



2021–2022

Parent & Family
GUIDE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

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(209) 259-4469



- Luxurious apartment community
- 1, 2 & 3 bedroom floor plans
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- Gas fireplaces (selected units)
- Inside washer/dryer connection
- Fitness center, indoor clubhouse & gazebo
- Enclosed parking
- Courtesy patrol & 24 hour maintenance

www.hmgt.com

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www.hmgt.com

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Merced, California 95348
(209) 259-4465



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- Covered parking
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- Inside washer/dryer connection (select models)
- Fireplace (select models)
- Courtesy patrol and 24 hour maintenance
- Across from MJC and walking distance to the UC Cat Tracks

www.hmgt.com



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JUST SHOW YOUR CATCARD.



CollegiateParent

About This Guide

CollegiateParent has published this guide in partnership with the University of California, Merced. Our goal is to share helpful, timely information about your student's college experience and to connect you to relevant campus and community resources.

Please refer to the school's website and contact information below for updates to information in the guide or with questions about its contents. CollegiateParent is not responsible for omissions or errors. This publication was made possible by the businesses and professionals contained within it. The presence of university/college logos and marks in the guide does not mean that the publisher or school endorses the products or services offered by the advertisers.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

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University of California, Merced

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5200 N. Lake Road
Merced, CA 95343

📞 (209) 228-7178
✉️ studentsfirst@ucmerced.edu
🌐 studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu

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Welcome *to the* University of California, Merced

Dear Parents & Families,

Welcome to the Bobcat family! Thank you for entrusting your scholar to the University of California, Merced.

This is an outstanding institution of higher learning where every scholar receives an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people. As new or returning UC Merced parents and families, you are important members of our community and we want to provide you with connections and opportunities that will enable you to be an active partner in your scholar's success.

Given that your scholar is embarking upon their academic journey and co-curricular life as an independent adult, we recognize that this may be a time of transition for you and your family. Therefore, we want to provide you with information that will enable you to develop your own unique relationship with UC Merced as the parent of a Bobcat. The college years are a special time for your student and, while there may be moments of challenge,



please know that you are joining a community filled with experienced faculty, staff, students, and other families who are eager to support you in this journey. We are committed to partnering with you as you assist your scholar in having a rich and rewarding experience at UC Merced.

We encourage you to get involved and attend parent and family programs and events including webinars and workshops created just for you. In the meantime, we invite you to contact the Parent and Family Programs team if you have questions or concerns.

With warmest personal regard,

Charles Nies, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



About

UC Merced

UC Merced opened in September 2005 as the newest campus of the world-renowned University of California system, and the first American research university built in the 21st century.

The university prides itself on accessibility, with a special mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. Students can choose from 26 rigorous and contemporary majors among the three academic schools. Each will prepare them for careers and graduate school beyond college.

UC Merced is a hub for research in the San Joaquin Valley, and many students have the opportunity to conduct impactful research with esteemed faculty as undergraduates. Pre-professional programs provide one-on-one attention from faculty members and mentors, plus opportunities for leadership and research.

Our campus proudly serves the most ethnically and culturally diverse student body among all University of California campuses. We have been designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American/Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. UC Merced also leads the UC system in the percentage of students from low-income families and students whose parents did not attend college (first-generation students).

A Focus on Research

At UC Merced, some of the world's foremost scholars team up with students to focus on understanding some of the world's most pressing issues and creating new solutions, including new technologies, that will solve challenges that are critical to society's growth, health and overall well-being.

As part of the discovery process that is an integral part of any research, undergraduates have opportunities to take their learning beyond the classroom and out into the field or laboratories. For example, this past summer, 10 students (five undergraduate and five graduate) from UC Merced worked closely with Joint Genome Institute scientists on research projects that contribute to the larger mission of the U.S. Department of Energy. These students worked with mentors to practice and develop presentation skills as well as build their networks in the field of genomics and scientific research.

There are resources on campus to encourage undergraduates to seek out research collaborations. The



Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC) facilitates faculty-mentored undergraduate research projects and creative activities. The UROC website (uroc.ucmerced.edu) hosts a database of research opportunities, workshops and ongoing events.

Some special research institutes and facilities:

- Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines
- Center for Computational Biology
- Center of Excellence for the Study of Health Disparities
- Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS)
- Health Sciences Research Institute
- Merced nAnomaterials Center for Energy and Sensing (MACES)
- Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI)
- Stem Cell Instrumentation Foundry (SCIF)
- UC Natural Reserve System
- University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar)

UC Merced collaborative research partnerships:

- Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Yosemite National Park

Veteran Services

UC Merced has two separate offices dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for veterans, reservists and dependents.

The offices provide assistance in obtaining educational benefits that veterans and dependents are entitled to. Services include processing enrollment certifications to the VA office and providing priority registration for our veterans.

