



# WELCOME to UC Merced



[my.ucmerced.edu](https://my.ucmerced.edu)

the next step to building your future

# Message from the Vice Chancellor

Dear Bobcat,

I want to take a moment to personally congratulate you on your admission to the University of California, Merced.

This year, we received more than 22,000 applications, making our entering class the most selective to date. I want to commend you for your accomplishment in being selected to be part of this distinguished group of scholars.

UC Merced's increasing renown has not only been reflected in the excellence of our student body but also by regional, national and international recognition. In 2016, only ten years after admitting our first class of undergraduate students, the campus became the 107th university in the United States to earn a prestigious R2 designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, based on the high level of research produced by our distinguished faculty.

Once you arrive on campus, you will be immersed in the culture and opportunities that exist as a part of a premier research university and I look forward to seeing the innovations and achievements with which you and your colleagues will make your own unique mark on our institution.

Your academic experience at UC Merced will also be complemented by the vibrant and immersive student-focused environment on campus. With more than 200 clubs and organizations, opportunities exist to support nearly every interest and students just like you are creating new opportunities for engagement with each passing year.

I encourage you to become immediately involved in the wealth of opportunities during your time here at UC Merced because, beyond the strong correlation between student engagement and student success, the friends and experiences you gain as part of your collegiate experience will shape your future for years to come.

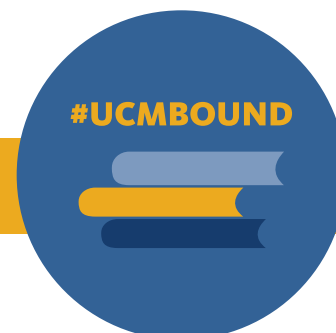
I am tremendously honored that you have chosen to be a UC Merced Bobcat and I look forward with great enthusiasm to welcoming you to our campus and community.

Go Bobcats!

Sincerely,



CHARLES NIES  
*Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs*



# Welcome to UC Merced

We are so pleased you have decided to enroll at UC Merced! The following information will help guide you through the next few months and ensure you are prepared for the start of the 2016-17 academic year.

## Students First Center More information: [studentsfirs.ucmerced.edu](http://studentsfirs.ucmerced.edu)

The Students First Center (SFC) is UC Merced's one stop shop for enrollment services. Students, staff, faculty members, and guests can contact the SFC for assistance with admissions, Financial aid, Registrar and Summer Session related services.

### How Can I Access Students First Center Services?

**Phone:** 209-228-7178 (California Time - 1ST)

**eMail:** [studentsfirst@ucmerced.edu](mailto:studentsfirst@ucmerced.edu)

**in Person:** Kolligian Library, Room 122

**Web:** [studentsfirs.ucmerced.edu](http://studentsfirs.ucmerced.edu).

**Chat:** Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *Voicemail and email are responded to within 24-48 business hours*

# IT All Starts Here

More information: [it.ucmerced.edu](http://it.ucmerced.edu)

**UCMerced.edu Email Account:** [it.ucmerced.edu/security/use-of-email-for-official-communications-with-students/](http://it.ucmerced.edu/security/use-of-email-for-official-communications-with-students/) As a UC Merced student you are provided with a [ucmerced.edu](http://ucmerced.edu) email account. Your email address should be your UCMNetID followed by [@ucmerced.edu](mailto:@ucmerced.edu). Once logged into the My.UC-Merced.edu portal, access your email by selecting the webmail icon found in the upper-right corner. It is important for you to check the account regularly, as campus policy states, "University officials typically use email messages and attachments as official means of communication with UC Merced students in connection with the student's education or with the provision of services to the students."

### Responsibilities

Pursuant to this policy, all UC Merced students are responsible for taking the following actions:

- ▶ activating their university-assigned email account, preferably upon expressing their intent to register or as soon thereafter as possible.
- ▶ accessing all information sent to their university-assigned email account.
- ▶ Managing their university-assigned computing and email accounts.

