

In your application—including your personal statement—we are looking for evidence of your intellectual curiosity and your interest in personal development. UCLA is a dynamic and exciting place—due largely to our creative, ambitious, and diverse student body. We anticipate that the applicants we admit will contribute to the intellectual vitality, cultural life, and diversity of UCLA.

The personal statement...

- Offers us an understanding of you as a unique individual within the context of your family, school, community, and the world.
- Adds clarity, richness, and meaning to the information presented in other parts of your application.
- Allows you to make your best case for why you should be admitted to UCLA.
- Clarifies the distinctions between applicants whose academic records appear to be quite similar.
- Provides us with information that may not be evident in other parts of your application.
- Is a forum for you to explain how factors outside of your school environment have enhanced or impeded your ability to maximize available academic and intellectual opportunities.

The most compelling personal statements often include discussion of...

- Your academic record, accomplishments, and activities.
- Any unusual circumstances, challenges, or hardships you have faced and the ways in which you have overcome or responded to them.
- Your initiative, motivation, leadership, persistence, service to others, special potential, and/or substantial experience with other cultures.
- Your achievements in light of the opportunities available to you.

Tips for Success

- **Start on your personal statement early.**
Give yourself time to think about your topics, and carefully consider the rationale behind each question.
- **Be clear. Be focused. Be organized.**
Make sure your personal statement follows a logical structure. Try to think about how it may seem to an audience who doesn't know you. Input from people you trust—teachers, friends, relatives—can help you get different perspectives on how your personal statement affects those who are reading it.
- **Be careful with humor and clichés.**
What might seem funny or biting irony to you might not seem that way to someone who doesn't know you. Remember that the personal statement is an opportunity for you to give us a complete picture of yourself. Don't allow clichés to speak for you.
- **Don't manufacture hardship.**
A personal statement isn't effective simply because it chronicles difficult circumstances. Rather, an effective personal statement gives us a clear sense of your personal qualities and how you have used and developed them in response to your opportunities and challenges.



- **Use specific examples to illustrate your ideas.**
Thousands upon thousands of personal statements discuss initiative. Only hundreds show us initiative with concrete examples of demonstrated motivation and leadership. But examples are only one part of the equation: we also need to see how you have assigned meaning to your experiences and how you have grown from them. We want you to prove to us with written examples that you have a sense of who you are, where you are going, and how you are going to use your education and your experiences to accomplish your goals. Although some events have long-term or even lifetime ramifications, it is usually better to focus on recent events because they shed more light on who you are right now.
- **Give yourself plenty of time for revisions.**
Read your writing to others, and revise for clarity of content and style. Pay attention to the rules of correct grammar and punctuation, and don't forget to spell check. Remember that it is very important that what you submit is your work and your words.

We hope these tips will help you get organized and inspire you. Your accomplishments, your opinions... you are important. Your personal statement is the best tool you have to show us the individual gifts you have to offer the UCLA community.



UCLA Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools

The goal of UCLA Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools is to attract and enroll an academically strong and diverse freshman class—one that is representative of California's diversity. To those ends, UCLA's holistic, comprehensive freshman admissions policy stems from the University of California Regents' Comprehensive Admissions Policy and the UCLA Academic Senate's recommendations. The Academic Senate's Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools regularly reviews this policy.

University of California Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran.

The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding the University's equal opportunity policies may be directed to the Office of Campus Counsel, 3149 Murphy Hall.

Inquiries regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or 504 Compliance may be directed to: Karen Henderson-Winge, Coordinator of ADA and 504 Compliance, A239 Murphy Hall.

Instructions from the University of California

- Respond to both questions, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.
- You may divide the word count as you wish, but each response must be at least 250 words. You may answer one question in 250 words and the other in 750, for example, or respond to both with 500 words each.

Question 1

Freshman applicants:

Describe the world you come from—for example, your family, community or school—and tell us how this world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Transfer applicants:

What is your intended major? Discuss how your interest in the subject developed and describe any experience you have had in the field—such as volunteer work, internships and employment, participation in student organizations and activities—and what you have gained from your involvement.

Question 2

All applicants:

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it reflect who you are?

Special Instructions for Veterans

Because the University is interested in knowing about your military service, you may wish to use the personal statement to communicate the following:

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