Contact Information:

- 📞 (209) 228-2736
- 📧 veteranservices@ucmerced.edu
- 🔗 veteranservices.ucmerced.edu

UC Merced

at a Glance



#2 Public University in the Nation for Least Amount of Debt Incurred by Graduates

2021 U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges rankings



#1 Among Public Universities in Outperforming Expected Graduation Rates

2021 U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges rankings



One of the Top 100 Universities in the Nation

2021 U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges rankings



#5 in the Nation for Social Mobility

2021 U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges rankings



#1 in the Nation for Percent of Students who Receive Need-Based Aid

2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings



Top 100 & #86 Among Colleges and Universities for Hispanics

Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine



#1 in the Nation for Student Outcomes

U.S. News Best Colleges 2020



#8 in the Nation for Performance of First Generation Students

Washington Monthly's 2019 College Guide and Rankings



#13 in the Nation for Best Undergraduate Teaching Among Public Universities

2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings



Ranked Among 107 Top Universities in the Country as "Higher Research" Institution

2020 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings

New spaces are ready to welcome Bobcats!

By nearly doubling the campus size with additional research buildings, classrooms, dining, housing, and more, we're making education more accessible in the heart of California.

UC Merced completed the 2020 Project, a campus expansion to add a significant amount of teaching, research, housing, and student-support facilities. The increased capacity will allow the University to grow up to 15,000 students by 2030.

Geographic Origins



	Northern California	44%
	Central California	30%
	Southern California	26%
Nonresidential/International		0.41%

The 2020 Project delivered the following new spaces:

First Phase:

- Dining hall
- Classroom buildings
- Student meeting spaces
- Residence halls

Final Phase:

- Three academic and research buildings with faculty offices, as well as wet, dry and computational labs
- 1,700 student beds with ground-floor classrooms and student life facilities
- NCAA II-level competition swimming pool and recreation fields
- Wellness center
- Research greenhouse



- Transit hub
- Early Childhood Education Center expansion



Students First Center

The Students First Center (SFC) provides professional, one-on-one guidance to students, parents, and the public regarding admissions, financial aid, registration, and billing among many other topics. SFC is the best place to start when you have questions about UC Merced.

Visit studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu for instant access to important announcements, dates, and deadlines as well as links to useful campus and community resources.

Multiple SFC team members are fluent in other languages, such as Spanish, Armenian, Hmong, Greek, and Arabic; please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions!

For the most up-to-date information regarding hours of operation or service adjustments, check out: studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/contact-us-0



Connect with Us:

📞 [209-228-7178](tel:209-228-7178)

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.;
Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

✉️ studentsfirst@ucmerced.edu

✉️ studentsfirst ucmerced.edu

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–noon and
from 1 p.m. –4:30 p.m.;
Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon and 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

📅 [Schedule a 15-minute Zoom appointment](#)

Monday–Thursday, 4 p.m.–5 p.m.

In-person: Save time by scheduling your next visit to SFC. Check in prior to visiting us and we will text you when it is your turn. To check in, visit studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu.

Financial Aid

and Scholarships

Tips to Help Students and Parents Navigate the Financial Aid Process

1. Identify Special Circumstances

The FAFSA and CADAA require household income and tax information for the year prior to the last tax year (i.e., prior-prior year). If current household income is significantly less than the prior-prior year, contact the financial aid office to complete a special circumstance petition. Additionally, please make the financial aid office aware of any significant out-of-pocket expenses, such as medical, dental, etc., or any other special or unusual circumstances.

2. Apply for Scholarships

Prioritize efforts beginning with institutional and regional scholarships before you spend much time searching for national scholarships. Institutional scholarship application processes and deadlines can vary dramatically depending on the school and system. Additionally, stay in contact with high school counselors for information on local scholarships. Avoid scholarship scams that ask for confidential information like social security number, date of birth, etc., and never pay to search or apply for scholarships. Make sure to report all outside scholarships received to the financial aid office so they can be included in the financial aid award package. UC Merced uses the data from your admissions application for determination of institutional scholarships.

3. Understand Student Loans Before You Borrow

Students may be offered federal student loans in their award package but are under no obligation to accept these loans; they may also elect to request a lesser amount. Loans might include a Federal Subsidized Loan (the student is the borrower and no interest accrues or payments need to be made while the student is enrolled at least half-time), Federal Unsubsidized Loan (the student is the borrower and interest accrues while in school, but there are no payments while enrolled at least half-time), and/or a Federal Parent PLUS Loan (a parent is the borrower, a credit check is required, interest accrues and payments begin after the loan is fully disbursed, but payments may be deferred). If needed, private alternative education loans may be an option.

4. Pay Attention to Deadlines

Financial aid funds are limited. Priority consideration is given to students who meet application and document submission deadlines. Missing deadlines could result in forfeiting institutional grants, work-study awards and more.

5. Monitor Email and Web Portal

The primary means of communication by financial aid offices is typically email, and most post requirements on a campus student web portal. Be sure to monitor both on a regular basis for important updates, communications, notifications and requirements.

6. Communicate Housing Changes

Financial aid award offers are based in part on the housing status you indicated on your FAFSA or CADA. Standardized Cost of Attendance budgets are used for students living on campus, off campus or commuter (i.e., living with parent/relative). If a student changes housing status, it will likely affect their financial aid award package.

