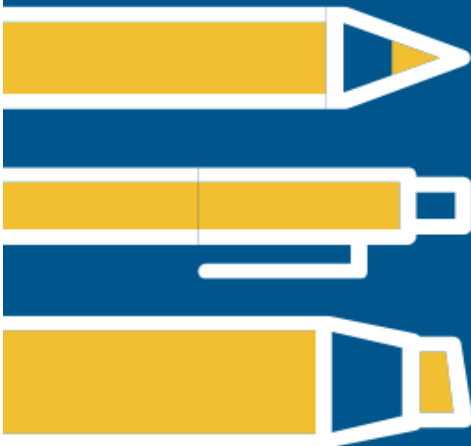




# GUIDE TO THRIVE

for first generation and first year students



# WHO ARE WE?

## STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

### OUR MISSION

Housed within the Division of Undergraduate Education, Student Success Initiatives (SSI) aims to provide students the personal, academic, and professional support and development to thrive and succeed at UCI and beyond. SSI is a learning community that empowers students to be productive and engaged in their academic careers and personal endeavors. SSI is dedicated to serving and assisting with the transitions of low-income students, first-generation students, international students, undocumented students, former foster youth, transfer students, adult-learners, students with dependents, and students with disabilities.

Student Success Initiatives is committed to:

- Supporting students with their successful college transitions
- Increasing student awareness of the skills needed to be successful at the university
- Increasing student academic and social self-confidence
- Informing students of campus resources





# Welcome Anteaters!

You've made it! You are about to embark on one of the greatest adventures here at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). It is normal if you're experiencing feelings like being nervous, anxious, excited, and eager about this new unknown. Don't worry! These are the emotions that will help shape this new experience.

Every Anteater comes to college with hopes, dreams, and expectations for themselves, from their families, and from their communities. This is universal for all students whether you are the first in your family to go to college or not. However, there is something special yet challenging being the first in your family to go to college. It is a journey marked by resilience, determination, challenges, and triumphs.

Throughout the following pages, you will find information about how UCI works and what to expect on campus. You will learn important terms, critical resources, and academic policies and procedures to help you navigate your first year at UCI.

## First Generation College Student

When the University of California, Irvine, uses the word first generation college student, we are referring to any student on campus whose parent(s) do not have a four-year college degree. UCI welcomes a diverse community of students from all over California, the United States, and the world.

Being the "first" means that you are creating a pathway and a legacy of higher education in your family that will strengthen future generations. You will make a difference to those who follow you, whether it be siblings, friends, or your own children. You will be a leader because you are first!

You are now part of a family on campus of students, staff, and faculty that are dedicated to seeing you thrive and ensuring your success.

# TERMS TO KNOW

## A

**Academic Advisor:** At the time of admission to UCI, every undergraduate student is assigned to the school or program that offers the student's selected major. Students who have indicated "Undecided/Undeclared" as a major on their UC Application for Admission receive assistance from Undergraduate/Undeclared Advising in the Division of Undergraduate Education, until they select an academic major. Your advisor is the person who helps you make decisions about courses you need to take to graduate, refers you to help on campus when you need it, answers your questions about college, and explains University policies. Advisors are there to guide you through the curriculum and help you understand how to make the best course choices.

**Academic Calendar:** The Academic Calendar is a list of important dates for the school year including Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer quarter dates. Here is where you will find drop/add dates, holidays and breaks, withdrawal deadline, waitlist release dates and exam dates. It can be found on the Registrar's website.

**Academic Holds:** Academic or administrative departments may place an academic hold on a student's record which will restrict the student from performing certain actions until the hold is resolved and removed. Depending on the type of hold, this may prevent the student from receiving an enrollment window, enrolling in courses, paying tuition and fees, ordering transcripts and verifications, etc. The following table lists the different hold types and the restrictions they impose.

Hold Type	Description
1	Student may enroll in classes and pay fees. If hold is not cleared by fee deadline, student will be dropped from all classes.
2	Student cannot enroll in classes (all other Registrar services are available).
3	Student cannot receive any University services except ordering official transcripts.
4	Student cannot receive any University services.
6	This hold is automatically applied to incoming transfer students. It prevents the student from enrolling in classes or paying fees until the student receives academic advising. Removal of this hold is at the discretion of the student's academic advising office.



**Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic misconduct, in its most basic form, is gaining or attempting to gain a grade, degree, or other academic accomplishment by any means other than through your own work. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort and shall not aid another student who is attempting to do so.

**Academic Senate:** The Irvine Division of the Academic Senate represents the Irvine faculty in the shared governance of the University of California. The Academic Senate determines academic policy; sets conditions for admission and granting of degrees; authorizes and supervises courses and curricula; and advises the administration on faculty appointments, promotions and budgets.

