

**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**
young lives transformed through science

UC APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Christina Contreras. October 12, 2022

TODAY'S GOAL

Students will gain knowledge and skills to submit a competitive UC application.

AGENDA

- 🔹 College Application Overview
- 🔹 Orientation to the UC Application
- 🔹 Things You Should Know
 - Academic History
 - Activities & Awards
- 🔹 Evaluation
- 🔹 Wrap Up

COLLEGE APPLICATION OVERVIEW

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need to use full legal name (what your social security card says).
 - Make sure Hoover reflects true name.
- Use dropdowns! Avoid entering information in manually when a dropdown list is available.
- Only 10th & 11th grades are considered in GPA calculation.
 - Classes taken during the summer after 9th , 10th , and 11th grade are included in the GPA.
 - 9th grade still useful to clear A-G requirements.
- Hoover is a SEMESTER system
 - Get a copy of your transcript for easy grade input.
- Fee waiver application built into both the UC and CSU applications.
 - Takes into account household income and # of dependents; adheres to FERPA laws (no student data sharing)
 - Providing this information is optional in the application, but required if seeking financial aid.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- If ideal major is impacted/capped, consider different majors that offer a pathway to preferred *career*.
 - i.e.: if computer science is impacted, consider biology and emphasize your studies around data and technology
 - i.e.: if political science is impacted, consider an international relations or economics degree and emphasize your studies around political analysis
- Undecided is also an impacted major. Recommended to apply undecided if the UNIVERSITY is the deciding factor and not the reputation of the major programs.
 - Applying undecided may get you into the school, but there is no guarantee that you will be able to major in your preferred field
 - Recommended to choose an alternative major if option is available.
- Consider what your “application narrative” is.
- Use a professional email, specific for your college access activities.
- Application audits to verify declared information is accurate.

WHAT IS AN APPLICATION NARRATIVE?

It is the ability of an application to **tell a cohesive story** that describes who the student is and how they contribute to a college community, either explicitly or implicitly. It is **the character your application takes on** after crafting your personal story based on how you want to be perceived by admissions. While grades and coursework certainly play a large part in the admissions evaluation process, crafting your narrative is where the essays, the recommendations, and the really meaningful experiences of activities come together.

When you think about it from the **admissions officer's perspective**, they're tasked with working out who somebody is as a person without really knowing them or, in most cases, having met them. So to do this, they're reading a great deal of information about you and **piecing it together to get a sense of who you** are as a fully formed human being. And they do that by pulling together all these different pieces of the application and **shaping an overarching story**. So every element contributes to your story and all the different pieces want to complement and reinforce one another.

The bottom line is you're trying to figure out how to get the admissions people to know who you are in the best way possible with the most complete story that you can give them. And what that means is taking **all the different elements of the application and having a flow**, a continuum of how your story is told. If there's something that you're passionate about or that is really important to you, you want to make sure that your personal statements tell that story, your teacher recommendations support that, your activities align with that, etc.

Another nuance to the narrative--**does it align with each school's values?** A lot of colleges have the supplemental essay prompt, "Why us?" It is important that you're able to explain how your values align and why you're interested in their school using the narrative that you're presenting in your application.

HOW DO YOU BUILD THE NARRATIVE?

We start with your **current coursework and activity list** and begin to **identify the underlying themes** (themes become especially clear to see with help from an outside eye, like a mentor). Just keep asking questions and saying more. The deeper you go into a conversation, not only do you find out more, but you also start to **hear the repetition**, and that's where you find your theme(s). You might be surprised about all the different connections that you see and how things start to link up and add together.

Let's talk about how to support the story and which types of activities can help build your narrative. When it comes to activities and clubs, Admissions wants to see **commitment, leadership, impact, and alignment**. Volunteering and community engagement are great ways to get involved, as well as athletics, arts, or music.

[\(CATES Tutoring & Education Services\)](#)

QUESTIONS?

