EDUBUS · Irvine, California

UC Application Handbook

Fall 2027 admission edition

From A-G courses and the GPA calculation to the personal insight questions and admit data for the nine campuses, arranged in the order of the application.

- The application timeline: from the August 1 opening to the transcripts due the following July
- The seven A-G subject requirements and a UC GPA worksheet
- Key points for each section of the application and the eight personal insight questions
- Fall 2026 applicants, admits, and GPA ranges at the nine campuses

Application opens **August 1**	Submission period **October 1 to November 30**	Application fee **$80 per campus**
Minimum GPA **3.0 (3.4 for nonresidents)**	Personal insight questions **4 of 8, 350 words each**	Decisions **March 1 to 31**

www.edub.us/en/college
Checked November 11, 2026

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FALL 2027 ADMISSION

UC First-Year Application Timeline: Eight Dates for Fall 2027 Admission

UC has no early application round, and all applicants share one deadline. The dates in the table come from the 2026-27 first-year dates and deadlines page on the UC admissions website.

Date	Event
August 1, 2026	The application opens and can be started
October 1 to November 30, 2026	Submission period for fall 2027 admission
October 1, 2026	Filing opens for the FAFSA, the California Dream Act Application (CADAA), and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
March 1 to 31, 2027	Campuses release admission decisions; some campuses may release them before March
March 2, 2027	Deadline for the FAFSA, the CADAA, and the GPA Verification Form
May 1, 2027	Deadline for admitted first-year students to submit the Statement of Intent to Register (SIR)
July 1, 2027	Deadline for final transcripts to reach the campus the student will attend
July 15, 2027	Deadline for official AP and IB results to arrive

UC Berkeley and UC Merced are on the semester system, and the other campuses are on the quarter system. All campuses admit first-year students for the fall term.

Source: UC Admissions: Dates & deadlines (first-year applicants); UC Admissions: First-year applicants

UC First-Year Eligibility: 15 A-G Courses and a Minimum GPA

UC sets two minimum requirements for first-year applicants. The first is to complete 15 year-long A-G courses with a grade of C or better, at least 11 of them before grade 12. The second is a GPA of at least 3.0 in those courses, or 3.4 for students who are not California residents. Meeting the minimums establishes eligibility to apply; it does not indicate the level needed for admission.

Category	Subject	Requirement	UC recommendation
A	History	2 years	—
B	English	4 years	—
C	Mathematics	3 years	4 years recommended
D	Science	2 years	3 years recommended
E	Language other than English	2 years, or the equivalent of the second level of high school instruction	3 years recommended
F	Visual and performing arts	1 year	—
G	College-preparatory elective	1 year	—

- Mathematics must include a geometry course, or an integrated mathematics course with sufficient geometry content (for example, Math II).
- Mathematics and language courses completed in grades 7 and 8 can count if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses. Courses in the other subjects must be completed in grades 9 through 12.
- For California students, courses must appear on the UC A-G course list of the student's high school. The lists can be searched by school on the UC A-G course list website.

Source: UC Admissions: First-year requirements; UC Admissions: Subject requirement (A-G)

How UC Calculates GPA: Grades 10 and 11 Only, at Most 8 Honors Points

UC uses its own GPA calculation, and the result usually differs from the GPA on the school transcript. After the application is submitted, UC calculates the official UC GPA itself.

Step 1	**Convert grades to grade points** Convert the letter grades in all A-G courses taken between the summer after grade 9 and the summer after grade 11 to grade points: an A is 4 points, a B is 3, a C is 2, and a D is 1. Pluses and minuses are not counted.
Step 2	**Add honors points** Each semester of a UC-recognized honors course earns 1 extra point, up to 8 points across grades 10 and 11, of which at most 4 can come from grade 10. A grade of D or F in an honors course earns no extra point.
Step 3	**Add up the points** Add all grade points and honors points together.
Step 4	**Divide by the number of grades** Divide the total by the number of letter grades earned in this period. The result is not rounded.

Which courses count as honors

For California residents, UC-recognized honors courses include AP courses, IB Higher Level (HL) courses and designated IB Standard Level (SL) courses, UC-transferable college courses, and UC-certified honors courses that appear on the school's A-G course list. One college course counts as one grade and earns one point. For students who are not California residents, UC grants honors points only for AP and IB courses.

Three versions of the UC GPA

Weighted and capped GPA
Calculated by the four steps above, with honors points capped at 8. The GPA ranges of admitted students that UC campuses publish use this version.

