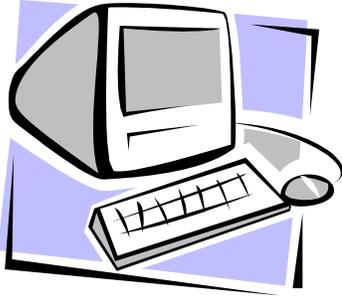


Personal Statement



What is the Personal Statement? The Personal Statement is an integral part of the application. The content of the Personal Statement should clarify, richness, and meaning to the information you present in other parts of your application, enabling the Office of Admissions to form the best impression of you. In reading your application, we want to get to know you as well as we can. There's a limit to what grades and test scores can tell us so we ask you to write a personal statement.

Your personal statement—consisting of responses to two prompts - Think of it as your opportunity to introduce yourself to the admission and scholarship officers reading your application. Be open, be honest, be real. What you tell us in your personal statement gives readers the context to better understand the rest of the information you've provided in your application.

A couple of tips: Read each prompt carefully and be sure to respond to all parts. Use specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make. Finally, relax. This is one of many pieces of information we consider in reviewing your application; an admission decision will not be based on your personal statement alone.

Instructions:

- Respond to both prompts, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.
- You may allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words.
- Avoid the use of special characters.
- Feedback and suggestions from others are useful but you are responsible for writing the Personal Statement.
- Stay within the word limit as closely as you can. A little over—1012 words, for example— is fine.
- Compose your personal statement in a word-processing program - Don't type it directly into the application. This way you will have the opportunity to print copies for review.

Questions

1. **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.**
 - **Suggestion for Prompt#1 (Transfer)**
 - **Consider including course work experience. This may include working with faculty or doing research projects.**
2. **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 relate to the person you are?**
 - **Suggestions for Prompt #2**
 - **Think about answering this prompt first, as it may help set the context you want to describe in Prompt #1**
 - **Choose a topic that has not been addressed in detail in another section of the application .**
 - **Keep the information relevant to your personal experiences.**
3. Part 3 is not intended as an essay, it is meant to clarify or expand on other information as directed earlier in the application (e.g., to list additional names, explain citizenship/visa issues, discuss reasons for applying to EOP, etc.) **or to tell us anything else you want us to know about you or your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in the application.**

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:

1. To describe how your military service has been instrumental in developing your educational plans.
2. To indicate if you are entitled to educational benefits as a result of your own military service or the service connected death or disability of a parent or spouse
3. 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 the ROTC-type program

Tips and Techniques

Start early - Allow time for reflection, thoughtful preparation, and revision

Choose a topic for each essay - Look critically at the information in your application: your grades, activity and work experience, family income. Anticipate questions an admission evaluator will have after reading your application. The personal statement is your opportunity to answer those.

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.

More Tips and Techniques →→→→

The Personal Statement Worksheet - The following worksheet is geared to help you start the writing process of your Personal Statement. ***There is no correct answer to the Personal Statement***, so just start writing.

Suggestions for Writing the Personal Statement

Answer the question. Take time and think about each prompt before you start writing. Use details and examples to make your point. Use your words strategically; is there a reason behind your example? Write to add context and depth, not to fill space.

Write persuasively. Present your information and ideas in a focused, deliberate and meaningful manner. Provide specific, concrete examples to support your point. A personal statement that is simply a list of qualities or accomplishments usually is not persuasive.

Give yourself time to edit. Start writing to answer each prompt then go back and review the word count, content, and overall message. You may not have space to tell us everything so make your words count.

Be you. Remember to talk about yourself so that we can get to know your personality, talents, accomplishments and potential to succeed at a UC campus. Use plenty of "I" statements.

Stick to one topic per response. Making a list of accomplishments, activities, awards, or work will lessen the impact of your words. Expand on a topic by using examples and facts for maximum impact to an Admissions reader.



Brainstorm Topics: When you are composing your Personal Statement consider including:

- Personal triumphs or challenges - If you decide to talk about a challenge or triumph, do not forget to explain what you learned from the experience.
- Leadership opportunities - We value leadership at many levels (e.g. family, school, or community).
- Experience outside the classroom - Consider experiences that have made an impact on your life (e.g. travels, church/temple, work, youth groups, or your family)
- Disabilities - If you are living with a disabilities, feel free to talk about it in the context of your ability to succeed.
- Culture - If your culture has influenced who you are, talk about it. Let it add to the picture we form of you.

Stay focused. Avoid common mistakes such as:

- Inappropriate use of humor
- Creative writing (pomes, scene setting, or clichés).
- Quotations - We want to know your thoughts and words, not someone else's
- Generalities - Stick to facts and specifics you want us to know about yourself.
- Repetition - Do not talk about the same topic in each response. Give us new information we cannot find in other sections of the application.
- List of accomplishments or activities.
- Philosophy - Do describe your world in facts and examples. Don't ask questions without answers.
- Don't be campus specific. You're talking to all the UC campuses in your response.



Additional instructions for active-duty or veterans of the U.S. Military

Because UC is interested in knowing about your or a family member's military service, you may wish to use the personal statement to communicate the following:

- Describe how your military service has been instrumental in developing your educational plans.
- Indicate if you are entitled to educational benefits as a result of your own military service or the service-connected death or disability of a parent or spouse.
- Indicate if you are affiliated with the military, such as the spouse or dependent of someone who is on active duty or a current participant in an ROTC-type program.

Regular college and university coursework taken during military service should be reported in the "Academic History" section of the application. Do not submit any transcripts at this time.

If you completed courses offered by a branch of the U.S. military, you may indicate your intention to submit your military transcript by checking the box in the "About You" section of the application.

If you are admitted and accept an offer of admission, you can then submit official military transcripts (e.g., ACE, SMAART) to the UC campus.

UC may award transfer credit for some of your military courses if the content is equivalent to a course taught by the University of California.

Notes: