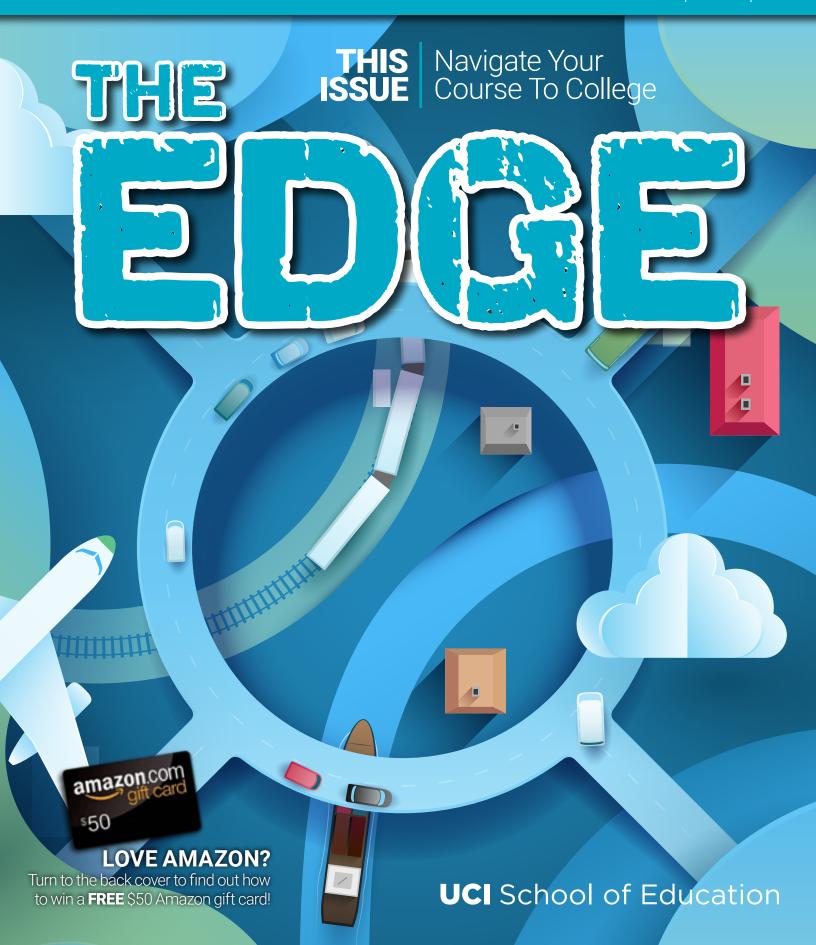


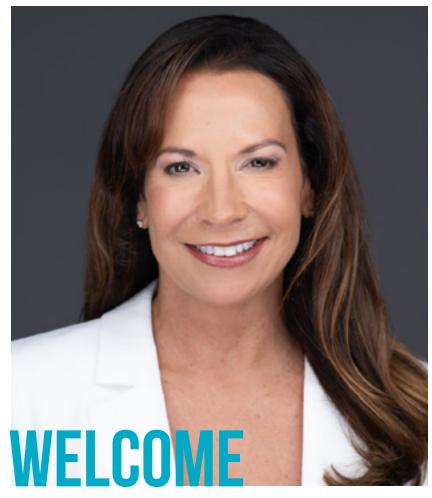
/olume 12 | Issue 1 | 2021



INSIDE:

- 3 Setting the Course to Achieve A-G Success: Getting to Know University Expectations
- 4. Know Your Course: Preparing for College Application Season
- College Application
 Comparison
- Finding the Right College for You
- 7 There is a UC for You
- The Essential Guide for the FAFSA/Dream Application
- **9** Be a Bright Light in Your Personal Insight Questions
- 2021-22 Senior Timeline
- 12 5 Steps to Choosing a Major
- Major Spotlight: Education
 Science School of Education
- College is for Undocumented Students
- Setting the Course to College





Dear student,

As I write this letter to high school seniors, I realize I have a special connection to the class of 2022.

