



UC Application Tips - Class of 2026

- UC applications are due at midnight on **December 1, 2025**
 - Don't wait until the last minute to submit your application!
 - Don't forget to hit Submit!
- Research campuses by checking out each campus' website, and apply broadly
- [Application tips from the UC System](#)
- Use your full, legal name on all applications – do not use your nickname
- Use a non-IUSD email address that you check frequently – be aware of the appropriateness of your email address
- Make sure your [CaliforniaColleges.edu account](#) is set up, so you can import all of your IUSD courses - this saves time and improves accuracy!
- Have a copy of your transcript(s) handy when you are completing applications – entering your coursework and grades accurately is very important. Your most recent transcript was mailed home at the start of this year.
 - You will be asked to submit a transcript before enrolling, to verify that what you put on your application is accurate, so be very careful when you are entering your information!
- Have a copy of the "[NHS Courses that Meet UC/CSU Requirements](#)" sheet or use the [UC Doorways Website](#) so you know what A-G courses to report in your application.
- Do not send transcripts to any UC campus when you apply – if you are admitted and decide to attend, you will need to submit a transcript from each high school you attended
 - Exception: Occasionally, campuses may ask you to send a transcript after you have applied, especially if you attended part of high school at an international school – make sure to check your email and respond to these requests in a timely fashion. Talk with your counselor if you have questions.
- SAT, ACT & SAT Subject Test Scores are not used in the admissions process. [Here is the official policy from UC.](#)
 - UC will not consider SAT or ACT scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships
 - Scores may be used for course placement *after* you enroll
- Official AP test scores are not required at the time of application, you can wait to send official AP exam score reports until after you have selected a college to attend
- UC campuses do not require letters of recommendation and they will not read them if you send them
- When searching for Northwood HS search with Northwood's CEEB code: 051283

UC Application

- Make sure your [CaliforniaColleges.edu account](#) is set up, so you can import all of your IUSD courses - this saves time and improves accuracy!
- Create your account and apply here: <https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>
- \$80 per application (\$95 for international applicants)
- The application automatically times out after 30 minutes, so save often
- Use the menu links to the right of the page within the application to navigate through the application
- There is a help button on the top right of each page

About You

Personal Information

- CA SSID # (California State ID #) - enter this from the bottom left corner of your transcript. This will be pre-populated if you launch your application from CaliforniaColleges.edu
 - Check the box stating you authorize the release of your CA SSID Number to be shared with CCGI. We are a partner school with CCGI. This is the first step in releasing your IUSD coursework to the UC application

Citizenship & Residency

- Applicants who choose a country of citizenship other than the US, will have follow-up questions
 - Status as a "California Resident" does not mean that you will qualify for in-state tuition if you are not a US Citizen or permanent resident. Please read the information on these pages carefully, and consult with your parents when filling out this section
- Undocumented students should choose "No Selection"
 - Applications who choose "No Selection" will not have follow-up questions
- Social Security Number
 - You are required to enter your SSN if you have one
 - Undocumented students should not enter an SSN unless they have obtained an SSN for work purposes
 - You are able to submit the UC application even if you left the SSN/ITIN field blank

Your Household

- If you are living here with a guardian, while your parents live in another country, your home address can be the one you live at in the US, but your permanent address would be your parents' international address.
- Make sure to enter this information accurately, especially if you are requesting application fee waivers

Statement of Legal Residence

- This section determines if you are eligible for in-state tuition. Please read each section carefully.
- Select Yes for "Do you want to be evaluated for California residency for tuition purposes?", if you feel you qualify for in-state tuition

Campuses & Majors

Term & Level

- Make sure you are applying for **Fall Quarter/Semester 2026**
- Choose "First-year" even if you have completed some college coursework during high school

