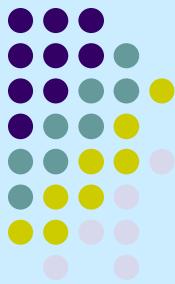


# University of California Personal Insight Questions for Transfer Applications



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

# The Basics

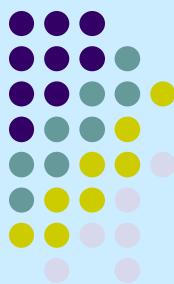


- Answer four questions – one required question and 3 out of 7 additional questions of your choice.
- Each question has a 350 word count limit.
- All questions have equal value.
- Select the questions that will provide the strongest representation of who you are.
- It is not an essay; provide 4 short-answer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

## Personal Insight Questions

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

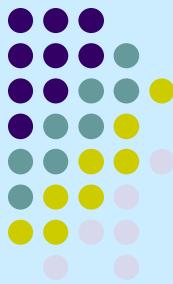
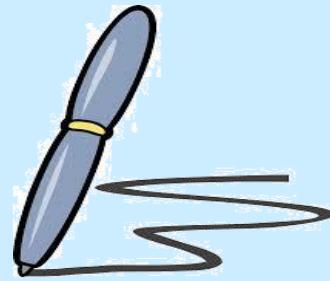
# Why did UC make this change?



- 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.

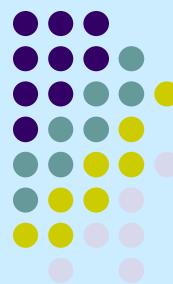


# General Tips

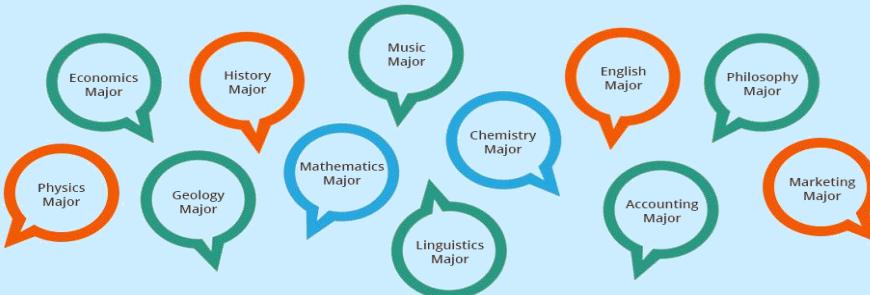


- No quotes, abbreviations, acronyms, trying to be funny.
- Image that you are interviewing with UC admission staff.
- Don't focus on HS accomplishments or activities – be recent.
- Make yourself the focus: use “I” and “my” statements.
- Provide details and examples.
- If applying to multiple UC's, don't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

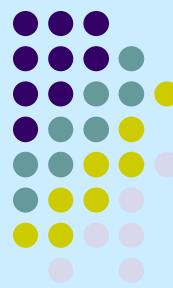
# Required Question: Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.



- 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.



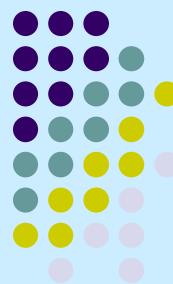
# Question 1: Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.



- 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?



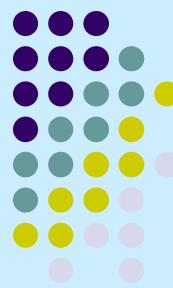
**Question 2: Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.**



- 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.



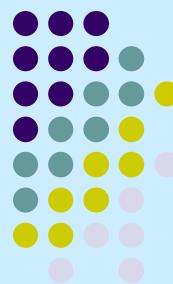
## Question 3: What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?



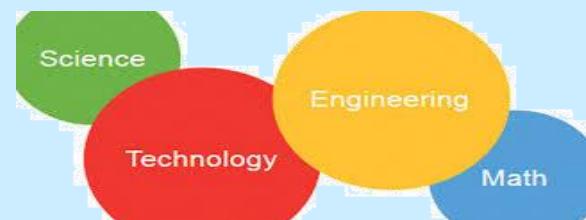
- Discuss a talent or skill that makes you proud. Why is this talent/skill meaningful to you?
- You don't have to be recognized or have received awards (but talk about it if you did).
- Discuss if the talent or skill comes naturally or if you had to work hard to develop it. How has it developed over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



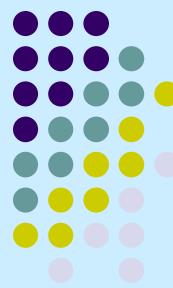
## Question 4: Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you faced.



- 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.

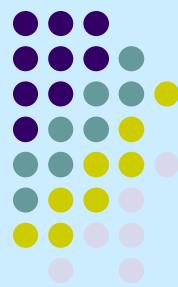
Everyone faces challenges

in life.  
lifeheads.com

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

– Celestine Chua

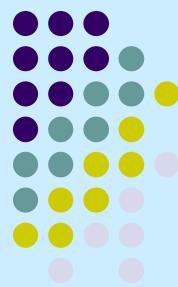
## Question 6: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?



- 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.

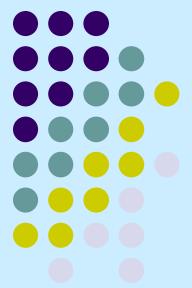


## Question 7: Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of CA?



- 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?