**Academic Standing:** Academic standing is the status of a student with respect to academic performance. A student may be in good standing with a cumulative average of 2.0 or higher. A student normally is subject to academic probation if at the end of the quarter the grade point average for that quarter falls below a 2.0. A student whose GPA falls below a 1.5 for any quarter, or who after two consecutive quarters on probation has not raised their average to 2.0 or a satisfactory rate of progress, is subject to dismissal.

**Add/Drop:** Adds, drops, and changes are modifications made to your course enrollment. These modifications can be made via WebReg during the Enrollment by Window and Open Enrollment periods. Each modification type is subject to a specific deadline, as outlined below.

Add: This is used to enroll in classes or set additional classes to your schedule. Available through the end of the 2nd week of instruction.

Drop: This is used to remove classes from your schedule. Available through the end of the 2nd week of instruction.

Change: This is used to modify the number of units for variable unit classes, and/or exchanging between the grade options and pass/not pass (P/NP) option for any class that permits the option, and is available through the end of the 2nd week of instruction.

**Associated Students of the University of California, Irvine (ASUCI):** The officially recognized undergraduate student government at the University of California, Irvine. In addition to regularly providing resources and student programming through student-run events and conferences, overseeing commercial activities such as discount tickets and the quarterly vendor fair, large scale school-wide events such as Welcome Week and Summerlands, and student services, the ASUCI advocates for students on a university, local, state, and national level and represents the student body on administrative campus and systemwide committees.

**Audit:** Auditing is for students who wish to attend courses, but do not desire university credit for the summer. This includes students who are making up an NR or I grade from previous quarters. A course taken for an audit will not appear on the student's transcript. If you want to audit a course, follow regular registration procedures and pay the full fee listed for each course. No provisions for students to merely "sit-in" on summer courses are made and attendance without payment of fees is prohibited.

**Award Letter:** When you have completed your FAFSA and any additional aid applications and the money has been awarded, you will receive an email (your award letter) with instructions to log in to My Aid to view the amount of money you have been awarded.

## **B**

**Bachelor's Degree:** College degree usually awarded after four years of prescribed study in a major area. Bachelor's degrees can be Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Education (BSED) and other titles.

**Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan:** UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will ensure that you will not have to pay UC's systemwide tuition and fees out of your own pocket if you are a California resident whose total family income is less than \$80,000 a year and you qualify for financial aid.

**Bursar's Office:** The office that bills students for tuition, housing and other fees related to college expenses.

## **C**

**Campuswide Honors Program (CHP):** The Campuswide Honors Program (CHP) offers an ideal learning experience for talented students. Dedicated to promoting high standards of scholastic excellence and personal growth, the program combines the qualities of a liberal arts college with the unique opportunities offered by a major research university. Engagement between internationally renowned faculty and exceptionally motivated CHP students in a supportive honors community helps program participants maximize their undergraduate education and achieve ambitious goals.

**Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE):** UCI CARE Office provides free and confidential support services to members of the UCI community impacted by sexual assault, relationship abuse, family violence, and/or stalking. UCI CARE aims to end these forms of power-based personal violence by engaging the campus community in education, programming, and transformative action.

**Canvas:** Canvas is the standard course management system that supports online learning and teaching. It allows professors to post grades, information, and assignments online.

**Co-requisite:** A course that must be taken at the same time as another course; for example, a Chemistry lab may be a co-requisite to a Chemistry lecture class.

**Course Load:** The total number of courses/credit hours the student is enrolled in per term. An undergraduate may enroll in as few as 12 units or as many as 20 units. To enroll for more than 20 units or fewer than 12 units, students must obtain the authorization of their School Dean or, for undecided/undeclared students, the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Counseling Center:** The Counseling Center is the primary counseling and mental health agency for UC Irvine undergraduate and graduate students. We strive to assist students with their academic success by developing dimensions of well-being. The Counseling Center provides limited short term individual, couples, group and family counseling. The Center also assists students with urgent care and some psychological testing. Psychiatric evaluation and intervention are available on a limited basis for students concurrently seen in therapy.

**CRN:** This abbreviation stands for Course Reference Number, and it is used to specify a particular section of a course, that is, a section that is taught at a particular day and time. Biology 93, for example, may be taught in twenty different time slots on three different days. The CRN you choose will decide which of these times you will attend class and where.

**Cross-Cultural Center:** The Cross-Cultural Center, affectionately referred to as the "Cross" is a space for students to imagine and inspire an equitable, socially just campus, to affirm and develop intersectional, cultural identities, and to build a more inclusive community.

**Curriculum:** The sequence of courses in a program of study that leads to receiving a Bachelor's degree in a particular major.

