

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of light blue lines and small circles, resembling a circuit board or a neural network, extending from the top to the bottom of the frame.

HOW TO STRATEGIZE CHOOSING A MAJOR

SCHOLARS PROGRAM WORKSHOP / FALL 2026



CAN I APPLY FOR TRANSFER AS AN “UNDECIDED” MAJOR?

Transfer students who apply to UCLA **must apply to a major**, and cannot apply as “undecided.”

Junior transfer applicants are expected to have completed **lower division major preparation** at the community college to prepare for upper division coursework at the university and move more smoothly towards graduation. www.assist.org

Applicants can list TWO majors on the UC application, but UCLA Undergraduate Admissions office will only review students for the second (alternate) major if they are a **Scholars TAP certified** student.



WHAT ARE MINIMUM ADMISSIONS FACTORS FOR UCLA?

- ❑ Junior-level standing (**60 semester**/90 quarter UC transferable units completed) by the end of the spring term before you transfer.
- ❑ UC transferable GPA of **2.4** or higher.
- ❑ **Completion of major preparation requirements by the end of spring prior to transfer.** *FALL semester for selective majors

Completion of the “Silver 7” by the end of spring prior to transfer:

- ❑ **Two (2)** transferable courses in **English composition/ critical thinking** and writing
- ❑ **One (1) transferable math** course with a prerequisite of intermediate algebra or higher
- ❑ **Four (4)** transferable college courses in at least **two of the following subject areas:** arts and humanities, social and behavioral sciences, physical and biological sciences



WHAT PERSONAL FACTORS DOES UCLA CONSIDER FOR ADMISSION?

- ☐ Employment while attending school
- ☐ Involvement in campus organizations and community service
- ☐ Family and/or personal responsibilities
- ☐ Significant improvement in academics over time (trends)
- ☐ Military service
- ☐ Other opportunities or challenges that may have shaped your educational experience(s)

Three Main Components of UC Application:

- 1. Academic History** (accuracy)
- 2. Activities and Awards** (involvement/responsibilities outside the classroom)
- 3. Personal Insight Questions** (authenticity)

HOW IMPORTANT IS MAJOR PREP COMPLETION?

<https://assist.org/>

Major prep completion is a key part of the admissions review. Complete major prerequisites as early as possible.

It is strongly recommended you complete major preparation for highly selective majors such as Business Economics, Economics, Communication, and Psychology by the fall term prior to transferring. Major Prep requirements must be completed with a **letter grade**.

UC Timeline: Most UC campuses require students to apply a year before they transfer.

Example:

- Goal is to start at UCLA Fall 2028
- Apply between October 1st - November 30th, 2027
- Last semester at SMC is Spring 2028



WHAT ARE MY PRIMARY MAJOR OPTIONS FOR UCLA WITH TAP?

<https://admission.ucla.edu/apply/majors>

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

New Programs

Majors

- Digital Humanities
- Arts & Architecture (BA)
 - Computational Art
 - Design
 - Games

Minors

- Health Humanities
- Real Estate
- Sports Leadership & Mgmt

 Removed: Biophysics, Design & Media Arts



The College
(former College of Letters and Science)



School of the Arts and Architecture



Samueli School of Engineering



Herb Albert School of Music



School of Theater, Film, and Television



School of Nursing



Luskin School of Public Affairs



School of Education



Fielding School of Public Health



WHAT IS A MINOR?

<https://admission.ucla.edu/apply/minors>

Don't forget about Minor programs! Besides majors, there are ways to study other fields of interest and highlight them on your degrees and resumes.

A **minor is an optional secondary specialization.**

- Requires significantly fewer units/classes than a major
- Broadens your education in another field that connects with your major
- Allows you to explore a hobby or a complementary field to your major (e.g., majoring in Business with a minor in Spanish, or an Education minor if you want a teaching career)
- Helps you stand out when applying for jobs or graduate/professional school

What is a selective major?

Majors that are selective receive more qualified applicants than spaces available. Therefore, the more prepared students are for the major, the more competitive they will be.

