



DESTINATION

UC SANTA CRUZ





SANTA CRUZ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE NEXT STEP ON YOUR

PATH TO SUCCESS

When you join UC Santa Cruz, you're joining an impactful research, teaching, and public service university that leads at the intersection of innovation, social justice, and sustainability. This is the Banana Slug Journey. Join our community of changemakers!



DESTINATION

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT UC SANTA CRUZ

INNOVATION

ENROLLED STUDENTS

18,194

Undergraduates

1,946

Graduate Students

ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE (AVERAGES)

4.0

First-Year Students GPA

3.47

Transfer Students GPA

SMALL CLASS SIZES

22:1

Student/faculty ratio

61%

of undergraduate courses
have fewer than 30 students

73%

of undergraduate courses
have fewer than 50



TOP 15

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



TOP 15

For undergraduate teaching
- U.S. News & World Report, 2025



#2

For high-paying engineering jobs
- Wall Street Journal, 2026





DESTINATION

INCLUSION IN ACTION

A COMMUNITY OF CHANGEMAKERS

OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY		28.2%	LATINE
4.7%	AFRICAN AMERICAN	30.0%	EURO-AMERICAN
0.9%	AMERICAN INDIAN	3.3%	INTERNATIONAL
30.7%	ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	2.3%	NOT STATED





UNIVERSITY HOUSING

YOUR NEW HOME

10 RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

The 10 residential colleges are living and learning communities with 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!



The Transfer Community at Porter College is 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 houses **NEARLY 50%** of undergraduates on campus, one of the highest rates in the UC system.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: ROOM TO GROW

UCSC is pursuing an ambitious plan to add 40% more housing within the next decade!

- » Kresge College has added spaces for several hundred students this year and will add more next year, for a total of 993 new spaces.
- » The Delaware Avenue apartment complex, completed this year, will serve 350+ students. The location is just a few miles from campus, with excellent access to the Metro bus system and campus transit routes.
- » A NEW Family Student Housing project opening this year will serve 120 student families.
- » UCSC is partnering with Cabrillo College, located nearby, to serve 250 transfer and continuing students. The expected opening is next year.



Watch the UCSC Cribs videos featuring students sharing tours of their spaces! [@ucscadmissions](#)



NEW! EXPANDED HOUSING GUARANTEE

UCSC provides a two-year housing guarantee to all new students who select university housing!



DESTINATION

STUDENT LIFE & BELONGING

YOUR NEW COMMUNITIES

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.

WAYS TO FIND COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS

- Over 200 student organizations in 10 different categories, from Panhellenic to professional and everything in between!
- Your residential college
- Our Identity-based Resource Centers
- Other communities/support organizations: Disability Resource Center, Services for Transfer, Re-entry, and Resilient Scholars (STARRS)



CULTURAL EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

ART EXHIBITS & OPEN STUDIOS

PERFORMANCES & OPEN MICS

DIVISION III ATHLETICS

CLUB SPORTS & INTRAMURALS

PANHellenic EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AND MORE!



Experience the AA/PI/SWANA Bazaar!





D E S T I N A T I O N

SLUGS IN ACTION

YOUR LAUNCHPAD

**AUGUST LEE STEVENS, '22**

Up-and-coming musician and songwriter, performed her first single at a UCSC open mic.

RICARDO ESQUIVEL, '24

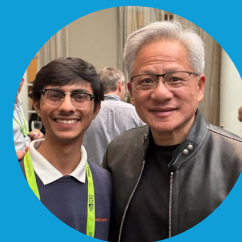
An internship during his second and third year at UCSC led Ricardo directly to a full-time position as a software engineer at Microsoft immediately after graduating.

**NATALIE CAPOBRES '26 AND KEVIN LIN '26**

As members of UCSC's Right Livelihood Center, Natalie and Kevin collaborate with an international network of activists, and traveled to Sweden for an awards ceremony in 2025, where they met climate activist Greta Thunberg.

PREET KARIA '28

Shown here with CEO Jensen Huang, Preet won first place at the NVIDIA GTC 2026 Agents for Impact Hackathon for creating a new AI-powered tool.

**ARSEMA MOGES '24**

Arsema credits the courses in her major in Technology and Information Management, as well as support provided by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) for her current job as an engineering product manager at Apple.

SNEHA JARIWALA '21

Medical student at California Health Science University who got her start with UCSC's Treehouse Undergraduate Bioinformatics Immersion program.

**BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

- ➔ Experiential learning
- ➔ Research positions and fellowships
- ➔ Field studies
- ➔ Internships with companies
- ➔ Study abroad
- ➔ Innovation events (hackathons, the Ethics Bowl)
- ➔ Peer mentorship





EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- » Biomedical research at the Applied Optics Lab
- » DNA sequencing with the Genomics Institute
- » Bilingual language analysis through the Employing Humanities program
- » Agroecology & organic farming with on our well-known Center for Agroecology Farm
- » Experimental media & sound exploration in the Digital Arts Labs
- » Collaborating with NGOs on sustainable development and social justice projects through the Everett Program
- » Student-led creative projects through the Arts Dean's Fund for Excellence and Equity



R1 Research University, an elite classification for doctoral universities with very high research activity, according to the Carnegie Classification.



Member of the Prestigious **Association of American Universities**.

Undergraduate research can help you launch your career directly from UCSC! Work with your professors in classes, labs, and internships, explore your interests, and stand out in grad school applications.



Explore the inner worlds of amphibious marine mammals in the Pinniped Cognition and Sensory Systems Lab at Long Marine Laboratory!



"UC Santa Cruz's unique combination of rigorous academics and hands-on, collaborative research gave me the exact confidence and skills I needed to take the leap into my master's program at Carnegie Mellon University."

Samiyah Shaikh, '25
Software Engineering M.S. Student at Carnegie Mellon

"There has to be a better way."

Aviv Elor, '19



Learn how Aviv, Co-founder of Immergo Labs, which provides immersive virtual reality (VR) telehealth services, got his start in Robotics Engineering classes at UCSC.



Aviv was named one of the Forbes "30 Under 30" for 2026!



ARTS & MEDIA

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

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Anthropology+‡
- Cognitive Science
- Community Studies*
- Digital Justice Studies‡
- Education (minor)‡
- Education, Democracy, & Justice
- Global and Community Health B.A.+
- Latin American & Latino Studies+‡ (4+1)
- Latin American & Latino Studies/Education, Democracy, & Justice
- Latin American & Latino Studies/Politics

- Latin American & Latino Studies/Sociology
- Legal Studies+‡
- Politics+‡
- Psychology*+
- Sociology*+

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

- Business Management Economics*+
- Economics*+‡ (4+1)
- Economics/Mathematics* (4+1)
- Global Economics*

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

- Assistive Technology (minor)‡
- Bioelectronics and Biophotonics (minor)‡
- Bioinformatics (minor)‡
- Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics* (4+1)
- Biotechnology*
- Computer Engineering*‡ (4+1)
- Computer Science*‡ (4+1)
- Computer Science: Computer Game Design*
- Electrical Engineering*‡ (4+1)
- Network and Digital Technology*
- Robotics Engineering* (4+1)
- Technology and Information Management*‡

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

- Agroecology*+
- Environmental Sciences* (4+1)
- Environmental Studies*+
- Environmental Studies/Biology*

- Environmental Studies/Economics*
- Marine Biology* (4+1)
- Plant Sciences* (4+1)
- Sustainability Studies (minor)‡

HUMANITIES

- Ancient Studies‡
- Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism
- Black Studies (minor)‡
- Critical Race and Ethnic Studies+ (4+1)
- East Asian Studies (minor)‡
- Feminist Studies+
- History+‡
- Italian Studies (minor)‡
- Jewish Studies‡
- Language Studies+‡
- Linguistics+‡ (4+1)
- Literature+‡ (4+1)
- Philosophy+‡ (4+1)
- Spanish Studies‡

SCIENCE & MATH

- Applied Mathematics*+‡ (4+1)
- Applied Physics*
- Astrophysics (minor)‡
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*
- Biology*+ (three-year pathway offered in the B.A. major)‡ (4+1)
- Chemistry*‡
- Earth Sciences*‡ (4+1)
- Earth Sciences/Anthropology
- Ecology and Evolution* (4+1)



- Global & Community Health B.S.*
- Mathematics*+‡ (4+1)
- Mathematics Education*+
- Mathematics Theory & Computation*+
- Microbiology* (4+1)
- Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology*
- Neuroscience*
- Physics*‡ (4+1)
- Physics (Astrophysics)* (4+1)
- Science Education* (4+1)
- Statistics (minor)‡
- STEM Education (minor)‡



SCAN FOR
MORE
INFORMATION

*These majors require specific major preparation for transfer students.
+Three-year pathways offered in these majors.
‡ Minor offered in this subject.
(4+1) 4+1 or contiguous programs offered to combine Bachelor's and Master's degrees.



EXPLORE OUR CONCENTRATIONS
AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS HERE!

A POPULAR CAMPUS FOR 3-YEAR DEGREES

Over 10% of UCSC's students graduate in 3 years, the highest of any campus in the UC system!

