

University of California Application Guide

What Are They Looking For?

Applicant is reviewed within the context of the academic opportunities available to the student

- They look at what Andrew Hill has to offer and if you took advantage of it
- You are not being compared to students from a different school

Extracurricular Activities

- Sports (with or outside of school), clubs, community service hours, internships, work experience, summer programs, volunteer opportunities
- There is no limit to how many activities you can report
- Don't describe the activity, describe your participation
- What you've learned, skills you've acquired, how it has impacted you (positive or negative)



Contextual information

- Details of the events in your life
- Information about you that cannot be given by your transcript
- Responsibilities outside of school (family or work responsibilities)
 - i.e. if you have to babysit younger siblings or help work at your family's business
- You are more than what is on paper. Let them know that

Personal Insight Questions

Total of 8 prompts → you must respond to 4 (350 word max for each)

This is not a writing sample

- You can write like how you would speak to your favorite teacher
- Takes place of an interview
- This is your opportunity to self-advocate!
- They want to get to know more about you and your life circumstances



TIPS

- ✓ Tell us what is behind your grades, test scores, and titles.
- ✓ Use "I" and "my" statements.
- ✓ Keep your response focused.
- ✓ Use this space to elaborate on extracurricular section with new information.
- ✓ Remember it is a response to a question(s) not an essay prompt
- ✓ If you are having trouble getting started,
 - 1) bullet point multiple potential topics
 - 2) record yourself answering the question in the prompt

AVOID

- ✗ Thesaurus words.
- ✗ Sweeping generalizations.
- ✗ Listing information that is elsewhere on the application (extracurricular section).
- ✗ Assuming we know what it means to be _____.
- ✗ Answering the question too literally.