

# UC Counselors and Advisers Bulletin

APRIL 2020

## In this edition

These unique circumstances have required all of us to be even more flexible and collaborative than usual. Working together, we can ensure students are able to enroll as planned.

In addition to standard monthly features, this issue will share updates on:

1. The enrollment process for admitted students
2. Impacts on high school processes

UC has posted more including new FAQs on admission policies in response to COVID-19.

## **Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) updates**

The deadline to accept an offer of admission, known as the Statement of Intent to Register, remains May 1 for freshmen and June 1 for transfers. Students who need additional time, or who need a deferment of a deposit, should contact their campus admissions office directly.

Requests will be considered individually by each campus providing maximum flexibility to students needing extensions, and individual campuses have the authority to extend the deadline for accepting admission offers beyond May 1 or June 1. If a campus has extended its admissions deadline, they will notify admitted students directly.

To inquire about receiving an extension, students should contact the admissions office of the campuses to which they have been admitted or use the messaging tool provided within the admitted students' portal.

## **Exam credit and the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma**

## **IB subjects, IB diploma and GCE A-level subjects**

UC will continue to award credit for designated IB subjects passed with scores of 5, 6 or 7, as well as extra units for the IB Diploma completed with 30 points or more.

UC will continue to award credit for designated GCE A-level subjects passed with grades of A, B or C. Note: UC does not award credit for the Pearson International A-levels (IALs).

## **Advanced Placement (AP) credit**

The College Board recently announced changes to the AP exam format for spring 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. For this year only, AP exams will be administered in 45-minute online format which students will take from home. The exams will include material that most high schools would have covered through early March. Despite the shortened exam format and reduced content, UC recognizes the effort that students have already applied in these challenging courses and will continue to award UC credit consistent with previous years for 2020 AP exams completed with scores of 3, 4, or 5.

## **Admitted student resources**

We recognize that visiting campus is an important factor for students and their families in making their choice about where to attend college.

In light of the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, UC campuses have transitioned from in-person events and programs to virtual and online formats.

All campuses are planning a wide array of opportunities for admitted students including virtual open houses, live chats, webinars, phone/text campaigns, and social media events.

Admitted students have several steps to complete in the enrollment process after submitting the SIR. Submitting documents, knowing when to expect a Financial Aid offer, and learning about summer programs are important parts of the process.

For more information on the enrollment process UC provides the Next Steps from Admission to Enrollment for [Freshmen](#) and [Transfers](#).

Housing options are available for both freshmen and transfers. [Here](#) is more information on deadlines, options for family housing, and links to housing sites for each campus.

**UC Berkeley:** [Admission Office](#) | [Admitted Student website](#) | [Counselor Information](#)  
**UC Davis:** [Admission Office](#) | [Freshman Decision Day](#) | [Transfer Decision Day](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)  
**UC Irvine:** [Admission Office](#) | [Celebrate UCI Day](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)  
**UC Los Angeles:** [Admission Office](#) | [Bruin Bound](#) | [Virtual Tours](#)  
**UC Merced:** [Admission Office](#) | [Webinars and Videos](#) | [Virtual Tours](#)  
**UC Riverside:** [Admission Office](#) | [Highlander Day](#) | [Virtual Tours](#)  
**UC San Diego:** [Admission Office](#) | [Triton Day](#) | [Transfer Triton Day](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)  
**UC Santa Barbara:** [Admission Office](#) | [Webinars and Online Events](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)  
**UC Santa Cruz:** [Admission Office](#) | [Admitted Student website](#) | [Virtual Tour](#)

## Waitlist information

### Information for freshmen

Fall-term freshman applicants who received waitlist offers have an opt-in deadline of April 15.

Students can accept waitlist offers from multiple campuses, but **can only accept one offer of admission**.

Even if a student accepts a waitlist offer at a UC campus, that student should submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to ensure a place to attend in the fall.

### Information for transfers

Updates on waitlists for transfer students will be included in the May CAB.

### Multiple SIR

Students are only allowed to submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to one UC campus. Students who submit more than one SIR will be contacted directly by those campuses to clarify their intent to enroll by withdrawing from all campuses except the one

which they plan to attend.

#### Waitlisted students

Students who accept a UC admission offer from the waitlist and have already submitted a SIR at another UC campus **must** cancel their SIR at the campus which they no longer plan to attend. The SIR deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.

For contact information so students can advise a UC campus to cancel their SIR go [here](#).

### **Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) update**

Due to COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, the May 9, 2020 UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) has been **cancelled**.

Students intending to take the AWPE on May 9<sup>th</sup> will have other opportunities to satisfy UC's Entry Level Writing Requirement and will hear more about these options from their intended UC campus in the coming months.

### **Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) update**

Due to school closures throughout the state, UC has suspended the student data submission process by high schools in 2020 for the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program.

