis
Professor Emerita, History of Consciousness
 Legendary civil rights activist, who still works tirelessly to combat all forms of oppression in the U.S. and abroad. Professor Davis is the author of several books, including Women, Race, and Class (1980) and Are Prisons Obsolete? (2003).

MELINDA SOARES
Top Ranked U.S. University
In 2019, UC Santa Cruz was honored with election to the 65-member Association of American Universities, one of the most prestigious honors in higher education. This membership recognizes our high-impact research, along with our achievements in social mobility.

“Classes are helpful, but I learn so much more from working on research projects,” says Melinda Soares, an alumna who is now a Ph.D. student in astrophysics at Princeton University. “I’ve been fortunate to be able to do both theoretical and experimental projects,” Soares said. “When you become immersed in the research community, you learn things you would never pick up in a class, just from getting to know the scientists, talking over coffee, and managing a project.”
Contributors, Luminaries, and Influencers

Jonah Christian, Film and Digital Media, ’12
Music producer and composer who’s worked with the likes of Nicki Minaj and Lil Wayne

Tiffany Dena Loftin, Political Science and American Studies, ’11
NAACP Youth and College Director, recently recognized by NBC BLK for using her voice to ensure that young black people’s lives matter

Kris Perry, Psychology and Sociology, ’86
Lead plaintiff in a case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court which overturned California’s ban on gay marriage, recently appointed deputy secretary for early childhood development for the State of California

Ada Recinos, Sociology, ’15
A graduate of UC Santa Cruz’s Everett Program, which gives students tools to pursue social activism, Recinos was sworn in as the youngest council member for the city of Richmond, California, in 2017

Rolando Perez, Bioengineering, ’15
Overcame a challenging youth to discover a passion for science, and is now a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University in synthetic biology

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Earth Sciences, ’73
Scientist, astronaut, and former administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, first American woman to walk in space

Susan Wojcicki, MS Economics, ’93
CEO of YouTube — Google was started in her garage, and she later became Google’s first marketing manager. Wojcicki received her undergraduate degree from Harvard in English.

Emmy Award-winning director (True Detective) and next James Bond movie director

Cary Joji Fukunaga, History, ’99
Emmy Award-winning director (True Detective) and next James Bond movie director

WHAT WE’VE BECOME

Positive

UC Santa Cruz provides an atmosphere of innovation along with the resources to prepare for a successful career. Our graduates have risen into the upper echelons of their fields. And several graduates have launched companies based on their research projects.

Top Employers of UC Santa Cruz Alumni

Facebook | Genentech | Google | Amazon | Cisco
FOLLOWING YOUR PASSION

OUR MAJORS, MINORS, AND CONCENTRATIONS

70 Undergraduate Majors.
39 Minors.

Agroecology
Anthropology*
Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism
Applied Mathematics*
Applied Physics
Art
Art and Design: Games and Playable Media
Assistive Technology (minor)
Astrophysics (minor)
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Bioelectronics and Biophotonics (minor)
Bioinformatics (minor)
Biology*
Biomedical Engineering and Bioinformatics
Biomolecular Engineering
Biotechnology
Black Studies (minor)
Business Management Economics
Accounting
Chemistry*
Biochemistry
Classical Studies*
Cognitive Science
Community Studies
Computer Engineering*
Computer Science*
Computer Science: Computer Game Design
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
Dance (minor)
Earth Sciences*
Geology
Ocean Sciences
Planetary Sciences
Earth Sciences/Anthropology
East Asian Studies (minor)

Ecology and Evolution
Economics*
Economics/Mathematics
Education (minor)
Education, Democracy, and Justice
Electrical Engineering*
Communications, Signals, Systems, and Controls
Electronics/Optics
Electronic Music (minor)
Environmental Sciences
Environmental Studies
Conservation science and Policy
Geographic Information Systems
Global Environmental Justice
Environmental Studies/Biology
Environmental Studies/Earth Sciences
Environmental Studies/Economics
Feminist Studies
Film and Digital Media*
Critical Studies
Integrated Critical Practice
Production
Global Economies
Global Information and Social Enterprise Studies (minor)
History*
Americas and Africa
Asia and the Pacific

