College of Creative Studies Admissions FAQ

This FAQ document is designed to answer the most common questions about the CCS Supplemental Application. If you have additional questions, please refer to our website or contact us at info@ccs.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-4146.

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For all other questions regarding Financial Aid please visit their website. If you are a Regents Scholarship recipient and have questions, please contact the UCSB Office of Admissions.

May I apply for two College of Creative Studies Majors on my CCS Application?

Answer: No. You should apply to the major to which you are most strongly committed. Should you be accepted to UCSB and to Creative Studies, you may inquire about applying to a second major in CCS. If you are interested in majoring in both CCS Computing and CCS Math please contact us for more information.

You may also consider a second major, or a minor, in the College of Letters and Science. However, if approved, you may not add a Letters and Science major to your Creative Studies major until your second quarter at UCSB. For minors, you should speak to the undergraduate advisor in the academic department offering that minor after arriving at UCSB. You may add a minor at almost any time while at UCSB, so you need not make this visit immediately upon arrival.

If I don't know yet whether or not I have been accepted to UCSB. Should I still send in my CCS application?

Answer: Yes! As Soon As Possible! You do not need to have been accepted to UCSB at the time that you complete and submit the CCS application. The two applications are reviewed separately. However, you do need to be accepted to UCSB in order to be admitted to CCS.

If I do not know if I have been admitted to UCSB, how do I answer this question on the CCS application?

Answer: If you haven't heard from UCSB yet, your answer to the question should be "Not sure." If you select "No" on the CCS application, you are informing us that you have been denied admission to UCSB.

I did not list a CCS Major on my UCSB Application. Am I required to do so?

Answer: It depends on your timing.
If you are applying to CCS _before_ you know your UCSB Admissions Decision and would like to be admitted to CCS, you must list CCS as one of your two applied majors on your UC Application. If you did not list a CCS major and are now applying to CCS, you must contact the Office of Admissions to change your major.

Send an email with your request to admissions@sa.ucsb.edu. The email MUST include the following:
- The subject line should read "Major Change Request."
- Include your full legal name and application I.D. number or UCSB Perm number.
- Include a list of all Fall grades (if available).
- State your current applied major(s) and the major into which you wish to change.

Changes will be reflected on the UCSB Applicant Portal. Change of major requests may take up to two weeks to process.

If you are applying to CCS _after late February_, you do not need to immediately inform the Office of Admissions of your interest in CCS. You should submit your application to CCS, and if you are admitted to UCSB, CCS will be able to consider you for Admission. (If you are denied by UCSB, you will not be eligible for CCS Admission.) If you are admitted to CCS, you will inform the Office of Admissions of your Change of Major request. CCS will independently verify with the Office of Admissions that you have been admitted to our program.

Will I automatically be considered for admission to the College of Letters & Science if I'm not admitted to CCS?

Answer: Not automatically. Both the College of Creative Studies and the College of Engineering require that you list our programs as your intended major on your UC application for initial admission review. The UCSB Office of Admissions will not admit you to L&S if you do not select an L&S major on your UC application. If admission to either COE and/or CCS is of the utmost importance to you in considering attending UCSB, we encourage you to list us as your preferred major for admission. Transferring into the College of Engineering or the College of Creative Studies is not easy, as space in both colleges is extremely limited.

Do I need to list all the colleges I've attended, even if I only received a few units/credits?

Answer: Yes. Please list all colleges attended (if any) and all units/credits completed.

Do I really need to submit a copy of my high school transcript, even if I'm a transfer student?

Answer: Yes. All applicants must upload a copy of their high school transcript, or equivalent.

Do my letters of recommendation need to be submitted by the priority deadline?

Answer: Your application will not be considered complete until all required materials, including the letters of recommendation, have been uploaded to the application platform. While it is in your best interest to have your letters of recommendation uploaded by the deadline, you will not be disqualified from consideration if your recommenders cannot meet the priority deadline.
Letters of recommendation are optional for CCS Art applications, are not accepted for Writing & Literature applications, and a minimum of one letter is required for Math applications. Please review your major's instructions at ccs.ucsb.edu/apply.

Do I have to request official transcripts to be sent to UCSB Admissions and to CCS?

Answer: No. The UCSB Office of Admissions will require that official transcripts from all high schools and colleges that you have attended be sent to them if you are offered admission. However, the College of Creative Studies will accept unofficial versions of all of your transcripts for your CCS application, uploaded through the application portal.

Can CCS request copies of my transcripts from the UCSB Admissions office, so I don't have to send any extra copies?