7. Enrollment Status and Grades are Important

Grants must be prorated for students who are enrolled less than full-time. Continued aid eligibility is based on maintaining the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress standards (e.g., GPA — grade point average — and Pace, the percentage of units completed) and maximum cumulative unit and time limits. Before dropping a class, be sure to consult with the financial aid office in advance to find out the potential aid eligibility impact.

8. Financial Wellness Assistance is Available

For many students, college is the first time they are in control of their own finances. Our Financial Wellness Center (FWC) serves students throughout every academic level in the educational journey — from freshman to Ph.D. The Center provides education and empowerment on money management topics relevant to college life and beyond. We provide digital content, interactive workshops, classroom engagement, special campus events, and personalized one-on-one financial coaching sessions.

For more information or questions, please contact the UC Merced Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships at  [\(209\) 228-7178](tel:(209)228-7178)  finaid@ucmerced.edu  financialaid.ucmerced.edu

**Our Financial Aid Parent Guide is available
at financialaid.ucmerced.edu/parentguide.**

Money Matters



Student Business Services (SBS)

Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline:

Fall 2021: August 18, 2021

Spring 2022: January 12, 2022

Parent Access to Student Account Information

Your student can grant you access to their student account information by setting up a Parent PIN via myBill. With a Parent PIN, you can view account activity and speak with SBS staff over the phone and email.

Need a Payment Plan?

With the Deferred Payment Plan (DPP), students can pay their tuition, fees and student housing contract (if applicable) in four monthly installments per semester. Students or parents can request enrollment in the DPP via myBill.

Contact Information:

📞 (209) 228-4114

✉️ sbs@ucmerced.edu

🔗 bfs.ucmerced.edu



Dining Made Easier

Access your meal plan or use your CatCard as a debit card at campus dining facilities with just a swipe!

UC Merced CatCard

The UC Merced Campus ID Card (CatCard) is your student's one-card access to student services and programs, buildings and retail services. The fast and secure CatCard is a campus-wide convenience, right in your student's wallet.

Spending Freedom

Because it is a safer alternative to carrying cash, we encourage students to use Cat Dollars to pay for on-campus expenses. Simply deposit money into the Cat Dollars Plan and, with the swipe of your student's card, the exact amount of their purchase is deducted from the balance. Cat Dollars can be used at any location and will roll over year-to-year. With the CatCard, there is never a reason for your student to worry about having enough cash in their pocket to buy supplies at the Campus Store, grab a snack or drink on the way to class or make photocopies.

Uses for the CatCard:

- Campus identification
- Check out resource materials from the Kolligian Library
- Purchase meals and merchandise at the Dining Center, Lantern Café and Marketplace
- Door access to secured academic and residential buildings
- Photocopy and print using network printers
- Purchase textbooks, supplies and collegiate gear at the Campus Store
- Access the Gallo Recreation Center (i.e. your student's gym membership card)
- Access residence laundry rooms
- Identification for free ride with the CatTracks and city buses

CatCard MobileID

Manage Available Funds, Transactions and Much More

We encourage your student to enroll in the CatCard MobileID. MobileID is a companion smartphone web app available to UC Merced students and employees allowing them to pay for meals and merchandise at dining locations across campus, add Cat Dollar funds, check plan balances and recent transactions, immediately deactivate a lost CatCard, check in at a campus event, and to donate or request into iCare (a food security meal donation program that allows on- and off-campus students to donate or request meal swipes) using your smart device.

This new functionality makes accessing campus services more convenient.

However, MobileID is not meant to replace the physical CatCard ID and will not allow door access entry.

If you have questions about the student ID, MobileID, Cat Dollars or Meal Plan, please visit catcard.ucmerced.edu or call or email the CatCard Office. We are here to help you in any way we can.



Contact Information:

- 📞 (209) 228-2228
- ✉️ catcard@ucmerced.edu
- 🌐 catcard.ucmerced.edu



Academic Resources

Bright Success Center

In the spirit of our namesake, Mr. Calvin E. Bright, our goal is to ensure our talented, motivated, and inspired scholars have the academic support and resources that will assist them in attaining their educational, personal, and professional goals and dreams. Bright Success Center staff do this by engaging scholars in programs and workshops designed to support them as they transition to and through UC Merced. ➤

Fiat Lux	Living learning community specifically designed for first-generation, low-income scholars.	fiatlux.ucmerced.edu
Guardian Scholars	Supports scholars who are current or former foster youth or have experienced homelessness.	guardianscholars.ucmerced.edu
Learning Support	Supports students' academic development and engagement in courses and learning experiences outside the classroom. Through classroom, workshop, small groups, 1-on-1 and online experiences, we assist students in overcoming barriers and celebrating academic milestones.	learning.ucmerced.edu
New Student Orientation	Introduces incoming students, families, support network members, and guests to life at UC Merced.	orientation.ucmerced.edu
Peer Assisted Learning Support (PALS)	Peer tutoring program available to all UC Merced scholars throughout the academic year.	learning.ucmerced.edu/programs/tutoring
Services for Undocumented Students	Provides service to undocumented scholars. Services include legal services and educational programming.	undoc.ucmerced.edu
Strengthening Talents & Exploring Pathways Program (STEP)	Supports first-generation, low-income, and students registered with Student Accessibility Services.	step.ucmerced.edu
Success Mentor Program (SMP)	Peer-to-peer mentor program designed to pair first-year students with upper-division students.	mentoring.ucmerced.edu
Transfer, Returning, Veteran Program (TRV)	Provides support and community to transfer, returning, and veteran scholars and dependents.	trv.ucmerced.edu

The Chem Center

chemcenter.ucmerced.edu

Provides free drop-in tutoring and support services to all UC Merced undergraduates enrolled in chemistry courses. Tutoring is provided by graduate students, trained undergraduate students and instructors. The Center also provides workshops on chemistry concepts.