ORIENTATION TO THE UC APPLICATION

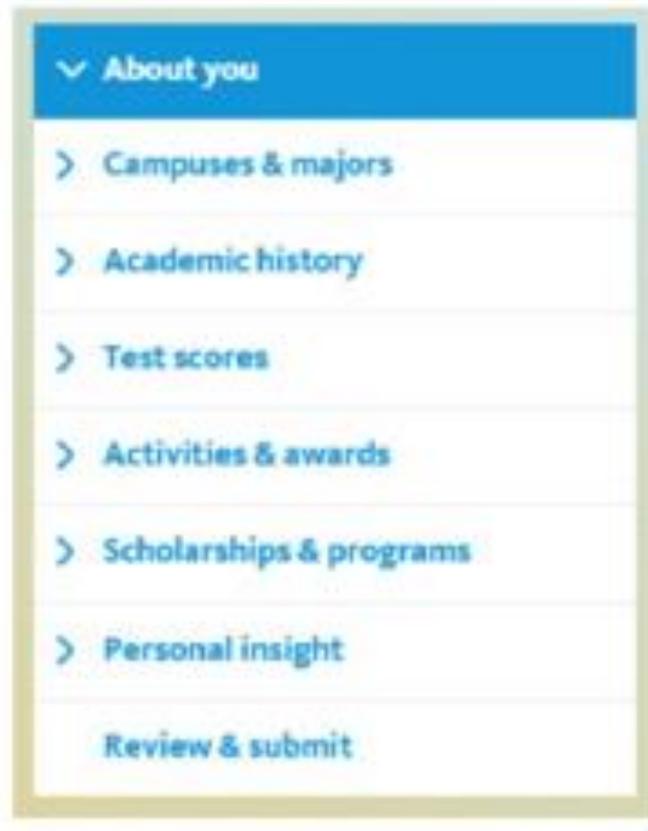
UC LOCATIONS



THE UC APPLICATION

- Apply here: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-now.html>
 - Applying for “quarter/semester 2023”
 - Select all the schools you intend to apply to
 - UCSD also has eight colleges you will need to choose from
 - Holistic review
- Do not need to fill in social security number, but offering SSN (or ITIN) makes it easier for university to connect application to FAFSA which is necessary for generating a financial aid package
- UC only asks for a final transcript (not 7th semester transcript) from admitted students
- Can update application until **January 15** (ie: test scores, address, NOT courses or grades)
- “Additional Comments” – nothing should be in this section that you’ve already covered in another part of the application; NOT a space for a third personal statement
 - Opportunity to explain unusual circumstances/ make your case for how you would contribute to the incoming freshman class.
 - “help me understand what was going on at that time”
- Call UC Application Center or email ucinfo@applyucsupport.net for any technical support
- [UC Application Overview](#) [video]

SECTIONS OF THE UC APPLICATION



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT YOU

- Information about a student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s)' education, income, and family size is used to provide contextual information about the home environment and to determine eligibility for the application fee waiver.

CAMPUSES & MAJORS

- Picking a major – UC campuses not as impacted as CSU campuses
 - If selected major is “capped,” select a non-capped alternative major
 - UCSD first year admissions does not select based on major
- If student qualifies for the fee waiver, they can apply to up to 4 campuses for free!
- Even though students complete one application for all UC’s checked, UC campuses will not share or collaborate on the decision process. Each campus will make final decisions independently from one another.

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Academic history

- 12th grade course grades will default to “IP In Progress” (semester 1) and “PL Planned” (semester 2).
- For courses that are only one semester long, select “NO” for the term for which the course was not offered (e.g. Economics offered fall term, for spring term select “NO”).
- Include all original courses/grades and enter repeated courses/grades for courses in which an original grade of D or F was earned and subsequently repeated.
- If any college/university level courses were completed while in high school, even if they are taught on the high school campus, add the college information AFTER the high school information. (dual enrollment)
 - Students who are offered admission to UC will be required to submit an official college transcript for all college courses completed.

ACADEMIC HISTORY - ACTIVITY

Pull up your transcript and start to enter your courses and grades. Confirm you have completed ALL of your A-G requirements (or classes are in progress or planned).