**Curve:** A "curve" is the term that describes a variety of different methods that a teacher uses to adjust the scores their students received on a test in some way. Most of the time, grading on a curve boosts the students' grades by moving their actual scores up a few notches, perhaps increasing the letter grade. Some teachers use curves to adjust the scores received in exams, whereas other teachers prefer to adjust what letter grades are assigned to the actual scores.

## D

**Degree Audit:** The degree audit worksheet is a review of past and current coursework that provides information on completed and outstanding requirements. It can be used as a tool to plan and track your progress toward earning your degree. The audit can be used as part of advising sessions with Directors and academic advisors to determine course selections and confirm graduation requirements.

**DegreeWorks:** DegreeWorks is a web-based tool to help students and advisors monitor students' progress toward the completion of their degree requirements. The degree audit helps to track degree progress, prepare for course election, and plan for graduation.

**Division of Career Pathways (DCP):** The Division of Career Pathways serves as the hub for career development and preparation for our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and professionals, as well as a recruitment center for local, regional, and national organizations.

**Division of Continuing Education (DCE):** The Division of Continuing Education provides a wide range of educational opportunities including certificate and specialized studies programs, short courses and strategic partnerships. They also provide learning pathways for those seeking career advancement or personal enrichment. As of today, they offer 80+ industry-relevant certificates and specialized studies programs on campus, online, and at corporate sites. DCE also serves as a gateway for our students to reach other UC Extensions and campus amenities such as the UCI Alumni Association and the Chancellor's Club.

**Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI):** The Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation is dedicated to partnering with faculty, graduate students, and postdocs to maximize students' academic success. We accomplish this by cultivating exceptional learning environments across campus through pedagogical development opportunities focused on integrating innovative, evidence-based teaching practices.

**Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE):** The Division of Undergraduate Education and its wide range of programs and units provides leadership, advocacy, and coordination for campus initiatives that impact undergraduate education and enhance student access and retention. The Division works with faculty and staff on a range of activities including advising, curricular development, undergraduate scholarship and research activities, international education, civic and community engagement, assessment, and effective instruction.

**Degree Requirements:** At UCI, most undergraduate degrees require 180 units in coursework (excluding Engineering majors). This coursework normally consists of general education courses and various units in courses in the major. Many of the latter are highly specific courses that prepare you to work in your field and are your degree requirements. You cannot complete a degree without completing the degree requirements for your major.

**Discipline:** An academic field of study.

**Dismissal:** Dismissal is an administrative action resulting in removal from graduate study based on behavior or conduct. Authority to terminate student status as a result of disciplinary proceedings rests with the Dean of Students.

**Disqualification:** Disqualification means that, for one or more of any academic reason, a student is no longer eligible to continue graduate study in his/her graduate program at UCI.

**Double Major:** Students with a double major are planning to earn two Bachelor's degrees of the same type, such as a BS in Biology and a BS in Psychology. This differs from a dual degree (below).

**DREAM Scholars:** Dream scholars is a collaborative program of Student Success Initiatives and the Dream Center at UCI. It provides undocumented students with the academic guidance and social support necessary to ensure their educational and personal success.



**Dual Degree:** Students earning a dual degree are earning two Bachelor's degrees of different types, for example a BS in Psychology and a BA in Spanish. They must complete the requirements for both majors.

## E

**Elective:** A class you choose to take that is not required for your major. Most majors have some room in their degree program for elective classes. They are an opportunity for you to study something that interests you outside your major.

**E-Sports:** UCI is the first public university to create an official e-sports program and is regarded as one of the best and most comprehensive in the world. The vision for the e-sports program was born in the summer of 2015. With a successful Computer Game Science major, a thriving gaming community, and a history of elite competition, UCI is a natural place for e-sports to thrive.

## F

**FAFSA:** This acronym stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the basic form you must fill out to receive financial aid from the federal government to pay for college. The Financial Aid Office at UCI can help you with this process.

**FERPA:** This acronym stands for Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA affords students the right to inspect and review their education records, request the correction of inaccurate or misleading records, consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in their education record and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if the institution does not comply with this law. It is important to note that student records are protected from parents, family members and outside parties unless the students signs a waiver giving explicit permission for the records to be revealed to a particular party. Any student who is taking, or has taken a course at UCI, is protected by FERPA.

**First Year Transfer Experience Program (FYTE):** FYTE is a program that supports the academic success of first year transfer students by connecting the participants with the campus community, fostering a culture of academic excellence, and providing students with relevant and engaging programming.

**FRESH Basic Needs Hub:** The University of California, Irvine FRESH Basic Needs Hub is a student-initiated effort that promotes equitable access to basic needs through student empowerment, community collaboration, and institutional integration. FRESH offers emergency food, and toiletries, connects students to critical on and off-campus resources, and provides educational opportunities for students to take personal responsibility for their wellness and the well-being of their communities.