Fully weighted GPA
Every UC-recognized honors course with a grade of C or better earns 1 extra point, with no cap. The maximum is 5.00.

Unweighted GPA
No honors points are added. The maximum is 4.00.

A worked example

A student takes five year-long A-G courses in grade 10 and five in grade 11, for 20 semester grades in total: 16 A grades and 4 B grades, or 76 grade points. Grade 10 includes 2 year-long AP courses; grade 11 includes 4 year-long AP courses and 1 UC-certified honors course. In all, 14 semester grades qualify for an extra point, and 8 are counted under the cap.

Weighted and capped GPA	Fully weighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
$(76 + 8) \div 20 = 4.20$	$(76 + 14) \div 20 = 4.50$	$76 \div 20 = 3.80$

Source: UC Admissions: GPA requirement; UCLA Undergraduate Admission: First-Year Profile (GPA definitions); UC Admissions: First-year admit data

UC GPA worksheet

Enter each A-G course from grades 10 and 11, one grade per semester. The web calculator identifies honors courses by high school: www.edub.us/en/college/uc-gpa

Grade 10 (including the summers after grades 9 and 10)

Course	Semester 1	Semester 2	Honors (yes / no)

Grade 11 (including the summer after grade 11)

Course	Semester 1	Semester 2	Honors (yes / no)

Total grade points	Honors points (max 8)	Number of grades	UC GPA

- Grade points: A is 4, B is 3, C is 2, D is 1, and F is 0. Pluses and minuses do not count.
- Honors points: each semester of an honors course with a grade of C or better earns 1 point, up to 4 from grade 10 and 8 in total.
- UC GPA = (total grade points + honors points) ÷ number of grades, kept to two decimal places without rounding.

The Eight Sections of the UC Application

UC uses its own application system and is not part of the Common App. The application has eight sections and can be completed over several sessions.

1. **About you**
   Basic information about the student and the family. The family size and income entered here determine whether the applicant qualifies for an application fee waiver.
2. **Campuses & majors**
   Select the campuses and majors to apply to. Students who have not settled on a major can select an undeclared option.
3. **Academic history**
   Enter every course and grade from all schools attended during high school, including high school mathematics and language courses taken in grades 7 and 8 and college courses taken during high school. UC asks applicants to work from the transcript rather than from memory.
4. **Test scores**
   Report AP, IB, and English proficiency exam scores. SAT and ACT scores can be reported only after the application is submitted.
5. **Activities & awards**
   Six categories: awards or honors, educational preparation programs, extracurricular activities, other coursework, volunteering and community service, and work experience. UC's guidance is to favor quality over quantity.
6. **Scholarships & support programs**
   Select every scholarship category that applies; there is no limit on the number.
7. **Personal insight questions**
   Answer four of the eight questions, with a maximum of 350 words for each response.
8. **Review & submit**
   Confirm the academic information, choose whether to share application information with others, and pay the application fee. Very little can be changed after submission.

Application fees and waivers

The application fee is $80 per campus, or $95 for international and non-immigrant applicants, and is not refundable. Eligible US citizens, permanent residents, and applicants who qualify under AB 540 can receive a fee waiver for up to four campuses.

Recommendation letters and transcripts

UC does not require, and does not read, letters of recommendation at the application stage; individual campuses may request them separately during a supplemental review. Official transcripts do not need to be sent when applying.

Source: UC Admissions: Filling out the application; UC Admissions: Apply now (application fees and waivers)

Four Things to Do After Submitting the UC Application

1. **Keep a copy of the application**
   Record the UC Application ID. It is needed for each campus applicant portal and for checking admission decisions.
2. **Update the application when needed**
   After submission, applicants can log in to change the phone number, email, mailing address, and test scores, and can add campuses that are still open. The activities and awards section and the personal insight questions cannot be changed after submission.
3. **Report changes in courses or grades**
   For a change of school or an added or dropped course, notify the campuses applied to, except UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Barbara. For a grade below C in a course, notify the campuses applied to, except UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC San Diego. After an offer of admission arrives, confirm with the admitting campus that it knows of these changes.
4. **Wait for decisions and send documents**
   Campuses generally notify applicants of decisions by March 31. After the student accepts an offer, the final transcript must arrive by July 1, and official results such as AP and IB scores must arrive by July 15.

UC offers of admission are conditional. A campus reserves the right to withdraw an offer if the student drops a course or earns a grade below C.

