UC Application Workshop

Awards and Activities

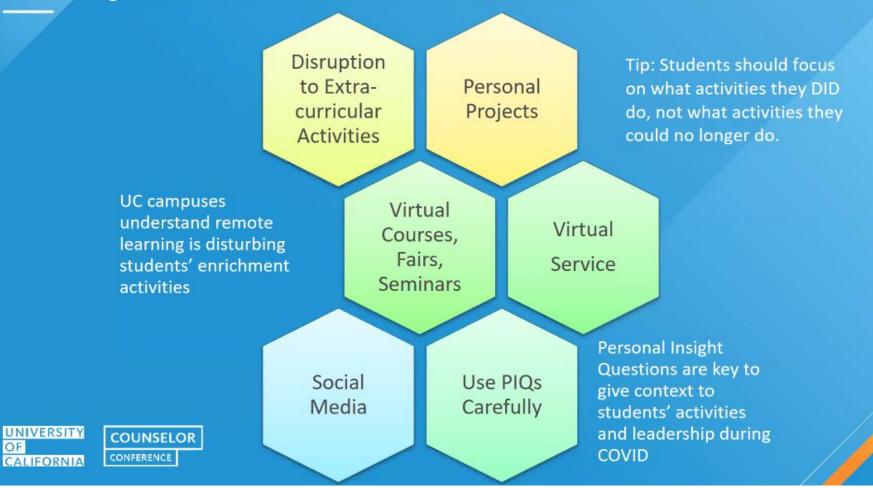
What UC evaluates

Academic	Non Academic
Grade point average	Achievements in special projects
Test Scores, if submitted	Special talents/achievements/awards
Performance in & number of courses beyond the minimum A-G requirements	Improvement in academic performance
UC-approved honors and advanced courses	Participation in educational preparation programs
Eligibility in the Local Context (CA residents only)	Academic accomplishment in light of life experiences
Academic opportunities in schools	
Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas	

ON MAY 21, 2020, THE REGENTS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO:

- Eliminate the requirement of the SAT or ACT
- Eliminate the SAT Essay/ACT Writing requirement

Évaluating Extracurricular Activities in the Context of COVID-19



All Activities Have Value

School Activities

- Sports
- Clubs
- Summer programs

Home Responsibilities

- Caring for siblings
- · Elder care
- · Maintaining household

Community Commitments

- Involvement in faith-based organizations
- Helping in neighborhood/community
- Internships

Employment

- Family business
- Summer or afterschool job
- Creating a business

Virtual Opportunities

Blogs, social media

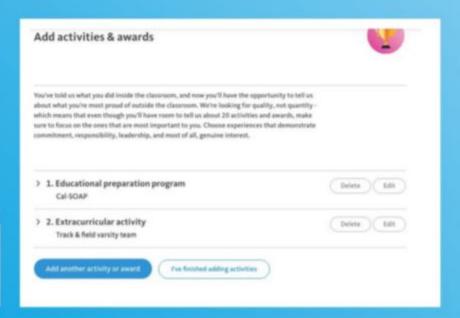




The Application

- Students may enter up to 20 activities and/or awards
- The UC does not have a preference

Award or honor
Educational preparation program
Extracurricular activity
Other coursework
Volunteer / Community service
Work experience







The Application

- Students will enter their activities in 9th - 12th grade
 - Includes spring semester of senior year
 - After 12th is for a "Gap Year"
- Students will include time spent on the activity
 - Average hours

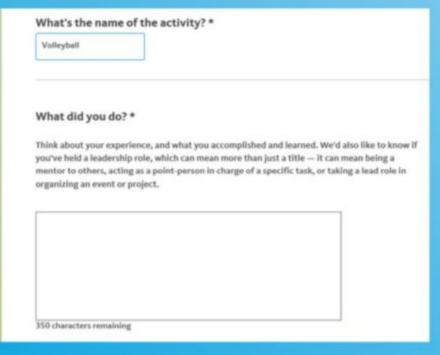






The Application

- Students will have 350 characters to describe each activity
 - Change from 500 last year
 - > Title is 60 characters
- Do not need full sentences
- Focus on their role or responsibility
- May expand in PIQs







A note on COVID-19...

- Students are evaluated within their context
- Students will not be penalized for lack of activities at this time
- If they were able to continue their activity (i.e. online), how did the activity change and how did they adjust?
- Students may have new responsibilities at home
- If they had an activity planned and it was cancelled before it began, make a note in "Additional Comments"









Diversify

- Not all 20 entries have to be from the same category
- Consider activities/awards not affiliated with school:
 - home responsibilities
 - > faith-based community service
 - > part-time employment









Demonstrate Consistency

- What does the student have experience with?
- Can their experience be quantified?
- Has the student been involved in the activity before high-school?
- Were there opportunities for growth or leadership?









