

COUNSELOR CONNECTION



An Introduction from Simone Rahotep

I'm excited to introduce the work of **UCLA Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement (SPCE)** and to share how our office supports you—and the students and families you serve—throughout the college preparation and application journey.

SPCE works closely with counselors, schools, and community partners to provide accessible programming and resources that help demystify the college admissions process—particularly to UCLA. Our goal is to complement the critical guidance you already provide by offering clear, practical information that helps students and families better understand academic preparation, admissions requirements, and the path to becoming competitive college applicants. Through on-campus, off-campus, and virtual programming, we aim to reduce barriers and increase clarity for those navigating this complex process.

Our programs primarily engage students in grades 8–12 who may be the first in their families to attend college, come from low-income households, attend under-resourced schools, live in rural areas, or have experienced other barriers to educational opportunity. At the same time, we welcome all students and families interested in learning more about UCLA and higher education. By offering early and sustained engagement, we aim to help build strong pipelines of informed, prepared, and competitive applicants.

Throughout the year, SPCE offers programs designed to inform and inspire students and families. We encourage you to visit spce.ucla.edu and to check our **Events** tab regularly, where new opportunities and updates will be posted.

We also encourage you to share **Get College Ready**, a free text- and email-based initiative that provides guiding and motivating college preparation tips by grade level. Designed for students ages 13 and older, parents/guardians, and other college influencers, the program offers general (not UCLA-specific) guidance related to

coursework, test preparation, and extracurricular leadership. Participants receive up to four messages per month, making it a simple way for families to stay engaged in the college preparation process. Learn more at prepare.admission.ucla.edu.

We value the critical role you play in guiding students toward their postsecondary goals and appreciate your partnership in this shared work. Thank you for all you do to support students as they prepare for college—and for helping us connect them to UCLA.

Warm regards,



Simone Rahotep, PhD

Senior Director

UCLA Strategic Partnerships & Community
Engagement

Financial Aid Reminders



The 2026-2027 priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is **March 2, 2025, by 9 p.m. (PST)**. Please remind students to include UCLA's school code: 001315.

We urge students to utilize the [University of California/UCLA Net Price Calculator](#) to estimate their potential financial aid eligibility and get an idea of what their college costs may look like.

For more information, visit [UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships](#):

- [2026 Prospective Bruins: Financial Aid Guidance website](#)
- [Accede a nuestro sitio web en español para estudiantes prospectivos del año 2026](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does UCLA have a frequently asked questions resource for counselors about the UC Application?

A. Yes! We have a new FAQ document specifically designed with counselors in mind.

[UC Application FAQ](#)

Q. Does UCLA have any resources for 8th-11th grade students who are not yet ready to apply to college, but want to get prepared?

A. Yes! Our Get College Ready site is full of resources and tips for preparing for college, geared towards 8th-11th grade students. The information is intended to support their college readiness more generally, not just if they plan to apply to a UC campus.

Students and parents can even sign up to receive text messages with tips and reminders!

[Get College Ready](#)

Q. I'd like to confirm or update my contact information with UCLA Undergraduate Admission. Is there an opportunity to do so?

A. Yes! We will be reaching out via email in the coming months for all counselors to confirm their contact information and opt in to receive communications (like this newsletter!) from Undergraduate Admission.

Additional Resources

[UCLA Counselor Resources Page](#)

Important resources for high school and transfer counselors are all linked in one spot.

[Meet Your Admission Representative](#)

List of UCLA Admission Representatives for California, out-of-state, international, and transfer students.

[UC Counselor & Advisor Bulletin](#)

Questions of the month, Quick Reference Guide (QRC) highlight, resources, and more!

[UCLA Recorded Presentations](#)

Watch recorded presentations about first-year and transfer admission, living on campus, student life, and diversity and community.

Upcoming Events

UC Counselor Webinars:

- [Let's talk "validation"! What counselors need to know](#): February 10
- [Mini transfer admission topics](#): February 18

UCLA Presentations and Tours:

- [Virtual, monthly first-year admission presentations](#)
- [Virtual, monthly transfer admission presentations](#)
- [Campus Tour Reservations](#)

For more information on our events, visit [UCLA Admission Events](#).