

THE EDGE

THIS ISSUE | Your College Survival Kit



CRAVING STARBUCKS?

Turn to page 4 to find out how to win a FREE Starbucks gift card!

WELCOME



Greetings, Class of 2017,

Congratulations on your decision to embark on the journey to higher education!

Orange County United Way is pleased to collaborate with the University of California, Irvine to bring you this year's edition of *The Edge*. This issue is sure to help you get organized, excited and engaged in building a strong foundation for your college success.

Your first college experience might be overwhelming. Learning to balance your academic responsibilities, personal independence and social life will present a major shift from life as a high school student. However, you are not alone on this journey. Always remember there is a wealth of resources and supports at your disposal. Your College Survival Kit is only one of the many tools that

can prepare you to thrive during your college transition, learn college terminology and develop habits that are essential to academic success.

Along with utilizing these resources, being proactive is paramount to enjoying this exciting experience. You will be met with a variety of new information and situations; take advantage of the opportunities available to you and seek new ways to enrich your college experience. Whether you join a club, pursue student government, study abroad or complete an internship, the only chances for growth missed are those not taken. These types of opportunities are especially beneficial when they align with your possible career choices—they might even help you discover your calling in life.

We at Orange County United Way believe that strengthening our K-16 educational pipeline is a social justice imperative—all students have a right to a quality education and equitable life opportunities after commencement. One of our key goals is to cut the high school dropout rate in half by 2024. We certainly have our work cut out for us, but through partnerships with leading colleges like UC Irvine, school districts across Orange County as well as programs like our new *Youth Careers Connect*—a work-based learning initiative that connects employers to students so that classroom learning is more relevant (e.g., career-themed group projects, internships and mentorships)—we are confident that together we will be able to help

students discover how they can turn their passions into action.

Our educational system is at a turning point and as soon-to-be high school graduates, SO ARE YOU. We commit to investing in you, in providing you with programs and resources that help you succeed in both the college and career of your choice. We invite you to read this magazine, be proactive about your college and career planning, strive for personal development, acquire a broad-based education, and ultimately achieve the career of your dreams.

To learn more about our initiatives, please visit us at www.unitedwayoc.org/education.

Sincerely,

Max L. Gardner

President
Orange County United Way



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Welcome to the 2016-17 edition of *The Edge*.

I hope you find this periodical informative and instructional as you begin your journey toward your life on a college or university campus.

Higher education—just think about it. A domain of discovery and new ideas where intellectual inquiry and the free exchange of concepts, constructs, opinions and counter-narratives are nurtured in an environment designed so that each and every student has an opportunity to maximize their intellectual growth and development. It is a space where you can identify and actualize the true and fullest potential that lies within you. But this magnificent resource we call university and college life only exists for you if you have the courage to explore, embrace and engage the domain of academia. Indeed, you will need to be

deliberate in your steps toward accessing this opportunity that awaits you and this resource will assist you in doing just that.

Navigating the terrain of any new environment can seem a little overwhelming and even anxiety-provoking at first. Overwhelming because the task may seem so daunting. Anxiety-provoking because others may have told you to expect challenges and obstacles or even made you question whether you even belong in that space. Well, *The Edge* is your personal resource intended to relieve your anxiety and discomfort in thinking about and negotiating the landscape of higher education. It is designed to eliminate the sense of feeling overwhelmed, and reduce what seems like a host of requirements down to smaller, more manageable tasks that you can more easily address and accomplish. It is written in a way

that we hope will erase any doubt you have about whether or not you belong in higher education institutions like the University of California, Irvine.

Within these pages is some very important information that will simplify your search for clarity and comfort with accessing the opportunities that await you. And like any good roadmap, it will help you plot a course that will take you from where you are to where you want to be. It will provide you with the tools to help you focus on the tasks before you that will facilitate your entry into college and university life. It will warn you about obstacles you need to be careful about or hazards you will need to avoid.

Step inside the pages of this booklet and see for yourself how exciting and rewarding your journey to higher education can be. Dare to dream about your future, bright with possibilities, and know that we have an accomplished group of faculty, staff, administrators and peers ready to assist. Use this resource; and follow that advice and counsel within it. For my part, I will stand poised and ready to welcome you to a university experience that will absolutely elevate your trajectory toward success.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UC Irvine

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College **APPLICATION** Comparison

	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	CAL STATE UNIVERSITY	COMMON APPLICATION	COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WEBSITE	universityofcalifornia.edu/apply	csumentor.org	commonapp.org	cccapply.org
APPLICATION	1 application for all campuses (9 campuses open to freshmen)	1 application for EACH campus (23 campuses open to freshmen)	1 application for EACH campus (500+ campuses open to freshmen)	1 application for EACH campus (113 campuses)
APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD	November 1st-November 30th (Application opens August 1)	October 1st-November 30th	Varies by college	You may submit an application at any time (deadlines for enrollment in the upcoming term varies by college).
COST	\$70.00 per campus (fee waivers available)	\$55.00 per campus (fee waivers available)	Varies by college	Free
FEE WAIVERS	4 campuses (if eligible, apply within UC application online)	4 campuses (if eligible, apply within CSU application online)	4 campuses will be awarded online through College Board if the student has taken at least one SAT or SAT Subject Test with a fee waiver, or has taken an SAT that was paid for by his or her state or school district. Note that only fee-waiver users who actually take a test will receive the online College Application Fee Waiver.	Not applicable
ENTRANCE EXAMS	SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Plus Writing (RECOMMENDED) 2 SAT Subject Tests from 2 different disciplines, taken by December 2016	SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT	Varies by college (report highest individual scores per section)	No exam needed for admission. However, you must take placement tests in English, Mathematics and Reading in order to enroll in classes.
TRANSCRIPTS	Not required (self-reported grades)	Not required (self-reported grades)	Not required (self-reported grades)	Not required
PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS	New starting for Fall 2016 applicants. Applicant must answer 4 out of 8 questions. (see article on page 7)	Not required	Short Answer and Personal Essay on your topic of choice	Not required
RECOMMENDATIONS	UCB applicants may be invited to submit 2 letters of recommendation. For further information please visit their website: www.admissions.berkeley.edu/freshmanpolicy	Not required	Varies by college (supplemental forms available on the application)	Not required
ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS	UC wants to learn about your honors and awards, volunteer work/community service, extracurricular activities, coursework other than A-G, educational preparation programs, and employment	Not required	Colleges want to learn about your honors and awards, volunteer work/community service, extracurricular activities, educational preparation programs, and employment (may also attach a resumé).	Not required
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)	Included in the application	Separate application link on CSU Mentor application (csumentor.edu/admissionapp/eop_apply.asp)	Separate application; check each individual school	Separate application with the EOPS program at each college
GPA MINIMUM	3.0 in A-G courses taken during 10th-11th grades (must finish 11/15 courses by the end of 11th grade)	2.0 minimum in A-G courses (taken during 10th-11th grades)	Varies by college	No GPA requirement. You must be 18 years or older or have one of the following: a high school diploma, GED, or have passed the California High School Exit Exam.