Answer: No. Transcripts are protected under California State and Federal laws. Once an individual (you) has given an institution permission to mail your transcript to another institution, under the law it cannot be released to anyone — including you. In other words, UCSB Admissions may not release a copy of your transcript to CCS.

Should I wait until I have all required materials together before beginning my CCS application?

Answer: No. You can begin the application at any time. You can save your progress each time you visit the application platform.

Is there a form for the Letters of Recommendation?

Answer: Through the online CCS application, applicants will be able to send a link to their recommenders where they will upload their letters of recommendation. There is no special form for the letters of recommendation; recommenders may use their own letterhead.
If your recommender has difficulty using the link to upload their recommendation, they are welcome to contact us directly for assistance at info@ccs.ucsb.edu or by calling our office at (805) 893-4146.

Do Letters of Recommendation have to be from teachers in the subject to which I am applying?

Answer: It depends. Letters from teachers in the subject to which you are applying are ideal, but not absolutely required. If you can get letters from teachers in subjects related to the major to which you are applying, these will suffice. Letters from any teachers who know you well as a student are welcome.

Am I required to waive my FERPA rights to my letters of recommendation to apply to CCS?

Answer: Yes. You will not be able to submit your CCS application without this waiver. This ensures that your recommenders can submit their materials confidentially.

Will the faculty reviewing my CCS application also look at my UC application?

Answer: No. CCS faculty are able to look at only your CCS application. Because of this, it is completely acceptable to repeat information on your CCS application materials that you previously included on your UC application.

What exactly is the Letter of Intent and how long should it be?

Answer: As stated in the CCS application instructions, the Letter of Intent that is required for the CCS application is different from your UC Application essays. You should address your Letter of Intent to the faculty in the CCS major to which you are applying. You may begin your letter "Dear CCS Faculty…", or "Dear CCS Art/ Biology/ Computing, etc. Faculty." You should introduce yourself to the faculty, talk honestly to them about yourself, your interest and background in, and current relationship to the major to which you are applying, what your goals are, why you wish to study that subject, and why particularly in the College of Creative Studies. You should type the letter.
These letters vary in length. The average Letter of Intent submitted is one and a half to two pages long (double-spaced and typed). Some are a bit shorter, and some longer. Your main concern need not be the length or precise formatting

details, but that you state clearly to the faculty what you wish them to know about you, what you believe is important in reference to your potential academic, scientific, artistic, and/or literary pursuits in the College of Creative Studies.

Please note: CCS faculty will not see how you responded to the personal insight questions on the UC app, so please include all information that you would like the faculty to know in your Letter of Intent.

What is required as "Work in evidence of talent"?

Answer: In all eight majors, CCS seeks students who are committed to creating new knowledge – original research/creative work – in some form. Our faculty reviewers like to see evidence of your aptitude and commitment in your application. This varies with the major to which you are applying. Please refer to the CCS application instructions for the specifics for each major.

Can I upload my SAT/ACT scores to the application?

Answer: No. CCS does not accept SAT or ACT test scores from applicants. You can optionally upload anyt AP test scores, but AP scores are not a CCS admission requirement for any of our majors.

How will I find out whether or not I've been accepted to CCS?

Answer: We will notify you via email of the decision made about your CCS admission or denial. If you are a first-year applicant who applies by the priority deadline, most applicants will receive a CCS admissions decision via email in mid-March after UCSB admissions decisions are released to the UCSB Admissions Portal. If you are a current UCSB student, it may be at least one full month after our receipt of your complete application that we are able to notify you of the outcome. Please be patient; your application is important to us.

If I'm denied from CCS, can I request feedback on my application?

Answer: No. We do not share our faculty's reviews of your application nor the reasons for which your application was denied. If you would like to reapply after your original application is denied, we encourage you to contact us at info@ccs.ucsb.edu to discuss your plans to submit a new application.

Do College of Creative Studies students have special housing facilities?

Answer: Yes, if desired and available. There is a CCS Living Learning Community (presently in Santa Rosa) in the UCSB residence hall complex. Santa Rosa is large enough to accommodate all first-year students interested in CCS housing, and is conveniently located next to the CCS building. Santa Rosa is also home to other UCSB students and additional Living Learning Communities. You are not required to house with other CCS students. Some CCS students choose to live in one of the on-campus residence halls, and others choose to live in UCSB-off campus housing.

Does the College of Creative Studies offer financial aid or scholarships?

Answer: No. CCS does not offer financial aid or scholarships.

For all other questions regarding Financial Aid please visit their website. If you are a Regents Scholarship recipient and have questions, please contact the UCSB Office of Admissions.

If you should have questions about your CCS application that have not been addressed in this document or on the CCS website, please contact us at info@ccs.ucsb.edu