

UC Personal Statement

UCLA Undergraduate Admissions



Overview

- Purpose of the personal statement
- Strategies for writing the personal statement
- Additional Comments Section
- Do's and Don'ts
- Important Dates



Purpose of the Personal Statement

- Context
- Adds clarity, depth and meaning
- Opportunity for you to DISCUSS rather than list
- Referrals to scholarships and special programs



*****No student is admitted based solely on the personal statement***



Personal Statement Prompts

Prompt 1

- 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

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

**Respond to both prompts for a combined total of 1,000 words*

Before you begin writing

- Who are you and what is important to you?
- Why are you interested in this particular major?
- What are your future career goals?
- What is special, unique, distinctive, or impressive about you or your life?
- What details of your life can help the admissions committee know you better?



Writing Strategies

- Focus and stay organized
- Write several drafts
- Get feedback
- Spell and grammar check
- Before hitting “submit” ask yourself:

How does my personal statement provide evidence of my achievements that is not reflected in other parts of my application?



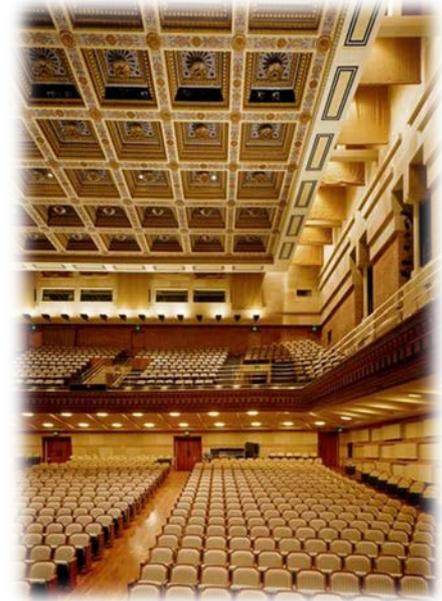
Additional Comments Section

- Maximum of 550 words
- Clarify and expand on details that could not fit elsewhere
 - Additional employment, activities, awards information and academic record explanations
- **NOT A REQUIREMENT!**



Do's

- Answer **BOTH** prompts
- Be honest and confident
- Be clear, direct and organized
- Provide specific examples or evidence
- Use proper grammar and spell check
- Research the major
- Revise and get feedback



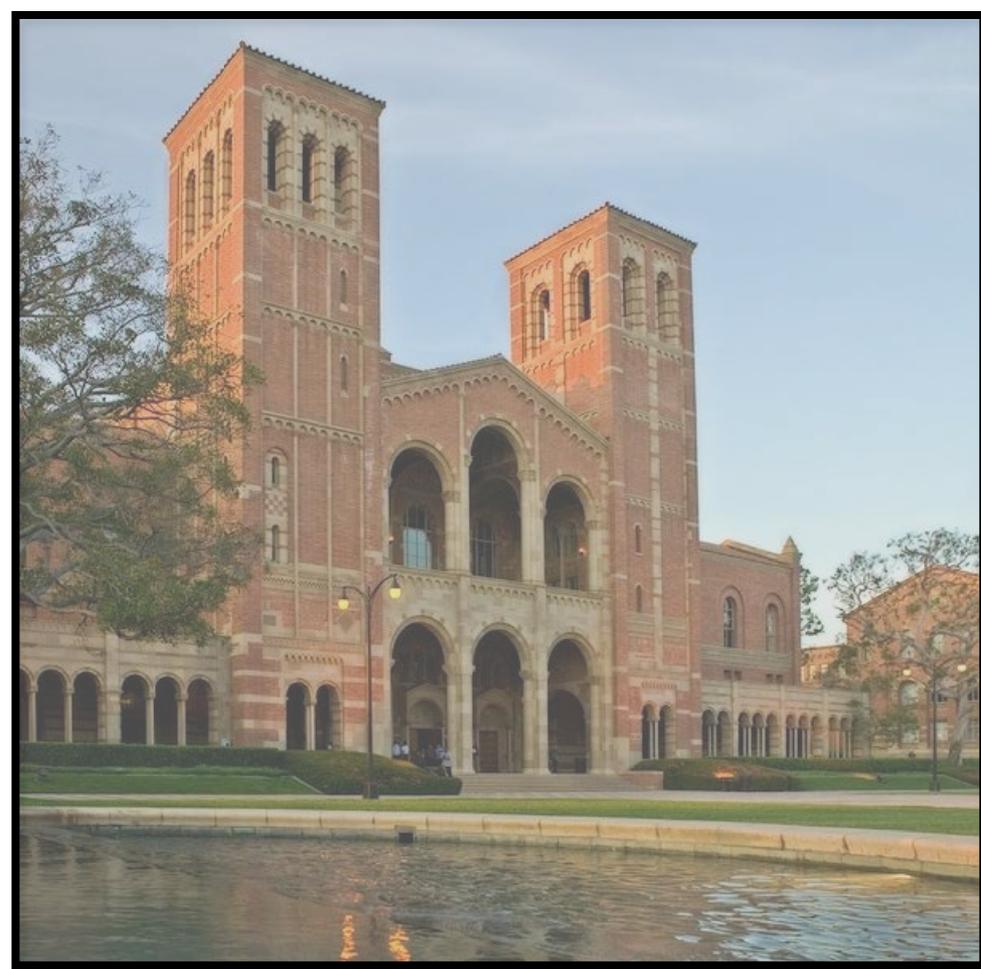
Don'ts

- Write what you think the admissions committee to hear
- Overwrite or overstress a minor point about yourself
- Repeat information directly from the application, unless to illustrate a point
- Make up hardships
- Rely on clichés and generalizations
- Write your personal statement the night before it is due

Important Information

- Applications are due between Nov 1 – 30th
- One application for All UC campuses
- Most UC's only accept FALL applications
- Be familiar with additional requirements needed for specialty majors
- Application is available online at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply
- Cost is \$70 (\$80 for non-residents) for EACH campus to which you apply

Contact Information



transfer@admissions.ucla.edu

UCLA Undergraduate

Admission Office:

(310) 825-3101

Monday – Friday

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Questions?