A selective major may strongly recommend/require additional criteria and preparation. This may include courses, specific letter grades in courses, and GPA requirements.

HIGHLY SELECTIVE MAJORS VS ALTERNATIVE MAJORS

Some majors at UCLA are significantly more selective than others, but there are multiple pathways to achieving your academic goals.

"Impacted" majors at the California State Universities (CSU).

MOST APPLIED TO MAJORS	APPS	ADMIT RATE	OTHER MAJOR OPTIONS	RELATED MINOR
BUSINESS ECONOMICS	3068	11% 	- FINANCIAL ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS - INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	Entrepreneurship
PSYCHOLOGY	2309	22% 	- COGNITIVE SCIENCE - LINGUISTICS AND PSYCHOLOGY	Applied Developmental Psychology
COMPUTER SCIENCE	1846	4% 	- DATA THEORY - LINGUISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE	Data Science Engineering
SOCIOLOGY	1189	42% 	- CHICANA AND CHICANO STUDIES - AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES	LGBTQ Studies
POLITICAL SCIENCE	1341	39% 	- HISTORY - PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Labor Studies
ECONOMICS	1341	18% 	- MATHEMATICS/ECONOMICS - PUBLIC AFFAIRS	Accounting
BIOLOGY	1109	20% 	- COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY - MOLECULAR, CELL AND DEV. BIOLOGY	Biomedical Research
COMMUNICATION	1139	12% 	- LINGUISTICS - COMPARATIVE LITERATURE	Digital Humanities
FILM AND TELEVISION	632	2% 	- ENGLISH - ANTHROPOLOGY B.A.	Film, Television and Digital Media
ENGLISH	579	57% 	- AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE - LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH	Creative Writing



WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS?

- **Biology alternatives:** Microbiology, Physiological Science, Neuroscience, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology, Ecology, Behavior and Evolution, Physical Sciences and Natural Resources (Chemistry or Biochemistry), Anthropology BS
- **Computer Science alternatives:** Data Theory, Statistics and Data Science, Mathematics, Linguistics and Computer Science, Cognitive Science
- **Business alternatives:** Economics, Financial Actuarial Math, Global Studies, Political Science, Economics, International Development Studies
- **Political Science alternatives:** Public Affairs, Philosophy, English, History, Sociology
- **Psychology/Sociology alternatives:** Gender Studies, Anthropology BA, Geography, Labor Studies, Cultural/Ethnic Studies majors



WHAT ARE MY ALTERNATE MAJOR OPTIONS FOR UCLA WITH TAP?

<https://admission.ucla.edu/apply/transfer/ucla-transfer-alliance-program>

The following majors are restricted from consideration as an alternate major:

- Biology
- Pre-Business Economics
- Communication
- Pre-Economics
- Pre-Education and Social Transformation
- Pre-Global Studies
- Human biology and Society (B.A. and B.S.)
- Pre-Mathematics/Economics
- Financial actuarial mathematics
- Pre-Political Science
- Pre-Psychology
- Pre-Public Health (B.A. and B.S.)
- Pre-Sociology
- Pre-Statistics and Data Science

Preparation for the Major

Complete three courses as follows:

Sociology

Complete the following two courses:

[SOCIOL 1 - Introductory Sociology](#)

[SOCIOL 20 - Introduction to Sociological Research Methods](#)

Political Science or Statistics

Select one course from:

[POL SCI 6 - Introduction to Data Analysis](#)

[STATS 10 - Introduction to Statistical Reasoning](#)

[STATS 13 - Introduction to Statistical Methods for Life and Health Sciences](#)

The Major

Complete 11 upper-division courses as follows. Students should complete course 101 and the core courses before taking other upper-division courses.

Theory

Complete the following two courses:

Methods

Select one course from:

Core Areas

Select one course from each of the following core areas:

Upper-Division Sociology Electives

Complete any five upper-division sociology elective courses.