## G

**Gateway Initiative:** The Gateway Initiative is a set of services designed to provide low-income, 1st generation students with the necessary resources, academic skills, and appropriate referrals that will allow them to reach their maximum personal, academic, and career potential.

**General Catalogue:** The UCI General Catalogue is an online catalog that describes every major, minor and certificate program offered, outlines all the requirements for the degree or program and describes each course. Every UCI student should be familiar with the general catalogue.

**Grading Scale:** A grading scale is a range of quality points that comprise a course grade and delineate it as Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Poor or Failing. UCI uses plus and minus grading to further define the student's performance and to calculate GPA. Professors also have individual grading scales for tests, presentations and papers, and these vary among professors. Always check the syllabus to understand the professor's grading scale and expectations.

**Grant:** A grant is financial assistance that does not have to be paid back, for instance the Pell Grant. See Pell Grant below.

**Greek Life:** Greek Life refers to a sorority or fraternity. Developing life-long friendships with the members in their chapter helps make the campus smaller. For many members, these chapters become a home away from home. In addition to the brother/sisterhood, every chapter promotes the values of enhancing leadership, scholarship, philanthropy/service, and financial responsibility in their members.

## I

**International Student Excellence Programs (ISEP):** ISEP Promotes excellence among our international student population through a robust peer mentorship program, individual success coaching, and access to resources and opportunities to engage with faculty and alumni with the aim of developing global scholars and leaders.

**International Student Parent Orientation Program (ISPOP):** ISPOP is a three-day, two-night orientation program designed specifically for international first-years who did not attend high school in the U.S. ISPOP includes many of the same elements as SPOP with additional information tailored to the needs of international students who are new to the U.S.

## L

**Learning and Academic Resource Center (LARC):** Tutoring services at UCI offered at an additional fee. Sessions are taught by high-performing, undergraduate leaders who engage students through proven active-learning strategies and peer-to-peer collaboration to connect "what to learn" with "how to learn".

## M

**Major:** A major is a student's chosen field of study. To earn a degree, the student will have to complete all the requirements of the major that are listed in the general catalogue.

**Matriculation:** The formal process of entering a university, or of becoming eligible to enter, by fulfilling certain academic requirements. The matriculation date is the date when the student officially becomes an anteatr at UCI.

**Middle Class Scholarship Program:** If your family's income and household assets are under \$171,000 per year and you qualify for this scholarship, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and your UC campus financial aid office will let you know your actual scholarship amount.

**Minor:** A minor is a secondary field of study that requires fewer hours/courses. Students do not earn a degree in their minor, but it is noted on their transcript.

## N

**NetID:** Every student and employee has a UCNNetID that is used with a password to access email and use other computer programs and sites at the University. Your UCNNetID is usually the first part of your University email address. This is different from your student ID number.

## O

**Office Hours:** The time set aside by professors and instructors to meet with their students and answer questions. Office hours are usually at a set time every week. You can usually find a professor's office hours on their syllabus.

**Office of Information Technology (OIT):** This unit is responsible for supporting the IT needs of UC Irvine faculty, students, and staff. Our mission is to provide information technology leadership, services, and innovative solutions to promote the research, education and community service goals of the University.

**Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct:** Provides information about filing a criminal complaint or pursuing a complaint through the campus disciplinary process.

**Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (OEOD):** This office is responsible for the university's compliance with federal and state laws and university policies and procedures regarding discrimination, retaliation and sexual harassment. OEOD works to promote and integrate the principles of equal opportunity, affirmative action, nondiscrimination, and excellence through diversity at UCI.

**Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (OVPTL):** The OVPTL promotes students' academic and future success through campus and community partnerships. The Office oversees 3 divisions that provide services to the campus community to fulfill this mission: The Division of Undergraduate Education, the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, and the Division of Summer Session.

**Office of the Ombudsman:** The Office of the Ombudsman is an on campus resource that provides a safe and comfortable environment to discuss complaints, concerns or problems confidentially. When appropriate, the office will initiate an informal intervention with the goal of facilitating a resolution that is acceptable to all parties involved.

**Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor:** The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor is UC Irvine's chief academic and operating officer. Under the direction of the Chancellor, he assumes primary responsibility for the academic and organizational functioning of the campus and the advancement of the University's missions in research, teaching and service.

## **P**

**Pay for only 8:** For Summer Session, they offer a full-time fee incentive program for all current and incoming UC students. Students will need to pay for up to only 8 units in per unit course fees. For example, a current UCI undergraduate student enrolling on time in 12 units of coursework will only pay for 8 units and still be able to take the 12.