My own daughter is graduating from high school this year and trying to prepare for college applications. I have seen firsthand the challenges you all have faced for much of your high school experience because of the pandemic, and what a momentous time this is for you. The days of high school are coming to a close, and your decisions and choices about college are weighted with so much importance for your future. From someone on the other side, let me tell you what I tell my daughter. Do not lose sight of the most important thing. The choice about which major you pick, which campus, or even which system (private school, UC, CSU, CC) you choose is not as important as the greatest decision you have

to make, whether or not to go to college. If you have made that crucial decision to go to college, you WILL have opportunities and benefits for a better future. The information and resources in THE EDGE will help you make it through this application process and transform yourself from a high school senior to a college freshman, trusting that you will land right where you are supposed to be. I have seen how strong, resilient, and resourceful you have had to be these past few years, and this will serve you well in the next chapter of your life. You can do this! Take it one step at a time, follow the guidance and timeline provided here in THE EDGE, and we'll see you on campus in the Fall.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D. Assistant Vice Chancellor Educational Partnerships, University of California, Irvine

SETTING THE COURSE TO ACHIEVE A-G SUCCESS: GETTING TO KNOW UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

by Kimberly Macias, Senior Admissions Counselor, UC Irvine

Aside from meeting the GPA requirement. there are minimum A-G requirements you need to complete to apply to a UC or CSU. So, take this time to explore topics you are interested in, select courses relative to your major of interest, and choose your coursework intentionally. There are various options for satisfying the A-G requirements. Students are required to fulfill a minimum of 15 college-preparatory courses, 11 of which must be completed by the beginning of their senior year. Since no particular course pattern is required, you have a couple of options for how to fulfill these:

First, ensure that your high school classes are approved and passed with a C or better. Second, if you take any Advanced Placement courses, be sure to submit any test scores of a 3 or better on the AP exam or a 5 or better in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) exams. Other options are taking approved online courses through your school or resources like UC Scout or a community college.

A few pointers to keep in mind:

- The Math and Language
 other than English
 requirements can be fulfilled
 by courses completed with
 a C or better beginning in
 7th and 8th grade.
- Pass (P) or Credit (CR)
 grades earned in Spring,
 Summer, and Fall 2020, as
 well as Spring and Summer
 2021, will meet A-G course
 requirements.
- Important to note that 2 semesters or 1 academic year of high school work is equivalent to 1 semester or quarter of UC units.

It's important to note that just because you meet your high school graduation requirements, that it doesn't mean that your A-G requirements are fulfilled.. Successfully completing the A-G requirements is a huge step toward becoming a strong college applicant, so it is important to plan these courses as early as possible.

A-G REQUIREMENTS			
A History 2 years required	Must include 1 year of World History and 1 year of US History		
B English	Composition and literature in the language of instruction		
C Math	Must include algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra		
Science	Must include 2 years of biology, chemistry, or physics		
E Language other than English	Must complete through second year or higher of the same language		
F Visual and Performing Arts	Yearlong course from dance, drama/theater, music, visual arts, or interdisciplinary arts		
G College Preparatory Elective	1 year/2 semesters in any area beyond those required in A-F or 1 year/2 semesters approved in elective category		



KNOW YOUR COURSE: PREPARING FOR COLLEGE APPLICATION SEASON

by Rodolfo Acosta, Director, GEAR UP, UC Irvine

It's college application season, and if you are a current senior, you are probably in the process of completing yours. Some of you have a detailed plan regarding your school of choice and know exactly where you want to go. Other students, however, may not be too sure and are broadening their options to see what school they will apply to and eventually attend. Whether you know where you want to attend or are still unsure about your future, the list below will help provide some guidance to prepare you for making a decision.

Review your Accomplishments

 Begin here by reviewing your transcripts, making sure you completed specific courses that comply with A-G requirements. This will help you know where you stand. If you planned accordingly starting your freshman year, you should know what A-G requirements you have accomplished, which will broaden the catalog of schools you can apply to. Aside from grades, also reflect on your involvements (this is a critical component for many universities) and any obstacles you have overcome (many of you are now tech experts thanks to distance learning).

Make a List

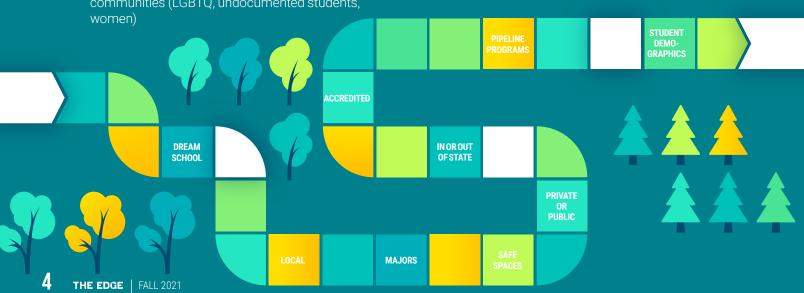
- ▲ Write down a list of 7 to 10 universities that you are interested in applying to and rank them. There are a lot of factors that make up the ranking of this list, so ask vourself:
 - Which college(s) match your dream school?
 - Are you interested in a local school, or are you willing to move out to attend a school that is far away?
 - What are the majors or programs offered at the school?
 - Does the school offer safe spaces for diverse communities (LGBTQ, undocumented students, women)

- Is it a private or public? (some private schools have different funding sources like donors that can offer scholarships)
- Is it in or out of state?
- Is the university accredited? (this is a big deal, especially if you opt to major in a field that will require a credential like nursing or teaching)
- If you are considering community college, are there any pipeline programs that feed directly to a 4-year university?
- If you are considering community college, are there any pipeline programs that feed directly to a 4-year university??
- What are the demographics of the student body?

Research

Research
You are already engaged in active research as you make a list above but continue to look closer into each university. If you have the time and if the school is nearby, visit the campus. If it's not, reach out to student groups. When you go to the university's website, type 'student groups' in the search bar to access information about student life. Universities now offer virtual tours, so you can also take advantage of those.

It doesn't matter whether you are going to a state school, a private university, or a local community college, do your research regarding where you want to attend. Some cities have more than one local community college with different programs that feed into different larger universities. If you need help, reach out to counselors or other school staff that specialize in advising students about college matters. You will spend the next two to five years of your life in this school. Planning ahead will help you decide which school is right for you and maximize your college experience.



COLLEGE APPLICATION COMPARISON

by Veronica Zamora, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

	COMMUNITY COLLEGE	CAL STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE
WEBSITE	<u>cccapply.org</u>	calstate.edu/apply	universityofcalifornia.edu/apply	<u>commonapp.org</u>
COLLEGES	116 Community Colleges	23 CSUs	9 UCs	900 Colleges
APPLICATION FEE	\$0 per campus	\$70 per campus <u>Fee waivers available</u>	\$70 per campus <u>Fee waivers available</u>	\$30 - \$75 per campus <u>Fee waivers available</u>
APPLICATION	Availability varies by campus: 1 application per campus	Available October 1st 1 application for all campuses	Available August 1st 1 application for all campuses	Available August 1st 1 application per campus
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS	18+ years old , high school diploma, GED or equivalent	Complete 15 A-G courses. Earn a grade of "C" or better in A-G courses, High school diploma, GED or equivalent	Complete 15 A-G courses. 11 by the end of 11th grade. Earn a grade of "C" or better in A-G courses, High school diploma, GED or equivalent	Varies by campus, but many colleges will have similar requirements to the UC's and CSUs. Some will require additional courses or exams
MINIMUM GPA Requirement	NONE	2.5 minimum GPA in all A-G classes completed after the 9th grade. If between 2.0-2.49, student may be evaluated for admission based on supplemental factors	3.0 minimum GPA in 10th & 11th A-G classes	GPA requirement varies by college
ENTRANCE EXAMS	NONE	SAT or ACT: Due to COVID-19, exam requirements are temporarily suspended for the 2022-23 application cycle	SAT or ACT with Writing: Due to COVID-19 exam requirements are temporarily suspended for the 2022-23 application cycle	SAT or ACT: Varies by campus. Some will require the exams, some may require and some may not. Review testing policy of the colleges you apply to.
COLLEGE ESSAY	NONE	If student applies to EOP program, short response is required.	Personal Insight Questions	Personal Essay and College-Specific Questions
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	NONE	If student applies to EOP program, 2 letters of recommendation are required.	Some campuses may ask students to complete a supplemental application, which requires letters of recommendation.	Varies by campus, but many colleges will ask for letters of recommendation.
APPLICATION DEADLINES	Deadline for term enrollment varies by campus	Deadline for enrollment varies by campus	November 30	Deadlines vary by type of admissions decision
STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS	Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)	Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)	UC offers a variety of programs and services designed to help students	Programs vary by campus. Research what services you would like at your campus!
COVID-19 CAMPUS Response	https://bit.ly/3gfvY6D	https://bit.ly/2YhKyo5	https://bit.ly/34tdSMj	https://bit.ly/3iUTese

FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU

by Irene Morales, Presentation Team, EAOP, UC Irvine

Your hard work is starting to pay off, and now the time has come for you to decide which universities you will apply to.

There are many factors to consider when determining which universities you will apply to and soon choose to call home.