LOWER DIVISION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

1 Complete the following

A	SOCIOL 1 Introductory Sociology 5.00	←	SOCIOL 1 Introduction to Sociology 3.00
			OR
			SOCIOL 1S Introduction to Sociology-Service Learning 3.00
	SOCIOL 20 Introduction to Sociological Research Methods 5.00	←	SOCIOL 4 Social Analysis 3.00

MATHEMATICS COURSES

2 Complete 1 course from A

A	POL SCI 6 Introduction to Data Analysis 5.00	←	No Course Articulated
	STATS 10 Introduction to Statistical Reasoning 5.00	←	STAT C1000 Introduction to Statistics 4.00
	STATS 13 Introduction to Statistical Methods for Life and Health Sciences 5.00	←	STAT C1000 Introduction to Statistics 4.00
	L Acceptable substitute		
	Introductory Statistics Courses	←	STAT C1000 Introduction to Statistics 4.00

New **2026-2027 Assist agreements** will go live THIS MONTH. Important to always check changes to major prep every year (example: Psychology)

<https://catalog.registrar.ucla.edu/major/2026/SociologyBA?year=2026>



CAN I DOUBLE MAJOR?

A **double major** is when a student completes the requirements for two different fields of study while earning a single bachelor's degree.

Double Majors are requested **AFTER** transfer, not on your transfer application.

Students may not add these majors as a second major once enrolled at UCLA:

- Business Economics
- Economics
- Cognitive Science
- Psychology
- Life Sciences
 - Biology
 - Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution
 - Human Biology and Society (B.A. and B.S.)
 - Marine Biology
 - Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
 - Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
 - Neuroscience
 - Physiological Science
 - Psychobiology



DO I NEED A SPECIFIC MAJOR FOR MY CAREER OR GRADUATE SCHOOL?

If you think your undergraduate major will determine your future career, think again!

- Most undergraduate majors are broad and theoretical, providing you with the keys to unlock any number of career paths, including higher education opportunities.
- Medical Schools, Law Schools, and Business Schools admit students from a wide variety of undergraduate majors. These schools usually have other requirements, entrance exams, and/or interviews that you can prepare for regardless of your undergraduate major.
- Only 57% of students who enrolled in medical school in 2025 majored in biological sciences.* Law and business schools, as well, give little or no preference to specific undergraduate majors.
- UCLA offers more than 140 undergraduate majors
- Approximately 75% of the workforce hold Bachelor's degrees that are unrelated to their current career.
- Explore those subjects that interest you most. You'll probably enjoy the coursework and earn higher grades, which will ultimately provide you with a more competitive record for graduate school and employment.
- **Transfer admission at UCLA is *mostly* dependent on the successful completion of major prep coursework and a competitive GPA.**



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON A MAJOR?

- The liberal arts degrees you'll find at UCLA are not geared toward particular careers. With any of those majors, you'll gain fundamental and marketable skills in critical thinking, writing, problem solving and communication that are valued by employers in every field.
- Consider majors that are intellectually rewarding to you, regardless of whether you think they are the "right" majors for your graduate studies or future career goals. You can also supplement your major with one or more minors, as well as electives, in other subjects that might interest you.
- Don't ignore outside influences like your family or community, but make sure you have your own reasons for choosing a specific major. And remember, there are multiple pathways to achieving your future goals.
- Explore the characteristics (values and opportunities) and requirements of the various departments (upper division coursework) and majors you're considering, keeping in mind your optimal learning style (lectures vs. seminars vs. labs, etc.).

UC TRANSFER BY MAJOR

UC transfers by major tool

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OF
CALIFORNIA

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Home > About us > Information center > Transfers by major

Transfers by major

By major name By federal CIP category By community college

Fall term transfer applications by major

Search for major name

Compare selection to campus overall



Mouse over "Broad discipline" or "College/School", then click the minus or plus to collapse or expand. Click on a category to select it. The GPA range represents the middle half of admits and enrollees (the 25th to 75th percentile).