Choose Majors

- Read through ALL the majors offered, as some colleges have similar majors offered under different colleges
- When choosing an alternate major, it is advised to choose something in a different field than your first choice major, to increase your chances of admission. However, you should choose something that you are actually interested in, as you may not be able to switch to your first choice major once enrolled
- You can select "Undeclared" within a college, if you aren't yet sure of the specific major you want, but you know the general field (ie "Undeclared" within the college of engineering).
- Campus Specific Notes:
 - Berkeley - does not admit by major to the College of Letters and Sciences
 - Davis - business major is under "Graduate School of Management"
 - Irvine - offers multiple psychology degrees, do your research on the UCI website to find out more
 - UCLA - if it says "(pre)" in the major title, it means you will be admitted as a pre-major, where you have to satisfy the prerequisites for the major once on campus, to be fully admitted to the majors
 - San Diego - Ranking UCSD Colleges
 - If accepted at UC San Diego, you'll be assigned to one of eight colleges on campus. These colleges are residential neighborhoods on campus with their own residence facilities, staff and general education requirements.
 - You can rank your top 4, or choose not to rank at all. Look at the descriptions of the colleges before you rank them: <https://admissions.ucsd.edu/why/colleges/index.html>

Academic History

7th & 8th grade

- Entering 7th/8th grade *high school level* math and language other than English classes, where grade of C or higher was earned
 - Enter courses under “7th & 8th grade”
 - Math: Math I /Algebra 1 or higher
 - Language other than English (LOTE): Level 1 or higher, even if you did not continue that language in High School
 - International School Experience
 - Select “Yes” if you attended an international school, prior to NHS, where English was NOT the language of instruction in grades 6-8:
 - If you attended in grade 6 or higher, you can indicate that in “Additional Comments” and that can satisfy your LOTE for UC’s. You will likely need to submit a transcript from your international school for verification. See counselor for more information

High Schools

- **IMPORT COURSES THROUGH CCGI to save time and improve accuracy. This will only import NHS classes, you must hand enter the rest, and double check that the import data is correct**
- As long as you entered your CA SSID #, and checked the box in the “About You → Personal Information” section, you can import your IUSD grades and coursework through CCGI.
 - Select Northwood as your high school, do not check any of the boxes for specialized curriculum
 - You will then be able to click a button confirming that you want to import courses and grades
 - Please double check ALL coursework, it is a known issue that Intermediate Computer Graphics and Principles of Engineering have not been importing.
- List every high school you have attended since 9th grade, including San Joaquin High School (IVA) for IUSD summer school courses that have a “p” to the left of them (these are considered college prep). This also includes schools such as UC Scout, BYU, and Elite Open School
 - If you attended IVA, you will enter it as San Joaquin High School (CEEB# 051273)
 - If you took Summer School classes through IUSD, you will *not* enter that under Northwood, as Northwood does not offer summer school. You will enter it under San Joaquin (do not enter Health or PE as they are not College Prep). See below for more information on Summer Courses
- Humanities (World & US) & Integrated Science 1-3
 - If you were in Honors for one semester and CP for the other, please make sure that is indicated on your coursework. In the “Additional Comments” section, you can include a blurb:
 - “NHS adopted an embedded honors model for Humanities World History/Lit & US History/Lit, Int Science 1-3. Students recommended for Honors are in the same class as students recommended for CP. ALL students have the opportunity to earn an Honors A, if they earn an A+ in the course. The only Honors grade awarded is an A, if students earn less than an Honors A, it becomes a CP grade of A-F. Course titles are changed to reflect Honors at the end of the semester, and it is possible for students to have honors one semester and not the other.”
- REPEATED COURSEWORK: List coursework for each school exactly as it appears on your transcript from that school, including any classes in which you earned a D or an F, *even if you repeated them later*. UC wants to see ALL grades, even if you repeated a D/F grade for a better grade.
 - If you are repeating a course because you earned partial credit with us the first time, please be sure to explain in the Additional comments section that you repeated the course to get the full 5 credits, and list the partial credits earned the first time. Please see your counselor for help with this.
- You only need to report College Prep courses, which are courses that have a “p” next to them on your transcript – you **SHOULD NOT** list PE/sports, Health, Student Assistant, etc.
- AP Government and Honors Political Econ are SEPARATE classes!! They are each one semester long. You should have one entry for AP Gov, and a separate entry for H Econ. Enter “No” for the the semester you are not enrolled

