The Colleges: Communities of Learning
UC Santa Cruz combines the resources of a world class public research university with a distinctive undergraduate experience characterized by our college system. Each college is a vibrant living/learning community supported by faculty and staff who provide academic support, organize student activities, and sponsor events that enhance the intellectual and social life of the campus.

After accepting the UC Santa Cruz offer of admission, all undergraduate students become affiliated with one of our 10 colleges. During the admissions acceptance process you will have an opportunity to indicate your college preferences. This guide will help you learn about what makes each of our colleges unique.

Cowell College
Founded 1965
Cowell College is the founding college of UC Santa Cruz. Its motto, The Pursuit of Truth in the Company of Friends, represents its twin commitments to academic endeavor and supportive community.

Stevenson College
Founded 1966
Stevenson College’s theme, Self and Society, emphasizes the goals of both self-understanding and active participation in one’s community to give students a greater understanding of themselves and their cultures, and to help them think globally.

Crown College
Founded 1967
Crown College’s theme, Science, Technology, and Society, explores the relationship of science and technology with the world around us, including both the positive and negative impacts of technology on our environment and social institutions.

Merrill College
Founded 1968
Merrill College’s theme, Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness, helps students to understand the nature of cultural identity by examining the relationships between societies of the world and their struggles to preserve their cultures.

Porter College
Founded 1969
Porter College’s theme, Ars Longa, Vita Brevis: Life is Short, Art Endures, manifests our belief that creativity is integral to all fields of study from art to physics to linguistics, and promotes an environment in which original thought, creative imagination, and personal and cultural differences are appreciated.
The colleges differ in academic focus, environment, location, architecture, and programs offered. However, all 10 colleges are dynamic, engaging learning communities that offer opportunities for students to help build and shape their experiences.
Students accepting the offer of admission to UC Santa Cruz must complete the online acceptance process at my.ucsc.edu.

During the acceptance process you will be asked to indicate five UCSC college preferences. Review the information in this guide to learn about each of our colleges, including themes, programs, and college courses. You may also choose to indicate “no preference,” as many students do, meaning you will be fine with any of our 10 colleges.

After you have completed the acceptance process, and after the acceptance deadline (May 1 for freshmen; June 1 for transfers), the Office of Admissions will affiliate you with a college. The college assignment takes into account available space at each college and the preferences you have indicated.

Once you have been affiliated with a college, the Campus Housing Office will send you information about the housing options available to you and instructions for completing the online housing application/contract process. Housing application periods open in mid-May for new freshmen and mid-June for new transfers entering in the fall; students admitted for the winter quarter apply for housing in late November.

Students interested in finding their own accommodations in the off-campus community are encouraged to use the resources available through the UCSC Community Rentals Office. Community Rentals maintains online rental listings to assist students in locating rental housing and serves as an information and advising resource.
Things to Consider

College theme
Focus of core course for freshmen
Housing and theme options
Special activities or programs
Geographic location on campus

Each residential community offers a variety of theme housing options, such as Rosa Parks African American Theme House at Stevenson, Writers House at Kresge, and Women in Science, Engineering & Math at College Eight. Based on academic pursuits, hobbies, individual backgrounds, and lifestyle preferences, these options complement a student’s experience in residence. If you want to live in a specific residential theme, be sure to consider this when indicating your college preferences. housing.ucsc.edu/themes

Helpful Resources

Campus web sites
Campus visit
Virtual tours
Campus catalog
Current students
Faculty and staff
Alumni

College Facilities

On the pages that follow, these icons indicate the range of facilities available at each of the colleges.

- Apartments
- Library
- Basketball Court
- Music Practice Room
- BBQ/Picnic Area
- Photo Lab
- Café/Coffee Shop
- Racquetball Court
- Computer Lab
- Recreation/Game Room
- Dining Hall
- Residence Halls
- Gallery
- Tennis Court
- Garden
- Volleyball Court
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Cowell College core course, *Imagining Justice Past and Present*, focuses on critical reading and analytical writing based on a syllabus of classic and modern texts dealing with issues of justice. Readings vary each year but always stress cross-cultural perspectives and human values on broad humanistic themes.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- College Night, a special monthly dinner followed by a performance or cultural program, is a founding tradition at Cowell.
- An active college senate allocates funding for student programs and provides important student feedback to the college administration.
- The Cowell College art galleries offer paid internships for students to assist with the exhibitions.
- Upper-division students are encouraged to apply for grants for research and creative projects.
- Co-curricular programming in the residence halls builds and expands on the social justice themes of the core course.
- Foreign language study has a distinct presence at Cowell College.
- Housing themes and special interest communities at Cowell include: Diversity Awareness, Creative Arts, Wellness/Health, LGBTQ&A, and Outdoor Recreation.
- The Cowell Press offers courses in book arts for students interested in the traditional craft of printing and book-making.
EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- The Junior Fellows Program allows selected Stevenson juniors and seniors to teach in the core course.
- Home to Rainbow Theater, Stevenson College is committed to narrowing the divide between politics and art through a tradition of theater and performance.
- The Rosa Parks African American Theme House (R.PAATH) provides a living-learning opportunity for students whose interests span historical, present day, and future experiences of predominantly Black/African American peoples.
- Stevenson College offers a number of scholarships and research opportunities.
- Upper-division students help entering students succeed by participating in the Writing Assistants Program.
- There are ample opportunities for involvement in organizations unique to the college: Stevenson Student Council, Multicultural Awareness Club, Path to a Greener Stevenson.
- Housing themes and special interest communities at Stevenson include: Diversity and Social Justice, Outdoor Adventure, Sustainability, LGBTQ&A, and the Rosa Parks African American Theme House (R.PAATH).

