

University of California Graduate Admissions Applications Incorporating Diversity

Summary by Campus

Campus	Diversity Question?	Location
UC Berkeley	Yes	Personal History Statement
UC Davis	Yes	Personal History Statement
UC Irvine	Yes – after Fall 07	Statement of Purpose
UC Los Angeles	Yes	Statement of Purpose
UC Merced	Yes	Personal History and Achievements/Contributions
UC Riverside	Yes	Fellowship Application. Committed to adding a question to the general application by December 1, 2007.
UC San Diego	Yes	Statement of Purpose
UC San Francisco	Yes – after Fall 07	Statement of Purpose
UC Santa Barbara	Yes	Personal History and Achievements/Contributions
UC Santa Cruz	Yes	Personal History Statement

Diversity Questions (diversity language highlighted in **yellow**)

UC Berkeley

Statement of Purpose

Please describe your aptitude and motivation for graduate study in your area of specialization, including your preparation for this field of study, your academic plans or research interests in your chosen area of study, and your future career goals. Please be specific about why UC Berkeley would be a good intellectual fit for you.

Personal History Statement

Required of all applicants. Please note that the Personal History Statement should not duplicate the Statement of Purpose (previous page). In an essay, discuss how your personal background informs your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Please include any educational, familial, cultural, economic, or social experiences, challenges, or opportunities relevant to your academic journey; how you might contribute to social or cultural diversity within your chosen field; and/or how you might serve educationally underrepresented segments of society with your degree.

UC Davis

Statement of Purpose

Please describe your motivation, academic preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UC Davis. You should describe your academic plans and research interests, your specialization within your academic field, your research experiences and your career goals.

Personal History Statement

In an essay, discuss how your personal background informs your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Please include any educational, familial, cultural, economic, or social experiences, challenges, or opportunities relevant to your academic journey; how your life experiences contribute to the social,

intellectual, or cultural diversity within your chosen field; and/or how you might serve educationally underrepresented segments of society with your degree.

UC Irvine

[UCOP note: Pending per UCI Graduate Associate Dean Frances Leslie (11/28/07). Question will be similar to UC Berkeley's question.]

Statement of Purpose

Please describe your aptitude and motivation for graduate study in your area of specialization, including your preparation for this field of study, your academic plans or research interests in your chosen area of study, and your future career goals. Please be specific about why UC Berkeley would be a good intellectual fit for you.

Personal History Statement

[Instructions] Required of all applicants. Please note that the Personal History Statement should not duplicate the Statement of Purpose (previous page). In an essay, discuss how your personal background informs your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Please include any educational, familial, cultural, economic, or social experiences, challenges, or opportunities relevant to your academic journey; how you might contribute to social or cultural diversity within your chosen field; and/or how you might serve educationally underrepresented segments of society with your degree.

UC Los Angeles

Statement of Purpose

[Instructions] On the back of this form, please state your purpose in applying for graduate study, your particular area of specialization within the major, your plans for future occupation or profession, and any additional information that may aid the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and your aptitude for graduate study at UCLA. If you have submitted a statement of purpose as part of a separate application to a professional school you need not write an additional statement here.

The University of California is committed to excellence and equity in every facet of its mission. Teaching, research, professional and public service contributions that promote diversity and equal opportunity are encouraged and given recognition in the evaluation of the applicant's qualifications. These contributions to diversity and equal opportunity can take a variety of forms including efforts to advance equitable access to education, public service that addresses the needs of California's diverse population, or research in a scholar's area of expertise that explores inequalities.

Please describe any aspects of your personal background, accomplishments, or achievements that will allow the department to evaluate your contributions to the University's diversity mission. For example, please discuss any academic research interests focusing on cultural, societal, or educational problems as they affect underserved segments of society; educational experiences that provide an understanding how to address the academic needs of underrepresented students, or evidence of an intention to use the doctoral degree toward serving disadvantaged individuals or populations. In addition, please describe any aspects of your personal background that might add to the diversity of the graduate group, such as experience living in bicultural communities, experience with barriers in access to higher education, multicultural competency, economic challenges, fluency in other languages, physical or mental disability, or other life experiences that will enable you to address the needs of our diverse society in your scholarly career.

This statement will be used in conjunction with your application for graduate admission and financial support.

UC Merced

[Instructions] These two separate essays are required of all applicants. These essays distinguish an applicant from other applicants. Please note that the Personal History and Achievements/Contributions Statement should not duplicate the Statement of Purpose.

Statement of Purpose

Begin with a brief overview of your academic and professional background, including a description of any previous research experience. Second, outline your reasons for undertaking a graduate program, your particular area of specialization within the major field and conclude with a short description of your envisioned future and the role that you would like to play in the planning field. In addition, include any additional information that may assist the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UC Merced.

Personal History and Achievements/Contributions

UC Merced is interested in a diverse and inclusive graduate student population. Please describe any aspects of your personal background, accomplishments, or achievements that you feel are important in evaluating your application for graduate study. Please discuss how your personal background motivates/informs your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Include any educational, familial, cultural, economic, or social experiences, challenges, or opportunities relevant to your academic journey; how you might contribute to social or cultural diversity within your chosen field; and/or how you might use your graduate degree toward serving disadvantaged or underserved individuals or populations.

