

Academic Advising at UCSC - Transfer

As you begin to research the academic programs and advising resources available at UC Santa Cruz, you will find that there are two major sources of advising—college and department advisers—whose goal is to provide you with the necessary tools to clarify your educational goals and devise a path to achieving them at UCSC. Both colleges and departments have advisers that will assist you in understanding the full range of academic programs and requirements getting on track for your major area of study, and selecting appropriate courses. Students who enter UC Santa Cruz after completing coursework at another institution of higher education require careful evaluation of completed coursework and direct advising to accomplish their academic goals at UCSC. Transfer students are encouraged to contact an adviser for their major as soon as possible to receive appropriate major advising and for transcript review for course prerequisites.

All undergraduate transfer students, whether you live on campus or not, are affiliated with one of ten residential colleges at UC Santa Cruz. Colleges foster a welcoming environment for you to complete a successful transition to the university from the time you register to UCSC until graduation. The colleges provide academic support, organized activities, and events that enhance the intellectual and social life of its students. College Academic Advisers (sometimes called Academic Preceptors) are knowledgeable about academic and administrative procedures, petitions, degree requirements and deadlines. They are available for individual discussions about your academic plans.



This text is associated with Academic Advising at UCSC - Transfer video.

Advising throughout your first year prepares you to devise an academic plan and understand grading, and graduation requirements. If you are unsure of your major, this is the time to do some serious research. Junior transfer students enter UCSC as undeclared and must formally declare their major at the beginning of their second quarter at UCSC. Sophomore transfer students must declare their major no later than by the end of their sophomore year or its equivalent. For both juniors and sophomores, it is important to begin satisfying major requirements right away.

College Advisers are generalists who can advise you on your GE requirements, help you identify issues affecting your academic performance, help you organize your options, make referrals as needed, and generally assist you with ANY advising need.

Department Advisers (sometimes called “Program” or “Major” advisers) work with you on all issues related to your major or minor. Each major and minor at UCSC is administered through an academic department that also provides students with comprehensive advising. Department Advisers help you develop a balanced academic plan that supports your selected major. They provide specific information about your program, courses and requirements for completion of your major or minor. It is important to seek early advising from your department advisers if you wish to participate in Education Abroad programs.



Department Advisers have in-depth knowledge about the major and/or minor. They can advise you on methods to take advantage of opportunities and provide you with information on internships, research, and teaching assistant positions that either satisfy major requirements or complement your major course work. They can also recommend professors whose academic interests are similar to yours and who can serve as a mentor in your field. Professors are an excellent source of information and motivation when it comes to considering possibilities such as graduate school and research opportunities.

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Getting started on major requirements is the number one task for transfer students. Each department has provided new students with information that is important to access before enrolling. Besides the information specific to new students, more information about your proposed major can be found on your department's website, which will also give you contact information and office hours. It is crucial that you seek advising from your Department Advisers prior to your first quarter at UCSC. Be sure to talk with your department adviser if you have any questions.

Additionally, UCSC offers advising and academic support through the Career Center and the Educational Opportunity Program. Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students (known as STARS) at UC Santa Cruz provides the extra academic and personal support transfer and re-entry students may need to fully benefit from their education at UCSC whether they are full-or part-time students. Be sure to become familiar with the Student Portal at my.ucsc.edu

As a transfer student, seeking advising prior to your first quarter at UCSC will ensure your success at UC Santa Cruz!