**Pell Grant:** A Pell grant is a federal financial aid grant that does not have to be paid back as long as the student was and remains eligible for it. Pell grants are designed for low income students.

**Placement Tests:** Tests used by the institution to gauge a student's level of proficiency in a subject area in order to place him/her in the next level of coursework. Sometimes a student can exempt courses by doing well on placement tests.

**Plagiarism:** The act of using someone else's work, ideas, thoughts or language and representing it as your own by failing to give credit to the original author. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and a violation of the Student Honor Code that may result in penalties such as a failing grade on the test or in the course.

**Prerequisite:** A course that is required before another course can be taken.

**Professor:** A title awarded to teachers who have achieved high academic ranking in a specific discipline due to their research and scholarship.

## Q

**Quality Points:** Quality points are the cumulative points for each credit hour that are used to calculate GPA. An A=4 points, a B=3 points, a C=2 points and a D=1 point. GPA is calculated by multiplying the quality points for your grade in a class by the number of credit hours in the class (e.g. an A in a 3 hour class is worth 12 points). This calculation is repeated for all of your classes, and all the quality points are totaled. Your GPA is equal to the total quality points divided by the number of unit hours you have taken in the semester.

**Quarter System:** A quarter system divides the academic year into four sessions: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Generally, the summer session is not required, but can be used to complete classes that were not offered during the other sessions or to complete your degree in advance. With a quarter system, each session lasts approximately 10 weeks.

## R

**Registrar:** The person(s) and office responsible for maintaining student records, administering policies and procedures, maintaining class schedules and course enrollment information. The Registrar's office verifies degree completion before a student can graduate.

**Regents' Scholarship:** The Regents' Scholarship is awarded based on the information gathered on the UC Application for Admission and Scholarships. No additional materials are required nor considered in the selection process. To be considered for the Regents' Scholarship, you must apply for fall admission by the noted date on the website. In addition to the scholarship award, Regents' Scholars also receive other benefits from the University. Regents' Scholars receive a priority window for class registration, graduate level library privileges, Regents' Scholar notation on official transcripts and an offer of guaranteed on-campus housing.

**Registration:** Registration is the process of choosing courses and creating a class schedule for the next semester using UCI's WebReg system. Your registration date and time depends on the number of unit hours you have accumulated, with priority given to students who are farther along in their degree program. Students should be sure to have their academic advisement appointment before their registration date. Advisors do not register students for classes.

## S

**ScoreShare:** ScoreShare provides a platform for securely viewing students' interim assignment scores during the quarter as an aid for academic advising and academic counseling needs at UCI. Students opt-in to release their scores to authorized advisors in participating units.



**Sexual Harassment/Title IX Officer:** This person is responsible for coordinating the University's compliance with federal and state discrimination and sexual harassment laws, as well as investigations of sex offenses. As such, this staff member provides educational programs regarding discrimination, sexual harassment and sex offense prevention for students, staff and faculty on the campus and at the medical center. This person responds to, investigates, and/or seeks resolution to allegations of discrimination, sexual harassment or sex offenses, and serves as an information resource on issues of sexual harassment.

**Student Affairs:** Student Affairs is dedicated to enriching the student experience from outreach and orientation through graduation by providing comprehensive programs, services, and opportunities for students. The Division also serves to promote the general welfare of the campus community within the framework of the UCI values of respect, intellectual curiosity, integrity, commitment, empathy, appreciation and fun.

**Study Abroad:** Study abroad is an opportunity to pursue academic studies in a foreign country for a semester or a year. The UCI Study Abroad office can help you find a program that fits your interests. Tuition varies depending on the program chosen. Scholarships for study abroad are also available.

**Student Parent Orientation Program (SPOP):** UCI's first year student orientation is a two-day, one-night orientation program that includes academic advising, course registration, information on important student resources and services, social activities, and lots of opportunities to make friends!

**Student Success Initiatives (SSI):** SSI aims to provide students the personal, academic, and professional support and development to thrive and succeed at UCI and beyond. SSI is a learning community that empowers students to be productive and engaged in their academic careers and personal endeavors. SSI is dedicated to serving and assisting with the transitions of low-income students, first-generation students, undocumented students, former foster youth, transfer students, adult-learners, students with dependents, and students with disabilities.

**Syllabus:** A syllabus is an outline of the professor's plans for the course that includes assignments, exam dates and projects. The syllabus also includes the learning objectives for the course and class policies like attendance. It is very important to read the syllabus carefully.

## T

**Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG):** The TAG program for potential transfer students guarantees admission to highly qualified students from all California Community Colleges. Admission to most majors at UCI can be guaranteed through TAG for transfer students who meet the eligibility requirements and complete the online TAG application.

