The University of California, Santa Cruz is a world renowned research university south of San Francisco adjacent to Silicon Valley. Whether you study with us online or on our beautiful campus next door to Silicon Valley, join us as we break new ground in technology, biosciences, humanities, and the arts!
Scholarships
UC Santa Cruz’s Undergraduate Dean’s Scholarships and Awards range from $12,000 to $40,000, split over four years and applied to non-resident tuition. These scholarships and awards are only available to admitted non-resident students, based mostly on their academic achievement as determined by the UC Application. No separate application is required.

Estimated Total Yearly Investment for International Students, 2020-21:

- On campus: $66,738
- Off campus: $65,079

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.

Academic Preparation for International Applicants
The process of international freshman applicants to UC Santa Cruz reflects the rigor and preparation needed to succeed within the University of California system. UC Santa Cruz uses a holistic approach in selecting freshmen for admission. Each applicant is thoroughly reviewed to determine the full spectrum of their academic and personal achievements. Experienced admissions readers with expertise in curricula and educational systems from around the world conduct an in-depth review. To be considered for admission to UC Santa Cruz as a freshman, international applicants must meet the following:

- Students must be in the final year of high school or have received a high school diploma or equivalent credential. The diploma or equivalent credential must be one that will allow you to enter a university in that country’s educational system or a U.S. university.
- Students must complete a well-rounded college-preparatory program represented by the 15 academic courses below (often referred to as ‘a-g’ courses) to be eligible for admission to the University of California. International applicants should have a 3.4 GPA or better, weighted by a maximum of 8 semesters of honors points.

A-G Courses
- 2 years of history/social science
- 4 years of English composition and literature (or the language in which you are instructed)
- 3 years of math including geometry and advanced algebra
- 2 years of laboratory science
- 2 years of a second language
- 1 year of visual and performing arts (if available)
- 1 additional course

*note: qualifying courses taken during 7th-8th grade will count for some requirements

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 academic to extra-curricular 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.
Our Undergraduate Majors
Follow your passion!

- Agroecology
- Anthropology
- Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism
- Applied Mathematics
- Applied Physics
- Art
- Art and Design: Games and Playable Media
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics
- Biotechnology
- Business Management Economics
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Cognitive Science
- Community Studies
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Science: Computer Game Design
- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
- Earth Sciences
- Earth Sciences/Anthropology
- Ecology and Evolution
- Economics
- Economics/Mathematics
- Education, Democracy, and Justice
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Studies/Biology
- Environmental Studies/Earth Sciences
- Environmental Studies/Economics
- Feminist Studies
- Film and Digital Media
- Global Economics
- History
- History of Art and Visual Culture
- Human Biology
- Italian Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Language Studies
- Latin American and Latino Studies
- Latin American and Latino Studies/Politics
- Latin American and Latino Studies/Sociology
- Legal Studies
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Marine Biology
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Education
- Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
- Music
- Network and Digital Technology
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Physics (Astrophysics)
- Plant Sciences
- Politics
- Psychology
- Robotics Engineering
- Science Education
- Sociology
- Spanish Studies
- Technology and Information Management
- Theater Arts
- Undeclared/Undecided
  (freshmen can pick an Advising Cluster and declare their major later)

Note: The SAT/ACT is now optional for all freshman applicants beginning fall 2021. However, all applicants should report scores for any SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, TOEFL, or IELTS exams they have taken.