Applying to Graduate School and the UCSB Application Process

University of California, Santa Barbara
Graduate School

• An advanced program of study focused in:
  – Academic discipline, researching in a specific field
  – Professional, developing skills and knowledge for a specific profession
• Rigorous coursework, higher expectations
• Smaller class size; more student and faculty interaction
• Hands-on experience with internships, teaching or research
• Produce an original research or project

Why Graduate School

• To further your knowledge and skills for a specific field
• To advance your career and professional prospects
• To explore your intellectual curiosity and passion
Preparing for Graduate School

• Research degree programs and admission requirements
• Identify exam test dates, sites and fees
• Attend graduate school fairs and informational sessions
• Participate in research programs and relevant work experience
• Learn about faculty and current research studies
• Evaluate your commitment and financial ability
Applying to Graduate School

• Decide where and how many schools to apply
• Prepare your application materials (personal statements, recommendation letters, etc.)
• Take required examinations and submit official scores to appropriate institutions
• Complete application and submit materials by required deadline(s)
I am applying to UCSB!!

What’s Next?
UCSB Graduate Admissions Requirements

- Received a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited university
- At least a 3.0/B average in undergraduate coursework

UCSB Graduate Online Application:
1. Online application & application fee
2. Statement of Purpose
3. Personal Achievements/Contributions
4. Resume/CV
5. Three letters of recommendation
6. GRE scores
7. TOEFL or IELTS scores (if applicable)
8. Transcripts from all post-sec. schools
9. Any add’l materials required by Dept (Subject Exam, writing sample, etc)

UCSB Electronic Application
https://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/eapp
Statement of Purpose
Give a brief statement outlining your reasons for undertaking a graduate program, your particular area of specialization within the major field, your past academic work, and your plans for future occupation or profession. Also include any additional information that may assist the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UC Santa Barbara.

Personal Achievements/Contributions Statement
UC Santa Barbara is interested in a diverse and inclusive graduate student population. Please describe any aspects of your personal

Prompt Highlights
- Why are you pursuing graduate study?
- What are you inspired to research?
- What prepares you for this research endeavor?
- Do you have other experience/characteristics that prepares you for graduate study?
- How do you plan to put your graduate research to use?
- What makes you a good FIT for this particular graduate program?
Personal Achievements/Contributions Statement
UC Santa Barbara is interested in a diverse and inclusive graduate student population. Please describe any aspects of your personal background, accomplishments, or achievements that you feel are important in evaluating your application for graduate study. For example, please describe if you have experienced economic challenges in achieving higher education, such as being financially responsible for family members or dependents, having to work significant hours during undergraduate schooling or coming from a family background of limited income. Please describe if you have any unusual or varied life experiences that might contribute to the diversity of the graduate group, such as fluency in other languages, experience living in bicultural communities, academic research interests focusing on cultural, societal, or educational problems as they affect underserved segments of society, or evidence of an intention to use the graduate degree toward serving disadvantaged individuals or populations.

Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
List your positions of employment or volunteer work/community service since high school, either full or part-time, including the hours per week, principal work activity, dates of employment, and supervisors.

Prompt Highlights
- Do you have accomplishments that illustrate your capacity to succeed at graduate study?
- Do you have unique skills or experiences that may help you to contribute to your field and the campus community?
- What challenges have you had to work to overcome in order to have the opportunity to obtain education?
- What unique life experiences do you bring with you?
- Will your research serve underserved segments of society, or address problems particular to disadvantage or underserved individuals or populations?
Three letters of recommendation are required. You will be asked to provide the recommender’s name, email address, and current institution. Recommenders will receive instructions for completing and uploading the letter to your application.

- Select recommenders who know your intellectual ability and can comment on your aptitude for research
- Give at least 6 weeks in advance of the deadline, and specific letter instructions for submitting the letter
- Provide a draft of your Statement of Purpose, unofficial transcripts, and copy of papers or assignments
Graduate Records Examination (GRE)
All applicants are required to take the GRE General test, except those applying to Art and Education TEP. While there is no minimum score requirement, check with departments on competitive score for admission.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
Only required for applicants whose native language is not English.

Reporting Notes
- UCSB uses the most current, complete set of test scores; applicants may not “mix and match” scores from different test dates
- Send official scores to UCSB, institution code 4835
- Take exams 6 weeks before application deadline(s) to allow time for transmittal of scores to schools
Cost of Attendance
• Find out what the estimated costs are for tuition, books, housing, and other living expenses, as well as in-state vs. out-of-state tuition
• Estimated Cost of Attendance at UCSB: www.finaid.ucsb.edu/CostofAttendance.aspx

Funding Your Graduate Studies
• Determine how you will fund your graduate studies
• Funding opportunities:
  – Financial Aid – Federal Loans
  – Graduate Student Employment
  – Teaching/Research Assistantships
  – Department/Campus Fellowships
  – Extramural Fellowships
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Online application opens at <a href="http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/eapp">www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/eapp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1-15</td>
<td>Many department deadlines close: each department has its own deadline, ranging from Dec. 1 to May 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Departmental nominations for central fellowships begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - February</td>
<td>Admissions notification begins for some departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Admissions processing and notification continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Student response &amp; SIR deadline for financial support offers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Final application deadline for some departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Registrar sends a reminder email to all students who have submitted an SIR confirming 1) Perm No, 2) PIN, 3) online registration instructions: “Welcome New Students” <a href="http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/welcome/welcome-newdirect.htm">www.registrar.ucsb.edu/welcome/welcome-newdirect.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Graduate Division asks for final admissions decisions and any outstanding SIRs &amp; SLRs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Graduate Division
  www.graddiv.ucsb.edu

• Graduate Electronic Application (E-App)
  www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/eapp

• Department Requirements, Deadlines and Contacts
  www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/departments/index.aspx

• Graduate Student Support Network
  www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/resources/support-network.aspx

• UCSB Grad Post and Peer Advisors
  www.gradpost.ucsb.edu
Questions?

For questions regarding the UCSB admissions process, please contact:

gradadmissions@graddiv.ucsb.edu