

1st Quarter Enrollment Guides Frosh 25-26

First Quarter Enrollment Guide for Incoming Frosh 2025-2026

Planning your first quarter:

Planning your first quarter at UCSC is both exciting and important. You'll have many course options, so it's key to be intentional to set yourself up for success. We've created this quick, one-page guide to help you prepare for fall enrollment. Students are expected to enroll in at least 15 credits each quarter, typically three courses and associated labs..

"Getting Started in the Major" guides (These are essential!)

Review the guides for majors you're considering and prioritize majors with more requirements — especially those recommending two courses in your first quarter (often the case for STEM majors). This keeps more academic paths open.

Important note about timing:

Don't delay College 1 or WRIT 1. These courses for first-year students help you build skills to be a successful college student. The deadline to satisfy Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) is by the end of your first year. Doing so will allow you to continue into your second year. If you're unsure how to fit these in, your college advisors are here to help!

Your first quarter schedule:

1. College Core

- College 1 (e.g. COWL 1, STEV 1, CRWN 1 etc.) is required of all incoming frosh—for the vast majority of students this is taken in fall quarter.
- Merrill students have an option to take MERR 1 in fall or in winter. Students who are planning a major that recommends two major prep courses in their first quarter, especially those who have not yet completed the ELWR requirement, should consider taking MERR 1 in winter.
- Stevenson students complete a two quarter core course: fall STEV 1 and winter STEV 2. The sequence also satisfies the Textual Analysis (TA) General Education requirement.

2. Writing Course

- Students with a placement of WRIT 26 must take WRIT 26 in the **fall** of the first year.
- Students with a placement of WRIT 1 or 1E must take WRIT 1 or 1E in the fall **or** winter of the first year.
- Students with a placement of WRIT 2 should **not** take a writing course in their first quarter.

3. Major Preparation

- Qualification or foundational major courses (math, language, etc.)
- If your major requires two courses in the fall quarter (e.g. Math & Chemistry or Math & Programming) and you have placed into WRIT 26, please discuss your plans with your college advisor and the Writing Program Advisor.

If you have any flexibility in your schedule, consider courses for **exploration & engagement**.

- Courses that fulfill General Education requirements
- Courses for major preparation in majors beyond your current first choice
- Courses that spark interest, curiosity, or explore a major – try something new!

Example Schedules by Writing Placement

Courses required by major in 1st quarter	Placed into WRIT 26	Placed into WRIT 1 or WRIT 1E	Placed into WRIT 2
0	College 1 WRIT 26 Major Exploration Course	College 1 WRIT 1/1E Major Exploration Course	College 1 Major Exploration Course Major Exploration Course
1	College 1 WRIT 26 Major or Major Exploration Course	College 1 WRIT 1/1E Major or Major Exploration Course	College 1 Major Course Major Exploration Course
2	WRIT 26 Major Course Major Course (or College 1) <i>(consult with intended major advisor)</i>	College 1 Major Course Major Course	College 1 Major Course Major Course