Source: UC Admissions: After you apply; UC Admissions: Statewide guarantee

UC Personal Insight Questions (PIQs): Answer Four of Eight

There are eight personal insight questions (PIQs). Applicants answer four of them, with a maximum of 350 words for each response. UC states that all eight questions are given equal consideration, so no choice of questions is better or worse than another.

1. **Leadership experience**
   An example of leadership in which the student positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to a group effort over time.

2. **Creativity**
   How the student expresses a creative side, whether in problem solving, original thinking, or artistic work.

3. **Talent or skill**
   The student's greatest talent or skill, and how it has been developed and demonstrated over time.

4. **Educational opportunity or barrier**
   How the student made use of a significant educational opportunity, or worked to overcome an educational barrier.

5. **Significant challenge**
   The most significant challenge the student has faced, the steps taken to overcome it, and how it affected academic achievement.

6. **Academic interest**
   An academic subject that inspires the student, and how that interest has been pursued inside and outside the classroom.

7. **Community contribution**
   What the student has done to make the school or community a better place.

8. **Other strengths**
   Beyond what the application already shows, what makes the student a strong candidate for admission to UC.

These are summaries of the eight questions. Applicants should write to the exact wording shown in the application.

Writing advice from UC

- Start early, leaving time to prepare, write, and revise.
- Support each point with specific examples rather than a list of accomplishments.
- Write in the first person: UC wants to learn about the applicant's personality, talents, accomplishments, and potential.
- UC does not grade grammar or spelling, but the writing should be clear and proofread before submission.
- Advice from family, teachers, and friends is welcome, but the content must be the applicant's own and must not be plagiarized.

Additional comments field

The application also has an additional comments field, for circumstances that could not be explained anywhere else in the application. UC's guidance is that this field is not another essay.

Source: UC Admissions: Personal insight questions

The four questions I chose

No.	The experience I will write about	Draft	Final

The 13 Factors in UC Comprehensive Review

UC evaluates every application through comprehensive review, looking beyond grades to how the student has used the opportunities available. All nine campuses use the same set of factors, but each campus weighs them differently.

1. GPA in all completed A-G courses, including extra points for UC-certified honors courses
2. The number of, content of, and performance in courses beyond the minimum A-G requirements
3. The number of and performance in UC-approved honors courses, AP courses, IB Higher Level courses, and transferable college courses
4. Identification by UC as ranking in the top 9 percent of the high school class at the end of grade 11 (ELC)
5. The quality of the grade 12 program, measured by the type and number of academic A-G courses in progress or planned
6. The quality of academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available at the high school
7. Outstanding performance in one or more subject areas
8. Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field
9. Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, measured by GPA and the quality of coursework
10. Special talents, achievements, and awards; special skills and interests; and experiences that show promise for leadership, such as significant community service or participation in student government
11. Special projects completed in connection with the high school curriculum or with special school events
12. Academic accomplishments viewed in light of life experiences and special circumstances, such as low family income, being the first generation in the family to attend college, the need to work, or a difficult family situation
13. The location of the secondary school and the student's residence

- Each campus reviews independently: a campus reading an application does not know the result at other campuses and does not consider which other campuses the applicant applied to.
- UC states that undergraduate admission does not discriminate against, or grant preference to, any person on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

Source: UC Admissions: How applications are reviewed

Two Admission Guarantees for California Residents Applying to UC

A California resident who meets the minimum requirements and belongs to either of the two groups below, but is not admitted to any campus applied to, is offered a place at another campus if space is available. The student cannot choose that campus.

Statewide guarantee: the top 9 percent in California

UC uses the Statewide Index to determine whether a student ranks in the top 9 percent of California high school graduates. The index considers two things together: the total number of A-G courses completed and planned in grades 9 through 12, and the UC GPA. The lowest GPA on the index is 3.6.

Local guarantee (ELC): the top 9 percent of the high school class

At California high schools that participate in Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC), California residents whose GPA in UC-approved courses from grades 10 and 11 ranks in the top 9 percent of the class receive the ELC designation. The student must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and complete 11 specified A-G courses before grade 12. Screening is automatic after the application is submitted, and no separate application is needed.

The ELC designation is also one of the comprehensive review factors and is recorded in the application.

Source: UC Admissions: California residents; UC Admissions: Statewide guarantee; UC Admissions: Local guarantee (ELC)

Fall 2026 First-Year Admit Data for the Nine UC Campuses

The table shows the fall 2026 first-year admit profile published on the UC admissions website, which is preliminary data as of June 2026. GPA is the middle 50% range of admitted students, calculated from A-G courses in grades 10 and 11 with at most 8 honors points.