While schools will not need to submit student data to ELC this year, the ELC status determination will continue to be made upon submission of the UC application, as in past years. The ELC process for high schools will resume in 2021. If you have questions, please email [elc@ucop.edu](mailto:elc@ucop.edu).

### **Did You Know?**

Twelve UC undergraduates from seven campuses have won a [Goldwater Scholarship](#), a prestigious national award for sophomores and juniors majoring in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics. The \$75,000 award, named in honor of Senator Barry M.

Goldwater, helps cover costs associated with tuition, fees, books, and housing.

The 2020 winners are:

**UC Berkeley:** Eden McEwen, Physics and Astronomy | Casey Mogilevsky, Chemistry | Rahul Sahay, Physics and Astronomy

**UC Davis:** Naomi Murray, Life Sciences | Jayashri Viswanathan, Life Sciences

**UC Los Angeles:** Spenser Talkington, Physics and Astronomy

**UC Riverside:** Jennifer Le, Life Sciences

**UC San Diego:** Dora Ogbonna, Engineering

**UC Santa Barbara:** Alec Cao, Physics and Astronomy | Veronica Hsu, Life Sciences | Max Prichard, Physics and Astronomy

**UC Santa Cruz:** Elizabeth Yunerman, Physics and Astronomy

Many of these undergraduates are leaders on campus and in their communities. These students teach elementary, middle and high school students, work to create sustainable communities, publish research with faculty, and compete in sports.

## Financial Aid update

### Financial Aid Award Offers

Students who have been admitted to the University of California have most likely received financial aid offers. But what does it all mean, right? There are some key elements that students should look for when reviewing financial aid award offers and determining how much a school is going to cost:

1. **The cost of attendance** – This is the estimate of the total cost to attend a school for one academic year, including not only tuition and fees, but living expenses as well. Remember most California students don't pay the full cost of attendance to attend UC and that is because of the second item in this list, Gift Aid.
2. **Gift Aid** – This is a category of financial aid awards that students do not have to pay back and are usually called either Grants or Scholarships. Students should think of these funds as a discount on the cost of attendance. Over 70% of California

students attending UC receive grants and scholarships to help reduce their costs. By subtracting these amount from the cost of attendance, a student can determine the best estimate of what their education costs will be for the year. We refer to this as your “Net Cost”. Net cost can be partially and sometime fully paid for by the next two items.

3. **Loans** – The federal government offers students low interest rate loans to help cover educational costs. Nearly 58% of California students take out student loans and, on average graduate with \$10,000 less in loans than the national average to complete their degree. Loans are also offered to parents in the form of a Federal PLUS Loan.
4. **Work or Work-study** – Work-study may also be something that a student sees in their financial aid award offer and can be used to cover a portion of a student’s net costs. In order to utilize this offer, students must secure a qualified position. If a student is not offered work-study, but would like to be considered, they should contact their campus financial aid office. With or without a work-study offer, UC assumes that students will work part-time in order to help with their educational costs. It’s recommended that students work 20 hours or less during the academic year.

Something students will not see on their financial aid offer is private/outside scholarships. Your students can greatly reduce your need to work and borrow by receiving private/outside scholarships. So advise them to take this time to research and apply for as many private scholarships that they can.

### **Changing Financial Circumstances:**

We understand that students and their families may be financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic now or in the coming months. Students and families who believe that their situation has changed significantly and who would like to have their financial aid re-considered should do these three things:

1. Utilize the campus [financial aid calculators](#) to determine if the change in their family’s finances would affect the amount of financial aid they are eligible to receive.
2. If the calculator shows a change in financial aid eligibility they should contact the financial aid office at the campus they are planning to attend to get information on their appeal process.

3. For the best information on how to reach their campus's financial aid office they should check the student portal or on the financial aid website. Campuses will respond to students by email, telephone, or with virtual counseling sessions.

Re-evaluations of financial aid are likely to occur later this summer. Please remind your students that these evaluations are done on a on a case by case basis and that process requirements can vary from campus to campus.

## Question of the Month

### High School:

**Question:** With the recent announcement that UC will accept Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades in spring/summer 2020, will P (CR) grades validate D or F grades?

**Answer:** UC expects and assumes that high school P (CR) grades will represent work completed at the C- or higher level. Therefore, a P (CR) grade in a higher level math or LOTE course earned in spring/summer 2020 will validate D/F grades in lower level math or LOTE courses. The P (CR) grade will also validate the omission of lower levels of math (excluding Geometry) or LOTE. Math and LOTE are the only A-G subjects for which UC allows validation.

## Dates and Deadlines

**May 1:** Freshman SIR deadline

**July 1:** Official Transcripts Due

**July 15:** Deadline for Other Required Documents, such as official AP/IB/A-Level exam scores and IGETC certification