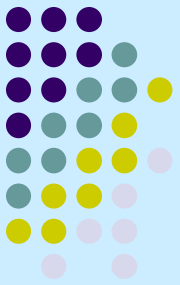


University of California Personal Insight Questions for Transfer Applications



***Presented by
Gloria Darafshi
Transfer Counselor***

The Basics

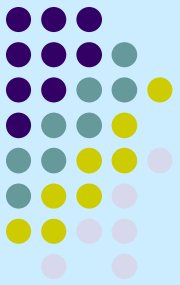


- Answer four questions – one required question and 3 out of 7 additional questions of your choice.
- Each question has a 350 word count limit.
- All questions have equal value.
- Select the questions that will provide the strongest representation of who you are.
- It is not an essay; provide 4 short-answer responses that quickly get to the content.

Personal Insight Questions

1.
2.
3.
4.
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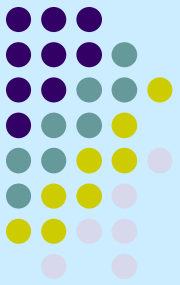
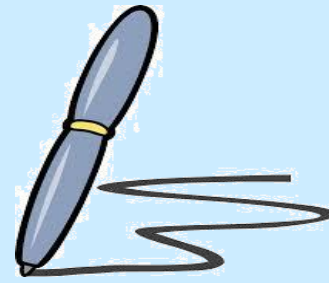
Why did UC make this change?



- Greater student voice
- Less coaching and strategizing
- Provides more options for applicants
- Allows UC to get to know students as individuals.
- More clarity as to what UC is looking for in responses.
- First change since 2008.

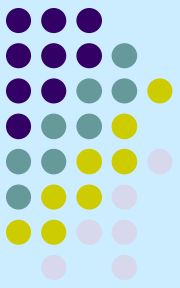


General Tips

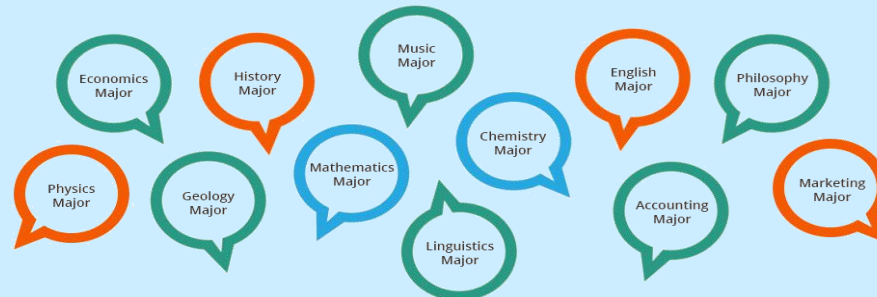


- No quotes, abbreviations, acronyms, trying to be funny.
- Image that you are interviewing with UC admission staff.
- Don't focus on HS accomplishments or activities – be recent.
- Make yourself the focus: use “I” and “my” statements.
- Provide details and examples.
- If applying to multiple UC's, don't single out one UC.
- Brainstorm ideas, write draft, refine, check grammar.
- Type in a text document, then copy and paste to application.

Required Question: 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 did your interest in your major develop?
- Experiences outside of classroom that relate to your major; if none, write about classroom experiences.
- Skills developed related to major that will help you succeed after transfer.
- Demonstrate that you have in-depth knowledge of your major.
- How your major is tied to your long-term goals.



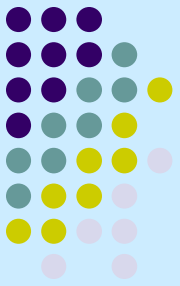
Question 1: Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.



- Can be leadership in a variety of settings – a college club, group project, sports team, within your family.
- It can mean being a mentor to others or taking a lead role in organizing an event or project.
- Did you help resolve an important dispute at school or in your community?
- Discuss your responsibilities, accomplishments and **what you learned from the experience.**
- How did your experience change your perspective on leading others?



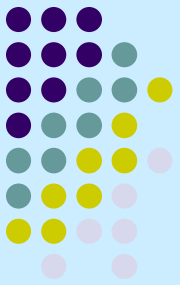
Question 2: Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.