The Math Center

mathcenter.ucmerced.edu

Provides free drop-in tutoring and support services to all UC Merced undergraduates enrolled in math courses. Tutoring is provided by graduate students, trained undergraduate students and instructors.

The STEM Resource Center

stemresourcecenter.ucmerced.edu

The STEM Resource Center is a designated non-classroom, undergraduate, STEM student-centered learning community on campus, where students from various majors and levels gather and network. The STEM Center provides academic and extracurricular support for all undergraduate students and assists them in uncovering research opportunities. The center guides students to acknowledge personal responsibility for their success and flourish in their intellectual endeavors.

Service Areas:

- Academic support – Peer Tutor/Mentor Program
- Undergraduate research and internships
- Support for student organizations and K-12 Outreach

The University Writing Center

writingcenter.ucmerced.edu

Offers one-on-one consultations and workshops for undergraduates from all majors, providing feedback and resources for students throughout the writing process – from pre-writing to final drafting. The University Writing Center staff is committed to sustained dialogue about and engagement with writing. Our goal is to guide students as they develop flexible and informed writing processes, strategies, and habits necessary to navigate academic discourse communities.

Bobcat Advising Center (BAC)

The Bobcat Advising Center (BAC) is the assigned academic advising home at UC Merced for first-year (freshman) students in every major and undeclared students in every class year. Our goal is to assist first-year students in making a successful academic transition to a rigorous research university. Each first-year has an assigned academic advisor in BAC who works with that student for their entire first year at UC Merced.

Interactions with First-Years:

- BAC advisors prepare individual course recommendations for each first-year for their first semester courses. Recommendations are emailed to first-years during the third week of June and are based on the student's scores on the UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam, UC Merced online math and chemistry placement exams, AP or IB exam scores received by UC Merced, intended major, and transcripts received by UC Merced for college courses taken in high school.
- BAC advisors meet individually in appointments with every first-year each semester. Appointments begin after students report to campus. During the fall appointment, BAC advisors help students develop a plan for second semester classes, discuss major and career interests, review remaining graduation requirements, identify academic support resources, and discuss opportunities (research, study abroad, leadership, clubs and organizations, optional summer classes, etc.) to enhance their academic, personal, and career goals.
- Each BAC advisor has daily walk-in hours during the academic year that allow students to drop in to meet with their assigned academic advisor briefly (10–15 minutes) for quick questions or urgent situations. Extended walk-in hours are offered at the start of each semester and during registration.
- BAC collaborates with a variety of campus partners (faculty members, Residence Education, Study Abroad, Registrar's Office, etc.) to offer workshops tailored to support the needs of first-year students.

Contact Information:

📞 (209) 291-9739

✉️ bac@ucmerced.edu

🌐 bobcat-advising-center.ucmerced.edu

Director:

Dr. Michelle Roppeau

Academic Advisors:

Kenya Alas, Giovanni Alejo, Lai Lor, Cesar Ochoa, Alan Reynolds, Teresa Salters, Linda Yang



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209-723-4674
bearcreekmanorandterraceapartments.com



Bear Creek North
2976 M Street
209-383-5704
bearcreeknorthapts.com



Bear Creek Terrace
2918 R Street
209-383-3549
bearcreekmanorandterraceapartments.com



Brookdale North
344 E. Brookdale Drive
209-383-2201
rentatbrookdalenorth.com



Laurel Glen
777 Loughborough Dr
209-383-3726
laurelglenmerced.com



Lincoln Gardens
1287 Loughborough Dr
209-580-4990
lincolngardensmerced.com



Meadowlark
3270 Meadows Ave
209-722-7211
meadowlarkmerced.com

13 Great Merced Apartment Home Communities to Choose From!



Osito
2560 Midge Ave
209-233-9649
ositooapts.com



Sierra Village
1163 Loughborough Drive #4
209-384-7060
villagemeadowsapts.com



The Tioga
1715 N St
279-321-7248
thetiogamerced.com



The Villages
3342 M Street
279-529-0833
thevillagesapartmenthomes.com



Village Meadows
1160 Loughborough Drive #4
209-384-7060
villagemeadowsapts.com



Yardley Gardens
3388 G Street
209-383-3280
rentatyardleygardens.com

Campus Map





Find local Google maps, downloadable PDFs, and driving directions online at ucmerced.edu/maps.



2021

SESSION A

May 24 – July 2

SESSION C

July 6 – Aug. 13

SESSION B

June 21 – Aug. 13

SESSION D

May 24 – Aug. 13

Summer Session helps students get further faster!

