OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

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Freshman Admission

You are considered a freshman applicant if you are still in high school or have graduated from high school but have not enrolled in a regular session at any college or university.

There are three paths to eligibility for freshmen:

1. **Eligibility in the Statewide Context**: Students who meet minimum requirements for coursework, grade point average and test scores are admitted by this path.

2. **Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)**: Students who rank in the top 4 percent at participating California high schools may be admitted through ELC. ELC students are guaranteed admission to UC Merced as long as they submit an application to our campus, complete the examination and subject requirements, and maintain eligibility.

3. **Eligibility by Examination Alone:** Students who do not meet the requirements for Eligibility in the Statewide Context or ELC may qualify for admission by achieving high scores on the ACT Assessment plus Writing or SAT Reasoning Test and two SAT Subject Tests.

PLEASE NOTE: UC Merced's ACT Code is **0450** and our College Board Code is **4129**

If you have any questions about eligibility or applying to UC Merced, please do not hesitate to call us at (209) 228-4682 or toll free in California (866) 270-7301. We are also available by e-mail at admissions@ucmerced.edu.

CHECK YOUR STATUS

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS

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Eligibility - Transfer to UC Merced

The pathway for transferring to the University of California, Merced involves 3 steps.

Step 1 — **Satisfying Admission Requirements** - Students must complete the eligibility requirements for transferring to the University of California. UC Merced accepts both junior level and lower-division students.

Step 2 — **Major Preparation** - These are lower division courses which can be completed in your first two years of college work. While not specifically required for admission, this course work is required for graduation in your specific major and fulfills prerequisites for upper division courses at UC Merced.

Step 3 — **General Education** - Although not a requirement, completing lower division general education requirements prior to transfer will aid your progress towards graduation. IGETC, the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, is accepted by all three academic Schools at UC Merced but is only specifically suggested by the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. It is not required that you complete your lower division general education courses prior to transfer; however, this course work must be completed prior to graduation from UC Merced.

Helpful Preparation Resources

In addition to the information provided in our web site, below are some useful tools to help you prepare to transfer.

- **Use ASSIST.ORG** - ASSIST is a computerized student-transfer information system. It is the official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities and therefore provides the most accurate and up-to-date information available about student transfer in California. Visit ASSIST at www.assist.org.
- **Contact your Transfer Center** - Utilize the resources close to you. Transfer Centers and counselors at your campus can help you find the resources you need.
- **Contact a UC Merced Transfer Admissions Officer** - We are here to help you. Sign up for our mailing list for updates or contact us directly for answers to your individual questions.

General Information

Undergraduate Admissions

- selecting the right campus
- opportunities beyond campus
- paths to admission
- apply to UC
- scholarship opportunities
- international applicants
  - applying for admission
  - English language exams
  - passports & visas
  - finances for international students
  - living accommodations
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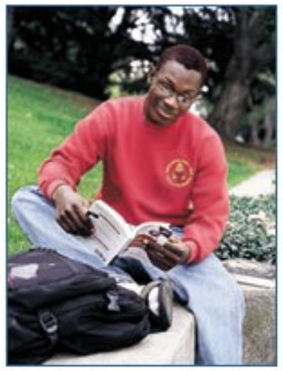
- California residency information
- dates & deadlines

Graduate Admissions

Paying for UC

International Applicants



The University of California is one of the finest university systems in the world. Made up of 10 individual campuses, each with a wide variety of programs and academic specialties, the UC system draws students from across California and around the world. Together, the campuses offer a combined 150 disciplines, with more academic departments ranked in the top 10 nationally than at any other public or private university. Nine of the 10 campuses offer both undergraduate (post-secondary) and graduate (master's, doctoral and professional) degrees. UC San Francisco is devoted to graduate and professional programs in the health and life sciences.

The academic year begins in August or September and ends in May or June. Each campus also offers summer sessions of different lengths. All UC campuses use the quarter system except Berkeley and Merced, which use the semester calendar.

Use the links at left to explore resources for prospective international students. Learn about applying for admission, find details about the English-language exams you must take and more. As an international student, you will be responsible for getting a passport and visas required for study in the United States.

General Catalogs

Additional information about courses and degree requirements is provided in each campus's General Catalog. To order a catalog by mail, send an international money order for the correct amount to the appropriate campus address.

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- Los Angeles
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

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Academic and Application Requirements

Academic Requirements

Admission decisions are based on a combination of factors, including academic degrees and records, the statement of purpose, letters of recommendation, test scores, and relevant work experience. We also consider the appropriateness of your goals to the degree program in which you are interested and to the research interests of the program's faculty. In addition, consideration may be given to how your background and life experience would contribute significantly to an educationally beneficial blend of students.

Please check the information provided by each emphases area for any additional admission requirements applicants must meet.

Applicant Admission Criteria:

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution with a major appropriate to the proposed graduate program. This degree must represent the completion of a program equivalent both in the distribution of academic subject matter and scholarship achievement comparable to that offered at the University of California.
2. Have a satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) is required.
3. Provide standardized test scores (Graduate Record Exam).
   The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is administered by:

Educational Testing Service (ETS), CN 6000
Princeton, NJ 08541-6000
tel: (609) 921-9000

The UC Merced graduate program requires the general test. Applicants should arrange to have GRE scores sent to the UC Merced Graduate Division office. You can contact the ETS directly via e-mail at gre-info@ets.org. Both the GRE and ETS are available on the World Wide Web.

The GRE institution code for UC Merced is 4129.

Application Requirements

The following is a list of materials required to complete the UC Merced Graduate application for both M.A./M.S. and Ph.D. programs:

- **Application Fee:** The current graduate application fee is $70 for domestic applicants and $90 for international applicants.

  The application fee must be submitted when you apply. No application will be processed until the application fee has been received. The application fee is not refundable under any circumstances. You may pay using a credit card when applying online (service surcharge applies). Alternatively, a check or money order made payable to UC Regents, accompanied by the Graduate Application Fee Form for Admission, can be mailed to:

  University of California, Merced
  Attn: Graduate Division Application
  5200 N. Lake Road, Ste. KL 227
  Merced, CA 95343

- **Transcripts:** Submit one official transcript for all college-level academic work including community college, summer session, and study abroad.
- **Graduate Record Examination Scores:** The general test of the GRE is required for admission to graduate study at UC Merced. Applicants should arrange to have GRE scores sent to the UC Merced Graduate Division Office.
- **TOEFL or IELTS Scores**: All graduate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must show evidence of having recently taken the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or TOEFL-Internet Based Test or the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) examination. *Note: some programs require higher scores, please check the website for details.*
- **Three Letters of Recommendation**. Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation. In addition, recommenders needs to fill out a Letter of Recommendation Form to accompany your letter of recommendation. All letters of recommendation and quantatative evaluation forms should be submitted directly to the Graduate Division. **We do NOT accept electronic letters of recommendation.** Your recommenders are asked to give their personal impressions of your intellectual ability, your aptitude in research or professional skills, your character, and the quality of your previous work and potential for future productive scholarship. Applicants may waive the right to inspect their letters of recommendation on a voluntary basis. To waive access to your letters, complete the waiver section of the Letter of Recommendation Form. We reserve the right to verify the authenticity of any and all letters of recommendation.
- **Statement of Purpose**: A statement of purpose is required to help determine whether your academic objectives can reasonably be satisfied in the graduate program to which you seek admission.
- **Individual Program Submissions**: Although not a requirement, you may submit examples of prior academic work, writing samples, or statements about research experience.

- **Foreign Study Requirements:** Students applying from foreign countries should refer to the requirements and regulations for international students.