- 12th grade course grades are entered as “IP” for 1st semester and “PL” for 2nd semester.
 - AP Gov, American Gov, and MUN: American Gov are all (Area A) and ONE SEMESTER
 - Enter “No” for the semester you were not enrolled
 - H Pol. Econ, Economics of Business, and MUN: International are all (Area G) and ONE SEMESTER
 - Enter “No” for the semester you were not enrolled
- Language Other than English (LOTE) - options to satisfy the requirement
 - If you took an AP test only, but not a course
 - A score of 3,4, or 5 will meet the requirement, once you list it under the test scores section
 - If you took your LOTE classes outside of NHS
 - For IVA/San Joaquin - enter San Joaquin as an additional high school attended, and select the appropriate course(s)
 - For Community College, enter the coursework in the “College” section
 - For online high school programs, list the name of the school as an additional high school, and the select the course(s) you took from the drop down
 - If the school is not available to select in the app, that means it is not a UC approved provider. If the school is available but the course is not, that means the course is not UC-approved.
 - If you attended a school (6th grade or above) where English was not the language of instruction
 - UC Guidance: “ Students who have been educated through the sixth-grade level or higher in a school where a language other than English was used as the medium of instruction have met the requirement”
 - UC Documentation: “ In the admission application, students must explain in the Additional Comments section that they have met this requirement based on formal schooling in a language other than English at the sixth-grade level or higher. After acceptance of an offer of admission, submit a school transcript or other official document.”

SUMMER SCHOOL COURSEWORK

- Add the school where you took the summer school course. You will be asked to enter the academic year, and check the box if you took a summer course
 - If you attended IUSD summer school:
 - The summer before 9th grade, and took a “p” course (Health would not qualify; a course such as Fundamentals of Art A & B *would* be included), then:
 - List the high school with attendance dates of June 2022-July 2022
 - List as 9th grade, School Year - 2021-2022, check the box for “I took a summer course after this grade”
 - For courses taken anytime after 9th grade, select the academic year that preceded summer, and check the box stating “I took a summer course after this grade”
 - Semester System
 - Enter the appropriate course(es)
 - If you only took one semester of a class, enter “no” for the term where you do not have a grade
 - If you went to summer school to repair a D/F grade, you will enter the original grade AND the summer school grade. For English, the summer school course titles are different from what we offer at NHS.
 - ***It would be helpful to include a note in your application stating that [x English course] at San Joaquin is the equivalent to [x English course] at NHS, so that they view it as a repeat when calculating your GPA:

<u>Northwood High School (#051283)</u>	<u>San Joaquin High School #051273</u> <u>(Summer School)</u>
Hum World Lit A/B (#10008/#10009)	English 1 A/B (#1073/1075)
Hum US Lit A/B (#11213/11214)	English 2 A/B (# 1103/1107)
Euro Lit (#1165/1166) / H Euro Lit (#1168/1169)/ H Critical Theory and Lit (#1209/1210)	English 3 A/B (# 10049/1134)
Contemp Lit (#1177/1178) / Film & Lit (#10052/10053) / AP Lit (#1193/1194) / H Critical Theory and Lit (#1209/1210)	English 4 A/B (# 1163/1164)

- You will not enter any coursework for the academic year (unless you were enrolled in that school for the academic year), and will ONLY enter a course and grade for the summer
- **You will get an error message stating that you have not entered the academic year courses, click on “skip the page for now” and move on. At the end of the Academic History section, you will be asked to verify that no courses were completed during the academic school year. Once you verify that, you will be able to submit the application
- If you attended Community College in the summer, this will go under “Colleges Attended in High School”, please see below.