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Stevenson’s two-quarter core course, *Self and Society*, focuses on the relationship between the self and society, and offers students an interdisciplinary introduction to the diverse historical, cultural, and intellectual traditions and texts that provide the basis of modern society. Students meet in seminars two or three times each week to discuss reading and writing assignments. Skills in analytic thinking, writing, and speaking are emphasized.
EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Undergraduate Research Fellowships introduce juniors and seniors to research at the university and encourage student-faculty interaction.

- Students engage in educational, cultural, and social activities sponsored by the Student Life staff: College Nights, movie and game nights, arts and crafts, field trips, and guest presenters.

- The Science Learning Community, First-Year Honors Program, Outdoor Pursuits, and Gaming residential programs encourage students to interact with faculty, staff, and peers.

- At Science/Public Affairs Tables, faculty engage with students over dinner to discuss their research and current events.

- Leadership opportunities abound at Crown. Students can join Crown Student Senate, volunteer to be an Orientation Leader, work in a variety of jobs, or simply take one of our Leadership classes. Crown offers students the opportunity to capitalize on their experiences and earn a Leadership Development Certificate during their time here.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Crown’s core course, *Ethical Issues in Emerging Technologies*, presents several rapidly growing technologies, shows where those technologies are taking us, and provides reasoning skills to help evaluate the consequences to individuals and societies. Students focus on developing strategies that can guide them in making public policy decisions and personal decisions concerning these technologies. The course typically includes units on ethical issues arising from biotechnology, information technology, and artificial intelligence.
Merrill College
Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

• Classroom Connection links community experience to university education by placing students in internships for credit in area schools.

• Merrill Student Government and Merrill Activities Council provide students an opportunity to develop leadership skills, create programs and events, and be an active part of UC Santa Cruz student legislature.

• Merrill hosts KZSC radio station, the Peace Corps program, Merrill Pottery Co-op, and the Lionel Cantú GLBTI resource center.

• Merrill residential theme communities give students the opportunity to live with peers who share common interests such as the Academic Focused Community, Global Engagement Hall, Leadership Hall, and Social Justice Hall.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Merrill core course, Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness, helps students begin their academic careers at UC Santa Cruz through studying peoples’ struggles to preserve their cultural identities, as well as social change within and beyond the borders of the United States. Students study nationalism, imperialism, migration, globalization, cultural clashes, religious conflicts, and social inequalities. The selected readings are engaging and diverse, including vivid memoirs, personal journeys, and powerful histories, culminating with a visit and discussion from one of the year’s authors. This engaging academic experience is a student’s first step to becoming the culturally conscious global citizen we strive to graduate.
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Porter core course, *Writing Across the Arts*, addresses social, political, and aesthetic issues raised by selected works of literature and art in a variety of media. Core course instructors and instructional assistants (upper-division students) work with freshmen in small groups to develop their skills in writing, verbal presentation, and critical reading and analysis.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Porter College is a diverse and inclusive community emphasizing individual and collaborative creativity in all aspects of education. Several funding sources are available for Porter student projects through Creative and Innovative Grants, Porter Senate Grants, Porter College Undergraduate Fellowships, Porter Research Fellowships, and the Hitchcock Poetry Fund.

- Residential theme areas include Film & Digital Media, LGBTQ and Allies, Social Justice, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

- Residential housing options include Substance-Free, Co-ed, Sober and Clean Recovery Housing, and Single Gender.

- The Transfer Community, located at Porter College, houses incoming transfer students who request university housing (regardless of college affiliation), with programs designed specifically to support transfer students as they adjust to university life.

- Student organizations include the Porter Senate and Queer Fashion Show.

- The Porter/Kresge Dining Hall converts into theater space and is the venue for several campus cultural events.

- The computer lab specializes in digital media, filmmaking, and computer music.