Europe and the Mediterranean World
History of Art and Visual Culture*
Curation, Heritage, and Museums
Human Biology
Italian Studies*
Jazz, Spontaneous Composition, and Improvisation (minor)
Jewish Studies*
Language Studies*
Chinese
French
German
Italian
Japanese
Spanish
Latin American and Latino Studies*
Latin American and Latino Studies/Politics
Latin American and Latino Studies/Sociology
Legal Studies*
Linguistics*
Theoretical Linguistics
Literature*
Creative Writing
French Literature
German Literature
Greek and Latin Literatures
Italian Literature
Spanish/Latin American/ Latino Literatures

Marine Biology
Mathematics*
Computational Mathematics
Pure Mathematics
Mathematics Education
Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
Music*
Contemporary Practices
Global Musics
Western Art Music

Network and Digital Technology
Neuroscience
Philosophy*
Physics*
Physics (Astrophysics)
Plant Sciences
Politics*
Psychology
Robotics Engineering
Science Education
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
Education (minor)
Sociology
Spanish Studies
Languages and Linguistics
Literature and Culture
Statistics (minor)
Sustainability Studies (minor)
Technology and Information Management*

Theater Arts*
Dance
Design and Technology
Drama

Undeclared/Undecided
(freshmen can pick an Advising Cluster and declare their major later)

*This major also has a minor with the same name.

TWO YEAR PATHWAYS
Accelerated two-year pathways are available in 13 of our most popular majors, such as art, business, management economics, literature, and psychology. Students work with multiple advisors across campus to help them achieve their goals. See advising.ucsc.edu for more.

Saksham Kumar
Film and digital media/physics (astrophysics) double major; Mumbai, India, graduated from Jamnabai Narsee School

Saksham had a number of different college and university choices, yet he chose UC Santa Cruz for its outstanding reputation in his two passions: astrophysics and film. In his first year at UC Santa Cruz, he produced two films of his own and worked volunteered with the Santa Cruz Film Festival.

"The Baskin School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz is unique among public engineering schools. By offering forward-looking programs of study and opportunities to engage in collaborative research across campus and with industry partners in Santa Cruz and nearby Silicon Valley, the engineering school represents a new kind of engineering school: an engineering school for the 21st century."

Dean Alexander Wolff
WHY WE LOVE SANTA CRUZ

A Community of Innovation Between the

Mountains and the Sea

Santa Cruz Life

Explore

A global vacation destination with a burgeoning tech ecosystem, Santa Cruz revels in its Surf City roots, casual atmosphere, and ability to embrace new people and ideas. Santa Cruz is a place for adventurers. Dreamers, creators, artists, entrepreneurs, outdoor sports enthusiasts, technology gurus, critical thinkers. With its beautiful location of beaches, mountains, and primeval redwood forests, Santa Cruz beckons you to explore, to contemplate, and to expand your thinking.

Santa Cruz is a small coastal city of about 60,000 people. Its laid-back atmosphere and historic Santa Cruz Wharf are augmented by the globally recognized Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, a vibrant music and arts scene, cutting-edge genomics companies, a lively downtown retail experience, and a variety of student-friendly shopping and dining.

Naturally Inspiring

Located between the Monterey Bay along California’s rugged central coast and the Santa Cruz mountains, the city is an urban hub intertwined with dramatic natural beauty. The warm Mediterranean climate of the area provides opportunities for year-round recreation and adventure.

Like the town, our campus has always been distinguished by its natural beauty and unique location between Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley.

Learning in this environment creates an academic experience like no other. Where else can you walk from class to class on a footpath between massive redwood trees, and then enjoy your lunch sitting on a sunny terrace with a view of the ocean?

Meet Sammy the Slug

In 1986 students replaced the sea lion mascot with a Banana Slug after a very successful vote! The Banana Slug has no known predators, and represents flexibility and contemplation.
Admissions

The admission process for UC Santa Cruz reflects the academic rigor and preparation needed for admission to a major research institution and is based on a system of holistic review. As we consider each individual application — and rest assured, we do consider each one — we look beyond grades. We spend time evaluating your academic and personal achievements and preparation in light of the opportunities available to you and your demonstrated capacity to contribute to the intellectual life on our campus.

California Freshmen

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Complete 15 college-preparatory courses ("a-g" courses), with at least 11 finished prior to the beginning of your senior year. To view your school’s a-g course list, visit hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide.

The 15 courses are:

A  History/social science, 2 years
B  English, 4 years, or local language for students whose curriculum is not in English
C  Mathematics, 3 years
D  Laboratory science, 2 years
E  Language other than English, 2 years
F  Visual and performing arts, 1 year
G  College-preparatory elective, 1 year (chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university)

Earn a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 or better in these courses with no grade lower than a C.