Colleges Attended While in High School

- List all community college and 4 year universities where you have taken UC transferable courses (3+ units)

Colleges Courses Taken in High School

- List courses taken/grades earned at a community college or 4-year college
- For Chapman Calculus at NHS:

Term	Dept	Course No	Course Title	Units	Honors Status	Grade	Subject Area
Fall Semester	Math	110	Single Variable Calculus I	3.00	CL	Grade earned or if taking now, enter “IP” (in progress)	C - Calculus
Spring Semester	Math	111	Single Variable Calculus II	3.00	CL	Grade earned or if taking now, enter “PL” (planned)	C - Calculus

- If you took a Community College course:
 - List the Community College the dates of attendance (list start and end dates, even if you didn’t take classes every term in between), and the term system (semester vs quarter)
 - During the summer, please list it as an extension of the prior year
 - Please list it as an extension of the prior year
 - Example: Finish Grade 9 -> Take course at IVC in the Summer -> list the IVC course in the application as Summer, 9th grade
 - During the school year, list it as part of the academic year

- Question: If a student withdrew from a college course and has a W on their official transcript, do they need to report this in the UC application? If so, will it negatively affect them in any way?
 - Answer (from UC): Applicants should report any Withdraw grades in UC-transferable coursework in the UC application. They are also encouraged to share additional clarification or context in the Additional Comments section to explain why they withdrew from the course. However, a “W” grade is neutral in the admission process and will not be factored in the GPA calculation for first-year or transfer admission. Further, no admission requirements can be met with a “W” grade.

Additional Information

- Additional Comments: This box is only to be used to explain any unusual circumstances in your academic history – it is not to be used as an extension of the Personal Insight questions. You do not have to write anything here, unless needed
- Possible topics:
 - Unusual situations such as substantial illness or family loss that impacted grades
 - Changing schools and why, if that seems helpful to understanding your transcript and application
 - Completing the LOTE requirement through international school in a language other than English in grade 6 or higher
 - Embedded Honors for Humanities and Integrated Science
 - “NHS adopted an embedded honors model for Humanities World History/Lit & US History/Lit, Int Science 1-3. Students recommended for Honors are in the same class as students recommended for CP. ALL students have the opportunity to earn an Honors A, if they earn an A+ in the course. The only Honors grade awarded is an A, if students earn less than an Honors A, it becomes a CP grade of A-F. Course titles are changed to reflect Honors at the end of the semester, and it is possible for students to have honors one semester and not the other.”
 - Chapman Calculus
 - Northwood does not offer AP Calculus, only college-level calculus, through an agreement with Chapman University. Math 110 (Single Variable Calculus I) in the fall semester and Math 111 (Single Variable Calculus II) in the spring semester. Both courses are taught on the Northwood campus but the credit and grades only show on the Chapman University transcript.

Test Scores

ACT & SAT; SAT Subject Tests

- No place to report them in the application, as scores will not be used for admissions or scholarship purposes
- SAT/ ACT scores can only be used for placement purposes once admitted

AP Exams

- Official scores only need to be submitted to the college you plan to attend
- If you are using an AP Language test score to meet the Language other than English requirement, be sure to enter your score!

English Language Proficiency Tests

- Students with coursework from schools where the language of instruction is not English may be required to demonstrate English proficiency, *if they have had less than 3 years of instruction in English*
- Students can satisfy the requirement with TOEFL, IELTS, the Duolingo English Test, or SAT/ACT scores
- Tests must be completed by December of Senior year, with scores reported in January
- PLEASE SEE YOUR COUNSELOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS ON THIS!!!