- The JB Hall Gallery and Bridge Gallery are available for all students to exhibit their artwork.
EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Kresge’s strong academic community emphasizes creativity, leadership, sustainability, and community.
- Kresge is home to The Writing Center, including the Creative Writing archives, and Writers House, a living/learning community for students interested in creative writing and journalism, regardless of major.
- The Ecovillage living/learning community brings together first-year students who want to actively create a new world based on cooperation, justice, and sustainable living.
- Residential housing options include Co-ed, Substance Free, Single Gender, Sober and Clean Recovery Housing, and Quiet. All students will be housed in apartments.
- Kresge College is also home to the new Common Ground Center, promoting social and environmental change through undergraduate-focused action-education, research, advocacy, and civic engagement.
- Kresge’s students actively shape their community through participation in Transformative Action and Service Learning classes, Kresge’s Student Parliament, and the Kresge Multicultural Educational Committee.
- The Kresge Garden is the site of our organic garden and food systems classes, and is a place where students empower themselves to learn how to grow their own food and work together cooperatively.
- The student-run Natural Food Co-op, Photo Co-op, and Music Co-op are all located at Kresge, and the “STARS at Kresge” center provides support and services to transfer and re-entry students.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Kresge core course, *Power and Representation*, examines the ways we constitute ourselves as individuals in relation to communities, focusing on representations of class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, and race in several discourses: critical theory, film, art, fiction, writing, and theater.
Oakes College
Communicating Diversity for a Just Society

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- Oakes College is committed to intellectual, academic, and personal inquiry rooted in the possibility of affecting positive social and political change. Oakes is the home of the “Certificate in Community Justice and Service Learning”. This program provides students the opportunity to address social justice issues through critical reflection and action.

- The theme residence program provides a place where differences are not barriers but invitations to grow and collaborate.

- Each residence hall and apartment block was named by students to honor inspirational figures from the arts, government, politics, literature, and public advocacy.

- A diversity of programs include our traditional “Core Café” discussion evenings in our lounges with Core Course faculty, dances, cultural celebrations, movies, and open-mic events.

- Oakes Library and the West Side Writing Center are located in the Academic/Administrative building. The library is a quiet place for study and the Writing Center provides support for students to further develop their writing skills.

- The Science Community provides students who are interested in science majors and careers an opportunity to live together in a dynamic, intentional learning environment, that fosters excellence through a range of special programs including: mentoring, collaborative study tables, and an on-site graduate student “scientist in residence”.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

*Communicating Diversity for a Just Society*, the Oakes College core course, introduces students to the major intellectual, cultural, social, and political themes that have shaped the college for over four decades. The core course is designed to help students find their voices and to join the ongoing scholarly conversation that thrives at UCSC.
College Eight
Environment and Society

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- College Eight, enriched by its diversity, is an inclusive community that emphasizes the importance of individual academic success. Our diversity and inclusion initiatives bring together students, staff, and faculty to develop high-quality educational and celebratory events.

- Independent undergraduate research and community service are encouraged, and the student garden offers a quarterly internship for academic credit.

- The faculty, representing a broad spectrum of majors and academic interests, encourages students to become involved with the complex problems of contemporary society.

- A wide variety of co-curricular activities provide opportunities for students to connect their academic work with other interests. Each fall quarter College Eight students participate in the Sustainability Projects, allowing students to have a firsthand experience in farming and agriculture or habitat restoration.

- Housing themes at College Eight include Sustainability, Women in Science, Engineering & Math, Social Justice, Multicultural Leadership, and Service Learning.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The College Eight core course, *Environment and Society*, deepens students’ understanding of the vital connection between contemporary social organization and environmental change through a series of lectures, films, readings, small-group discussions, and an individual research project. The course enables students to develop their academic reading skills in a seminar format.
College Nine
International and Global Perspectives

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

• College Nine attracts students from all over the world to learn from one another and expand their worldviews, so they are better prepared to enter the global workforce.

• The iFloor is a vibrant residence hall community that offers International and US first year students opportunities to make meaningful, lifelong friendships and connections that extend beyond borders. Students live with roommates from countries other than their own and participate in a fun, interactive environment that promotes intercultural skills.

• Global Action is an optional two-credit class that explores current world events and fosters engaged and experiential learning. The course is student-led, offering an opportunity for motivated students to enroll in the 5-credit course Teaching Global Action and to gain pedagogical and leadership experience.

• The College Nine Leadership Certificate is awarded to active student participants in a series of leadership programs, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.

• Intercultural Community Weekend is a retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains where students deepen their understanding of international and global perspectives through a series of experiential exercises and activities.

• The Service Learning Program is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning and teach civic responsibility. It aims to develop in students a lifelong commitment to service and leadership.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College Nine’s core course, International and Global Issues, addresses the college’s focus on understanding, analyzing, and addressing contemporary international and global issues while developing students’ writing, reading, oral presentation, and critical thinking skills.
EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

- **Social Justice Issues Workshop**, an optional two-credit class, examines current problems related to social injustice. Students can gain experience as teachers by enrolling in *Teaching Social Justice*.