**Teaching Assistant (TA):** A teaching assistant is generally a graduate student who assists a professor in teaching a class. A TA may run discussion sections, labs or other breakout sessions for a professor and may assist in grading exams and homework and keeping records.

**Transcript:** The permanent academic record of a student in college that shows majors and minors, courses taken each semester, grades received, academic status and honors.

**Transfer Student Hub (TSH):** The Transfer Student Hub (TSH) works with all transfer students to facilitate their transition and overall success at UCI. The Hub directs students to appropriate campus programs and services. We also organize weekly workshops, provide formal and informal mentoring, and provide students with a space for studying. The Transfer Student Hub strives to foster a sense of community among the transfers at UCI and advocates for them in order to enhance their academic and social experience.

**TRIO Scholars Program:** A federal outreach and student services program designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The TRIO Scholars Program serves and assists low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post baccalaureate programs.

## U

**The UCDC Summer Internship Program (UCDC):** This program provides 40 to 50 outstanding undergraduate students the opportunity to live and intern in Washington, D.C. for 10 weeks during the summer. Students live and have the opportunity to take classes at the UC Washington Center in the heart of DC, just blocks from the White House. UCDC is a great opportunity for students to examine the behind-the-scenes activities that shape and implement our nation's future course.

**Upper Division Courses:** At UCI upper division courses are stated from the range of 100-199. They require successful completion of two years of college, or consent of instructor.

**The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP):** This unit encourages and facilitates research and creative activities with faculty by undergraduates from all schools and academic disciplines at UCI.

## W

**Withdrawal:** The student's decision to disenroll from a class after the drop/add period is over. If the student withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline, they receive a W on their transcript. A W has no effect on GPA, but a WF will factor into the student's GPA as an F. Withdrawal may also indicate disenrolling from the quarter or the university itself.

**Work Study:** Money that students may earn by working a part time job. The program allows you to gain work experience and pay for a part of your educational expenses as you earn your award. Funds for this program come from the federal government as well as The Regents of the University of California and are awarded based on need.

## **Z**

**ZOT! ZOT! ZOT!:** This is the Anteater victory cheer, and also the sound that Peter the Anteater makes when he snaps out his tongue to catch his food.

**ZOTPortal:** This online portal brings together several campus tools and services into one simple-to-use place. With your UCInetID, you can customize your view to your needs.

# HOUSING

UCI's housing mission is to provide student centered communities that promote academic success, safety and wellness, personal development, and engagement. There are several steps to follow in order to obtain housing at UCI.

## 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT TO REGISTER (SIR)

Congratulations on your admission to UC Irvine! Before you can apply for housing, you must submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR). (Please submit your SIR at least 24 hours before the housing application deadline to allow time for Housing to receive your positive SIR record.)

## 2. EXPLORE YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS

Use the "Where Can I Live?" housing options tab on the website to determine which communities you are eligible to live in, then browse the Housing Options pages to learn more about our accommodations. Be sure to check the Housing Rates page for costs associated with your housing options. Check out and like the housing facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ucihousing> and check the feature boxes under the slideshow on the home page to receive important updates. For information about touring the residence halls, visit the Housing Tours page.

## 3. SUBMIT A HOUSING APPLICATION

Complete an online housing application beginning March 1st at 8:00 AM. Housing Application Due Dates: Freshmen - May 1st; Transfers - June 1st. Complete your application by the deadline to be eligible for guaranteed housing. There is a \$20 non-refundable application fee for newly enrolling students.

## 4. COMPLETE YOUR HOUSING CONTRACT

Freshmen who apply by the May 1<sup>st</sup>\* deadline will be sent a housing contract offer sometime in late May/early June.\* Transfer students who apply by the June 1st deadline\* will be notified via email regarding their housing offer by July 31st.\* Students who apply after their application deadline will be added to the waitlist, and will be contacted as space becomes available. All Housing offer notifications are sent via email. Please read carefully and follow all instructions given, paying special attention to payment/fee requirements and deadlines that must be met.

## 5. LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR HOUSING PREFERENCES

You will have the opportunity to submit a Personal Information Form (with your housing contract) detailing your housing preferences, such as community, theme hall, and roommate choices with your housing contract.

## 6. RECEIVE YOUR HOUSING ASSIGNMENT

Housing assignments will be e-mailed by the second week of September\*. Move-in information will be available online early September\*. When it's time to move in, check back for the 'What to Bring' page for packing tips.

\*these dates are subjective to change with each school year

# ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

The world changes a bit once you enter college. UCI is like its own little city and one of the first things you'll notice is the schedule isn't like what you've been used to in high school. At UCI, you're in charge of setting your schedule. When you're first registering for classes, you'll see a variety of options when it comes to days that classes are offered, as well as times. Most students don't attend classes all day, every day. Most classes are taught on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule or a Tuesday/ Thursday schedule.