- Creativity can mean producing something (art, music, poetry) or thinking creatively: devising new ways to carry out tasks, solve problems, or meet challenges.
- Discuss a creative skill you have that is important to you. What have you been able to do with that skill?
- Explain a situation when you used creativity, your solution, and what you learned.
- Explain how your creativity relates to your major or a future career.



Question 3: What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?



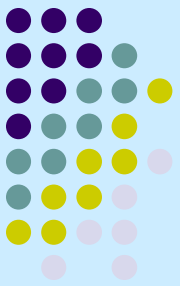
- Discuss a talent or skill that makes you proud. Why is this talent/skill meaningful to you?
- You don't have to be recognized or have received awards (but talk about it if you did).
- Discuss if the talent or skill comes naturally or if you had to work hard to develop it. How has it developed over time?
- Are you using your talent or skill in or outside the classroom?

Will Smith on Skill vs Talent

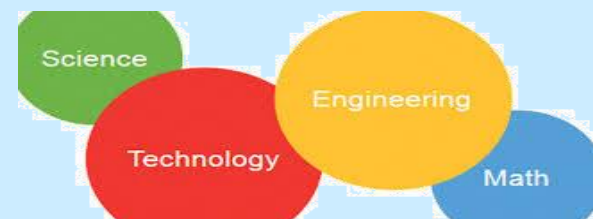
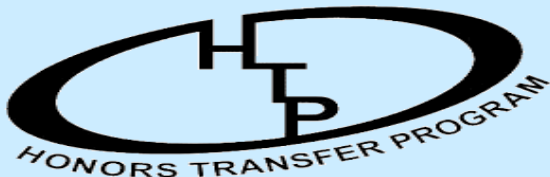
"Talent you have naturally. Skill is only developed by hours and hours and hours of beating on your craft."



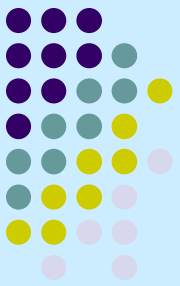
Question 4: Describe how you have taken **advantage of a significant educational opportunity **or** worked to overcome an educational **barrier** you faced.**




- An educational opportunity is something that added value to your educational experience; must be academic focused.
- Examples of opportunities: scholarships, programs such as EOPS & DRC, Honors Program, MESA/STEM, tutoring.
- Explain how this opportunity led to success in college.
- Describe an educational barrier and how you overcame it.
- Examples of barriers: first-gen. college student, learning disability, financial stress, inadequate academic preparation.
- Explain how overcoming this barrier helped shape who are you today.



Question 5: 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?



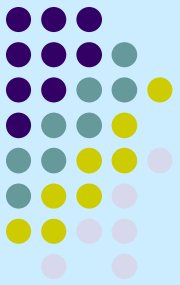
- Describe a difficult experience in your life and how you overcame it.
- This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles you've faced and what you learned from the experience.
- If your academic record is mixed – for example, poor grades initially, or changed colleges several times, this is a good place to explain.
- You can decide how much detail to provide as long as the reader understands the situation.

Everyone faces challenges
in life. 

It's a matter of how you
learn to overcome them and
use them to your advantage.

– Celestine Chua

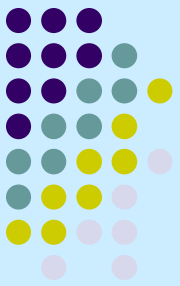
Question 6: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?



- Think of community in a broad sense – your neighborhood, hometown, ethnic/racial group, etc.
- Focus on recent events, rather than High School or earlier.
- Explain how you have contributed to positive change.
- It can be something “small” as long as it had positive impact.
- Explain what inspired you to get involved.
- Describe what you have learned from your effort.

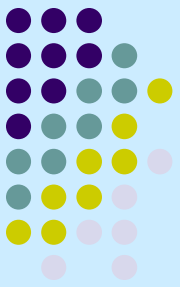


Question 7: Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of CA?



- Is there something that you want UC reviewers to know that does not fit under questions 1-6?
- Share information that will allow the reader to better understand you and your life.
- Given who you are, why do you feel that you will be an excellent choice for UC admission?
- Don't be afraid to brag a little 😊 .





Thank You!
Questions?