1. Location/Environment

It is important to consider where your school is located. Acknowledge whether you are comfortable in a rural or urban location. How would you acclimate to their daily or seasonal weather? Is the distance from your home to school suitable for you?

2. Size/Undergraduate Resources

Examine what type of support is readily available to you. Would you have access to the resources necessary for your holistic wellness and personal identities? Examples of resources include academic advisors, health and counseling services, career and professional development, cultural centers, and programs for low-income, first-generation, undocumented, and LGBTQ+ students.

3. Academics

It is crucial that your school offers the major you are interested in studying. However, research if your school also offers the flexibility to change your major (interests can evolve), add a double major or a minor. Take it a step further – review the requirements for your desired major. Research who the professors in that department are and if you would enjoy learning from them. Are you interested in conducting research? Note that research is possible in any field, not just STEM! Recall that the UC is a prestigious research university, where professors regularly bring their cutting-edge research into the classroom and provide students with the opportunity to participate or conduct their own research.

4. Expenses/Total Gift Aid/Net Cost

Thoroughly analyze and compare your financial aid packages. Assess what the cost of attendance is (an estimated total cost of a full academic year that includes mandatory tuition and fees, plus books and supplies and room and board—whether living on campus or commuting from home) and subtract your gift aid (various forms of free money that does not have to be paid back - can include the Pell Grant, Cal Grant, and any additional scholarships). This leaves you with your net cost, a balance you must pay. Your university may offer different non-gift aid options to cover this, which you can earn through work-study (a federal aid program that funds part-time student employment on campus) or requires repayment in the future (loans, don't forget about added interests). See page 8 for more details.

While attending a local community college can initially seem like the most affordable option due to its low cost of attendance, recognize that your net cost may be minimal or even non-existant at a UC due to your need or merit-

Consider whether attending a larger university for four years would permit you a greater amount of time to take advantage of different opportunities versus transferring to one for two years.

5. Campus Activities

Explore the extracurriculars available! Determine if there are campussponsored opportunities or student organizations that align with your various interests, passions, and identities. Examples include associated student government, studying abroad, interning in Washington D.C., or culturally oriented clubs, volunteerbased, or career-related.

When applying to colleges, challenge yourself to think about what matters most about your college experience and go for it! You have already made it this far and should be excited for the course ahead!



THERE IS A UC FOR YOU

by Krandalyn Goodman, Admissions Counselor of Diversity Initiatives, UC Irvine

When we say the UC is a family, we mean it. For several years, the UC system has come together to create our signature event, UC for You. This event provides students and their families a firsthand look at the uniqueness and beauty in the UC system and how to become a member of the UC family. The event is specifically tailored to you! Now you may be thinking, "Krandalyn, how exactly is this event going to help ME?" And the answer is, we are YOU!

All nine UC representatives represent some aspect of you, whether a first-generation student, a student-athlete, an up-and-coming activist, a soon-to-be entrepreneur, the next Beyoncé Knowles, or someone who is still figuring out what makes you, you. No matter who you are, you still deserve a shot to contribute to a world-class education; and UC for You is designed to ensure that you have the tools to obtain it

These tools are the following:

- 1. Admission requirements: In order to qualify for freshman admission, you have to meet both the A-G requirements as well as the minimum GPA requirement. The major update to this is the SAT/ACT tests. These tests are no longer used for admission purposes.
- 2. Selection: Meeting the minimum admission requirements is the key to opening the door, but the ability to walk through is determined by campus selection the way a UC campus selects a student. This process is unique because each campus selects students differently, and campuses consider multiple factors. These factors are known as Comprehensive Review.
- **3. Financial Aid:** The reality is the everyday family is not making Megan Thee Stallion money annually. The UC system recognizes that and works diligently to ensure that the partnership

between parents/students and the UC system is exactly that – a partnership. 75% of UC students are gifted with grants and scholarships system-wide. Other programs such as the Blue & Gold plan are also available to help students afford tuition and the cost of living.

Becoming a resource for you and your family is truly what UC for You is all about. Continue to research the different programs offered at each UC campus. Continue to thrive in your academics and extracurricular activities, and be proactive in reaching out to your counselor about attending any UC admission presentation at your school. Remember, the UC is for YOU, and we welcome you!



THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR THE FAFSA/DREAM APPLICATION

by Paola Sotelo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine



Hey there! Have you been spending time researching the financial aid applications, what documents you need, and what exactly it entails? Well, stop

looking any further! The guide below will break it down for you.