UC Riverside

[UCOP note: No diversity question to date. UC Graduate Dean has committed to putting this on their current application by December 1. Question will be similar to UC Berkeley's question.]

UC San Diego

Statement of Purpose

Five *primary* topics to cover in your statement of purpose:

1. *How did you become interested in this field?* Establish that you have had a long-term interest in the field and that you have taken positive steps in pursuing your interest. Give the committee members a sense of your particular talents and abilities and their relevance to your academic interests.
2. *What experiences have contributed toward your preparation for further study in this field?* Demonstrate your interest by providing examples of research experiences, internships, work experience, community service, publications, or life experiences. Briefly describe what you did in each experience. Also, make sure to articulate what you have learned about the field and how those lessons stimulated you to pursue an advanced degree.
3. *What are your future goals?* Specifically state your degree objective (Master's or Ph.D.) and specify what subdisciplines you are interested in pursuing. For example, if you are applying in political science, the committee needs to know whether you are pursuing American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, or Political Theory. Let the reader know that you are planning a future career as a university professor, researcher, or consultant, or in public service or private practice (or whatever your goal happens to be).
4. *What are your research interests?* Within your subdiscipline, you should be able to identify one or two topics that are of interest to you. When possible, be specific about your research agenda. Remember that you will be working with professors in research; therefore, your research interests should parallel those of the faculty. (You will usually not be expected to know exactly what you want to research; faculty know that initial interests often change.)
5. *How are you a "match" for the program to which you are applying?* Explain what attracts you most to the institution/program to which you are applying. Align your research interests with those

of one or more of the affiliated professors. The better the "match" with the program/professors, the better the chance that you will be admitted.

Other factors to weave in (remember these are *secondary* factors):

- Give examples of personal attributes or qualities that would help you complete graduate study successfully.
- Describe your determination to achieve your goals, your initiative and ability to develop ideas, and your ability to work independently.
- Describe background characteristics that may have placed you at an educational disadvantage (English language learner, family economic history, lack of educational opportunity, disability, etc.).
- Leave the reader believing that you are prepared for advanced academic work and will be successful in graduate school.

UC San Francisco

[UCOP note: 1) UCSF Dean has committed to adding this question subsequent to the fall 2007 admissions cycle. UCSF's question will be similar to UC Berkeley's question.

2) The following yes/no questions are listed on the "Demographic Data" section of Neuroscience application. This department does not have a Personal History Statement.]

In your estimation, do you believe you are from a disadvantaged background? Definition: Please note that the definition of "disadvantaged background" includes both economic and educational factors that are or were barriers to an individual's participation in a health professions program. Specifically, it refers to an individual who either:

a) Comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, or from a program providing education or training in an allied health profession

or b) Comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index. **[yes/no]**

In your estimation, do you now, or have ever lived in a medically underserved community? Please note that "medically underserved community" refers to an urban or rural area or to population groups that lacked or lacks adequate health care services. This question is aimed at ascertaining the environment in which you grew up or in which you currently live, as opposed to the setting in which you may work (e.g., residence in the Mission District of San Francisco or in Butte County would qualify for the purposes of this question). **[yes/no]**

UC Santa Barbara

These statements will be used in conjunction with your application for graduate admission and financial support.

Statement of Purpose

Give a brief statement outlining your reasons for undertaking a graduate program, your particular area of specialization within the major field, your past academic work, and your plans for future occupation or profession. Also include any additional information that may assist the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UC Santa Barbara.

Personal Achievements/Contributions

UC Santa Barbara is interested in a diverse and inclusive graduate student population. Please describe any aspects of your personal background, accomplishments, or achievements that you feel are important in evaluating your application for graduate study. For example, please describe if you have experienced economic challenges in achieving higher education, such as being financially responsible for family

members or dependents, having to work significant hours during undergraduate schooling or coming from a family background of limited income. Please describe if you have experienced educational disadvantages such as matriculation in a school with poor financial or curricular support, having a physical or mental disability or coming from a family with limited access to higher education. Please describe if you have any unusual or varied life experiences that might contribute to the diversity of the graduate group, such as fluency in other languages, experience living in bicultural communities, academic research interests focusing on cultural, societal, or educational problems as they affect underserved segments of society, or evidence of an intention to use the doctoral degree toward serving disadvantaged individuals or populations.

UC Santa Cruz

[Instructions] Required of all applicants. This statement will be used in conjunction with your application for graduate admission and financial support. Please note that the Personal History Statement should not duplicate the Statement of Purpose. Recommended length is a concise 1-3 pages.

Personal History Statement

UC Santa Cruz is interested in a diverse and inclusive graduate student population. In an essay, discuss how your personal background informs your decision to pursue a graduate degree. Please include any educational, familial, cultural, economic, or social experiences, challenges, or opportunities relevant to your academic journey; how you might contribute to social or cultural diversity within your chosen field; and/or how you might serve educationally underrepresented segments of society with your degree.