STARBUCKS GIFT CARD GIVE-AWAY!

Offer ends
December 15, 2016

Go to www.cfep.uci.edu/theedge/2016/survey to find out how.

2016-2017 Senior TIMELINE

START

October

1

OCTOBER 2016

October 1-November 30
Filing period for CSU Application

Saturday, October 1
SAT and SAT Subject test date

Friday, October 7
Registration deadline for the 11/5/16 SAT and SAT Subject Test (Taking 2 subject tests is recommended if you plan to apply to a UC, private or out-of-state school)

Saturday, October 22
ACT test date

Continue to visit potential campuses and participate in college fairs at school and/or school district.

October 1 - June 30
FAFSA filing period for 2017-2018, students and/or parents will use 2015 tax documents to complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA (Refer for more information regarding the new changes to 2017-2018 FAFSA: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes>)

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 3
SAT and SAT Subject Test date (Last SAT date for seniors!)

Saturday, December 10
ACT date (Last ACT test date for seniors!)

October - March 2
FAFSA and California Dream Act Application filing period to be eligible for Cal Grant Awards. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

FEBRUARY 2017

October - March 2
FAFSA and California Dream Act Application filing period to be eligible for Cal Grant Awards. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>

Continue to visit colleges you applied to so you're ready to make a decision when admission letters start coming in.

APRIL 2017

Visit campus open houses, participate in stay-over programs if applicable and start finalizing your decision about which campus you will attend.

Saturday, April 15
Celebrate UCI (annual open house and festival)

Maintain academic GPA; remember: must pass all courses with a "C" or better



JUNE 2017

Graduation!

Make sure to pass all your courses with grades of "C" or better to avoid jeopardizing your admission status.

Request official transcripts from your high school registrar and make sure they are sent to the university in which you plan to enroll in the fall.

Deadline for final official transcripts either postmarked or submitted electronically is July 1, 2017

NOVEMBER 2016

November 1-30
Filing period for UC Application

Thursday, November 3
Registration deadline for the 12/3/16 SAT and SAT Subject Test (Taking 2 subject tests is recommended if you plan to apply to a UC, private, or out-of-state school)

Friday, November 4
Registration deadline for 12/04/16 ACT (Don't forget to add the Writing section)

Saturday, November 5
SAT and SAT Subject Test date

Monday, November 30
LAST day to complete and submit your UC/CSU application!

JANUARY 2017

Ask your counselor about the GPA Verification Form for Cal Grants.

October - March 2
FAFSA and California Dream Act Application filing period to be eligible for Cal Grant Awards. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>
Continue to search and apply for scholarships as well as other types of financial aid.

MARCH 2017

March - April
Expect to hear from the campuses to which you've applied. Check your emails and postal mail and BE PATIENT

Thursday, Mar. 2
FAFSA, California Dream Act Application, and GPA Verification Form
Deadline to be eligible for Cal Grants

MAY 2017

Monday, May 1
Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) DEADLINE for most UC campuses. This is your LAST CHANCE to submit your final selection to attend one campus.

Housing Application deadline for most UC campuses. However, dates may vary and students are encouraged to apply ASAP once they've been admitted.

Sunday, May 14
Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) test date for all UC incoming freshmen.

Reminder: AP exams
Make sure that you take the AP exams listed on your college applications.

JULY 2017

Saturday, July 1
UC DEADLINE to submit final official transcript to the campus you plan to enroll.

Saturday, July 15
UC Deadline to submit all other documents and exam scores to the campus you plan to enroll.

FINISH

THE PATHWAY

To Finding the Right College for You

by Cristina Fernández, Senior Director of Programs, Tiger Woods Foundation

How can you learn about all the college options?

How do you find the right one for you? With over 4,000 colleges in the US, in order to find the campus that fits you best, you need to know yourself.

BEGIN WITH SOME QUESTIONS

The most important first step in figuring out where you want to go to college is to determine what you value, to identify your strengths and weaknesses, and to find out who you are and who you hope to become. These questions are a good starting place:

- ▶ What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience in or out of the classroom and why?
- ▶ Which of your accomplishments give you the most pride?
- ▶ Are your ACT/SAT scores an accurate reflection of your ability?
- ▶ What kinds of surroundings are essential to your well-being?

The exploration process starts with you, and a good college fit means something different for everyone. Continue to ask yourself more self-reflective questions. Brainstorm with your counselor or advisor and share your responses from the questions to develop a best-fit college list.

CONDUCT RESEARCH

Once you have answered these questions, it's time to start thinking about specific colleges.

- ▶ **Schedule:** Commit to your college search as you would for a term paper or studying for a test. Set aside specific time daily/weekly.
- ▶ **Strategy:** What are you looking for in a college? Spend the time investigating your ideal "fit" for college in order to narrow down your list to schools that truly interest you. Things to consider:
 - ▶ Special academic programs
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ Student facilities
 - ▶ Study abroad opportunities
 - ▶ Size



- ▶ What do graduates of the school do after graduation?
 - ▶ Is the community diverse?
 - ▶ Student organizations
 - ▶ Who will be teaching the courses?
 - ▶ What is the academic advising system?
 - ▶ What is the relationship between students and administrators?
 - ▶ What types of financial assistance are offered?
- ▶ **Organize:** Keeping track of what you learn is essential to staying on top of your research. Having a college binder divided by school will allow you to easily refer back to your notes when narrowing down your search.
 - ▶ **Resources:** Use your network around you to help get "insider" information. Talk to teachers, family members, alumni of the college and college representatives to gain firsthand knowledge. Use as many sources of information as you can—books, websites, etc. Be sure to consult a number of resources before you draw any conclusions about a particular college, as you should never rely on only one source when evaluating a college.