What is financial aid?

Financial aid is funding provided to students to help pay for educational expenses. There are two types of aid:

TYPES OF AID		
GIFT AID	NON-GIFT AID	
Grants	Work Study	
Scholarships	Loans	

Gift Aid: This is money that does not have to be paid back.

Non-Gift Aid: This is money that needs to be paid back with interest, or you need to find a job on campus to be able to receive the money.

There are two financial aid applications, the FAFSA and the CA Dream Act, but you MUST ONLY complete one. Now you must be asking yourself, well, which one do I complete? Take a look to see which application you fall under.

FAFSA: Complete this application if you (the student) are a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or eligible noncitizen.

CA Dream Act Application (CADAA):

Complete this application if you (the student) are undocumented.

Once you understand which application you will be completing, be sure to collect the necessary forms and documents:

W-2 Forms and other 2020 records of income	2020 income tax return(s) if you and your parents have one
Record of child support	Bank statements and records of investments
Untaxed income	FSA ID to sign electronically (strictly for FAFSA)
Social Security Number (if you have one)	Your alien registration number (if you have one)

Before you get started on the application itself, there are some preliminary steps you must take:

If you are completing the FAFSA, you and your parent will each need an FSA ID to sign the application electronically. Undocumented parents will not be able to obtain an FSA ID and will need to print the signature page at the end of the application and mail it to the address on the page. To create an FSA ID, click on the following link: https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch

- ► This ID will enable you to:
 - Sign documents electronically
 - Access your Student Aid Report (SAR) online
 - Make corrections to FAFSA online

▶ Both you and one of your parents must create an FSA ID using separate email addresses. Make sure to use a personal one and NOT your school email.

For help on the FAFSA application, visit their help desk at: https://studentaid.gov/help-center/contact

If you are completing the CA Dream Act Application (CADAA), you DO NOT have to create an FSA ID.

- ► Go to the CA Dream Act Application website: https://dream. csac.ca.gov/register
 - First, create an account
 - Then you can begin filling out the application
- ► Once you submit the application, one of your parents will need to sign up for a PIN
 - This pin will be used to sign and submit your application electronically

If you run into any problems as you work on your financial aid application, just know that you are not alone, and there are people to support you!

For help on the CADAA application, visit their help desk at: https://www.csac.ca.gov/contact-us

Regardless of how much money your parents make or don't make, be sure to submit a financial aid application to see how much FREE money you could receive. Lastly, don't forget that the financial aid application window is from **October 1, 2021 – March 2, 2022**. So

submit as soon as possible!

BE A BRIGHT LIGHT IN YOUR PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

by Julie Lindo, Assistant Director, Upward Bound, UC Irvine

The Personal Insight Questions (PIQs) allow admission officers to learn about you from different

perspectives. Each guestion has ties to one or more of the UCs 13 comprehensive review factors. Be sure to select the four prompts that will best showcase you as an individual, provide new information, and clarify details of your accomplishments.

Each question is centered around a theme. Themes include leadership, creativity, talents/skills, educational opportunities, significant challenges, academic interests, community, and what makes you stand out. Consider the most important themes, and then select the questions you want to answer. Any of the four questions you select to answer will have equal value on your overall UC application. This is your opportunity to tell your story, give yourself recognition for your hard work, and demonstrate what makes you a unique applicant.

When writing, consider your answers as interview responses; your authenticity and truth need to be reflected. You can begin by asking yourself the following questions:

- ▶ What information do I want the interviewer to know about me?
- ► How is my response relevant to the student I am today?
- ▶ Did I answer all parts of the question?

The admission officers are not looking for the "one" correct answer, but instead, they want insight into who you are and what you have been capable of accomplishing. Make sure to give clear and direct examples. Adding poems, lyrics, quotes, or other writing will deduct writing space from your response and can create a distraction for the reader. Your responses will not only enhance your application by showcasing your accomplishments but by giving insight into who you are as a person and what potential contributions you will bring to the UC campus.

It is important to note that these responses are not essays, and they need to be in your voice. We recommend that responses be between 250-350 words. Anything below 250 words will lack substance and often leave the admission officers with more questions than answers. Many resources are available online, but make sure you research UCOP and individual UC campuses websites for more tips and suggestions.



