



BEGIN YOUR BANANA SLUG

JOURNEY

UC SANTA CRUZ

IMAGINE

spending your next few years in this place of incomparable beauty, surrounded by mentors and friends who both challenge and support you on your path of academic and personal growth. That is the Banana Slug journey. Welcome to UC Santa Cruz!



FIND YOUR PATH

EXPLORE OUR MAJORS

ARTS & MEDIA

Art+
Art and Design: Games and Playable Media*
Creative Technologies
Dance (minor only)‡
Electronic Music (minor only)‡
Film and Digital Media+‡
History of Art and Visual Culture+‡
Jazz, Spontaneous Composition & Improvisation (minor only)‡
Music+
Theater Arts+‡
Western Music (minor only)‡

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Anthropology+‡
Cognitive Science
Community Studies*
Digital Justice Studies‡
Education (minor only)‡
Education, Democracy, & Justice
Global and Community Health B.A.+
Latin American & Latino Studies+‡
Latin American & Latino Studies/Education, Democracy, & Justice
Latin American & Latino Studies/Politics
Latin American & Latino Studies/Sociology
Legal Studies+‡
Politics+‡
Psychology*+
Sociology*+



75% OF UNDERGRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Business Management Economics*+
Economics*+‡
Economics/Mathematics*
Global Economics*

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (minor only)‡
Bioelectronics and Biophotonics (minor only)‡
Bioinformatics (minor only)‡
Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics*
Biotechnology*
Computer Engineering*‡
Computer Science*‡
Computer Science: Computer Game Design*
Electrical Engineering*‡
Network & Digital Technology*
Robotics Engineering*
Technology & Information Management*‡

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Agroecology*+
Environmental Sciences*
Environmental Studies*+
Environmental Studies/Biology*
Environmental Studies/Economics*
Marine Biology*
Plant Sciences*
Sustainability Studies (minor only)‡

+ Three year pathways offered in these majors.
* These majors require specific major preparation for transfer students.
‡ Minor offered in this subject.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

HUMANITIES

Ancient Studies (formerly Classical Studies)‡
Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism
Black Studies (minor only)‡
Critical Race & Ethnic Studies+
East Asian Studies (minor only)‡
Feminist Studies+
History+‡
Italian Studies (minor only)‡
Jewish Studies‡
Language Studies+‡
Linguistics+‡
Literature+‡
Philosophy+‡
Spanish Studies‡

SCIENCE & MATH

Applied Mathematics*+‡
Applied Physics*
Astrophysics (minor only)‡
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*
Biology*+ (three-year pathway offered in the B.A. major)‡
Chemistry*‡
Earth Sciences*‡
Earth Sciences/Anthropology
Ecology & Evolution*
Global & Community Health B.S.*
Mathematics*+‡
Mathematics Education*+
Mathematics Theory & Computation*+
Microbiology*
Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology*
Neuroscience*
Physics*‡
Physics (Astrophysics)*
Science Education*
Statistics (minor only)‡
STEM Education (minor only)‡



OUR VOICES WILL DEFINE THE CENTURY!



Among national public universities for students making an impact.
- Princeton Review, 2024

At UC Santa Cruz, we use an innovative approach to seek solutions and give voice to the challenges of our time - leading to transformative change. Our campus is a special place where social and environmental justice are taught and lived.



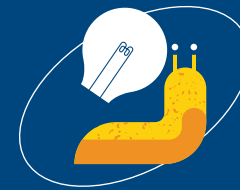
HEAR THE VOICES
OF OUR STUDENTS!



LEARNING FROM THE BEST

**TOP
15**

UC Santa Cruz is ranked among the top 15 public universities for undergraduate teaching by U.S. News & World Report 2025, and is the only University of California on the list!



INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

#12

The Wall Street Journal recently placed UC Santa Cruz at number 12 nationally for alumni in high-paying tech jobs.



ENROLLED STUDENTS

17,940 UNDERGRADUATES
1,998 GRADUATE STUDENTS



ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE (Averages)

4.00
FIRST-YEAR
STUDENTS GPA

3.47
TRANSFER
STUDENTS GPA

22:1 STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO

61% OF UNDERGRADUATE
COURSES HAVE FEWER
THAN 30 STUDENTS

73% OF UNDERGRADUATE
COURSES HAVE FEWER
THAN 50

NOTABLE MAJORS

- ⦿ Computer Science
- ⦿ Psychology
- ⦿ Business Management Economics
- ⦿ Computer Science: Computer Game Design
- ⦿ Creative Technologies
- ⦿ Marine Biology
- ⦿ Global and Community Health (our pre-Med track)
- ⦿ Community Studies
- ⦿ Education, Democracy, and Justice
- ⦿ Film and Digital Media

