

# UC Personal Insight Questions

When selecting and answering the UC Personal Insight questions, you may consider the following tips and points.

## In general they are looking for:

- Initiative, motivation, leadership, persistence, service to others, special potential and substantial experience with other cultures
- All achievement
- Any unusual circumstances or hardships you have faced and the ways in which you have overcome or responded to them.
  - How you confronted and overcame your challenges, rather than describing a hardship just for the sake of including it in your application
  - What you learned from or achieved in spite of these circumstances

## Intended major:

*Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.*

- How your academic interest developed
- Include any work experience, volunteer work, or any related experience that enhanced your skills in your field of study
- If you are applying to multiple campuses and have

## Leadership:

*Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.*

- Can be at any place in the community, in the church, family, college, etc.
- Analyze and reflect upon the leadership experience
- What came out of your leadership
- Can you connect the outcome with your major or career

## Creative Side:

*Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.*

- Unique idea that had a positive impact
- Creating something new
- To be specific – give example(s)
- How you developed eth idea, and how you expressed or recognized for your idea

## Talents:

*What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?*

- Describe your talents or skills within the college experience
- Why you are proud of it and/or how is impacting your life

## Educational Opportunity:

*Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. Provide example and details.*

- Speak to your educational experience - choose either the opportunity or the barrier.
  - Opportunities could include:
    - Transfer preparation programs
    - Internships
    - Research opportunities
    - International experiences
    - Community service
  - Barriers may reflect on anything that caused you access and success through your education
    - Commuting time/ transportation
    - A traumatic event
    - Medical challenges
    - Family circumstances
    - Full-time employment
    - Times when well-being was compromised
    - An undiagnosed or severe learning difference
    - Financial challenges

### Challenges:

*Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?*

- What was the challenges you encountered that impact your transfer?
- How did it impact you a person or student?
- How did you overcome it or resolved the obstacles? Examples are:
  - Successfully complete a challenging course
  - Discussing how your background impacted academic achievement
  - Situations or circumstances may resulted to take a break – gap in education
  - Poor grades or withdrawing from an entire academic term
  - Returning to college after ‘long’ absence
  - Serving in arm forces
- What you learned from it

### Volunteer and Community Work:

*What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?*

- What inspired you to make a change in the community and/or work as a volunteer?
- What was your role in the effort?
- Provide examples

### Additional topics that would like to share about yourself

*Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?*

- Why UC? Why now?
- What you are proud of that you could not explain in any other questions
- Provide specific examples

Reference: University of California, Ensuring Transfer Success 2018, May 2018, Retrieved 10/1/2018



- Brainstorm and start early
- The focal point is you! Don't talk about others
- Do not repeat the information within your application
- Stay on the topic
- Don't use humor, cliché, and/or slang
- Avoid Quotes
- Use your own words
- Pay attention to the language:
  - Avoid being negative
  - Don't nag
  - Don't barrage
- Don't list, add your experience



- ❖ 350 words for each questions
- ❖ All have equal value
- ❖ These question are to add values to your application
- ❖ This is for them to know you, so be yourself