UC Davis Scholarship Application and Letter of Recommendation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Deadline: Wednesday, January 6, 2016

How do I create a personal statement?
The personal statement is broken out into three separate questions about your personal background, academic and career interests and personal interests. This is your space where the scholarship committee gets to know about you. What would you like them to know about you?

Start with a list:

- What do you do or what you have done?
  - Activities, interests, hobbies, jobs, talents and leadership skills
  - Experiences – good or bad, and what you learned from those experiences
- What do you want to do?
  - Goals and ambitions
  - Plans while attending or after college (i.e. research, career or graduate plans)

I’m new at Davis. On the extracurricular activities section of the scholarship application, can I list activities I did in high school or while attending a community college?
Yes, you can list activities from your previous school. As an incoming student (freshman or transfer), you haven’t had enough time to build your extracurricular activities at UC Davis. As your time at UC Davis progresses, you will want to work on getting more involved on campus.

What information can I provide as employment?
List paid and unpaid job experiences (i.e. tutoring, internships, community service, volunteer work, research/laboratory experience).

I have tried to save my personal statement, but each time it says there is a problem with the text format or the character count doesn’t seem to work. What should I do?
Cutting and pasting text from a rich text editor, such as Word, may cause extra characters, which may exceed the maximum character count. Using a plain text editor, such as Note Pad, will help with this issue.

Does the Letter of Recommendation have to come from a UC Davis professor?
No, your letter can be from any individual who you feel knows you best and can write about your academics, work experience, or any other personal qualities. Letters can be written by professors, teachers, teaching assistants from your high school or community college or non-academic individuals, such as employers, coaches and community leaders, who can write about any significant contributions to society you are making outside of the classroom. Letters should not be written by family members, relatives or friends.

I have a paper copy of a Letter of Recommendation from a previous teacher; can I use it for my scholarship application?
No, the Letter of Recommendation is an online process. You must request the Letter of Recommendation through our online application, and your recommender must complete the Letter of Recommendation online.

How many Letters of Recommendation do I need?
You only need one Letter of Recommendation. This year we have allowed students to enter two recommenders, a primary and a secondary, to increase your chances of getting a letter in by the January 6th deadline. Letters from a secondary recommender will only be read if we do not receive a letter from your primary recommender.
How does my recommender submit the Letter of Recommendation?
The Letter of Recommendation is submitted online. After you enter your recommender’s contact information on
the application, your recommender receives an email with a link to the Letter of Recommendation online form
and directions about how to submit the letter.

Are there any specific things the Letter of Recommendation should include/address? Is there a specific
format it should be in?
We do not have set guidelines or formatting for the Letter of Recommendation. This freedom allows the
recommender to speak about the student’s many accomplishments/contributions in whichever way they feel is
best.

I typed my information into the Letter of Recommendation request instead of my recommender’s. How
can I fix this?
This is a common mistake. You can simply click on the “Replace” button on the Letter of Recommendation
Request page to correct and resend the information.

Who is eligible for scholarships?
All students – national, international, undocumented, and AB540 – are eligible for scholarships. Students do not
have to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application in
order to be considered. However, a small amount of merit scholarships have a financial need consideration.
Financial need is only determined through the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application. As a result, we
recommend that students apply for financial aid to maximize educational funding options.

What scholarships am I applying for? Can I see a list of the scholarships that are available?
The Undergraduate Scholarship Application is a single application for all of the scholarships administered by
our office. We have over 300 scholarship funds available and roughly 3 million dollars in scholarships to award.
If additional information is required, the Undergraduate and Prestigious Scholarship Office will contact you via
email. While we don’t have a complete list of all of the scholarships we administer, you can find a list of some
of the funds on our website at financialaid.ucdavis.edu/scholarships/campus/awards/index.html.

I received a scholarship this year. Do I have to fill out this application to get the scholarship again?
In most cases, you will need to complete the undergraduate application each year in order to receive a
scholarship again. If you are receiving the Regents Scholarship, Jastro Scholarship, or the Provost’s Award, you
are not required to complete an application to receive those awards next year as long as you meet the other
eligibility requirements. If you would like to be eligible for other scholarships in addition to those awards, you
must complete the scholarship application.

I am a transfer student, what steps do I need to take to apply for the Regent’s scholarship?
Incoming transfer students for fall 2016 who wish to apply for the Regents Scholarship must submit a Letter of
Recommendation online and have a minimum GPA of 3.80.

I am a transfer student, how do I complete the undergraduate scholarship application?
The UC Application for Admission and Scholarships serves as your application for campus-based scholarships
at UC Davis. Your application must be completed by January 4, and a minimum 3.25 GPA is required. Be sure
to read all instructions pertaining to scholarships when completing the application, paying particular attention to
the restricted scholarship eligibility codes. Students who are planning to transfer to UC Davis in 2016-2017 can
submit a Letter of Recommendation for additional consideration. Although it is suggested, the recommendation
is not required. However, in order to be considered for the Regents Scholarship, transfer applicants must have a
minimum 3.80 GPA and must submit a Letter of Recommendation.