Activities & Awards

- Looking for quality not quantity. Make sure to focus on the ones that are most important to you. Choose experiences that demonstrate commitment, responsibility, leadership, and most of all genuine interest.
- You have 350 characters to describe each activity - describe your role, responsibilities, and accomplishments
- Choose up to 20 of your most meaningful experiences in the following categories:
 - Awards & Honors

- Educational Preparation Programs
- Extracurricular Activity
- Other Coursework (non A-G courses)
- Volunteer & Community Service
- Work Experience
- Do not use acronyms – spell out the names of organizations, clubs, awards, etc.
- Be strategic when providing further description of your activities and awards, make sure to explain thoroughly.
- Only enter information that is true and verifiable – you may be asked to provide proof
- The UC is only interested in experiences that happened during high school.
 - If you started the activity prior to high school and CONTINUED it in high school, you can indicate that you started prior to high school. If you only participated prior to high school, it should not be included

Scholarships and Programs

Apply for Scholarships

- Check off the areas that apply to you

Support Programs

- Check the box if you think you might qualify for financial assistance through Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Please read the description. You will need to provide a brief explanation here.
- UC Foster Youth Programs - Check the box if you are a current or former foster youth

Personal Insight

- We recommend that you write your answers in Word or Google Docs and then copy and paste them into the application.
- Respond to 4 of the 8 questions – 350 words max each
 - Address ALL aspects of the prompts you choose
- These are not essays – they are designed to help the UC learn more about you. Think of them like a one-sided interview response, rather than an essay.
 - Writing style and grammar are not considered, but it's important that the reader understands what you are saying
 - **Your responses should provide new information – should not repeat what's already in your application**
 - The focus of the response should be on you and your experiences/thoughts/reflections, and less on storytelling
 - Your voice should shine through!
- Check out these links for more writing tips
 - [Breaking Down the PIQ's](#)
 - [Summer College Essay Writing Workshop](#)
 - [PIQ's - Guide for Freshman Applicants](#)
 - [PIQ Video](#)
 - [PIQ's - It's Not an Essay!](#)
 - [PIQ Do's and Dont's](#)

Additional Comments

- The purpose of this box is not to expand on the Personal Insight questions or answer another one
- The purpose is to explain any unclear parts of your application or tell the UC about any unusual personal or family circumstances which you haven't explained elsewhere – for example:
 - You can add information that did not fit in the additional comments above
 - Grade earned patterns
 - Circumstances which prevented you from doing something you wanted to do, like take a more rigorous course or play a sport

- Prolonged illness
- Learning differences

Review & Submit

- The application will let you know if you are missing anything – you will need to acknowledge if you are knowingly applying with incomplete information
- You can request application fee waivers for up to 4 UC campuses
 - If you are denied a fee waiver on the application, but you are eligible for a College Board fee waiver, indicate that you want to pay the application fees by check. Then when you receive a bill from the UC Application Center, send your College Board fee waiver to the address provided. See your counselor or Dr. Tambara if you need help with this!
- Don't forget to click "SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR UC ADMISSION"
- Print and keep a copy of your receipt – you will need your Application ID to access campus admission portals
- If you don't receive an email confirming your application submission, contact the UC Application Center

UC Application Resources

- [UC Application Mythbusters](#)
- [Descriptions of the UCSD Colleges](#)
- [UC Freshman Class Admit Data](#)
- [UC Application Guide \(from Collegewise\)](#)

UC Application Support

- Changes to your application after you apply:
 - Changes to contact information or English proficiency exam scores can be made by logging back into the application
 - Applying to an additional campus can be done by logging back into the application
 - **If you add or drop a course, or earn a D or an F in a course after applying, you must notify the UC Application Center by email or postal mail – see below**
 - Make sure to provide your full name, your date of birth, and your Application ID number on all correspondence with the UC Application Center
 - If you want to change your first choice major during the application process, contact the individual campus
- If you need to notify the UC of changes after you've received an offer of admission, contact the individual campus(es) to which you've been accepted
- UC Application Center

ucinfo@applyUCsupport.net (800) 207-1710 UC Application Center	UC Application Center P.O. Box 1432 Bakersfield, CA 93302
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