UC Santa Cruz will no longer use standardized exam scores (ACT/SAT) in our holistic review and selection process. Like all UC campuses, we consider a broad range of factors when reviewing a student’s application, from academics to extracurricular achievement and response to life challenges. No admission decision is based on a single factor. Exam scores may still be used to meet area b of the a-g subject requirements as well as the UC Entry Level Writing requirement.

Selection by UC Santa Cruz

As a selective campus, UC Santa Cruz is unable to offer admission to all UC-qualified applicants. UC Santa Cruz offers admission to freshman applicants according to the selection policy described on admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/freshman.html. Professionally-trained Admissions readers conduct an in-depth review of your academic and personal achievements.

COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students interested in computer engineering or computer science must select the major as their first choice on the UC Application. Applicants are encouraged to have a solid background in advanced high school mathematics. A student not selected for computer engineering or computer science may be reviewed for admission to an alternate major if one was selected.

U.S. FRESHMEN FROM OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

The qualifying and selection criteria for students from outside California are similar, except that a minimum GPA of 3.40 is required, instead of 3.00.

INTERNATIONAL FRESHMEN

UC has slightly different admission requirements for international students. In addition to qualifying for UC via the process described above and achieving a minimum GPA of 3.4, international students must meet other requirements specific to their home countries. UC Santa Cruz also has an English Proficiency Requirement.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

Many UC Santa Cruz students do not begin their career as freshmen, but choose to enter the university by transferring from a community college or another four year institution. When making transfer admission decisions, top priority is given to qualified junior transfers from California community colleges. There are minimum requirements for transfer to the University of California and for 40 of our majors that require specific course requirements to ensure timely degree completion:

- Complete at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of UC-transferable coursework.
- Complete the following UC-transferable course pattern with minimum C (2.00) grades. Each course must be at least 3 semester units/4 quarter units:
  1.) Two English composition courses
  2.) One course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning
  3.) Four courses from at least two of the following subject areas: arts and humanities, social and behavioral science, and physical and biological sciences
- Earn at least an overall UC GPA of 2.40, although higher GPAs are more competitive.
- Complete required lower-division courses with the required grades/GPA for the intended major.

All diplomas are identical, whether you begin as a student right from high school or attend another college or university first.

For more information, visit admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman and admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/freshman.html
Enrollment Facts

Fall 2019 Enrollment

17,517 Undergraduates + 1,977 Graduates = 19,494 Total Enrollment

Undergraduates

- Women: 47.8%
- Men: 51.6%
- Other: 0.6%

Primary Undergraduate Ethnicities, Fall 2019

- Asian American/Pacific Islander: 27.9%
- American Indian: 0.8%
- African American: 4.3%
- Not Stated: 1.6%
- International: 9.0%
- Chicano/Latino: 25.3%
- Euro-American: 31.1%

Number of countries represented by fall 2019 applicants: 189

U.S. states and territories represented by fall 2020 applicants: 56

Admitted freshmen fall 2020 profile

- 48.6% with 4.0 or higher GPA
- 41.6% with 3.5 to 3.99 GPA
- 9.8% with 3.49 or lower GPA

Mean GPA: 3.91

2020 admission rates

- 65% Freshmen
- 64% Transfers
Financial Aid

In 2019-20, more than $290 million in student aid and scholarships was distributed to 80 percent of UC Santa Cruz undergraduates. We strive to remove financial barriers. financialaid.ucsc.edu

BLUE AND GOLD OPPORTUNITY PLAN
UC’s Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan pays for educational and student services fees for California resident students with family incomes less than $80,000 a year. admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/blue-and-gold-opportunity-plan.html

MIDDLE CLASS SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship is for California resident students with total family income under $150,000. admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/middle-class-scholarship-program.html

RESOURCES FOR DREAMERS (CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT AB540)
financialaid.ucsc.edu/apply-for-aid/Dreamers

AWARDS FOR NONRESIDENTS
financialaid.ucsc.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/non-resident-scholarships.html

Tuition and fees are subject to change. For updated information, see financialaid.ucsc.edu/cost-to-attend

Campus health insurance is mandatory. The campus medical health insurance charge will be waived for students who provide proof of insurance.

UNDERGRADUATE EXPENSES, 2020-21*

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>Off Campus</th>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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* T,U fees are subject to change. For updated information, see financialaid.ucsc.edu/cost-to-attend

Campus health insurance is mandatory. The campus medical health insurance charge will be waived for students who provide proof of insurance.