Personal Insight Questions

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-afreshman/personal-insight-questions.html

13 Factors for Comprehensive Review

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-afreshman/how-applications-are-reviewed.html

2021-22 SENIOR TIMELINE by Erick Espino, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine **OCTOBER** October 1: CA Dream Act and FAFSA applications open! **DECEMBER FEBRUARY** October 1: CSU Application Make sure to send your official Visit colleges you test scores for SAT/ACT, applied to, whether it October 1: Filing period for if taken, or required, to the be in person or virtually, Cal Grant GPA Verification institution you are applying to. so you are ready to Form submission begins. make a decision when Continue searching and Visit potential campuses and admission letters start applying for available scholarships! participate in college fairs. coming in next month! NOV OCT DEC **NOVEMBER JANUARY** Ask your counselor November 1 - 30: Filing Period for UC Application. about your Cal Grant GPA Verification Form and make November 30: UC sure it gets sent. applications due! CSU Application deadlines vary by campus, check campus website for due dates. * * *

APRIL

- Visit Campus Open Houses and start finalizing your decision about which campus you will attend in the fall. Virtual visit options may be available.
- Maintain academic GPA; Remember, you must pass all courses with a "C" or better in your remaining school terms to keep your admissions to all universities.
- UC applicants: Report schedule changes and any grades lower than a "C" to schools that gave you an admission offer.
- Incoming UC freshmen to Berkeley, Merced, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Riverside who have NOT met the Entry Level Writing Requirement by April 1st must take the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) test. All other UC campuses have campusspecific alternative methods to fulfill this requirement. Keep checking your email!

JUNE

- Request and send official transcripts from your high school registrar and make sure they are sent to the university you plan to enroll in, the deadline is July 1st, 2022.
- Be sure to complete any items on your institution's portal to-do list.



MAR •

APR

MAY







MARCH

- March 1: You are almost there!
 Notification of Fall 2022 admission
 decisions begins. Keep an eye
 on your email and postal mail for
 acceptance letters; Be patient, it
 may take time for them to get to
 you!
- March 2: California Dream Act and FAFSA Application DUE for priority consideration of financial aid!
- March 2: Deadline to submit Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to be eligible for Cal Grants.
- March 31: Notification of Fall 2022 admission decisions for UC freshman applicants is complete.

MAY

May 1: Deadline for admitted freshmen to submit Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to UC/CSU campuses.

This is your LAST CHANCE to submit your final selection to attend one campus.

Many on-campus housing applications are also due around this time. Check with your individual campus.

Reminder for AP Exams: Make sure to take the AP exams listed on your college applications.

July

- July 1: Deadline to submit final, official transcripts to UC campuses.
- July 15: Deadline to submit official AP, IB exam results to UC campus admissions office. Test scores must be postmarked or electronically submitted on or before July 15.



5 STEPS TO CHOOSING A MAJOR

by Jody Cajudo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

To receive a degree or certificate from a college or university, a student must declare a major

first. A major is a specific area of study a student chooses to focus their course of study on. We recognize that selecting a major is not always a simple decision, so we encourage you to use the following steps to select a major that is right for you.

The more you understand yourself, the more you can identify your life goals and ways to achieve them. Complete assessments and connect with a trusted adult, teacher, or counselor to reflect on your assessment results and understand what it means to you. Consider taking any of these helpful assessments, Myers-Briggs & 16 Personalities, Value Sort, or CliftonStrengths. These assessments are made to help you discover things you could be interested in that you may have never thought of.

GATHER INFORMATION AND EXPLORE OPTIONS

Research majors at different universities and make a list of your interests. You can also work backwards! Explore job descriptions of careers that interest you and see what majors are most common within the field. We encourage you to discuss possible majors of interest with your counselor, a teacher, a mentor, or an academic advisor from programs such as the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP). EAOP and other support programs can assist you in finding and learning from each institution's College Scorecard.

EVALUATE AND MAKE YOUR MAJOR DECISION

Put together the information you have collected and learned, narrow your list to two or three majors. Then, meet with an academic counselor who can help you evaluate the information.

STEP TAKE **ACTION**

Choosing a major requires you to be proactive! Select student activities, internships, volunteer work, and/or part-time employment that can help you further develop skills in the areas that interest you. Talk to people who work in the career fields you are considering and see if there are any opportunities they would recommend that you get involved with.

APPLY FOR YOUR MAJOR

You will be prompted to select a major on your college application. Keep in mind that many students end up changing their major during their time in college. If you are unsure about your major, it is okay to select "undeclared" or "undecided" on your college application and declare your major when you are a college student. This gives you a chance to take some time and explore. Once you decide and are admitted to the major, you are encouraged to meet with an advisor in your department at least two times a year to remain on track to complete your degree.