A student may opt to forward university email communications to a different account. In those instances, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all information sent to their official university-assigned email account, including attachments, is properly forwarded to that other email account.

### My.UCMerced.edu

My.UCMerced.edu (portal) is designed to help you navigate through your life as a student at UC Merced. Your portal provides updated, secure, 24-hour access to comprehensive information, including financial aid, admissions, registration, records and more.

#### STUDENT SERVICES FOUND IN YOUR PORTAL

- ▶ **MyRegistration** will link you to a searchable schedule of classes and online registration.
- ▶ **MyFinancialAid** will link you to your individual student awards as well as student requirements.
- ▶ **MyAdmissions** will link you to any outstanding Conditions of admission you need to fulfill.
- ▶ **MyBill** will link you to your student account where you can manage payments and much more.

Visit [My.UCMerced.edu](http://My.UCMerced.edu) to explore the full list of services available.

#### Acceptable Use Policy: [it.ucmerced.edu/aup](http://it.ucmerced.edu/aup)

The first time you logged into the My.UCMerced.edu portal you were asked to read and agree to the terms of the Information Technology Resources Acceptable Use Policy. In case you didn't read the terms before checking the box, we'd like to remind you that you are required to abide by all associated state and federal laws and adhere to university policies when connected to the UC Merced network, or when using any of the university's network-based tools and resources. Although we recommend you review the terms at the link above, here is a highlight of the items you should be most aware of: No illegal sharing of copyrighted or licensed materials, no unauthorized use of university systems, no stalking, no spamming, and no use of university network resources for commercial gain.



PERSONALIZED CHECKLIST

## Student Checklist

Please Note: Requirements listed in your checklist may not include all items you need to complete. For a comprehensive list of campus dates and deadlines, visit: <http://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/deadlines-and-calendars>

Requirement	Status	Office	Academic Year	Deadline
 <a href="#">Authorization to Share Information with Parents</a>	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	
 <a href="#">Award Terms and Conditions</a>	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	
 <a href="#">Dependent Verification Worksheet</a>	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	01-JUN-16
 Photocopy of parent(s) W-2 forms	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	01-JUN-16
 <a href="#">Student federal income tax transcript</a>	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	01-JUN-16
 <a href="#">Title IV Authorizations Sheet</a>	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	
 Verification Process	Unsatisfied	Financial Aid	2016-17	
 <a href="#">Parent(s) Federal Income Tax Transcript</a>	Tax Data Linked from IRS	Financial Aid	2016-17	
 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Received/Reviewed or Processed	Financial Aid	2016-17	

REQUIREMENTS THAT NEED TO BE COMPLETED WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND LINK HERE

CHECK TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS AND TEST SCORES

As a new student, there are a number of steps you need to complete before you get to campus. Your personalized checklist, found in your portal, will guide you through this process. Note: Each student will have different Financial aid, admissions, Registration and Residency requirements that will need to be fulfilled.





# Financial Aid and Scholarships

More information: [financialaid.ucmerced.edu](http://financialaid.ucmerced.edu)

## If You **Did Not** Submit A Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

- › a aid may still be available even though the March 2 deadline has passed.
- › All students will be considered for federal grants and loans throughout the year.
- › Contact our office for assistance.
- › Our school code is 041271.

## If **You Did** Submit A Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Or If You Qualify Under The California Dream Act And You Submitted A California Dream Act Application:

Confirm that you have listed UC Merced's school code on your FAFSA OR DREAM ACT APPLICATION (041271). If it is not listed, add it as soon as possible.

If UC Merced's school code was listed, you can log onto [my.ucmerced.edu](http://my.ucmerced.edu) to view requirements or awards. **If you do not see any awards, you should call the Students First Center at 209-228-7178 for assistance.**

### Notification

- › The first notification regarding your financial aid status will be via paper letter; all remaining notifications will be via email.
- › You may receive multiple emails from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships as you move through each step of the process.
- › It is important to respond promptly to email communications.