VISIT COLLEGES

Just being on a college campus for a few hours can tell you a great deal about the community and culture. Visit a college campus nearby and you will begin to learn what you like and what you don't like, as well as what to look for.

DEVELOP A COLLEGE LIST

The key to a good college list is research and an **open mind**. Explore a wide range of schools before you start focusing on your list. Research does not commit you to anything except time and taking notes. Your list should have 6-8 colleges with a range of selectivity that are ideal for YOU. (Multiple UC schools should count as one).

Focus on finding the best place for you to be successful, happy and challenged. Be open to the possibilities! ✍

GETTING PERSONAL:

New UC Application Questions

by Bianca Leon, Ed.D., Office of Admissions and Relations with Schools, UC Irvine

As of Fall 2016, the personal insight questions have replaced the personal statement prompts for Fall 2017 applicants.

They are meant to provide students with more flexibility and options to introduce themselves to the readers of their application. Because the personal insight questions are meant to be utilized in order to describe your individual circumstances to admission readers, it is necessary for you to do some reflecting before you tackle them. You should really think about what experiences and life circumstances have influenced you especially within the last couple of years while you have been in high school and use that to guide which questions you choose to respond to.

The following are the eight questions to choose from:

1. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
2. Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.
3. What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
4. Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

6. Describe your favorite academic subject and explain how it has influenced you.
7. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
8. What is the one thing that you think sets you apart from other candidates applying to the University of California?

You will need to select four questions to provide short responses to out of the 8 question options. Be strategic and think about which four out of the eight questions align closest to your personal story, interests and passions. Remember, as readers we are complete strangers and are trying to get to know you on a more personal level. We will only learn as much as you decide to share with us in your responses to the four questions. This is not the time to be shy or humble, but to be open to sharing about yourself. <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/files/uc-personal-questions-guide-freshman.pdf>

Do not worry if the questions you want to respond to are not the same as your friends. Each of you is an individual and may want to share different pieces of information with us. The four questions you select should be the best fit for YOU.

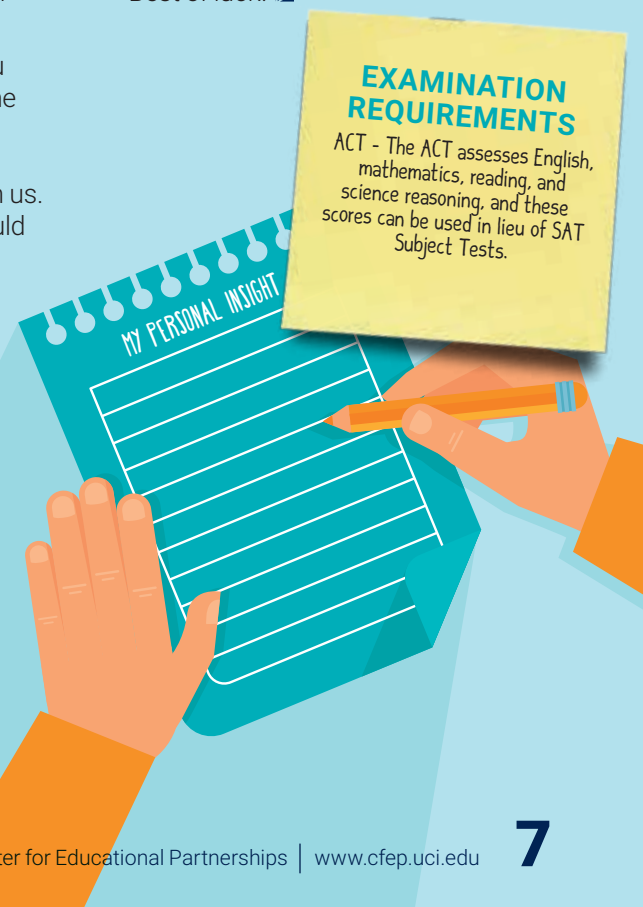
Be genuine and casual. Write your responses as if we were asking you the questions in person. How would you respond? The personal insight questions are not a writing test, do not put too much pressure on yourself about the structure or using the thesaurus. We are using them to get to know you and gain a better understanding of you as a person than what we can glean from the rest of your application.

Your responses are limited to a maximum of 350 words, with this in mind, make sure to get right to the point when responding to the questions. Make sure that all of the content that you provide is directly related to you and that you do not waste words on providing an introduction or providing information about someone other than yourself.

Lastly, because we don't know you, it is important that you ask someone else who does not know you very well to read your responses and give you feedback as to what they learned from your response. If they got something other than what you were aiming for, then you know you have another draft to write. If they tell you that you provided information that addresses the question, then you did a good job.

Remember to be yourself, we want to get to know you and in doing so be able to see if you would be a good fit for our campuses.

Best of luck! 🍀



WHAT'S A MAJOR

and How Do I Choose One?

by Kimberly Ayala, Director of Undecided/Undeclared Advising, UC Irvine

A MAJOR is a field of study which represents your principle academic interest.

A MINOR is a secondary area of academic interest, usually with half as many requirements.

PREREQUISITE

A course that must be taken prior to enrollment in another course.

You may select your university major at the time you fill out your university application, if you know what you want to study.

You may also apply to universities as an undeclared student if you don't know what you want to study or if you want to explore your options. If you want to take new and exciting classes that you've never taken before, then entering the university as an undeclared major may be right for you!

Something to keep in mind is that, many students change their major, add a double major or select a minor and that's OK too. Many universities require that you declared a major by the time you reach junior standing or earlier depending on the major. When considering possible majors, students should keep in mind that some major programs require quite specific preliminary study.