- The Service Learning Program offers opportunities to volunteer locally and abroad: Praxis arranges local volunteer work days, and Esprit de Corps provides credit for work at a local non-profit.

- The College Ten Leadership Certificate is awarded to active student participants in a series of leadership programs, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.

- Students enjoy music, spoken word, and a relaxed environment at the student-run Terry Frietas Café.

- The Practical Activism Conference is a dynamic one-day student-led event held every fall, featuring speakers, workshops, performances, hands-on activism activities, and various on and off campus organizations. This popular annual event is an excellent arena in which to develop tools and find allies for local and global change. Students gain leadership skills and experience by joining the planning group the preceding spring.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

College Ten’s core course, *Social Justice and Community*, addresses the college’s commitment to understanding and promoting social justice in communities around the world while developing students’ writing, reading, oral presentation, and critical thinking skills.
Housing and Dining

All undergraduate students are housed in small-scale residential communities, each providing an academically and socially supportive environment offering special programs designed to help students transition to campus life, build a strong connection with the campus, and get the most out of their UCSC experience.

A space in university housing is guaranteed to all new undergraduate students entering in the fall quarter who submit all forms and required fees by stated deadlines. The housing options available to you will differ depending on whether you are a freshman or a transfer student—though all students have access to campus dining facilities.

Freshmen are generally assigned to live in residence halls at their college, except at Kresge College which has all apartments. Residence hall floors are typically shared by 15 to 50 students and have common bathrooms and lounge areas. Apartments, typically shared by four to seven students, have common living/dining rooms, kitchens, and bathrooms.

For many transfer students, living on campus is an important part of the university experience. As a transfer student, you’ll enjoy “dual-citizenship” status that enables you to participate in programs at your affiliated college and at the housing community where you live. You can live at the Transfer Community, The Village, or the University Town Center. The Transfer Community is located in the recently renovated Porter College residence halls and situated on campus to provide easy access to Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students (STARS) and the Academic Resources Center (ARC).

AFFILIATED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY HOUSING

UC Santa Cruz offers a variety of housing options for continuing, transfer, re-entry, and graduate students. Each community is supported by a live-in manager and student staff who plan activities and assist residents.

The Village is located in UCSC’s Lower Quarry on the east side of campus in the natural setting of the Great Meadow. Each house at The Village has nine single bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a kitchenette. Residents have access to a spacious community kitchen and dining area, laundry room, and lounge.

University Town Center features two and three-person studio apartments with kitchenettes and private bathrooms, a community lounge with large screen TV and full kitchen for community events, and a study lounge. The Town Center is located on the corner of Pacific and Cathcart streets in downtown Santa Cruz, amidst all that downtown has to offer, including cafés, restaurants, shops, galleries, a museum, movie theaters, a library, and more!

Family Student Housing offers a unique year-round living experience for students and their families (spouse or domestic partner, other relative, or dependent children). Students and their families enjoy spacious two-bedroom townhomes, most including a balcony area or small yard. Units are unfurnished and come equipped with a full kitchen. Facilities also include a counseling center, play areas, and laundry rooms. UCSC Early Education Services offers several child care programs, serving children ranging in age from 11 months to 12 years.

housing.ucsc.edu/village

housing.ucsc.edu/utc

housing.ucsc.edu/fsh
UC SANTA CRUZ DINING

The award-winning UC Santa Cruz Dining program prides itself on providing the best possible food to our students. We promote buy fresh, buy local, healthy dining options so you can enjoy a variety of distinctive foods and flavors. Students use the dining halls not only for meals, but as a “living room” to meet friends, study, and attend community-based entertainment and educational programs.

We have flexible meal plans available. Our unlimited access plans work with your busy schedule to give you all-you-care-to-enjoy dining options from early morning to late night.

These plans allow you to enter a dining hall as many times as you want, anytime we’re open. You never “lose a meal” or miss out on a snack, and you always get complete quality, selection, and value.

We are nationally recognized for our organic and sustainable food programs and we source seasonal, organic produce directly from local farms, including the UCSC campus farm. A wide selection of vegetarian and vegan options are available, and we work closely with the campus Student Health Center to develop meals for those with restricted diets. Our staff continually strives to meet your needs.

CAFÉS AND RESTAURANTS

In addition to the dining halls, the campus also features conveniently located restaurants and coffee bars. You can pick up a latte to go or sit down and savor a wide variety of food options. All of our dining venues are open to students, faculty, and staff.

dining.ucsc.edu
This is a place like no other. It was imagined from the minds of original thinkers—the rebels and visionaries, artists, scientists, and poets who had the courage to strike off on a different path in search of ideas that question norms in hopes of making the world a better place. Let’s celebrate 50 amazing years.