MAJOR SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION SCIENCE - SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

by Janice Hansen, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate Programs, School of Education, UC Irvine and Drew Bailey, Associate Professor and Faculty Director of Undergraduate Programs, School of Education, UC Irvine

When most people think of education, they picture something like fourth-grader learning to add fractions in a classroom, which is a very important process. But there is so much more to the field!

At UCI, the Education Sciences major promotes the study of education as an academic discipline. The major focuses on five key concepts: **Learning**, **Teaching**, **Schools as Organizations**,

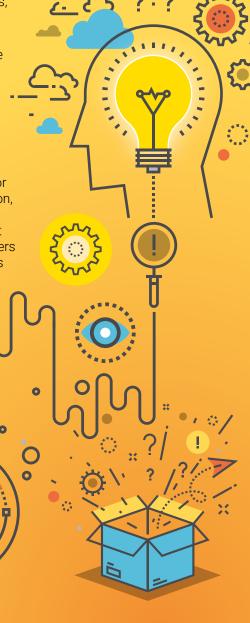
Teaching, Schools as Organizations, Social Structures and Stratification, and Policymaking.

Students engage in an interdisciplinary exploration of the field of education that extends beyond classroom teaching and learning. For example, not only do Education Science majors learn best practices for teaching a fourth grader how to add fractions but, they also explore how and why policymakers decide what fourth-graders should learn about fractions. Education science students also learn how the curriculum was designed and chosen, along with what other things are going on in the student's life and the social structures that create barriers or opportunities for learning. Students who major in Education Sciences can then look beyond the classroom to think about how a child might learn fractions from school, through video games, an online app, or in a real-world context like cooking brownies.

In addition to learning about the core concepts in their courses, Education Sciences majors also participate in fieldwork related to their interests. For example, some majors work in research labs, gathering and analyzing data or

exploring new technologies. Others work in community outreach or tutoring centers. A few have worked with local lawmakers, listening and responding to constituent concerns about education. And many do work in schools; some even teach fourth graders how to add fractions! Fieldwork gives Education Sciences majors a chance to see education in action, identify problems, and be part of solutions.

A Bachelors in Education Sciences will give you the skills and confidence that you need to find out and decide for yourself what the newest, best educational research has to say about the most effective ways to improve student's learning and their lives, maybe from the classroom, or from the community, or from the boardroom, or the policy think tank, or from congressional offices. In addition, education Sciences graduates can have productive conversations about education with all kinds of stakeholders in the education system, which in this country means just about anyone!



COLLEGE IS FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

by Liliana Vazquez, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

undocumented student can be challenging, but not impossible. Before deciding on what colleges to apply to, make sure to do some research and explore the resources available to students. For example, students attending a UC or CSU are eligible to receive FREE legal and/or immigration services through their school's undocumented student or DREAM center. They can provide access to an attorney for assistance with filling out applications such as DACA and DACA renewals

or consultation on legal rights and

protections at no cost. The resources and services that each campus provides

for undocumented students vary so

make sure to do your research!

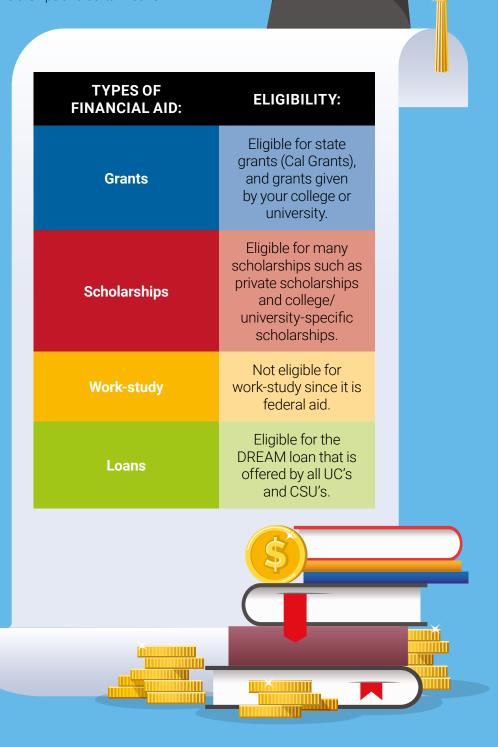
Going to college as an

Money is another factor that can be scary when thinking about college. As an undocumented student myself, I was afraid that I would have to pay thousands of dollars every year just to attend school. However, that is not always the case. I applied for financial aid by submitting my California Dream Act application and they gave me enough money to cover my four years of college. It covered all of my school expenses and I even received money back to help pay for books and my housing. In addition to financial aid, I also worked throughout my four years of college to cover additional costs such as gas, phone bill, utilities, and other personal expenses. It was difficult to balance work and school at the same time, but I was able to graduate from college without any loans.