Campus	Applicants	Admits	Admit rate	Admitted students' GPA, middle 50%	3.4 – 4.4
UC Berkeley	133,154	13,967	10.5%	4.16 – 4.28	
UCLA	146,692	15,903	10.8%	4.20 – 4.30	
UC San Diego	141,767	38,571	27.2%	4.12 – 4.28	
UC Irvine	126,005	38,165	30.3%	4.06 – 4.27	
UC Santa Barbara	108,512	47,716	44.0%	4.05 – 4.27	
UC Davis	104,864	48,015	45.8%	4.00 – 4.25	
UC Santa Cruz	79,048	64,867	82.1%	3.79 – 4.20	
UC Riverside	72,542	63,958	88.2%	3.66 – 4.17	
UC Merced	49,426	46,812	94.7%	3.57 – 4.16	

- UC cautions that these figures are only a general guide to how selective each campus is and cannot be used to predict an individual applicant's chance of admission.
- Selectivity differs widely among the colleges and majors within a campus; the figures in the table are totals for the whole campus.
- The applicant pool differs each year, and the academic level needed for admission changes with it.

Source: UC Admissions: First-year admit data

UC Applicants and Admits From the Five Irvine Public High Schools

UC publishes the number of applicants, admits, and enrollees from each source high school every year. The table shows the most recent year of systemwide figures for the five high schools in the Irvine Unified School District; a student who applies to multiple campuses is counted once.

High school	Applied to UC	Admitted	Enrolled at UC
Irvine High School	251	191	90
Northwood High School	374	312	149
Portola High School	392	321	140
University High School	350	289	124
Woodbridge High School	259	195	78

Fall 2025 admission. Source: UC Infocenter, Admissions by source school.

Three EDUBUS Recommendations for Irvine Students Applying to UC

Calculate the UC GPA before grade 11 ends: The GPA ranges of admitted students that UC campuses publish use the weighted and capped version. Only a GPA calculated the same way can be compared with the ranges at the nine campuses to judge where each campus belongs on the college list.

Finish the academic history in August: Entering each course and grade is the most time-consuming part of the application, and it cannot be corrected after submission. EDUBUS recommends completing it against the transcript in August and having a parent or counselor check it in September.

Choose the questions before writing: All eight personal insight questions are treated equally. The test for choosing is which four best show what the rest of the application does not. The four responses should not repeat the same experience.

SOURCES

Sources

Checked November 11, 2026. Dates and figures in this document come from the official websites listed and reflect official information as of the date checked. Official information may change, so confirm on the official website before applying.

1. UC Admissions: Dates & deadlines (first-year applicants)
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/dates-and-deadlines.html
2. UC Admissions: First-year applicants
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/
3. UC Admissions: Apply now (application fees and waivers)
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-now.html
4. UC Admissions: First-year requirements
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/
5. UC Admissions: Subject requirement (A-G)
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/subject-requirement-a-g.html
6. UC Admissions: GPA requirement
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/gpa-requirement.html
7. UC Admissions: Filling out the application
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/filling-out-the-application.html
8. UC Admissions: Personal insight questions
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/personal-insight-questions.html
9. UC Admissions: How applications are reviewed
   https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/how-applications-are-reviewed.html
10. UC Admissions: After you apply
    https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-first-year/after-you-apply/
11. UC Admissions: California residents
    https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/california-residents/
12. UC Admissions: Statewide guarantee
    https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/california-residents/statewide-guarantee/
13. UC Admissions: Local guarantee (ELC)
    https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/first-year-requirements/california-residents/local-guarantee-elc.html
14. UC Admissions: First-year admit data (one page per campus, linked from this page)
    https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/first-year-admit-data.html
15. UCLA Undergraduate Admission: First-Year Profile (GPA definitions)
    https://admission.ucla.edu/apply/first-year/first-year-profile/2025
16. UC Information Center: Admissions by source school
    https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-uc/information-center/admissions-source-school

EDUBUS

A counselor can walk through this for the student

The EDUBUS initial assessment takes 30 minutes and is free, in person at the Irvine Ivy Center (730 Roosevelt, Irvine) or online. It ends with a first set of recommendations.

Phone **(949) 383-4877**

Web version **www.edub.us/en/college/uc**

Scan to reach a counselor on WeChat