### My UC Merced (portal)

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- › Log onto [my.ucmerced.edu](http://my.ucmerced.edu).
- › Your requirements will be listed in your personalized checklist.
- › Some requirements will be linked to the form that needs to be completed and others will have instructions.
- › The requested documents need to be turned into the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships by the listed deadline on your MyChecklist or your awards are subject to cancellation.

#### AWARDS:

- › Log onto [my.ucmerced.edu](http://my.ucmerced.edu).
  - › Choose "MyFinancialAid" in the Student Services section.
  - › Select "accept/Decline awards."
  - › Select the "2016-2017 award Year."
  - › All grant and scholarship awards will be accepted for you.
  - › You will need to choose which loan or work opportunities you'd like to accept.

- › Students who are required to complete the verification process will be able to accept/decline loan and work opportunities once that process is complete.
- › If you choose to borrow a loan, detailed instructions are available at <http://financialaid.ucmerced.edu/types-aid/loans>.
- › If your parent chooses to borrow a Parent PLUS Loan, s/he can visit our website at <http://financialaid.ucmerced.edu/how-plus-loan> for instructions.

### Disbursement of Financial Aid

- › Financial aid is generally offered for an academic year, which consists of two semesters.
- › Equal amounts are made available each semester as long as you remain eligible.
- › Award amounts are based on your eligibility at the time of disbursement.
- › In general, you must be enrolled in at least 12 units, must have submitted all required documents and accepted all aid.

### Checklist

- › Complete the FAFSA (OR California Dream Act application for those who qualify under the California Dream Act) and make sure that UC Merced's school code (041271) is listed.
- › Check your email and view your financial aid status by visiting [my.ucmerced.edu](http://my.ucmerced.edu).
- › Turn in all requested documents in a timely manner and no later than June 1, 2016. Many of these documents (tax transcripts, income statements, etc.) will need to come from your parents.
- › If the California Student Aid Commission awarded you a Cal Grant, make sure that UC Merced is listed as the school that you are attending on the California Aid Report (CAR). You may contact the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) at 888-224-7268 or <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp>.
- › Make sure you notify the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships of any outside aid you will be receiving (e.g., outside scholarships). You can do this in the MyFinancialAid section of [my.ucmerced.edu](http://my.ucmerced.edu).
- › If you have questions, email the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at [finaid@ucmerced.edu](mailto:finaid@ucmerced.edu) or call the Students First Center at 209-228-7178.





## New Student Orientation

More information: [orientation.ucmerced.edu](http://orientation.ucmerced.edu)

Attendance at this one-day event is required for all new students. Attending orientation will provide you with the opportunity to make friends, meet your advisor to register for classes and learn about the resources available to you as a UC Merced student. Register by June 1 as our dates fill quickly. All reservations after June 1 will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, visit [orientation.ucmerced.edu](http://orientation.ucmerced.edu). Your parents are also encouraged to attend the special programs we have planned for them.

**New Transfer Students:** We encourage you to register for the orientation date(s) we have designed specifically for you. Please check our website for more information.

**Are you traveling from a distance?** You can get the full UC Merced experience by making arrangements to stay in a residence hall on campus. For rates and information, contact Housing and Residence Life at 209-228-4663.

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## Conditions of Admission

More information: [admissions.ucmerced.edu/admitted](http://admissions.ucmerced.edu/admitted)

The Office of Admissions admitted you to UC Merced with a set of conditions that must be met to ensure that admission offer will remain intact.