Summer Session is offered every year at UC Merced with the goal of increasing student access to high-demand courses and helping students make progress toward their degree. A wide variety of lower-division and upper-division courses are offered in six- and eight-week sessions.

What are the benefits of taking Summer Session at UC Merced?

- Graduate on time or early
- Add a minor
- Complete a prerequisite
- Focus on a tough course
- On-campus housing is offered in the summer and financial aid is available
- Save money! Costs less overall than an extra semester

For more information on Summer Session, including dates and course listings, please visit summersession.ucmerced.edu or email summersession@ucmerced.edu.

TONY and JOE SOLIS

gstreetautocare.com



209-384-7778

**2996 G ST.
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 **Merced Mall**

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CLAIRE'S
COZY FOX
CRICKET (SPACETEL)
CUSTOM TEEZ
CYBERSTATION
DeVONS JEWELERS
DON ROBERTO JEWELERS
EYEBROW ART
FOOT LOCKER
FOOTACTION
FRUTAS EXPRESS
HOT TOPIC
JENNY'S



JCPENNEY
KOHL'S
LUXURY PERFUMES
MACIEL'S
MICHAELS
PANERA BREAD
PRESTIGIO JEWELERS
SANSEI JAPAN
SEE'S CANDIES
SMART TECH READY
SPORTS FEVER
T-MOBILE (EXCLUSIVE WIRELESS)
TARGET
THE CHILDREN'S PLACE
TILLY'S
UA REGENCY THEATRE
VERIZON WIRELESS (VICTRA)
WETZEL'S PRETZELS
YOGOLICIOUS
ZUMIEZ AND MORE...

ON OLIVE AVENUE BETWEEN
M & R STREETS
MERCEDMALL.COM

@mercedmall @f

Why Can't I See

My Student's Grades?

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law intended to protect the privacy of student education records accumulated from early childhood through college.

FERPA provides parents with certain rights with respect to their children's education records up until entry to the University.

When a student enters the University, the rights parents previously held transfer exclusively to the student.

The University considers students to be adults, regardless of age or financial dependence. Ordinarily, parents of UC Merced students obtain information about their students' records directly from their students.

The payment of a student's tuition by the parent does not, by itself, give the parent the right of access to a student's education record.

Questions regarding these procedures can be directed to the Office of the Registrar at registrar@ucmerced.edu.

For more information about FERPA, visit www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpcq/ferpa.



Housing and Residence Education



To fully experience university life, nothing equals living on campus, where students are part of a tight-knit community, make lifelong friends and enjoy the convenience of only a short distance to classrooms and professors' offices.

Housing and Residence Education offers students a variety of leadership development activities, both paid and unpaid. In addition, there are many exciting living learning communities that bring academics into the residence halls. Students in these living learning communities have many opportunities to take classroom learning to another level with their peers, faculty and staff.

Amenities and Services

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the many amenities available as part of the Housing and Residence Life contract. Student and professional staff work closely with residents to provide educational and social activities. In addition, residents have access to study rooms; meeting rooms; game rooms (pool tables, ping pong, foosball and air hockey tables); music and dance rooms; outside BBQ grill; bike storage; movie streaming; computers and printers; the vending center and much more. Included in the cost of rent is Internet access and all utilities except television and telephone. ➤



Important Housing Dates

The following dates are subject to change. For the most current information, please visit housing.ucmerced.edu.

Saturday, August 21, 2021 and Sunday, August 22, 2021	Fall 2021 residence halls move-in process starts.
Saturday, December 18, 2021	Residence halls close at 10 a.m. for Winter break. Students can leave their personal belongings but are not allowed in the residence halls during the Winter recess.
Sunday, January 16, 2022	Residence halls open and new students move in starting at 10 a.m.
Saturday, March 19, 2022	Spring Recess begins; residents ARE PERMITTED TO STAY in residence halls.
Saturday, May 14, 2022	Residence halls close at 10 a.m. and students move out.

Housing Contact Information:

☎ (209) 228-2293
✉ housing@ucmerced.edu
🔗 housing.ucmerced.edu

Residence Education Contact Information:

☎ (209) 228-4663
✉ residenceeducation@ucmerced.edu

What to Bring

- **Extra-long twin bedding** (80" x 30"): sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, bedspread/comforter
- **Bathroom supplies and toiletries:** towels, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, razor, lotions and other personal items
- **Power strip** with surge protector
- **Power cords** for mobile devices and cell phone charger
- **Alarm clock**
- **Laundry bag/basket** and laundry detergent
- **Study/desk lamp** (halogen lamps must be fire-safety rated)
- **Padlock** for desk drawer (combo or key)
- **Emergency supplies:** flashlight, first aid kit, etc.
- **Prescribed medications**
- **Micro-fridge** or one Energy Star microwave oven (900 watt) and one small refrigerator (no larger than 4.2 cu. ft.)



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Living Learning

Communities

at UC Merced



There are many exciting Living Learning Communities that bring academics into the residence halls. Students in these Living Learning Communities have many opportunities to take classroom learning to another level with their peers, faculty and staff.

Students with similar interests or major live together and participate in programs that cater to their academic, social and personal growth. Students in these living-learning environments will have opportunities to interact with faculty, student and staff mentors.

