

Berkeley

FRESHMAN ADMISSION



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As a public institution, Berkeley strives to create a freshman class that meets the campus' high academic standards while encompassing the cultural, geographical, economic and social diversity of the State of California.

To accomplish this goal, Berkeley's freshman admission policy has been developed under the general guidance of University of California Regents' policy and Berkeley campus Academic Senate recommendations. The Academic Senate's Committee on Admissions, Enrollment and Preparatory Education, and the Undergraduate Admissions Coordination Board regularly review this policy.

How are admission decisions made?

The campus selects its freshman class through an assessment that includes a comprehensive review of your academic performance as measured primarily by:

- your weighted and unweighted UC grade point average (calculated using 10th and 11th grade UC-approved courses only)
- your planned 12th grade courses
- your pattern of grades over time
- the number of college preparatory, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), honors and transferable college courses you have completed
- your level of achievement in those courses relative to other UC applicants at your school
- your scores on the ACT Assessment Plus Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests
- your scores on AP or IB exams
- honors and awards that reflect extraordinary intellectual or creative achievement
- sustained participation in rigorous academic enrichment and outreach programs
- qualification for UC Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)

In addition, the review includes an assessment of:

- your likely contribution to the intellectual and cultural vitality of the campus
- diversity in personal background and experience
- qualities such as leadership, motivation, concern for others and for the community
- non-academic achievements in the performing arts or athletics, employment or personal responsibilities

UC Freshman Eligibility Index

California Residents		Non-California Residents	
"A-G" GPA	Minimum UC Score Total*	"A-G" GPA	Minimum UC Score Total*
Minimum GPA = 3.0		3.40 – 3.44	147
3.00 – 3.04	223	3.45 & above	143
3.05 – 3.09	210		
3.10 – 3.14	198		
3.15 – 3.19	187		
3.20 – 3.24	175		
3.25 – 3.29	165		
3.30 – 3.34	157		
3.35 – 3.39	152		
3.40 – 3.44	147		
3.45 & above	143		

To determine eligibility, the University uses your highest scores in critical reading, math and writing from a single sitting of the SAT Reasoning Test or your highest scores in math, reading, science and combined English/Writing from a single sitting of the ACT Assessment plus Writing (converting them to a UC Score equivalent) and adds them to your two highest SAT Subject Test scores, also converted to a UC Score equivalent.

* A preliminary eligibility calculator is available online at universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergraduate.html (Click on "Paths to Admission/Freshman Admission.")

At this website you'll also find more details on Freshman admission requirements in the electronic publications: *Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships* and *Introducing the University*.

Demonstrated interest in the major and/or sustained academic achievement, particularly in math and science, is also an important consideration for applicants to the professional schools and colleges, especially the College of Engineering and the College of Chemistry.

All achievement—both academic and non-academic/personal—is considered in the context of your educational circumstances, with an emphasis on the opportunities or challenges presented to you and your response to them. It is important to note that no single attribute or characteristic guarantees the admission of any applicant to Berkeley.

The Berkeley campus receives far more freshman applications than it can admit. For fall 2008, the campus received more than 48,000 freshman applications for 10,000 admission spaces, resulting in an admit rate of approximately 21.5 percent. Consequently, to gain admission to Berkeley, you need to present an academic profile much stronger than that represented by the minimum UC admission requirements that follow.

What are the University of California freshman eligibility requirements?

NOTE: Because the number of applicants exceeds the spaces available for admission, Berkeley uses factors that go beyond the minimum admissions requirements to select students.

Admission to UC is a two-step process: eligibility and selection. All freshman applicants must

complete courses in the University of California's A-G subject pattern and present scores on required tests.

Required subjects:

- History/Social Science – 2 years required
- English – 4 years required
- Mathematics – 3 years required, 4 recommended
- Laboratory Science – 2 years required, 3 recommended
- Language Other than English – 2 years required, 3 recommended
- Visual and Performing Arts – one year
- College Preparatory Electives – one year

Required tests:

The University of California requires that applicants complete the ACT Assessment plus Writing Test or the SAT Reasoning Test. In addition, all applicants must complete two SAT Subject Tests in two different subject areas selected from history, literature, mathematics (Math Level 2 only), science or a language other than English.

Applicants to the Colleges of Chemistry and Engineering are strongly encouraged to take the SAT Subject Test: Math Level 2 and a science test (Biology, Chemistry or Physics) that is closely related to the applicant's intended major.

If you are a California resident with a GPA of 3.0 or above in the required courses, you must achieve the test score total indicated in the University's Freshman Eligibility Index. You may also be eligible through Eligibility in the Local Context, or by examination alone.

Nonresidents must attain a minimum 3.4 GPA in the A–G courses and the test score total indicated in the Eligibility Index under “Non-California Residents,” or meet eligibility requirements by examination alone.