Quantify and Measure

- Significance of award or honor
- How much did the student contribute?
- Account for:
 - Total time
 - Scope
 - Impact of their work









Example #1: Work Experience

Activity

Farm Work

Length of Involvement

Years involved: 9th - 11th

Hours per week: 25 Weeks per year: 50

Description

"Helped with my father's business since he is the sole employee. I started helping in the 6th grade. Worked moving produce, selling produce and planting seeds after school and on the weekends. The farm business was shut down before 12th grade." (238 characters)





Example #3: Extracurricular Activity

Activity

Olympic Development Program

Length of Involvement

Years involved: 9th - 11th

Hours per week: 2 Weeks per year: 21

Description

"I've competed with the **best of the US** and got to the top. Also making the tiny cuts to get to the very top were very rewarding." (126 characters)





Example #5: Educational Preparation Program

Activity

MESA

Length of Involvement

Years involved: 10th - 11th

Hours per week: 7 Weeks per year: 45 Description

"Being a part of the MESA program has been a great experience. MESA students are able to discuss with each other and come up with ideas that will help our project." (161 characters)





Common Myths & Misconceptions

The Volunteer and Community Service Section is the most important...

No category in this section is more important than the others. Students should consider ALL categories.

They don't read it anyway!

This is one of two ways to get to know the student outside of the classroom. Consider this as their unofficial resume.

Twenty entries are mandatory...

We do not have a set list of activities that are required. However, we will look for consistency, longevity and commitment. Quantity is not valued more than Quality.

Each entry must be 350 characters long...

Being clear and concise is an important part of this section. Remember that we are not looking for complete sentences!

Readers only want to see school activities...

Students should consider school, community, county, state, national and international involvement.





Top Mistakes Made by Students

Leaving this section blank

Assuming we know the activity

No clarity on roles and responsibilities

Unaware of the importance of the section Talk more about the activity than themselves





*What victories can you share about things that happened outside of the classroom?

*How can UC better understand your world, responsibilities, and challenges?

*Which of your involvements show leadership, consistency, and commitment?

I am the editor for the school newspaper

Try: Editor of International Column, School Newspaper

Responsible for brainstorming, revising, and supervising articles by other writers for my column.

**Emphasize tangible, measurable impact.

Whom did your activity help? How many people? How much money did you raise?

Instead of: Raised money for children in Africa.

Try: Raised \$3,000 to provide three uniforms and scholarships for students attending the Joseph Waweru Home School in Kenya: http://www.exop.org/home_school.html

**Use active verbs to explain what you actually did (list your tasks).

Instead of: Worked at a clinic doing different things.

Try: Organized patient diagnosis notes, sterilized tools for surgeries, assisted with x-ray analysis.

Want an epic list of verbs? Click here.

**To fit in more info: use lists, don't use complete sentences, cut extra words.

Instead of: I raised money to donate to a school in Ghana in Africa by selling t-shirts and bracelets.

Try: Arranged advertising events, organized fundraisers, and gave presentations at school meetings.

**Use the present tense if it's something you still do.

Instead of: I helped tour visitors around the campus and presented some information on school history and student life.

Try: I give campus tours, providing info on school history, student activities, boarding life.

**Aim for variety in your list, making sure your verbs aren't redundant.

Instead of: Instructing, helping, teaching children tennis (how are these three different?)

Try: Instructing in proper technique, while imparting lessons in sportsmanship, health and integrity.

Childcare, Babysitter

(250 characters)

Independent babysitting service. Hired by local parents, teachers, or family. Regular babysitting jobs at 14 separate households in the Chicago suburbs. Services are advertised on several local list serves and safesitter.com for interested families. (250 characters)

What did you do? (350 characters)

Worked 3-5 days/wk taking care of two children, ages 1 and 3. Responsibilities included feeding, transporting, and regulating bed times. Took care of children 4-6 hours each day. Learned value of patience, self-reliance, and time management. Provided authority, structure, and stability for toddlers. Gave parents time to relax and focus on work. (347 characters)

Jones-Davis High School Student Store, Manager/Cashier

(250 characters)

Provides office supplies, school textbooks, snacks, meals, drinks, and branded school gear for purchase. 100-150 items sold each day and profits given to the administration for school improvement projects like a new community garden. (233 characters)

What did you do? (350 characters)

Developed student store policies, reviewed resumes, and hired accordingly. Announced new gear arrivals and communicated financial updates to student body Treasurer. Worked twice a week as cashier. Coordinated a project the Environmental Club publicize details about how much methane was released in the production of each food item. (333 characters)