1. Explore your options. Prior to applying to colleges, be ready to do some homework and learn what majors are available at the campuses you're considering attending. Not all

majors are available at all universities, so plan carefully. Every university publishes a catalogue. This could be a hard copy book that you may have to purchase and/or the catalogue will be online. This publication has a wealth of information designed just for you! For example, you might find a section describing the majors available at that university and the requirements needed to graduate. In addition, you may also find information on preparation for graduate or professional study and career options as well.

2. Find out about prerequisites.

In preparation for choosing a major, find specific information about academic majors and programs available and their prerequisites and requirements to graduate. There may be prerequisites you need to satisfy prior to declaring a major. One example is if you major is in music or dance, you will need to audition and be selected.


3. Try it out. Once you find an area of study that sounds interesting, take a class or two to confirm your choice. There are many majors that lead directly to careers (e.g., nursing,

engineering and accounting) while other majors like history, sociology and English can lead to a variety of careers.

In all majors you will learn to think critically, problem solve, do research and express yourself in writing and public speaking. For these reasons, it is desirable for students to plan their programs carefully and thoughtfully, seeking a balance between exposure to a variety of academic areas and completion of courses which are required to be admitted into the major you're considering.

4. Declare it. Declaring your major is usually an easy process, but check with your academic counselor for specific details.

5. Double down. What if you're interested in more than one major? A qualified student interested in two areas of study may graduate with a double major by fulfilling the degree requirements of any two programs. Certain restrictions may apply; check with an academic advisor at the university you're interested in attending.

As with everything, careful planning is the key to college success! 

ADMISSIONS

by Patricia Morales, Ph.D.
Director of Admissions, UC Irvine

AFTERMATH

Don't Let the Thrill of Being Admitted to the College of Your Dreams Turn into a Nightmare

Many students think that the application process is over after they receive the admission letter from the college of their dreams.

Though receiving the offer of admission is an integral part of the application process, it is still just one part of the entire process. As a soon-to-be college applicant, this is important for you to know, because an unfortunate consequence of not realizing this can potentially lead to the withdrawal of your offer of admission! You don't want that! I don't want that! Nobody wants that!

Without a doubt, the best part of my job is being able to admit a new freshman class to the university each year. When we send you an offer of admission, we are essentially saying we think you are awesome and that you will do amazing things at our campus. For many students, the moment they receive their offer of admission is a dream come true. Unfortunately for some, the dream quickly mutates into a dizzying nightmare when they lose their offer of admission. Yes, your offer of admission can be withdrawn.

All offers of admission are provisional and come with conditions. Here's why: at the point when your application is evaluated and selection is made for admission, all the information that is available to us whatever you put in your application. That's all we have to go on. So when we give an offer of admission to a student, it's with the understanding that everything you reported in your application is true and accurate. Furthermore, your

admission also comes with a few conditions, for example, maintaining a 3.0 GPA in your senior year. It's not until the end of the second semester of your senior year that we will be able to see verify if everything you indicated on your transcript is accurate, and whether or not you met all the conditions for your offer of admission.

To avoid having to go through the ordeal of having your offer of admission withdrawn, here are some important tips to consider for after you receive your admission letter.

1. Realize and always remember that your offer of admission is provisional and comes with conditions.
2. Review and understand ALL the conditions of your offer of admission.
3. Regularly check your email inbox or online admission portal for communication from your admissions counselor. Pay close attention to deadlines, and respond to any requests for information or documentation.
4. Follow through with anything that's "planned" or "in progress" on your application. If there are any changes to your applications, or your senior year plans, let your admissions counselor know right away!
5. Finally, realize your senior year is very important and how you finish high school is very much a factor in keeping your offer of admission to university. 📌

ADMISSIONS WAITING LIST

The list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. If accepted students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with those on the waiting list.

TRANSCRIPT

The official record of your course work at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

The office on a college campus which houses the people who recruit, interview, and admit students to the college.



FINANCIAL AID

Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. Learn more about financial aid.

DOLLARS AND SENSE:

Money and Your Education

by Zelotes Smith
Assistant Director of Scholarships Financial Aid, UC Irvine

The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan can make attending a UC more affordable than you realize.

If you are a California resident with a family income of less than \$80,000 per year and you qualify for financial aid, then the UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan would cover your systemwide fees, which are currently estimated to be \$15,035.

To apply, simply complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act application and submit the GPA Verification Form by March 2 of your senior year in high school. (The 2017-2018 FAFSA application will be available for completion on October 1, 2016). The FAFSA application will also serve as your application for the Federal Pell Grant and Cal Grant.

If you qualify (first time students must be in their first 4 years of attendance and transfer students must be in their first 2 years), you will receive the benefits of the Blue and

Gold Opportunity Plan. For complete details regarding the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan go to: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold.

Don't let money prevent you from applying to a UC. Beside the Blue and Gold Opportunity Program, there are other scholarship/grant opportunities that are available to you. Here are some helpful hints and tips in searching for scholarships:

- ▶ You may begin your scholarship search on the UCI OFAS website at <http://www.ofas.uci.edu/content/Scholarships.aspx>. This will link you to scholarships that are specific to UCI.
- ▶ Use scholarship search engines (www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com)
- ▶ You may try a Google search for scholarships based on your personal traits, hobbies or planned major. For example: eye color, left handedness, business, karate.
- ▶ Ask around your local area for scholarships. May local clubs (ELKS, Kiwanis) and even some local businesses are willing to support your college goals.
- ▶ Look up scholarships from large companies, such as Target, Coca-Cola, Macy's, etc.
- ▶ Don't skip over the small scholarships, as these can add up.
- ▶ Start your search as early as possible for the best results.

- ▶ Write a general personal statement about yourself. Use this as a basis for any essays that you will be required to submit.

Remember, when applying for a scholarship, you should **never** be asked to pay or give out personal information such as your social security number or banking information.

Visit your University Financial Aid office to receive additional information regarding scholarships, grants, loans or even work study opportunities. ■

FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER

A document sent to admitted student describing the terms of the financial aid being offered, including the types and amounts, the conditions that govern the awards, and deadline for accepting.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

This grant is a form of financial aid provided by the federal government to students whose FAFSA indicates a high level of financial need.