Totals may not add up because majors with fewer than 5 applicants or fewer than 3 admits or enrollees are masked (not shown).

Campus: UCB Fall term: 2022

Compare selected broad discipline across campuses (ignores college/school)

Broad discipline: All

Campus	Applicants	Admits	Enrolls	Admit GPA range	Enroll GPA range	Admit rate	Yield rate
UCB	19,371	4,573	2,670	3.62 - 3.96	3.58 - 3.95	24%	58%
UCD	15,533	9,045	2,614	3.44 - 3.89	3.32 - 3.80	58%	29%
UCI	22,815	9,142	2,579	3.69 - 3.93	3.53 - 3.89	40%	26%
UCLA	24,943	8,961	3,645	3.74 - 4.00	3.73 - 4.00	24%	61%
UCM	4,226	2,555	213	3.15 - 3.75	2.55 - 3.54	64%	6%
UCR	12,937	7,877	1,461	3.17 - 3.88	2.98 - 3.64	61%	16%
UCSD	19,734	11,436	3,009	3.45 - 3.91	3.33 - 3.64	58%	27%
UCSB	17,636	10,245	2,099	3.48 - 3.92	3.33 - 3.61	58%	20%
UCSC	11,719	7,099	1,212	3.20 - 3.82	3.02 - 3.70	61%	17%

Broad discipline	College/School	Major name	Applicants	Admits	Enrolls	Admit GPA range	Enroll GPA range	Admit rate	Yield rate
Agriculture & Natural Resources	College Of Letters & science	Environmental earth science	29	9	6	3.35 - 3.70	3.39 - 3.66	31%	67%
		Environmental economics & policy	102	34	31	3.57 - 4.00	3.58 - 4.00	33%	91%
		Geography	40	26	19	3.61 - 3.94	3.56 - 3.93	65%	73%
	College Of Natural resources	Conservation & resource studies	40	22	15	3.44 - 3.90	3.46 - 3.89	55%	60%
		Ecosystem management and forestry - forestry	12	5	4	3.59 - 3.94	masked	42%	80%
		Ecosystem management and forestry - nature	21	5	4	3.28 - 3.68	masked	24%	80%
		Environmental economics & policy	52	30	24	3.55 - 3.92	3.69 - 3.92	58%	80%
		Environmental science	145	34	11	3.46 - 3.63	3.49 - 3.74	23%	32%
		Society and environment	77	17	15	3.65 - 3.94	3.45 - 3.93	22%	88%
		Architecture	247	49	40	3.75 - 3.94	3.73 - 3.91	20%	82%
	College Of Environmental design	Architecture	247	49	40	3.75 - 3.94	3.73 - 3.91	20%	82%
Architecture & Environ...	College Of Environmental design	Architecture	247	49	40	3.75 - 3.94	3.73 - 3.91	20%	82%

Source: <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/transfers-major>

Visit the tool here:



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California
Community
Colleges

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-uc/information-center/transfers-major>



HOW CAN I MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ON MY MAJOR?

- Be strategic! Explore the UCLA Transfer Profile:
 - <https://admission.ucla.edu/apply/transfer/transfer-profile/2025>
 - Newer majors – Disability Studies B.A., Digital Humanities B.A., Statistics and Data Science B.S., Education and Social Transformation B.A., Public Health B.A. / B.S.
- Meet with your Scholars counselor at least once per semester, to ensure you are staying on track!
- Meet with UC/CSU reps when they come to SMC www.smc.edu/transfer
- Meet with a Career Counselor early! www.smc.edu/careercenter or consider enrolling in COUNS 12 – Exploring Careers and College Majors (Scholars section).
- Consider alternate major carefully and strategically
- Research lower division AND upper division coursework
- Pre-Professional Advisement Sheets: Pre-Med, Pre-Law, Pre-Dental, etc. www.smc.edu/transfer > Areas of Study/Articulation > Pre-Professional Advisement Guide Sheets
- Beyond the major: Study abroad programs, internships, job shadowing, employment, volunteering/community service, student clubs/organizations, etc.