

Important Dates for Fall 2010 Applicants UC Merced Office of Admissions

October 1, 2009	University of California Application for Admission available online: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
November 1, 2009	Students can begin to submit the University of California Application for Admission: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
November 30, 2009	UC Application Priority Filing Period Ends
December 5, 2009	SAT Reasoning & Subject Tests: www.collegeboard.com (last opportunity for seniors)
December 12, 2009	ACT Assessment plus Writing: www.act.org (last opportunity for seniors)
January 1, 2010	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing period opens: www.fafsa.ed.gov
March 2, 2010	Deadline for submitting the FAFSA and the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to receive a Cal Grant: www.calgrants.org
March 2010	Fall 2010 Admission Notification Begins
April 17, 2010	Bobcat Day (for Admitted Students)
April and May 2010	UC Merced Events for Admitted Students
May 1, 2010	Freshman Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) due
May 3, 2010	Freshman Housing Application Deadline for Guaranteed Housing
May 2010	Analytical Writing Placement Examination for all UC-admitted freshmen who have not yet satisfied the Entry Level Writing Requirement: www.ucop.edu/sas/awpe

Personal Statement Questions for Fall 2010 Application

Write your personal statement in advance. Your personal statement – consisting of responses to two prompts – is your chance to tell us who you are and what’s important to you. Think of it as your opportunity to introduce yourself to the people reading your application. Be open, be honest, be real. What you tell us in your personal statement gives readers the context to better understand the rest of the information you’ve provided in your application.

A few tips: Read each prompt carefully and be sure to respond to all parts. Use specific, concrete examples to support the points you want to make. Take time to write, rewrite and edit. Show it to a teacher, counselor or friend for comments, but make sure the words you use are your own. Finally, relax. The personal statement is one of many pieces of information we consider in reviewing your application; an admission decision will not be based on your personal statement alone.

Instructions:

- Respond to both prompts, using a maximum of 1,000 words total.
- You may allocate the word count as you wish. If you choose to respond to one prompt at greater length, we suggest your shorter answer be no less than 250 words.
- Stay within the word limit as closely as you can. A little over – 1,012 words, for example – is fine.

Prompt #1

Freshman applicants: Describe the world you come from – for example, your family, community or school – and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Transfer applicants: 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.

Prompt #2:

All applicants: Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about the quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Following the personal statement, there’s a section called Additional Comments. Use this space – up to 500 words – to tell us anything you want us to know about you or your academic record that you have not had the opportunity to describe elsewhere in the application.

For more personal statement tips: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/personal_statement

A Message about Financial Aid and Scholarships:

Receiving a college education and experiencing university life are invaluable. In that spirit, UC Merced is firmly committed to making a college education affordable for all students, regardless of their families’ financial situations. With financial aid and scholarships, the opportunity to attend UC Merced may be more affordable than you think. We encourage all students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) found online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

Remember:

- The FAFSA is available online beginning January 1 of each year and should be submitted by March 2.
- The UC Merced FAFSA school code is 041271.

Visit the Web site for the UC Merced Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: financialaid.ucmerced.edu.

If you would like an estimate of how much you might spend on anything from fees to books to personal expenses, select “Cost” on the left menu of the Financial Aid and Scholarships Web site (see above).