For students that don't have DACA or a social security number like I did, you can apply for on-campus jobs at various resource centers or other on-campus locations. You can also apply for paid fellowships or internships at your school or off-campus locations. These

opportunities do not usually require a social security number. This is also a good way to gain experience and have an extra source of income while in school

In the state of California, undocumented students qualify for state financial aid by filling out the DREAM Act. This includes grants, scholarships and certain loans.



SETTING THE COURSE TO COLLEGE: WORKING WITH THE ADULTS IN YOUR LIFE

by Betty Isa, Co-Director, California Reading & Literature Programs, UC Irvine



The college process can be stressful, but it doesn't need to be; there are ways to make it more manageable. As a first-generation college student, my parents were unfamiliar with the entire process of how to identify colleges of interest, how to apply for admission, and how to pay for it. Fortunately, I had outreach programs such as the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) and a fantastic college counselor who helped students like me through the process.

Here are some ways my parents supported me:

- **1.** They trusted me to research and identify which colleges might be a good fit for me.
- **2.** They supplied the information needed to complete my financial aid application (FAFSA or Dream) on time.
- **3.** They loved me unconditionally, supported my college choice, and let me go! My parents couldn't afford much, but they helped me figure out how to get the monetary support that my financial aid package indicated I needed and encouraged me to reach out to the financial aid office.

STUDENTS:

- **1. Communication** be willing to share your goals, thoughts, feelings parents or guardians can help more when they know more don't be afraid to ask for help (from parents or other adults in your life).
- **2. Organization** keep your important documents and files organized, use checklists or timelines that work best for you, and whenever possible, don't wait until the last minute to complete a task or meet a deadline.
- **3. Determination** you've got this! Create options for yourself and accept them all as strong viable paths to reach your goals. Be sure to share the next article with your parents so that they can learn more about how best to support you.

HELPING YOUR STUDENT SET THEIR COURSE TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

As a parent or guardian, these reminders can help keep things in perspective, and although the experience will be different for every family, perhaps a reminder or two will help make the process more manageable – possibly even enjoyable for you and your student!

PARENTS:

- **1.** Encourage your student to seek help and utilize different resources; *THE EDGE* magazine is an excellent start:
 - ► Seek guidance from teachers and counselors.
 - Attend college information sessions or college fairs (virtual or in-person).
 - ▶ Join university outreach programs designed to support students through the process.
 - ► Take time to visit colleges (virtual tours are a good option) to help your student identify the schools that best fit his/her interests.
- 2. Remember, it's your student's college education and not yours trust that they have the ability to create their path (even if it takes a few detours) there is not one right or wrong way but many paths that will help them reach their goals.
- **3.** Be patient, listen, and provide words of encouragement and lots of love to your student.









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Editors:

Ashley Cheri, Ed.D., *Director, EAOP, UC Irvine*Cesar Becerra, *Executive Assistant, Center for Educational Partnerships, UC Irvine*Erick Espino, *Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine*

Contributors:

Kimberly Macias, Senior Admissions Counselor, UC Irvine

Rodolfo Acosta, Ph.D., Director, GEAR UP, UC Irvine

Veronica Zamora, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Irene Morales, Presentation Team, EAOP, UC Irvine

Krandalyn Goodman, Admissions Counselor of Diversity Initiatives, UC Irvine

Paola Sotelo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Julie Lindo, Assistant Director, Upward Bound, UC Irvine

Erick Espino, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Jody Cajudo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Janice Hansen, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate Programs, School of Education, UC Irvine

Drew Bailey, Associate Professor and Faculty Director of

Undergraduate Programs, School of Education, UC Irvine

Liliana Vazquez, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Betty Isa, Co-Director, California Reading & Literature Programs, UC Irvine

Publication by:

University of California, Irvine | Center for Educational Partnerships | School of Education Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor, Educational Partnerships, UC Irvine Santana Ruiz, M.Ed., Deputy Director, Center for Educational Partnerships, UC Irvine

UCI School of Education



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