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

The amount a student's family can reasonably be expected to pay for one year of college. This term will be used on your FAFSA and Dream act before they award you your financial aid.

STRESS-FREE TIPS FOR SUCCESS

For First-generation Students

by Graciela Fernandez, Ph.D., *Director of Student Outreach and Retention, UC Irvine*

A growing number of students are the first in their family to go to college.

For many first-generation students, the journey to and through college can be a major source of stress. As a first-generation college graduate, the first in my family with a Ph.D, and now a student affairs professional, I have first-hand experience navigating uncharted territory. Below are some tips to help you survive your transition to college.

1. BE CONFIDENT

Fear and anxiety can impact your self-confidence and performance. When you find that you are competing with top-performing students and that many of them might not share your background, you might question your sense of belonging. It is important that you remember you made it to college because you are intelligent and capable of meeting and exceeding all expectations. You have knowledge, experiences and abilities that will help you grow into the college student you want to become. Never forget how amazing you are, but stay grounded, do the work and seek help when you need it.

2. BUILD YOUR SUPPORT NETWORKS

Be intentional in building your academic, personal and professional networks. Your peers will come from different backgrounds, so take time to get to know them. They will expand your worldview and provide emotional and social support. College professors, teaching assistants and staff are there to support your learning and growth. Get to know them by attending office hours, and identify at least one academic mentor who can help you develop an academic success plan.

3. USE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student support services aim to provide you with the best college experience possible. Every college campus will offer a wide range of resources to help you transition, overcome obstacles and enrich your student life. Some of these services focus on academics, financial aid, health and wellness, and others on professional and identity development. Take time to learn about the services and make use of them.

4. MANAGE YOUR TIME AND PRIORITIES

Whether you are on the semester or quarter system, the academic term will always feel fast. Invest in a good calendar/planner to track your classes and other commitments (e.g., study, work, extracurriculars). A course syllabus will be given to you at the beginning of each term. It will outline the course requirements and important deadlines for assignments and exams. Add these dates to your calendar and plan accordingly. Limit your work and extracurricular activities, because your academics should always come first.

5. BECOME MONEY WISE

A college education is a great investment. There are many federal, state, institutional and private resources available to help finance your education. Submit your annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or CA Dream Act Application (for AB540 students in California) by March 2. Become familiar with your financial aid website and office and visit it to learn more about the resources available (e.g., work-study, scholarships, financial literacy workshops). Create and maintain a budget. This is an important life-skill that will be useful beyond college.

6. HAVE FUN!

REGISTRAR

This is the college official who registers students and collects fees. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records, maintaining student files and forwarding copies of students' transcripts to employers, other colleges and graduate schools.

ADVISOR

A member of the college faculty or staff who assists students with planning quarter or semester schedules as well as their overall programs of study. Advisors may also help with career planning.

U.S.S.

COLLEGE

FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE:

Ask Questions and

Use Campus Resources

by Brianda Ruiz,
Sophomore, UC Irvine

As a first-generation DACAmented student, I was able to successfully complete my first year as a Criminology Law and Society major.

With the help of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the AB540, I was able to work on campus and pay in-state tuition to the University of California, Irvine. I knew that once I started my college journey, I would have many questions and worries that my parents would not be able to guide me through. Therefore, I decided to speak for myself and ask for mentorship from others.

With the decision to ask for mentorship and guidance I had to get out of my comfort zone and reach out to organizations and resources on campus to maximize my education at UCI. As a freshman, I attended countless workshops, conferences and office hours in order to network with others. I received mentorship through a program from the School of Social Ecology called ACCESS, in which a current UCI college student mentored me throughout my first year of college. I had the privilege to participate in a week-long service project with the Alternative Spring Break program in which I engaged in critical conversations on social issues and serve my community.

Because of these experiences, I had the privilege of working for Transfer Prep, Padres Promotores during the academic year and Upper Bound during the summer of 2016. These internships fall under the Center for Educational Partnerships

where I was able to work and give back to communities like mine and encourage students and parents to prepare themselves to become competitive applicants for a 4-year university. These experiences have definitely impacted my time at UC Irvine and helped me in my academic and personal life.

I am currently working on a research project with a team of four undergraduate students and a faculty member from the School of Social Sciences. As a research team we are working on understanding the impact of immigration detention centers on the individuals and families.

My achievements are the result of guidance from many individuals who believed in me, but I wouldn't have had these opportunities without reaching out to resources and asking questions.

My advice to you would be to ask questions and take seriously the resources available from the Career Center, Student Services, Cross-Cultural Center, clubs and even blogs for college students. They are a source of support in your academic journey. Remember that the worst thing that can happen is that someone will say "no," and even then you will receive feedback as to why the answer was no, which will help you grow. Keep your head high, ask questions, be persuasive and work hard. Nothing in life comes easy, so remember to hustle and stay humble. 📌

OFFICE HOURS

Professors are usually required to hold office hours on a regular basis throughout the semester, which is when students are able to drop in or make an appointment to meet with them.



Special Support for **DREAMers**

by Ana Miriam Barragan, *DREAMers Program Coordinator, SOAR, UC Irvine*

The University of California, Irvine stands in strong support of the **DREAMers**.

Through hard work and perseverance, DREAMers have often overcome great obstacles to meet the high academic standards required to attend UC Irvine. Our campus values include respect and empathy. The diversity of our student body is one of our greatest strengths, helping us to prepare all UC Irvine students to become the global leaders of tomorrow, and making the University of California, Irvine a better place.

Our services are designed to support the retention and academic success of students who self-identify as undocumented or dreamers. In addition, we are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment to nourish students' leadership development.

We have established strong relationships with multiple campus departments and community partners to help students achieve academic, personal and professional excellence. Some of the resources students can take advantage of are scholarships, work study, internships and research opportunities.

SERVICES

- ▶ Academic Consultations
- ▶ Legal Support and Referrals
- ▶ Financial Aid Guidance
- ▶ Professional and Career Advice
- ▶ Housing Relocations
- ▶ Student Wellness Support

PROGRAMS

- ▶ **Dream Scholars** aims to support undergraduate students improve on their academic performance and gain a unique educational experience.
- ▶ **Dreamers Advocate Program** is for students by students. Program participants learn about the laws and policies affecting undocumented students and the fundamentals of community building.

