Guide to Applying for Transfer Applicants

UC Santa Cruz

DIFFERENT BY DESIGN
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 campus, take advantage of UC Santa Cruz’s strong partnership with California community colleges to transfer to our campus and achieve your dreams!
GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Award-winning Campus

UC Santa Cruz is one of the world’s most spectacular university campuses, with wide ocean views, footpaths, and bridges through forests of giant redwood trees. The campus is divided into 10 residential colleges, each with its own academic advisers and faculty provosts.

UC Santa Cruz Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)

Together with the California community colleges, we have developed a program to guarantee admission to UC Santa Cruz and assist students with the transfer process. A Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) is a formal agreement ensuring fall admission in your desired proposed major. The UC TAG application must be submitted online between September 1 and 30 of the year before your planned enrollment.

UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

UC TAP is an online tool designed for California community college students interested in transferring to UC, including those who are seeking a TAG. The planner helps students track their progress toward meeting UC’s minimum requirements, and allows UC staff to communicate important information to prospective transfer students.

Academic Preparation for Transfer Applicants

The selection process for transfers to UC Santa Cruz reflects the academic rigor and preparation needed for admission to a major research institution. Junior-level transfer students selected for admission are expected to graduate within two years of their initial enrollment.

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be considered for admission by UC Santa Cruz, transfer students must have completed the following no later than the end of the spring term of the year they plan to enroll:

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

*Major-specific screening criteria can be found at admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/transfer-students

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.

ASSIST

ASSIST is a statewide articulation database that displays course-to-course agreements to the UC system and each UC campus.

Transfer Enrollment Facts

| Transfer Students Presently Enrolled | 3,536 |
| New Transfer Students Entered Fall 2019 | 1,477 |
| UC Entry Students Age 25 or Over (For Undergraduates) or 29 or Over (For Graduate Students) | 1,725 |
| Number of California Community Colleges With at Least One Fall 2020 Admit | 113 |
| Mean GPA for Admitted Transfers, Fall 2020 | 3.34 |

*Major-specific screening criteria can be found at admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/transfer-students

Other criteria that may be considered by UC Santa Cruz include:
- Completion of UC Santa Cruz General Education courses
- Completion of IGETC
- Completion of an AS/AT degree
- Participation in honors programs
- Performance in honors courses
Lower-division Transfer Students

UC Santa Cruz will admit a limited number of transfer students before they reach junior standing, provided all required coursework is completed prior to enrollment.

Applicants with International Academic Records

UC Santa Cruz welcomes transfer students from outside the United States. We require all applicants whose first language is not English to adequately demonstrate English competency as a part of the application process. One of the ways that transfer students may fulfill this requirement is by completing two UC-transferable English composition courses (not ESL) in the U.S. with grades of B (3.00) or better.

Preparing for Your Major

It is expected that junior-level transfer students will complete as many of the lower-division courses as possible for their chosen major prior to transferring to UC Santa Cruz. We strongly advise transfer students to research the requirements for their intended major in the UC Santa Cruz General Catalog, on ASSIST, or on the UC Santa Cruz academic department’s website.

SCREENING MAJORS

Many majors require specific coursework and/or GPA levels for acceptance.

NON-SCREENING MAJORS

During the declaration of major process, which occurs once you are already enrolled at UC Santa Cruz, departments may screen for admission to their majors using criteria well beyond minimum admission requirements.

Our Undergraduate Majors

Follow your passion!

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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

*screening major for transfer students

admissions.ucsc.edu/apply/international-students/intl-transfer.html
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