All students are encouraged to apply for a Living Learning Community. It is a great step to an enriching experience at UC Merced!

Fiat Lux Scholars

fiatlux.ucmerced.edu

The Fiat Lux program aims to enhance your academic performance, drive and ambition, and overall college experience. Members of this program are encouraged to live together as part of the Fiat Lux Living Learning Community. Fiat Lux residents have the opportunity to participate in monthly Faculty Receptions and participate in the common course USTU 10.

Aristotle House: Leadership, Education, Service

housing.ucmerced.edu/aristotle

Aristotle House will broadly explore the three pillars of Leadership, Education and Service in the Natural Sciences. This community is committed to helping students hone their leadership skills, develop lifelong friendships, engage in community outreach and explore careers in all facets of education. Students in this LLC are passionate about making a difference in the world through active leadership, education and service.

BEYOND the MD: Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions

housing.ucmerced.edu/beyond_md

Beyond the MD welcomes all students interested in pursuing biomedical and health-related professions including (but not limited to) the MD track. Whether you are unsure about a career in health sciences or want to explore your career in this field, Beyond the MD engages students in critical reflection to explore multiple pathways to health careers. Students will engage with local health care professionals and faculty who work in biomedical research and public health in order to learn about career options in clinical, industry, government and academic settings.



Carson House: Sustainable Futures

housing.ucmerced.edu/carson

Carson House provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to explore sustainability to preserve an economic, social and environmental way of living for future generations. Our community engages with local and on-campus ventures related to food waste, energy efficiency and community education.

Vaughan House

housing.ucmerced.edu/vaughan

Vaughan House is a community of scholars interested in learning how to use computers to code and solve problems in math and science. Students participating in this learning community have minimal experience with computers and coding but learn to use popular coding languages to explore concepts in their biology, earth systems, chemistry, math and physics courses. Community activities include friendly competition and collaboration facilitated by House Fellows, presentations by faculty who use computers in their research, and organized study sessions.

Leadership and Service Living Learning Community

housing.ucmerced.edu/LSLLC

The Leadership and Service Living Learning Community (LSLLC) is open to first-year students interested in exploring and developing leadership and becoming active and engaged members of their community.





Gender Inclusive Housing Option

Gender Inclusive Housing is designed to create inclusive communities for students of varying gender identities. Gender identities are numerous and include man, woman, transgender, and genderqueer among many others. Gender Inclusive Housing is intended to be more than co-ed housing. **Please be sure you understand the intent of this program before expressing interest.**

AFRO Hall

housing.ucmerced.edu/afro-terrace

The AFRO Hall Living and Learning Community welcomes first-year and continuing students from all cultures who are interested in exploring the African Diaspora.

Transfer Living Learning Community

The Transfer Living Learning Community provides a supportive environment for transfer students to successfully transition to UC Merced's culture and community.

Recognizing that transfer students need support that is different from freshman services, the Transfer LLC provides academic support for upper-division courses, a transition course only for transfers, a social experience that helps transfer students build a network on campus, and an opportunity to interact with faculty.

Contact Information:

☎ (209) 228-4663

🔗 housing.ucmerced.edu/living-campus/living-learning-communities

The Dean of Students:

Your Advocate,

Your Connector

Education is a way to empower, transform, radically heal and cultivate seeds of hope. Family members play a fundamental role in helping students accomplish their academic, personal and career goals.

The Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office is committed to providing students with access to resources and tools needed to accomplish their academic, personal and career goals.

Overarching Services:

- Academic accommodations
- Emergency funding and basic needs support (housing, food and transportation)
- Case management (student success planning)
- Student Response Team (address students in crisis)
- Trainings and workshops
- Programs and initiatives
- Dean of Students Advisory Board (student advocacy)



Jonathan Grady, Ph.D.
 jgrady2@ucmerced.edu

Your student stands on the shoulders of those that have come before them and those that stand with them.



The foundation you have provided over the years will accompany your student across the miles and throughout the years.

Important Tips to Remember (Coburn, 2016):

- Be a coach (guide rather than pressure).
- Recognize indicators of distress (academic, physical, psychological, safety, etc.).
- Help your student construct and manage a financial plan.
- Find a balance and determine how much or how little is reasonable communication.
- Normalize the idea that to seek help is a sign of strength.
- Encourage your student to use appropriate campus resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services, the Bright Success Center, the Writing Center, etc. Here are some of our campus resources: studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/content/community-updates.
- Ask about courses rather than focusing on grades. Invite your student to share with you the discovery of new ideas, academic interests and intellectual passions.
- Remember the impacts of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); [learn more on p. 28](#).
- Encourage your student to develop a community of support.
- Be an anchor.

Your student deserves to be here.

Many students experience imposter syndrome and struggle with chronic self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy and intellectual fraudulence, even when there's evidence that the opposite is true (Ma, 2017). counseling.ucmerced.edu/resources/family-and-loved-ones

Here's how you can support them.

It is important to remind your student of the following:

- Be motivated, not manipulated.
- Be useful, not used.
- Make changes, not excuses.
- Release all doubts about your ability.
- Choose self-worth over self-pity.
- Continue learning and growing as education is a form of liberation.
- Allow yourself to embrace all that you are in every moment.
- Always remember that you are a brilliant and powerful being who will revolutionize and change the world around you.
- Remember that you matter, that you are loved, and that you deserve to be here.



Health, Wellness, and Counseling

Health

Please encourage your student to use the Health Center. It provides a relaxed, friendly environment so that students, especially younger students, feel comfortable coming in for help. Providers love working with students and are very aware of health issues specific to this age group.

Even if your student waives the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP), they are still eligible to use the Health Center for basic health care. Some charges are incurred for specific services without UC SHIP, but these charges are modest.

Health Services provides comprehensive medical, mental health and health promotion services to all registered UC Merced students. Services are designed to minimize the impact of illness, emotional distress and injury on studies and work.

Contact Information:

☎ (209) 228-2273

✉ health@ucmerced.edu

🔗 health.ucmerced.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The mission of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is to support the mental health of UC Merced students in a confidential atmosphere of acceptance and accessibility to promote academic, personal and social development. CAPS is committed to providing a safe, supportive, inclusive and affirming environment to meet the unique needs of our diverse student community. CAPS and the Student Health Center have a collaborative relationship and have adopted an integrated approach to wellness.

CAPS Services:

- Free to registered undergraduate and graduate students
- Individual therapy
- Couples counseling (if both parties are registered students)
- Group therapy
- Crisis evaluation
- Walk-in clinic (same day service)
- Outreach and psychoeducational programming
- Consultation
- Referrals for medical or psychiatric services
- After-hours services available by calling [\(209\) 228-4266](tel:(209)228-4266) (select option 1) for students who need to speak with a mental professional or are experiencing a crisis after normal business hours

Confidentiality

Due to confidentiality, CAPS is unable to share any mental health information with parents, guardians and/or caregivers without the student's written consent. However, the clinical staff at CAPS can receive any information related to concerns about a student's well-being as well as provide general consultation to third parties such as faculty, staff, parents and other students.

Online Resources

- **WellTrack:** welltrack.com
- **TAO:** taoconnect.org

Students registered with UC Ship also have the option of Live Health Online for access to online counseling services. For more information please visit health.ucmerced.edu.

Contact Information:

-  [\(209\) 228-4266](tel:(209)228-4266)
-  counseling@ucmerced.edu
-  counseling.ucmerced.edu

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Safety

UC Merced Police

UC Merced Police department employs experienced police officers, dispatchers and support staff who provide services 24/7, 365 days a year to enhance student success. We strive to listen and respond to any safety concerns faced by members of our community whether the issue be physical, psychological or emotional. By collaborating with university partners, the department is able to assist your scholars with the resources needed in order to be safe and feel safe.

The UCMPD team prides itself on engaging with students, staff, faculty and guests at the University. Our educational programs highlight how we focus time and energy on enhancing the student experience. We invite all incoming students to visit our website, join a program, and get to know us!

Police Department services include:

- Response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, blue lights, text-a-tips and anonymous reporting calls
- Complex Investigations
- Crime prevention and programs: Mentor Program, Violent Intruder Response Training, Rape Aggression Defense, Police Insight Program
- Lost and found, bike and electronics registration, live scan, special events
- Mass notification for emergencies: UCM Alert and Emergency Preparedness
- CLERY crime stats/Annual Security Report, daily activity logs (both online)

UCMPD welcomes concerns, perceptions, and ideas on how to serve the Bobcat community. police.ucmerced.edu

The Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) Office



The CARE Office provides prevention education for the UC Merced community to achieve an environment free from the threat of sexual violence, dating/domestic violence and stalking. All incoming students need to complete mandatory VIP training to recognize and prevent sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Throughout the school year, the CARE Office hosts awareness months, workshops, social media campaigns, learning fairs, specialized prevention trainings and self-care fairs to raise awareness about issues that affect our campus.

The office provides free and confidential advocacy services to survivors through our campus advocate, Lynna Cano. An advocate will help support a survivor in any way they need by giving them options and resources. The advocate is available not just for survivors but also for friends, family and partners of survivors. Please call or text Lynna (Campus Advocate) for services at [\(209\) 386-2051](tel:(209)386-2051).

Contact the CARE Director, Yesenia Curiel, with questions at [\(209\) 233-1746](tel:(209)233-1746) or the Prevention Education Coordinator, Val Villanueva, at [\(209\) 355-0763](tel:(209)355-0763).

Contact Information:

UCMCARE@ucmerced.edu
 care.ucmerced.edu



Student Involvement

and Activities

Office of Student Involvement

The Office of Student Involvement is committed to building a sense of belonging and school spirit by helping students explore ways to get involved on campus, develop new leadership talents, and engage in meaningful experiences that will prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow. Get involved through:

Campus Activities Board (CAB)

- Large-scale events such as concerts (Treats & Beats and Cowchella)
- Campus unity such as movie nights, CAB Day, Winter Ball
- Traditional events such as CABapalooza, Bobcats Got Talents, Cabsterical, Dance-Off
- General Education Intellectual Badge: ASUCM CAB

Student Government

- Advocacy and support for student body
- Support student initiatives through funding Registered Clubs and Organizations (RCOs) and the UC Community
- General Education Intellectual Badge: ASUCM Constitutional Position