TEST SCORES

- SAT/ACT test scores are test OPTIONAL
- Other tests include: AP scores, TOEFL scores
 - Submit AP test scores even if didn't pass to show persistence until the end
 - If took TOEFL to demonstrate language proficiency and did not take a class, can skip inputting course for language proficiency, but will get an error code – can explain in comments section
- Sending scores to 1 UC ensures *all* UCs will get them

ACTIVITIES & AWARDS – INSTRUCTIONS

- Students will have **twenty spaces to enter their activities**, limited to a 350 word character count. Students will categorize the activities themselves based on the provided options and there is no limit for each category.
 - Categories: Award or honors; Educational preparation program; Extracurricular activity; Other Coursework; Volunteer / Community service; Work experience
- Admissions **does not value one activity over another**, but they do value commitment, progression and leadership.
- **Do not repeat the entries**, even if they might fit into more than one category.
- Students should **focus on their time in high school**.
- Students should also **include any activities they have planned** for the spring semester of their senior year.
- “After 12th Grade” - this is meant for students who are taking a **gap year** before attending college.
- For each activity, students need to include their time commitment. Students should give their **best estimate or average**.
- Students should **focus on your role or responsibility** within the activity - not necessarily a description of the activity itself. How did this activity affect or help you progress?
- Where possible, it’s great to **understand the context** of the student’s achievement! (time commitment, scope, impact, competitiveness)
- **COVID:** If you had an activity planned but it was cancelled, we want to know about it and you should make a note of it in the **Additional Comments section** of the UC Application, instead of including it in the Activities & Awards section.
- [UC Application Tutorial Step 6: Activities & Awards](#) [video]

ACTIVITY: CHALLENGE TO 20

With your mentor/mentee, come up with as many entries as you can think of, especially the activities that highlight your narrative.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Athlete of the week
- Principal's award
- Superstar awards (ie: ASB award, etc.)
- Scholarships
- 4.0 scholars / Honor Roll
- Class awards
- Cardinal Pride
- Academy awards
- Attendance award
- Program awards (ie: reading legacies)
- BAHIA recognitions
- Hoover bucks

EDUCATIONAL PREP PROGRAMS

- CAC
- Cardinals Interact
- Ocean Discovery
- Reality Changers
- WAHUPA
- Aaron Price
- Upward Bound
- Talent Search
- FACES
- Cardinals Camp/ Link Crew
- Hoover academy
- Dual enrollment classes
- AVID
- Cal SOAP Exam Preparation
- Tutoring
- College & Career Readiness (BAHIA)
- RTC presentation
- PEN publication
- College Access Mentor Program

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- SGT Board
- Student advisory board
- Academy advisor board
- Yoga
- Drama
- Photography / Yearbook / Journalism
- Church youth group
- Sports
- ASB
- Band
- Dance
- Academic league

COURSES OTHER THAN A-G

- Dual enrollment courses
 - Ie: Poetry in America
 - Ie: Chicano Studies
- AP classes
- Academy courses
- “life” classes
 - Ie: cooking
 - Ie: mechanics
- ASB, AVID, yearbook
- Outside of school
 - Ie: CPR
- Cal SOAP Exam Preparation
- Tutoring
- College & Career Readiness (BAHIA)
- RTC presentation
- PEN publication
- Swimming classes

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Church
- 1-day volunteer events
 - ie:
canyon/beach/campus
clean ups
- School volunteer
 - ie: Cardinals Camp
 - ie: Link Crew
- Mentoring
- SD Rescue Mission
- Hoover academy
- Hoover Community Connections
- OL Ambassador (gala, site visits, etc.)
- Servant Leadership (BAHIA)
- SES/BAHIA Mentor
- Fundraising (sports, band, gala)
- Child care/ household management
- Animal shelters
- Nursing homes

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Customer service
- Photography services
- House management
- Care taker
- Industrial cooking
- Restaurant maintenance
- Hoover academy
- Cardinals Camp/ Link Crew
- OL Ambassador (gala, site visits, etc.)
- SES/BAHIA Mentor
- Fundraising (sports, band, gala)
- Hoover Community Connections

EXAMPLES THAT WORKED

- *“Helped with my father’s business since he is the sole employee. I started helping in the 6th grade. Worked moving produce, selling produce and planting seeds after school and on the weekends. The farm business was shut down before 12th grade.”* (238 characters)
- *“Senior of the Month award recognizes seniors for all-around achievement. Recognized for my achievement of straight As throughout high school in all available honors and AP courses, my contributions as AB President, Mock Trail Co-Captain, California Scholarship Federation President, and Involvement in many other clubs and activities on campus.”* (344 characters)
- *“As co-president in senior year, I organize a tutoring program with a local elementary school for at-risk fourth- and fifth-graders. I found and trained 25 tutors this year. This consisted of interviewing other students, and making a week-long training program.”* (263 characters)

EXAMPLES THAT ARE MISSED OPPORTUNITY

- *“I’ve competed with **the best of the US** and got to the top. Also making the tiny cuts to get to the very top were very rewarding.”* (126 characters)
- *“Being a part of the MESA program has been a great experience. MESA students are able to discuss with each other and come up with ideas that will help our project.”* (161 characters)

ACTIVITY: IT'S YOUR TURN!

With your mentor/mentee, choose one activity or award, and create a description.

SCHOLARSHIPS & PROGRAMS

- Select all scholarships that apply to students. There are no limits on scholarships that they can request. Students should click through all of the categories.
- All UC campuses offer either EOP or a similar program with a different name. If interested in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), students will need to check the box on this page and provide a brief statement about why they're interested in the program.

EVALUATION

WRAP UP

- Upcoming deadlines:
 - Personal Statement Consultations, sign ups DUE: October 31
 - Send first draft of one essay
 - FAFSA
 - EOP applications
 - CSU requires short responses
 - UC has additional first-gen programs (i.e.: OASIS at UCSD)
 - Institution specific scholarships
- Helpful tools:
 - [Grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com)
 - [UC Application Tutorial](#) [YouTube]
- Upcoming CAMP dates
 - CSU Application Workshop – November 21 @ 4-6pm
 - Application Bootcamp – November 21 & 22, all day

SPECIAL INVITATION

A Conversation with Dr. Solomon Bililign

Ocean Discovery Scientist-In-Residence &
Professor at North Carolina A&T State University

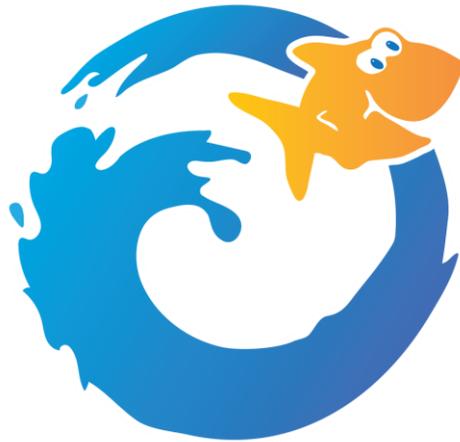
You are invited to join us on
Thursday, October 13th, at Ocean Discovery's Living Lab
4255 Thorn St. San Diego, CA 92105

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5:30 PM | Welcome |
| 6:00 PM | Interview with Dr. Bililign
<i>Facilitated by Shara Fisler, Executive Director, and Founder</i> |
| 7:00 PM | Reception
<i>Appetizers will be served</i> |

Please RSVP and Register by [Clicking Here](#)



Dr. Solomon Bililign is a professor of Physics at North Carolina A&T State University. His research has focused on indoor and outdoor air quality and the health impacts in Africa. Dr. Bililign won the *Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring* in 2011. Most recently, Dr. Bililign is Ocean Discovery's Scientist-in-Residence and is reaching young people in City Heights.



**OCEAN
DISCOVERY
INSTITUTE**
young lives transformed through science

THANK YOU.

oceandiscoveryinstitute.org