▶ **Lighthouse Project** is a mentorship program to empower and better prepare a diverse group of undocumented high school students to pursue higher education.

▶ **UndocuEaters Circle** is a support group for students to have meaningful discussions about issues that affect them and that are important to them.

▶ **Advance Parole Partnership for Anteaters** is for students who are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and who are interested in receiving free legal representation to study abroad.

The UCI Student Outreach and Retention Center is dedicated to supporting undocumented students through advocacy, guidance, and support. For more information, visit our website at <http://dreamers.uci.edu> 📄



MAKING THE MOST

of Your College Resources

by Hugo Mendoza, *Transfer Student, UC Irvine*

My name is Hugo Mendoza and I am double majoring in mechanical engineering and aerospace engineering at the University of California, Irvine.

I was born in Lima, Peru and came to the US at the age of 10. Being an undocumented student, I faced countless obstacles while pursuing my goal of becoming an engineer. Although I was accepted to several universities out of high school, I decided to go to community college for financial reasons. After 3 years I was able to transfer to UC Irvine, and with the help of the Dream Act I had my tuition and housing covered.

During my time at UCI, I've joined several programs to learn more about engineering. And, they've helped me make connections for internships and possibly future jobs in my field!

Through SAGE (Student Achievement Guided by Experience), I got an offer to intern for NASA at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to work on the Mars Mission Modeling Project. Unfortunately, because of my legal status I was not able to accept the opportunity. Needless to say, I was crushed. This has greatly impacted my motivation for aerospace engineering and made me feel like I have no chance in this field.

But time stops for no one, I quickly got myself together and began looking for other opportunities in the field of mechanical engineering. Fortunately, I had also been involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), serving as its vice president last year and, I'm proud to say, as its president this school year.

With the connection that I made from SHPE, I was able to land an internship position at Baxter Healthcare as a manufacturing engineer. This was an opportunity of a lifetime; I never imagined that I would be working at a company that focuses on biotechnology helping patients around the world.

Going through these obstacles has taught me the value of dedication and perseverance. If it wasn't for my friends and family pushing me to move forwards, I would not be where I am at today. I am thankful for what I have, and excited to be graduating from UC Irvine as an engineer. ▣

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Services that support students academically and professionally at their campus such as Dreamers, Ombudsman, Food Pantry, EOP etc.

WORK-STUDY

In this federally funded program, students take campus jobs as part of their financial aid package.



INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE: The Balancing Act

by Darlene Esparza
Director, Office of Campus Organizations &
Volunteer Programs, UC Irvine

Involvement can vary from joining a campus organization, to serving as a student government representative, leading campus tours, internships, peer advising, organizing campus wide community service projects, research, educational outreach and much more. And part of the beauty is that if it doesn't exist, you can create it!

For many first-year students, college can be the first time where you are in charge of your own schedule. In addition to your newfound independence, you're trying to adapt to a new environment that can be very different from your own community. Navigating this process can be thrilling and daunting at the same time. Involvement helps to ease this transition process, and fosters leadership development. The key to involvement is to find a balance between your co-curricular activities and academics.

BE PICKY

As a first-year student, it can sometimes seem overwhelming when confronted with so many new opportunities. But don't feel the need to join or participate in everything and anything that comes along. It's okay to say no sometimes, or to try something new, even if the end result is that it wasn't the best fit.

Although I recommend getting involved early, it's okay to be picky with your involvement opportunities.

TAKE RISKS

Especially as a first-year student, you have the opportunity to take risks and challenge yourself to step outside of your comfort zone. Sometimes students find the most reward in activities that they never saw themselves doing.

FIND COMMON THREADS

As much as we value involvement, academics are still the number one priority. Get involved in activities that supplement and ultimately enhance your academic experience. Think about your career goals, or activities that connect back to your major or study interests. Students are successful when they are able to apply the knowledge you are learning in the classroom in a real-world experience.

ASK FOR HELP

Asking for help is a sign of strength. If students find themselves overwhelmed, there are many resources and individuals that are eager to provide support. Resources can range from educational workshops on topics such as personal wellness, time management, and leadership development, as well as counseling and peer support.

