

# The Personal Statement

[www.admissions.ucsb.edu](http://www.admissions.ucsb.edu)



**What is the Personal Statement?** The personal Statement is an integral part of the UC application. The content of the Personal Statement should add clarity, richness, and meaning to the information you present in other parts of your UC application, enabling the Office of Admissions to form the best impression of you. This information is, also, available at [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad\\_adm/apply/how\\_apply/personal\\_statement.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/apply/how_apply/personal_statement.html)

## Technical Information

- You have 1,000 words to answer both prompts.
- Neither response should be 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.

## Personal Statement Prompts (for Transfer Students)

### Prompt #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.

#### *Suggestions for Prompt #1*

- Consider including course work experience. This may include working with faculty or doing research projects.

### Prompt #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 will wish 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.

## 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.

**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.

**Think outside the box.** When you are composing your Personal

Statement consider including:

- Personal triumphs or challenge — 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).
- Disabilities — if you are living with a disability, 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 (poem, 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 sections of the application.
- Lists of accomplishments or activities.
- Philosophy - Do describe your world in facts and examples.
- Don't ask questions without answers.