

TOP TEN TIPS
University of California Admissions

1. Be eligible! Earn the best grades you can. GPA and rigor of curriculum are the most important factors in UC admissions.
2. Take a challenging curriculum every year, including senior year. UC wants students who are well-prepared for the rigors of college coursework.
3. Learn about admissions standards at each campus; some are very selective, others admit most eligible students.
4. Apply broadly, to at least 4 campuses. Apply to UC Riverside and UC Merced (they have the highest admit rates).
5. Extracurricular activities are important. Join a club, get a job, do volunteer work, anything that occupies your time outside of school. (Wii and Facebook don't count!☺)
6. Although SAT Subject Tests are now optional, it is recommended that you take these tests in areas of academic strength. Be sure to take them at the end of the school year; if you wait until fall, you will have forgotten a lot of the material.
7. Take the SAT and the ACT; you might get a higher score on one than the other. UC only looks at the highest score from a single test date.
8. The personal statements are important! Mention special talents, circumstances that impacted your achievement in high school, challenges you've overcome, etc.
9. Meet with the writing coach to work on SAT essay and your personal statements.
10. Use College Center services (UC reps, appointments, workshops).