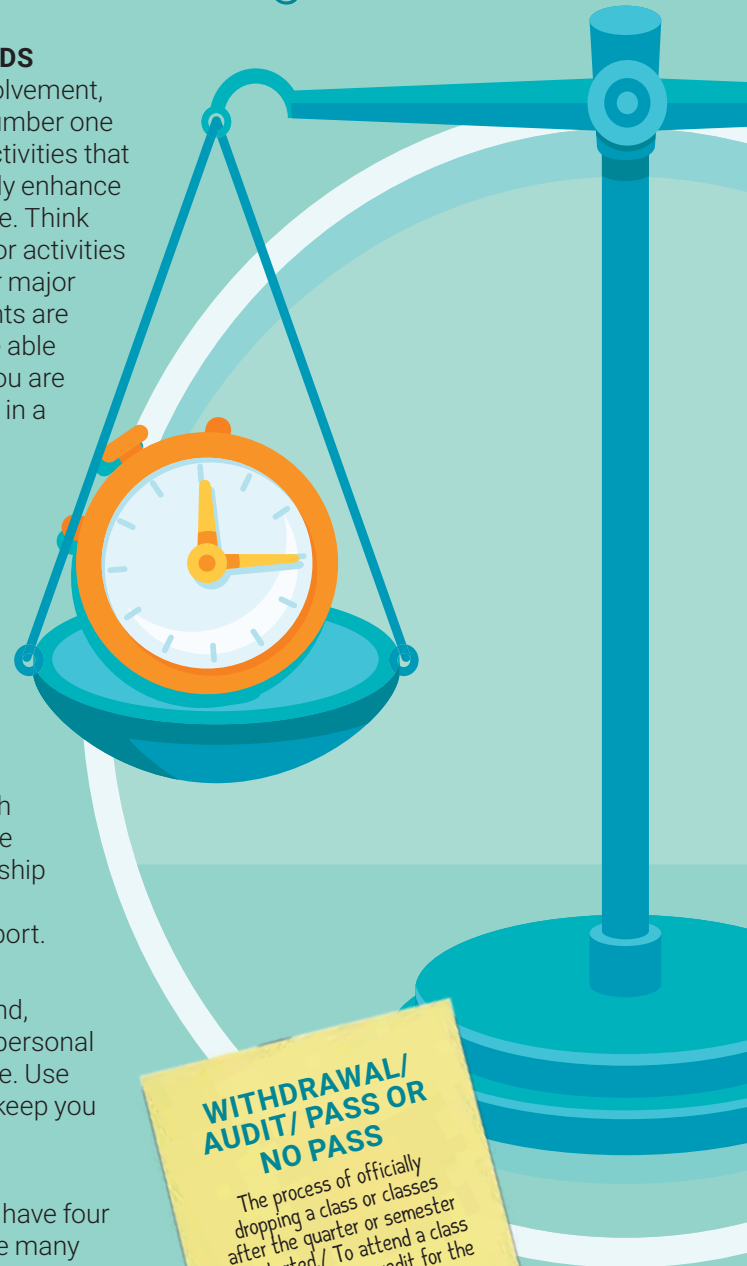
KNOW YOUR VALUES

Keep your priorities in mind, and reflect on what your personal and professional goals are. Use your values and goals to keep you motivated.

TIME

Remind yourself that you have four to five years to explore the many opportunities available. Involvement shouldn't be rushed. Be intentional about your choices, and treat your involvements as an important aspect of your educational experience.

Very often, keeping a healthy balance of time between academics and activities is the biggest challenge with involvement. But the first and most important step is taking initiative—the results will always be rewarding. ▣



WITHDRAWAL/ AUDIT/ PASS OR NO PASS

The process of officially dropping a class or classes after the quarter or semester has started./ To attend a class without receiving credit for the class./ Pass or No Pass.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

You may be able to complete some of your credit requirements by studying on your own. You and your faculty adviser decide on a topic, and then meet periodically to discuss your progress. At the end of the term, you hand in a final report for a grade.

INTERNSHIPS:

by Denise Khaw,
Director of SAGE Scholars
Program, UC Irvine

Key to Future Job Prospects

College is no longer just about getting good grades and graduating with a bachelor's degree.

Today's job market is ultra-competitive. As college entrance scores are skyrocketing, so are students' motivation to succeed in college and in their future careers. Employers are increasingly focused on hiring high-achieving students with excellent soft skills. Soft skills such as integrity, communication, teamwork, problem-solving abilities, emotional intelligence, positive attitude and self-motivation are just a handful of the attributes that all companies are searching for in their next new hire.

Recruiters and selection committees are combing through thousands of resumés each year to find well-rounded candidates who:

1. Excel in their majors
2. Exemplify soft skills gained through leadership positions and involvement in campus activities or clubs
3. Complete at least one internship before graduation.

An internship is a formal program that provides practical experience for beginners in an occupation or profession. Internships allow students to "test drive" an industry before fully committing to it via their major. Typically, interns work on a project for a specified amount of time and work closely with a supervisor or mentor in order to complete the project. From an employer's perspective, internships create a pipeline of qualified candidates who can roll into full-time hires after graduation. Employers typically recruit in the fall quarter for summer start internships. Occasionally, internships will be part-time during the academic year. Employers advertise their internship opportunities on their website, at college career fairs and through campus career centers.

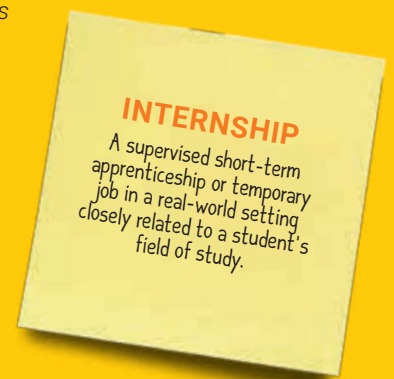
At UC Irvine, the Center for Educational Partnerships helps college students achieve their maximum career potential by offering The SAGE Scholars Program to juniors and transfer students. SAGE stands for Student Achievement Guided by Experience. This is a highly-competitive two-year program focused on leadership development and business acumen. SAGE Scholars receive training and mentorship with the following areas: goal setting, creating resumés and cover letters, mock interviews, perfecting an elevator pitch, preparing for career fairs, navigating internship and career searches as well as preparing for graduate school programs.

SAGE Scholars have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and have an estimated family contribution listed on their financial aid report of \$10,000 or less. Since the program's inception in 1999, the SAGE Scholars Program has maintained a 100% matriculation rate for students graduating and securing a career position or moving on to a graduate school program. Internship experience is the key to success for our SAGE Scholars.

Every year, corporate sponsors and donors support the SAGE Scholars Program by providing highly-coveted, paid year-long internships, across all majors, specifically to SAGE Scholars. SAGE interns also receive financial scholarships of up to \$8,000 annually. Some of our sponsors include: The Allergan Foundation, Parker Aerospace, The Tiger Woods Foundation, Kingston Technology, Glitterings and Cintas Corporation.

Visit the SAGE Scholars Program website to learn more about the program and student eligibility requirements:

<http://sagescholars.uci.edu/> 



Thinking Study Abroad is Not for You? **THINK AGAIN**

by Kamilah McGuire, *Transfer Student, UC Irvine*

The idea of attending college is intimidating, yet will be one of the most rewarding decisions of your life. After high school, I carelessly put my education on hold and started a family. I was left to raise a three-month and a one-year-old as a single mother. Being conscious of the fact that my lack of education would limit my opportunities for professional development, I enrolled at a local community college and began to embark on a challenging educational journey. During my first course my professor described his keys to succeeding in college. Sitting in the first three rows of the classroom, communicating with your professor via email and hour offices, and taking advantage of resources offered by the institution were tips I took away from his course. These tips helped me transfer to UC Irvine and explore educational opportunities I never thought were possible, like studying abroad.