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

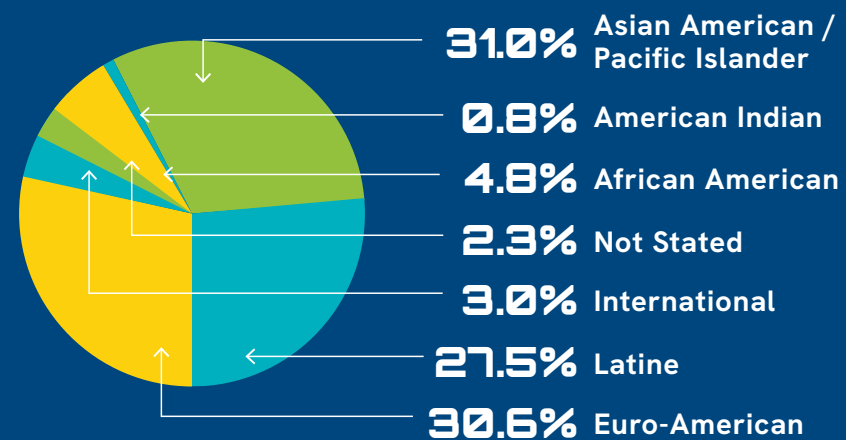


LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR PRINCIPLES
OF COMMUNITY

Students from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds enrich the UC Santa Cruz community with their perspectives and experiences. Your contributions are valued here!



OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY



30%
OF FIRST YEARS ARE
FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

38%
OF TRANSFERS ARE
FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

#FIRSTGEN

UC SANTA CRUZ



77%
OF STUDENTS RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID



HOUSING & RESOURCES



UCSC HOUSES 50% OF STUDENTS ON CAMPUS,

A PERCENTAGE THAT IS JUST BEHIND UCLA AND UC MERCED.

WATCH THE UCSC CRIBS VIDEOS
FEATURING ACTUAL RESIDENTS
SHARING TOURS OF THEIR SPACES!

@UCSCADMISSIONS

SPECIALTY ACCOMMODATIONS

UCSC strives to accommodate different lifestyles and preferences while fostering a supportive and inclusive living environment. Some of the specialty accommodations available include:

- Accessible housing for students with disabilities
- Gender-inclusive housing
- ABC (African/Black/Caribbean) student housing
- Trans-inclusive housing
- Quiet housing
- Substance-free housing
- Family student housing

UC Santa Cruz offers many opportunities for finding fellowship and exploring your interests within campus housing, over 150 student organizations, a variety of on-campus events, and lots more!

10 RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

The 10 residential colleges have their own themes, academic support services, and social activities, fostering a nurturing neighborhood environment for students. All of the colleges offer both dormitory-style living and apartment-style living options for students.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGES!



TRANSFER HOUSING

The Transfer Community is located at Porter College. As the primary housing option for incoming transfer students, it offers special programs designed to support the transition to campus life, build a strong connection with the campus, and get the most out of the UCSC experience.



LEARN MORE ABOUT TRANSFER HOUSING OPTIONS!



UCSC STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTED WITH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS AND MAINTAIN A SENSE OF WELL-BEING.

EOP (Educational Opportunity Programs) provides various academic and personal support programs to first-generation and low-income students from historically marginalized backgrounds.

LSS (Learning Support Services) offers inclusive tutoring sessions facilitated by peers.

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) helps students learn how to manage stressors, build new skills, increase confidence, and resolve problems with individual and group mental health services.

THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER provides a wide range of services and accommodations to help ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the education and student life at UCSC.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT supports international students on campus and UCSC students who study abroad or participate in global internships.

SUMMER PROGRAMS including our early-start program Summer Edge program and Summer Session, including both in-person and online courses.



Finding friends can be as easy as joining the non-audition K-pop dance team POPreka or jumping in the pool for an intramural inner-tube water polo match!





FIND



YOUR



COMMUNITY

Our students bring a piece of home with them, and find spaces that feel like home for them on campus! UCSC invites you to express your identities and affiliations in our community so that you can learn and thrive safely and in fellowship.

CONNECTING, ENGAGING, AND CELEBRATING!

"MY FAVORITE MEMORY IS PROBABLY THE HOLI FESTIVAL, THE ONE WITH ALL THE PIGMENT IN THE AIR. IT'S REALLY FUN TO EXPERIENCE OTHER CULTURES AND BE A PART OF THE UCSC COMMUNITY."

— ISABEL REYES, STEVENSON COLLEGE STUDENT

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE AND CULTURAL CENTER

The African American Resource & Cultural Center endeavors to empower African/Black/Caribbean students and community members to explore, honor, and respect their intersecting identities throughout their educational journey.



AMERICAN INDIAN RESOURCE CENTER

The AIRC is dedicated to supporting the needs of American Indian students and increasing Native visibility on campus by hosting student-centered programs, cultural events and providing tools for academic success and personal well-being.



ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER RESOURCE CENTER

The Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center (AA/PIRC) co-creates engagement with students who identify as part of the Asian American, Pacific Islander, & Southwest Asian & North African (AA/PI/SWANA) diaspora at UC Santa Cruz; exploring the complexities of their holistic experiences, and individual and collective identities.



LIONEL CANTÚ QUEER CENTER

The Lionel Cantú Queer Resource Center is the nexus of support and advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community at the UCSC. They create co-curricular experiences with students, staff, and faculty to challenge cisheteronormative understandings of gender and sexuality. With a goal of building a more inclusive campus community with and for all queer and trans people, they provide programming, workshops, and critical dialogues.



SERVICES FOR TRANSFER, RE-ENTRY, AND RESILIENT SCHOLARS

STARRS offers culturally relevant counseling and mentorship programs to create access, cultivate belonging, motivate persistence, and nurture wellness. STARRS offer support for student parents, older returning students, veterans, and students who have been impacted by the incarceration/judicial system.



EL CENTRO - CHICANX/LATINX RESOURCE CENTER

Better known as "EL CENTRO" by students and staff, the Center serves as a hub of organized activity and resources that support the transition, retention, graduation, and academic advancement of Chicax and Latinx students.



WOMXN'S CENTER

The UCSC Womxn's Center affirms the dignity and diversity of all womxn. The center continues and challenges feminist traditions by creating community space for all womxn and their allies to achieve individual and social change. The Center provides space, staff, and resources to encourage womxn's involvement in all aspects of university life and to establish and deepen connections with the Santa Cruz community and beyond.



ADMISSION TO UC SANTA CRUZ

As we consider each individual application - and rest assured, we do consider each one - we look beyond grades. Admissions representatives evaluate your academic and personal achievements and preparation in light of the opportunities available to you and your demonstrated capacity to contribute to the campus community. As a selective campus, UC Santa Cruz is unable to offer admission to all UC-qualified applicants.

➤ Apply online at apply.universityofcalifornia.edu

🕒 Deadline to Submit Application for the Following Fall: DECEMBER 1, 2025

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

COMPLETE 15 COLLEGE-PREPARATORY COURSES ("A-G" COURSES)*.

Scan the QR code above for more details.

CALIFORNIA STUDENTS: EARN A 3.00+ GRADE-POINT AVERAGE (GPA) IN "A-G" COURSES WITH NO GRADE LOWER THAN A C.

UC Santa Cruz does not use standardized exam scores (ACT/SAT) in our holistic review and selection process.



INTERNATIONAL FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

In addition to qualifying for UC via the process described above, you must meet the nonresident GPA of 3.40 or higher, and meet other requirements specific to your home country. UC Santa Cruz has an English Proficiency Requirement.



LEARN
MORE



OUT-OF-STATE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

As an out-of-state applicant, you will need to meet the same requirements as a California-resident student, and you must meet the nonresident GPA of 3.40 or higher.



LEARN
MORE



COMPUTER SCIENCE

(FIRST YEARS & TRANSFERS)

If you are interested in computer science you must select the major as your first choice on the UC Application. You are encouraged to have a solid background in advanced high school or college mathematics. If you were not selected for computer science, you may be reviewed for admission to an alternate major if you had one on the application. Whether you are a first year or a transfer, you will not be able to switch to computer science after you've enrolled at UCSC.

Does my major have minimum requirements I need to meet? Don't be caught unprepared!

➤ Look up your major on admissions.ucsc.edu/transfer-students and see if your major has screening requirements.



TRANSFER ADMISSION

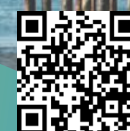
UC Santa Cruz welcomes transfer students from community colleges and from other four year institutions. Junior-level transfer students from California community colleges receive priority admission, but lower-division applicants and second baccalaureate applicants will be considered, depending on the strength of the application and capacity during that term.

SIGN UP FOR UCTAP & START PLANNING FOR YOUR TRANSFER!



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Complete at least 60 semester units or 90 quarter units of UC-transferable coursework.
- Complete a UC-transferable 7-course pattern with minimum C (2.00) grades. Each course must be at least 3 semester units/4 quarter units.
- Earn a 2.40 overall UC GPA. Higher GPAs are more competitive.
- Complete required lower-division courses with the required grades/GPA for the intended major.



**GET A
TRANSFER
GUARANTEE!**

INTERESTED IN GRAD SCHOOL? START HERE!

gradadmissions.ucsc.edu/copy-of-contact



YOU BELONG HERE

The programs and services described in this publication are open to all, consistent with state and federal law, as well as the University of California's nondiscrimination policies. Every initiative -- whether a student service, faculty program, or community event -- is designed to be accessible, inclusive, and respectful of all identities.

SLUG CONNECTION
KEEP IN TOUCH!



CONNECT WITH US!



admissions@ucsc.edu



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admissions.ucsc.edu