### THE STANDARD CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION FOR FRESHMEN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- › Earn grades of C or better in all courses listed on your application.
- › Notify the Office of Admissions immediately of any changes to the courses that were reported on your application and subsequent communications or updates, including the Transfer Academic Update.
- › First-year students must complete all requirements for admission by high school graduation date. Transfer students must complete all requirements for admission by the end of the last regular term before entrance.
- › Ensure that final official transcripts from high schools and all higher education institutions you attended are submitted to the Office of Admissions. These transcripts must be postmarked or electronically submitted on or before July 1 for Fall 2016 admitted students and Jan. 6, 2017, for Spring 2017 admitted students.
- › All test scores must be submitted to the Office of Admissions by July 15 for Fall 2016 admitted students and Jan. 6, 2017, for Spring 2017 admitted students.
- › If enrolled in summer session prior to fall entrance, the official end date of the summer term must be prior to the first day of the UC Merced term. Notify the Office of Admissions immediately if you enroll in a summer term.

\*If admitted to UC Merced for Spring 2017, the deadline for receipt of official information is Jan. 6, 2017 and your Fall 2016 term must end prior to Jan. 1, 2017.

### Tip for Entering First-Year Students

1. First-year students must meet the Entry Level Writing Requirement within their first year at UC Merced. If you take the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (a WPE), offered on May 14, the a WPE checklist item will show as "Passed" or "Not Passed" when we receive your score. If you pass the examination, the ELWR will be marked "Satisfied." If your ELWR is "Unsatisfied," you can visit the UC Merced General Catalog: <http://catalog.ucmerced.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=51.edu/admitted> and select "Entry-Level Writing Requirement" for options to satisfy the requirement.

### Tip for Entering Transfer Students

1. **High School Records** – Some are optional, others are required.
  - a. If you reported a P or IB examinations passed with acceptable scores on your application, you may be required to have your official test scores sent to the Office of Admissions as a condition of your admission. Review the items on your "myChecklist" and contact the appropriate testing agency immediately if you are required to submit test scores. Contact the testing agency now to have your official scores sent to the Office of Admissions at UC Merced, especially if the items are listed on your "myChecklist."
  - b. Final, official high school transcripts are optional for transfer students. However, they can be helpful, if received: at UC Merced, high school courses passed with grades of C or better may be used to meet graduation requirements in American History and Institutions and in Foreign Language.



# Student Business and Campus Cashiering Services

More information: [sbs.ucmerced.edu](https://sbs.ucmerced.edu) and [cashier.ucmerced.edu](https://cashier.ucmerced.edu)

## Deferred Payment Plan (DPP)

Will you owe more than \$500 after financial aid, if any, is applied to your account? If so, consider enrolling in the Deferred Payment Plan (DPP). The DPP offers the option to pay registration fees and on-campus housing costs (if applicable) in three monthly installments per semester. To qualify for the DPP, you must owe more than \$500 after authorized financial aid has been taken into consideration.

The first installment is 40 percent of the current term balance. The second and third installments are 30 percent each. There is a \$40 participation fee per semester.

## Payment Methods

- › **online** – Credit card and eCheck payments are accepted.
- › **In Person** – Only cash, checks and money orders are accepted.
- › **Mail** – Only checks and money orders are accepted.
- › **Balances not paid by the payment deadline** are subject to a \$50 late fee.

## Electronic Refunds (EFT)

You should sign up for direct deposit if you are expecting a refund. Each refund will then be transferred via EFT to the bank account of your choice. Access to those funds will be available in one to three business days. Students enrolled in EFT do not have to stand in line to pick up their refund checks. Students can sign up for EFT using the online form located on the ePay website.

## Campus Store

More information: [bookstore.ucmerced.edu](https://bookstore.ucmerced.edu)

UC Merced students have many options for acquiring textbooks. Review the options, listed below, to find the best for your needs.

**Reserve Your Textbook Online:** visit the Campus Store website, [bookstore.ucmerced.edu](https://bookstore.ucmerced.edu), find “Course Books” and click on “Textbooks.” Here, you will find complete instructions to reserve your textbooks. Log into your myUCMerced account and select “myRegistration,” then select “View Books” to load all your courses on the Campus Store website so you can begin reserving your books.

