

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

### INSTRUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR FALL 2020 ADMISSION

- Respond to a total of 4 Personal Insight Question.
- There is one question that ALL Transfer students must answer (See Required Question below).
- You must also answer 3 out of 7 additional questions.
- It is your choice which 3 additional questions to answer.
- Responses to each question should be between 250 and 350 words.
- All answered questions are weighted equally; there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.

### **REQUIRED QUESTION (all transfer applicants must answer this question)**

- Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS (all applicants must also answer 3 out of the following 7 questions)**

- Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolved disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.
- 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.
- What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?
- Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced.
- 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?
- What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?
- Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admission to the University of California?

### **ADDITIONAL WEB RESOURCES**

- <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/applying-as-a-transfer/personal-insight-questions.html>
- <http://admissions.berkeley.edu/personalstatement>

## **TIPS AND TECHNIQUES**

### **Start Early.**

Allow time for reflection, thoughtful preparation, and revision.

### **Choose A Topic For Each Essay.**

Look critically at the information in your application: your grades, awards, activities and work experience, family and income. Anticipate questions an admissions evaluator will have after reading your application. The personal insight responses are your opportunity to answer those questions.

### **Compose Your Personal Insight Responses In A Word-Processing Program.**

Don't type your responses directly into the application. This way, you will have the opportunity to print copies for review.

### **Write In A Natural Style and Don't Try To Be Wildly Funny**

Present your information and ideas in a focused, thoughtful and meaningful manner. Support your ideas with specific examples. A response that is simply a list of qualities or accomplishments is usually not persuasive. Show, don't tell. Explain, don't whine!

### **Proofread And Edit.**

In addition to checking your spelling, be sure your grammar is correct and your responses read smoothly. Treat this as a "personal manifesto" you would be proud to have published in *The New York Times*.

### **Avoid Clichés And Trite Statements**

"I want to be a doctor so I can help people." or "Going to college was a struggle for me." are trite statements. It is better to describe a personal experience where you helped people. Your "struggle" can be described by the balancing act you have between work family obligations and/or health issues.

### **Solicit Feedback.**

Your personal insight responses should reflect your own ideas and be written by you alone, but others--family and teachers--can offer valuable suggestions.

### **Copy And Paste.**

Once you are satisfied with your responses, save them in plain text and paste them into the space provided in the application. Proofread once more to make sure no odd characters or line breaks have appeared. (If you submit a paper application, attach a copy of your personal insight responses. In the upper right corner of each page, write your name and date of birth, and the words "Personal Insight Response.")

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Because the University is interested in knowing about your or a family member's military service, you may wish to use the insight questions to communicate the following:

1. Describe how your military service has been instrumental in developing your educational plans.
2. Indicate if you are entitled to educational benefits as a result of your own military service or the service-connected death or disability of a parent or spouse.
3. Indicate if you are affiliated with the military, such as but not limited to the spouse or dependent of someone who is on active duty or a current participant in an ROTC-type program.