Prior to deciding on whether or not to become an Anteater, I attended the Discover UCI workshop. The most compelling moment of the day was the discussion of studying abroad. The panel explained that students have the capability to live overseas for a specified amount time and earn units toward their major. I was intrigued by the idea of going beyond the traditional classroom setting and studying in a foreign country. As a public health policy major, I was introduced to The Bali Institute for Global Renewal Program. This institution offers universities the opportunity to custom design curriculum surrounding service learning programs while immersing students into the Balinese culture. During a workshop, I came to learn about the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship. I applied and was awarded \$5,000 dollars. This paid for three-quarters of the program.

Studying in Bali, Indonesia was an incredible experience. The five-week excursion was loaded with intellectual and action-packed adventures. It was extremely stimulating and allowed me to expand my critical thinking abilities. We worked with local non-governmental organizations, which broadened my perspective on various cultural and health care practices. Furthermore, I gained a new extended family, which expanded my network greater than I ever thought.

Every student should make it a point to travel abroad! Scholarships are available, so do not let finances be your excuse. It is a privilege that I am the first person in my family to study abroad. As an African-American, non-traditional transfer student, I have the opportunity to lead by example and tell others who may have thought their chances to take part in unique experiences had passed them by, that amazing opportunities still await them.

Top five tips for college success:

- 1.** Visit Study Abroad Center
- 2.** Develop an academic Study Abroad plan with a counselor
- 3.** Research scholarship opportunities
- 4.** Research foreign country/language
- 5.** Apply! 🚩



STUDY ABROAD

The act of a student pursuing educational opportunities in a country other than one's own. This can include primary, secondary and post-secondary students.

TRANSFER STUDENT

A student who enrolls in a college after having attended another college.

RESEARCH:

Not Just for Grad Students

by Kimberly Veliz, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical & Materials Science Engineering

I began doing research the summer after my first year as an undergrad at UC Irvine, and ended up on a national research competition on a reality TV show by my senior year.

I first got involved with undergraduate research when a friend introduced me to California Alliance for Minority Partnership (CAMP) at UCI and I became a CAMP summer scholar. CAMP helps connect you to professors that you want to do research with, as well as present your research at conferences. I reached out to Professor Joyce Keyak whose research focused on looking at bone strength in astronauts when they returned from the International Space Station.

During spring of my second year, I joined the Minority Science Program also at UCI, which aims to help underrepresented students prepare for Ph.D. programs. When I joined the program I also joined Professor Luis Mota-Bravo's microbiology lab. There, I looked at antibiotic resistance in bacteria taken from the environment. Through this lab I really learned what it meant to do research, I read a lot (I mean a lot) of research papers, planned my experiments, analyzed data and presented in front of my peers. It was a lot to manage on top of keeping my grades up, but it was so rewarding to look at data that no one else had seen.

While in the process of looking into a biomedical engineering lab, I attended a graduate student panel. At the end of the session, I approached the one biomedical engineering graduate student, Nicole Mendoza. Little did I

know that just a month later she would become my graduate mentor and later my partner and co-founder of Slapband.

That summer, through the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program, funded by the National Institutes of Health, I was able to go to King's College in London for 10 weeks to do research looking at post-mortem Parkinson's disease brain tissue.

When I returned in the fall to Khine's lab, Nicole and I were given the opportunity to apply to a maker competition sponsored by Intel that would appear on reality TV. Our idea was to create a sensitive polymer sensor that could detect blood pressure from your radial artery. The sensor would be incorporated on a wristband that people could wear all day long to get continuous blood pressure measurements. We called it Slapband, and the journey to making a prototype and competing on television was incredible!

The best part of the whole experience was working with the other teams who were so diverse in experience, age, culture and knowledge. We all came together as a community to help and learn from each other. We were given the latest Intel technology, some incredible

Intel mentors, and we even got to participate in UC Berkeley's Startup Accelerator. At first it was distracting and I felt so awkward with cameras everywhere. While doing interviews sometimes I would completely blank out and forget what I had just said because I really couldn't believe what I was experiencing. It was incredibly fun to be on TV, from getting our hair and makeup done to practicing our pitch a million times to optimizing our code, we were exhausted but I don't regret it one bit. 🚩

<https://www.americasgreatestmakers.com/video/team-slapband-pitch/>

GRADUATE STUDENT

A university student, usually already possessing a four year degree, who is working on a master's degree or Ph.D.

UNDERGRADUATE

A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree.



Nicole Mendoza (left) Kimberly Veliz (right)

Helpful Hints To Get You Through Your First Year Successfully



SUMMER 2017

Attend orientation or a summer transition program (e.g., Summer Bridge, Freshman Summer Start Program, Summer Multicultural Leadership Institute)

Carefully review new student handbook

Register for classes

Research your health insurance benefits

If you can, sign up live in the campus residence halls your first year

Move-in Day!

Go to all orientations

If you live on campus, get to know your roommate and others in your residence hall

Check out all of the student support services available to you

Get to know campus recreation opportunities — the gym will help relieve stress



FALL 2017

Familiarize yourself with the university electronic tracking system (e.g., register for classes, grades, financial aid)

Go to class

Develop a time management system (e.g., Google calendar)

Become an expert on deadlines

Find the ideal places to study

Go to professor's office hours

Check out some student clubs/organizations



WINTER 2018

Meet with an academic counselor and make a 4-year plan (2 for transfers)

Participate in study skills & time management workshops

Join a student club/organization

Maintain a good GPA (attend class & study)

Check out the Career Center (develop resumé, find internships or jobs)



SPRING 2018

Consider taking on a leadership position within your student clubs and organizations

Apply for summer internships or employment opportunities

Visit the Study Abroad Office to research the process and requirements to study in another country

Stay on campus as much as possible

See an academic counselor about taking summer school at the university or local community college

Talk to professors about opportunities to assist with research your second year

DESTINATION GRADUATION

going places

powered by **Orange County United Way**

LIVE UNITED



Orange County United Way

LEARN MORE BY VISITING UNITEDWAYOC.ORG/EDUCATION

UCI Center for Educational Partnerships

THE EDGE

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Helpful
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Resources



www.cfep.uci.edu/theedge/online-resources