**Book Rental:** The Campus Store offers a textbook rental program at a fraction of the purchase price. Contact our Campus Store for more information 209-228-2665.

**Order Textbook With Your Student Account:** When ordering your books online, be sure to select “Payment Type: Student Account.” Students should have an available credit of up to \$700 to attribute to textbook purchases.

The Campus Store is also an authorized Apple reseller. We sell laptops, iPads and all types of Apple accessories. Be sure to stop by during orientation and stock up on UC Merced spirit gear!

## Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS)

More information: [taps.ucmerced.edu](https://taps.ucmerced.edu)

Thinking about bringing your car? Are you going to be a resident student?

- › Parking is limited for resident students. Please visit the TAPS website for parking permit information.
- › Resident students must apply for a parking permit during the summer. Application information can be found at [taps.ucmerced.edu](https://taps.ucmerced.edu).

### Transit – Use our Gas...Not Yours!

- › Ride the Bus! Visit [taps.ucmerced.edu](https://taps.ucmerced.edu) for bus schedules and route information.
- › Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) is pleased to offer Zipcar, an alternative transportation program available to our campus community. Through the collaborative effort between TAPS and Zipcar, this car-sharing program has been brought to our campus and offers additional safe and convenient transportation options to our students and faculty and staff members.
- › Zimride is a friendly and economical way to get to work! For more information, visit our website at [taps.ucmerced.edu](https://taps.ucmerced.edu).



# Disability Services

**More information or Action:** [disabilityservices.ucmerced.edu](http://disabilityservices.ucmerced.edu)

In order to ensure equal access to all of UC Merced's academic programs and activities, students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (209-228-6996) as soon as possible to initiate the accommodation process.

# Jobs at UC Merced

**More information or Action:** [hire.ucmerced.edu](http://hire.ucmerced.edu)

Working on campus while at UC Merced can be the first step in building professional skills, discovering a new passion, and making lasting friendships. Your search will begin at [hire.ucmerced.edu](http://hire.ucmerced.edu). At the bottom of this page, select the "CaT PaWS" logo (for campus jobs) and "CaT LINK" logo (for off-campus jobs or internships). Most jobs require a resume and cover letter. Please note that once you are hired for on-campus employment, you will need to bring in identifying documents. A complete list of documents is available at [uscis.gov/filefield/form/i-9.pdf](http://uscis.gov/filefield/form/i-9.pdf). Please contact [careercenter@ucmerced.edu](mailto:careercenter@ucmerced.edu) to ask questions or schedule an appointment with a career specialist.

# Health Services

**Student Health Insurance:** **More information or Action:** [health.ucmerced.edu](http://health.ucmerced.edu)

UC SHIP provides accessible and affordable coverage that protects you from unexpected health care costs that could affect your future success graduation and beyond.

## How does UC SHIP work?

All registered students are automatically enrolled in UC SHIP and charged a health insurance premium on their tuition bill, unless they waive enrollment by showing they have coverage that meets UC's required criteria. Note that not all Covered California plans will meet UC's health insurance benefit requirements. For more information visit: <http://health.ucmerced.edu/insurance>.

## Can I waive enrollment in UC SHIP coverage?

Yes. You may provide evidence of health coverage through another plan, including those in Covered California with an effective date prior to the UC SHIP coverage start date, and apply to waive enrollment in UC SHIP. To qualify for a waiver, your coverage must meet the benefit criteria established by the University of California. Please see [health.ucmerced.edu/insurance](http://health.ucmerced.edu/insurance) for criteria.

Complete the Waiver Criteria Worksheet (<http://health.ucmerced.edu/waiverworksheet.pdf>) to help you gather the information you will need prior to completing the application.

## 2016-17 Enrollment and Waiver deadlines

All registered students will be enrolled in UC SHIP unless a completed waiver application was received prior to the waiver deadline.