What majors do you offer and does my choice of major affect my chances for admission?

There are over 100 majors at Berkeley, grouped by academic discipline in five undergraduate colleges and one school. The colleges—Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Design, Letters and Science, and Natural Resources—accept freshman applicants. The Haas School of Business accepts junior level applicants only. The programs vary in their level of selectivity. A link to major program descriptions is available at admissions.berkeley.edu under “Academic Programs and Majors”.

Individual colleges base enrollment goals on such factors as the number of faculty and teaching assistants and available classroom and laboratory space. Because these factors change and student demand varies, admission to one college may be more difficult than to another, and the competition may fluctuate considerably from year to year.

In the professional colleges of Environmental Design and Engineering, competition varies among majors. For example, in Engineering, the level of academic and non-academic/personal achievement needed for admission is much higher for the Bioengineering, Engineering Undeclared, and Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS) majors than for other majors in this same college, or for majors in other colleges at Berkeley.

If I don't think I will be admitted into the college or major I want, can I apply to another one and switch after I'm on campus?

Although it may be possible to change from one undergraduate college to another after enrolling at Berkeley, it may be very difficult to do, depending on the college. You will be expected to register in courses for the college or major to which you originally applied. We advise you, therefore, to apply to the field of study that best suits your educational goals. Transfer to another college after admission is subject to a rigorous review process and is not guaranteed.

Is it OK to apply as an “Undeclared” major?

Yes and no; the answer varies by college:

- The College of Letters and Science and the College of Natural Resources encourage

students to explore a variety of academic areas before choosing a major. Choosing “Undeclared” will not affect your chance of admission to these colleges.

- If you are interested in studying Business Administration, you may apply to the College of Letters and Science as an “Undeclared/Pre-Business Administration” freshman.
- College of Engineering applicants who are undecided about a specific field of study in Engineering may apply to the “Engineering Undeclared” program. In the past, admission as an undeclared major has been more competitive than admission to many other Engineering majors. If you know which field of Engineering you wish to study, you should apply for that major.
- The Colleges of Chemistry and Environmental Design do not offer an Undeclared major. You must apply to a specific major.

What options do I have if I am not admitted to Berkeley?

You may be offered an alternative to admission in the fall as follows:

1. The College of Letters and Science offers deferred admission to the spring semester at Berkeley. During the fall semester you may enroll in the UC Berkeley Extension Fall Program for UC Freshmen (space in this program is limited), attend a community college, or remain out of school until the spring semester begins.
2. You may also apply to Berkeley later, as a junior transfer student. For further information, see the Transfer Admission flyer (available on our website at admissions.berkeley.edu).

If I have a disability, should I discuss it on my UC application, and if so, how might it affect my chances for admission to UC Berkeley?

The Admissions Office recognizes that an applicant's circumstances might affect his/her GPA and test scores. You are neither required nor expected to reveal any information about your disability, medical, psychological or other personal circumstances. However, any information you choose to provide concerning your disability will be held in strict confidence in accordance with University policy and by federal and state laws. For more information, you may also contact the Disabled Students' Program at 510-642-0518, 510-642-6376 (TTY/TDD), or visit the website at dsp.berkeley.edu.

When should I apply?

Your application must be submitted online or postmarked no later than November 30. Berkeley does not accept applications for the spring semester.

How do I apply?

You must complete the University of California admission application, including the required personal statement. When you apply to Berkeley, you may apply simultaneously to other UC campuses using the same application.

While 98 percent of students apply online, a paper version of the application form can be downloaded, printed and submitted by mail. Send only the original application form, fees and personal statement to the processing service address. Do not include letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, or other supporting documentation such as awards, photographs, poetry, etc., to the processor. They will not be forwarded, returned or retained.

Students who wish to apply online can do so at http://universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/apply_online.html. If you do not have easy online access, you can apply to Berkeley by downloading an application from the Internet at universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/download. For more information, write or call:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
University of California, Berkeley
110 Sproul Hall #5800
Berkeley, CA 94720-5800
510-642-3175

Or visit these websites:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
admissions.berkeley.edu

UC-approved high school courses (California only)
ucop.edu/doorways

UC-approved CA community college courses
assist.org

UC Admissions Information
universityofcalifornia.edu

Berkeley General Catalog
berkeley.edu/catalog

Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State Law and the University's nondiscrimination policies, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including sexual harassment), gender identity, pregnancy/childbirth and medical conditions related thereto, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. This nondiscrimination policy covers student admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. It also covers faculty (Senate and non-Senate) and staff in their employment. For information on other groups, including student applicants and current students, go to the “Resolving Discrimination Issues” section of the Campus Climate and Compliance Office website at ccac.berkeley.edu/resolving.shtml.