You may have two or three classes on one of these schedules and the rest on the other. That means you'll feel as if you have a lot of free time, especially at first. It's important to master managing your time and staying on top of your assignments early in your college career. UCI operates on a quarter system, which means each quarter is 10 weeks long. Most of the time, classes begin their first round of midterms around week 3.

A time will come when you have papers and other assignments due at the same time that you're studying for two or more tests. It is encouraged that students study two or more hours for every hour they spend in class. Since they usually spend about 15 hours per week in class, study time should be at least 30 hours a week, and all that adds up to more than a full-time job! With good time management, you'll be prepared and not have to stay up until 4:00 a.m.!

# HOW TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

- Take control of your own education. Think of yourself as an intellectual.
- Get to know your professors!
- Don't be afraid to ask for help! There are several staff and faculty members ready and willing to help you with the variety of needs that you might have.
- Be early for class and talk to faculty. Remember, some classes have an attendance policy. If you're late, you may be considered absent.
- Plan your schedule carefully so that you're not on a time crunch getting from one class to the next.
- Be assertive and proactive. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Create your own support systems.
- Make thoughtful decisions. Don't take a course just to satisfy a requirement, and don't withdraw from any course too quickly. Discuss the decision with your advisor and financial aid advisors, since there may be financial implications to the decision.
- Speak to your professors sooner rather than later for any additional tips and help.
- Think beyond the moment; set goals for the quarter, the year, and your entire college career.



## **ACADEMIC MINDSET**

What is an academic mindset? Academic mindset is just what it sounds like—the way you think about learning. Coming to a major university can be daunting and it's common to feel like a little bit of a fish out of water. However, there are ways to beat this feeling. Academic Mindsets are four key beliefs which deeply influence our behaviors as learners, and which enable learning success. These mindsets affect our motivation, strategies, and perseverance. They are:

1. I belong in this learning community.
2. I can change my abilities through effort (a growth mindset).
3. I can succeed.
4. This work has value and purpose for me.

Research has shown that a student's academic mindset is the best predictor of success, so what does that mean for you? There are growth mindsets and fixed mindsets. A growth mindset, put simply, means that a student believes that, with perseverance and effort, they can grow and get better at the skills that challenge them. A fixed mindset means that a student believes they have certain innate talents and skills, but not others, and that nothing will change that. This is the student who's "not good at math" or "can't write." The truth is, research shows you can grow your intelligence and become good at the things you think you can't do. But it takes effort, persistence and motivation.

At UCI, you will be more academically challenged than you have ever been before. You will probably need assistance at times—tutoring, coaching, supplemental instruction. That's you being smart— persisting in the face of difficulty, seeking support and applying a growth mindset. Challenge yourself. You won't regret it.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As an applicant to UCI, you have already pledged to be academically honest in all your academic work, and not to tolerate academic dishonesty in others. Now let's talk about what that really means. You probably already have an idea of what cheating in class and plagiarism are, but there are other forms of academic dishonesty that may not be as obvious. If you have been educated outside the United States, you may find that our standards differ from your home country.

Academic misconduct, in its most basic form, is gaining or attempting to gain a grade, degree, or other academic accomplishment by any means other than through your own work. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort and shall not aid another student who is attempting to do so. It is very important to make yourself aware of what is considered plagiarism in the United States and to be very careful to cite all your references.

If you are unsure of what this entails, clarify with your instructor. Often times, every student and teaching assistant have different information, and this may result in consequences later. The policies and procedures are outlined on the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct website. Please make yourself familiar with what the policies are.

# FERPA

FERPA stands for the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives you the right to inspect and review your education records, request the correction of inaccurate records, consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in your education record and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if the institution does not comply with this law.

The federal government and the University consider you an adult and protect you from intrusion into your personal affairs. This means that employees of the University—faculty, advisors and administrators—are prohibited from discussing your grades, problems or academic performance with your parents or anyone else without an educational need to know. If you wish to allow your parents to discuss your records with a University employee, you must first provide the employee with a waiver detailing what can be discussed and during what time period. Any student who is taking, or has taken a course at UCI, is protected by FERPA. University employees will not violate FERPA restrictions to discuss student information with their parents.

The following is taken directly from the US Department of Education website:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

## **FINDING A MAJOR**

To start this section, it is important to understand that your major does not determine your career path. It may make the route to your career goals slightly easier; however, it does not determine the ultimate result of the path you may end up on.

One of the trickiest conversations with parents can be about majors, especially if a parent has strong opinions on what you should study. Sometimes students agree with their parents that medicine, business, or another major is the right path for them, then find after a few college classes that the subject matter doesn't interest them at all. If you do feel that you want to change your major, begin that conversation with your parents early to avoid delays to graduation.