SEMESTER	WAIVER OPENS	WAIVER DEADLINE	LATE WAIVER DEADLINE \$50 FEE
FALL SEMESTER	May 1, 2016	Aug. 1, 2016	Aug. 15, 2016
SPRING SEMESTER	Nov. 14, 2016	Jan. 3, 2017	Jan. 17, 2017

## Applying for a Waiver

Waiver applications are completed online at [my.UCMerced.edu](http://my.UCMerced.edu) during the fall or spring waiver periods. A new waiver application has to be completed each academic year in the fall.

## Using the Student Health and Counseling Services (SHS) after Waiving

All students who pay full registration fees are entitled to use SHS even if they waived out of UC SHIP. However, SHS does not directly bill insurance plans other than UC SHIP.

## Be Sure to Remain Covered

Your waiver will be applied to the full academic year or the remainder of the academic year, if you apply during the spring semester. You are required to maintain adequate health insurance throughout the entire academic school year.

If your health coverage is terminated for any reason, contact your campus Student Health Services Insurance Office to enroll in UC SHIP at 209-228-2273 or by email at [insurance@ucmerced.edu](mailto:insurance@ucmerced.edu).





# Important Dates and Deadlines

		<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Spring 2017</b>
<b>ORIENTATION</b>	At Orientation you will have the opportunity to receive assistance in selecting your classes, tour the campus and get to know other new students.	Registration begins April 16, 2016	Registration begins Nov. 1, 2016
<b>FINANCIAL AID</b>	Priority Deadline to submit FAFSA (Free application for Federal Student aid)	March 2, 2016	March 2, 2016
<b>Student Requirements</b>	Deadline to receive all required supporting documents and to complete all online requirements at My.UCMerced.edu.	June 1, 2016	Dec. 1, 2016
<b>Accept/Decline Awards</b>	To officially receive the aid UC Merced has offered you, you will need to log in to My.UCMerced.edu and accept or decline the award package.	After June 1, 2016	After Awarded
<b>STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION (SIR)</b>	Online questionnaire to verify California Residency. If this item is in your checklist, then you must submit it.	June 15, 2016	Dec. 15, 2016
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	All new students will register for courses at Orientation.	At Orientation	At Orientation
<b>PLACEMENT EXAMS</b>	Must be completed by 4 p.m. Please check your UC Merced email for more information.	June 17, 2016	TBD
<b>ADMISSIONS</b>	Official transcripts must be postmarked or electronically submitted to the Office of Admissions.  Official test scores reports are due in the Office of Admissions.	July 1, 2016  July 15, 2016	Jan. 6, 2017  Jan. 6, 2017
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE/WAIVER</b>	UC requires all undergraduate students to have health insurance as a non-academic condition of enrollment. If the student is already covered by health insurance it is his/her responsibility to file a Health Insurance Waiver online at My.UCMerced.edu.	Aug. 1, 2016	Jan. 3, 2017
<b>FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE</b>	All Fees for tuition and housing are due 4 p.m. and can be paid online at MyBill.UCMerced.edu.	Aug. 17, 2016	Jan. 11, 2017
<b>REQUIRED IMMUNIZATION</b>	If you will not be 19 years old by the first day of instruction, you will need to provide proof of immunization against Hepatitis B. Forms are available online at <a href="http://health.ucmerced.edu/newstudents">http://health.ucmerced.edu/newstudents</a> .	Aug. 1, 2016	Jan. 3, 2017
<b>RESERVE TEXTBOOKS</b>	Start reserving your textbooks online.  Deadline to reserve your books online.  Rental textbook return date.	June 28, 2016  Aug. 17, 2016  Dec. 16, 2016	Dec. 1, 2016  Jan. 11, 2017  May 12, 2017
<b>HOUSING DEADLINES</b>	<a href="http://housing.ucmerced.edu/apply/fall16">http://housing.ucmerced.edu/apply/fall16</a>		
<b>FOR MORE DATES AND DEADLINES VISIT:</b>	<a href="http://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/datesdeadlines">http://studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/datesdeadlines</a>		











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