**ENTREPRENEURS ARE NURTURED HERE!**

- Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development (CIED)
- Global Entrepreneurship Program
- Innovation & Business Engagement Hub
- Slug Tank
- The Social Entrepreneur Center at CITRIS
- Courses in Entrepreneurship
- Student Creativity Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Club

**3-YEAR PATHWAYS IN MANY MAJORS TO SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY****4+1 PROGRAMS**

Get a Graduate Degree in Less Time! (See the major list in this publication for programs offering this opportunity)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

(can be completed concurrently with B.A.'s or B.S.'s)

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Humanizing Technology
- Visualizing Abolition Studies (prison reform)
- Community-based Action and Research Advocacy (dedicated to social and political change)
- UCSC Silicon Valley (over 40 professional certificate programs)



Meta
Google
Genentech



Internships in Silicon Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and Beyond



D E S T I N A T I O N

P A Y I N G F O R C O L L E G E

I N V E S T I N G I N Y O U R F U T U R E

TOTAL COST TO ATTEND/YEAR (INCLUDES TUITION & FEES, HOUSING, AND OTHER EXPENSES)**\$47,628** California Resident, On Campus**\$86,898** Non-California Resident, On Campus

View the complete cost breakdown and more information here!



*77% of students eligible for state or federal financial aid have their tuition fully covered through scholarships and grants.

BLUE AND GOLD is our commitment to offering financial aid that includes tuition coverage for lower-income families, minimized student debt, and tuition stability. For more details, see the QR code opposite.

There is no separate application for Blue and Gold, but you must apply for financial aid using the FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application by the March 2 deadline.

MANY SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Your UC Application is already an application for university-wide scholarships! We offer:

- » Full-ride scholarships
- » Merit scholarships
- » Middle Class Scholarship
- » Native American Opportunity Plan
- » Scholarships for international and out-of-state students (95% of nonresident students receive an Undergraduate Dean's Award. Scan the QR code to learn more.)
- » Special scholarships for transfer students
- » \$8 million+ scholarships supporting research, departments, and donor-funded opportunities
- » \$2.9 million+ in external scholarships awarded each year

**82%****OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID****53%****OF STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH \$0 STUDENT DEBT!**



D E S T I N A T I O N

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

CHARTING YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

UCSC Admissions evaluates your entire application, including your academic and personal achievements and your preparation. We make our admissions decisions taking into account 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.

**Deadline to Submit Application for the Following Fall:
November 30**

📄 | APPLY ONLINE AT [APPLY.UNIVERSITYOFCALIFORNIA.EDU](https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS



Complete 15 college-preparatory courses ("a-g" courses). Scan the QR code to the right 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. Standardized tests are sometimes used to meet the Entry Level Writing Requirement or for specific math placement once a student has been admitted.



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:



INTERESTED IN GRAD SCHOOL?

📄 | Start here! <https://graduateadmissions.ucsc.edu>



DESTINATION

TRANSFER ADMISSION

CHARTING YOUR JOURNEY

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.

GET THE DETAILS HERE!



DO YOUR COURSES TRANSFER? CHECK ASSIST.ORG TO SEE IF THEY DO!



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!



**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.

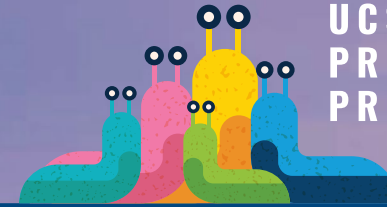


D E S T I N A T I O N

THE TRANSFER JOURNEY

P R E P A R E F O R S U C C E S S

PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE

UCSC TRANSFER
PREPARATION
PROGRAM

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP HERE!

**California Transfer Students!** Sign up for TPP, and You'll Receive...

- Advising: one-on-one, group, in-person, or virtual
- Peer mentor social hours online
- Major and career exploration
- Connection to other transfer students
- Invitations to special workshops, sessions, and events

**GET IN TOUCH! CONTACT TPP**transfer@ucsc.eduFind your Peer Mentor and connect with them!
admissions.ucsc.edu/tpp



GET IN TOUCH WITH
YOUR REPRESENTATIVE



SLUG CONNECTION:
KEEP IN TOUCH!



APPLY FOR UC SANTA CRUZ IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER
Fill out your UC Application starting August 1 of the year before your
intended enrollment, and submit it between October 1 and November 30.

universityofcalifornia.edu/apply





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.



admissions.ucsc.edu



admissions@ucsc.edu



[@ucscadmissions](https://www.instagram.com/ucscadmissions)



[@ucscadmissions](https://www.youtube.com/ucscadmissions)



[@ucscadmissions](https://www.tiktok.com/ucscadmissions)