Most parents are mainly concerned that their child build a solid future, and they may encourage the careers that are most visible or that they know the most about. They may not be aware of the many majors available to study on campus, or the careers that these majors can lead to. It is your job to help them become informed by doing your homework and sharing what you learn. Advisors in the school of your choice can help you learn about the curriculum of the majors that best suit you, and other Career Center consultants can guide you in the career possibilities that a major may lead to.

In addition, there is a wealth of information online at websites such as O\*NET and Candid Career. At Candid Career, you can get an insider view of what a job really entails and what you need to know to be fully prepared for it.

Sometimes it's hard for parents to understand that any college degree is good preparation for a career. It does not have to be in science, technology or medicine to be valuable. There are many well researched articles available about the importance of a liberal arts education that may help them understand more about what employers look for in job candidates. You can search for these online, or your advisor may be able to provide you with some websites. Additionally, the Division of Career Pathways has compiled some compelling statistics about UCI graduates and employment. Give them a visit and ask them about your options.

What do you feel passionate about? What would you like to see changed in the world? How can you contribute to it? There are many routes to your aspirations, and you should explore all of them. Remember that forty years is a long time to work at a job you don't like.

## **LEAVING HOME**

For some of you this may be the first time you'll be staying away from home. College is an opportunity to discover who you are as an individual. You will be immersed into a diverse pot of people, learning opportunities, and experiences. It is normal to miss home; however, we encourage you to find places within the UCI community that feel like home to you.

There are over 400 clubs registered on campus. There are also many leadership opportunities, research clubs, as well as Greek life. All of these different areas may help you build relationships that may lead to lifelong friendships or networking opportunities. If the transition into UCI is proving to be more difficult than you anticipated, be sure to talk to your academic advisor or consider checking out the Counseling Center. Remember, now it is your responsibility to develop a support system. If you are the primary English speaker in your home, now is the time to think about strategies to help your family become more self-reliant. Look for community resources that can assist in translating documents, financial transactions, healthcare assistance and social services. Some community organizations offer translation and other types of assistance. Likewise, local faith communities often have volunteers who are willing to help. You may even want to visit some of these organizations with your parents so that your family feels comfortable and familiar with them before they are needed.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Sometimes first in the family students don't take advantage of what is available to them because they're not familiar with loans, scholarships and grants and are reluctant to undertake possible debt. This can lead to missed opportunities. There are many kinds of financial aid.

Students from lower income families may also qualify for the Pell Grant, a federal gift aid that does not have to be repaid as long as the student is qualified to receive it. The UC System also offers a unique scholarship known as the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan. UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan will ensure that you will not have to pay UC's systemwide tuition and fees out of your own pocket if you are a California resident whose total family income is less than \$80,000 a year and you qualify for financial aid.

Students must fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) each year to determine eligibility for federal and need-based aid and can find this form on the website of the Office of Student Financial Aid. Complete instructions for filling out the FAFSA form are available at FAFSA Instructions.

Students from middle class families may also qualify for a middle class scholarship program. If your family's income and household assets are under \$171,000 per year and you qualify for this scholarship, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and your UC campus financial aid office will let you know your actual scholarship amount.

Additionally, you should visit the Financial Aid office for UCI and non-UCI scholarship information and announcements. It is important to take advantage of all available aid because it is difficult to work long hours and still succeed in college. If you do have to work, we encourage you to look for a job on campus. Campus offices are accustomed to working around student class schedules and being on campus saves you travel time so you may be able to work more hours.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Academic Resources**

- Academic Honesty: <http://catalogue.uci.edu/appendix/#academichonestytext>
- Summer Session: <http://summer.uci.edu/>
- Testing Center: <http://www.testingcenter.uci.edu/>

### **Student Services**

- ZotPortal: <https://portal.uci.edu/uPortal/f/welcome/normal/render.uP>
- Parking and Transportation: <https://www.parking.uci.edu/>
- Housing: <https://www.housing.uci.edu/>
- Hospitality and Dining: <https://food.uci.edu/>

### **University Registrar**

- Registrar: <http://www.reg.uci.edu/>
- Schedule of Classes: <https://www.reg.uci.edu/perl/WebSoc>
- Student Access: <http://www.reg.uci.edu/access/student/welcome/>
- General Catalogue: <http://www.reg.uci.edu/catalogue/>

### **Counseling and Student Help**

- Counseling Center: <https://counseling.uci.edu/>
- Disability Services: <https://dsc.uci.edu/>
- LARC: <http://www.larc.uci.edu/>
- Career Center: <https://career.uci.edu/>
- Peer Academic Advising Program: <http://paap.due.uci.edu/>

**ZOT! ZOT! ZOT!**