Fraternity and Sorority Life

- Building skills and lifelong relationships through over 20 professional, social and honors fraternities and sororities
- Develop leadership and scholarship, build community, and promote friendship through service and philanthropy

Registered Clubs and Organizations (RCO)

- Join a diverse array of clubs and organizations (over 200 RCOs)
- Get involved...get connected...explore interests
- Visit catlife.ucmerced.edu for a comprehensive list of Registered Clubs and Organizations

Contact Information:

Tawana Parks, Director

Enrique Guzman, Associate Director

209-228-5433

studentlife.ucmerced.edu

Social Justice Initiatives & Identity Programs

Mission

With a focus on social justice, coalition building, education/training, collective healing and student agency, Social Justice Initiatives & Identity Programs seeks to serve the UC Merced community by providing students with opportunities to cultivate and enhance their understanding of their identities, build a sense of belonging through interactions and connections, and gain knowledge to be prepared to thrive in a diverse global society.



Social Justice Initiatives

studentlife.ucmerced.edu/content/social-justice-initiatives

- Social Justice Retreat
- Talking/healing circles
- Deep Dives: Transformation Dialogue Series
- Human rights film festivals
- Outreach and programmatic support to multicultural organizations
- Multicultural Center and Black Students Resource Center



LGBTQB+ Initiatives

lgbtq.ucmerced.edu

- LGBTQ+ and Pride Center
- Rainbow Social
- Queer Ally Training (formally Safe Zone)
- Annual Fabulosity Drag Show
- Trans Awareness Week and Day of Silence observation

Women's Programs

studentlife.ucmerced.edu/content/womens-programs

- Women in the Wilderness
- Women's Leadership Conference
- Women of Color Banquet

Contact Information:

Jonathan Grady, Ph.D, Dean of Students
Associate Vice Chancellor

jgrady2@ucmerced.edu



Recreation and Athletics

The Recreation and Athletics department is committed to student wellness. Students have access to a variety of recreation activities, intramural sports, club sports, fitness classes and intercollegiate athletics. Students can participate in everything from an Outdoor Experience Program backpacking trip to cheering their fellow students to victory on a club or intercollegiate team.

The Student Activities and Athletics Center along with the Joseph Edward Gallo Recreation and Wellness Center

provide drop-in recreation, fitness classes, free weights and cardio equipment. All registered students have access to the Rec Center complex with their CatCard. Visit recreation.ucmerced.edu.

UC Merced is a member of the California Pacific Athletic Conference of the NAIA and competes in the following sports:

- men's and women's cross country
- men's and women's volleyball
- men's and women's basketball
- men's and women's soccer



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Center for Career

and Professional

Advancement



The Center for Career and Professional Advancement (CCPA) is part of the Office of Leadership, Service and Career and strives to ensure your student leaves UC Merced prepared and confident for life within their professional and/or graduate school careers. To support your student's development, the CCPA offers career coaching, career assessment tests, practice interviews, graduate school search and application process, assistance with internship and job searching, and many other services.

We encourage all students to connect with the CCPA during their first academic semester, or at the minimum within their first year at UC Merced. The CCPA's services are available to enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and all UC Merced alumni.

How does the CCPA assist students?

UC Merced offers a highly personal approach to career management, ensuring that students receive attention and access to the knowledge, resources and guidance required to accomplish their career goals. The CCPA is dedicated to helping students explore careers, learn new skills and gain valuable work experience to complement academic training.

At the CCPA students can:

- Practice interview skills
- Meet industry professionals at career fairs, information sessions and networking events
- Develop a job and internship search strategy
- Take a career assessment and pinpoint their passion
- Participate in interactive workshops and build their professional toolkit
- Explore on-campus employment and gain real-world skills through short term projects and micro-internships
- Dine in style at a professionally hosted etiquette dinner
- Engage with Alumni Mentors through the Bobcats Helping Bobcats program.
- Visit an employer as part of a company trek
- Prepare for graduate studies by researching programs and building an application package

Contact Information:

careercenter@ucmerced.edu
 hire.ucmerced.edu

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Parent and Family Fund

The UC Merced Parent and Family Fund supports students in the areas of career, leadership, community engagement and student success programming.



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at giving.ucmerced.edu/family.

Important Dates and

Deadlines 2021–2022

Fall Semester 2021

Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) Priority Deadline	Saturday, May 1 <i>(First-year Fall Admits)</i> Tuesday, June 1 (<i>Transfer Admits</i>)
Student Housing Preference or Exemption Request Deadline (First-Year Students Only)	Tuesday, June 1
Postmark Deadline for Final, Official Transcripts	Thursday, July 1 <i>(All Fall Admits)</i>
Final Test Scores Due in Office of Admissions	Thursday, July 15 <i>(All Fall Admits)</i>
Submission Period for Health Insurance Waiver Fall '21	Wednesday, May 12–Sunday, August 1
Deadline to Submit Health Insurance Waiver Fall '21	Sunday, August 1
Fall Instruction Begins	Wednesday, August 25
Labor Day Holiday	Monday, September 6
Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (by 4 p.m.)	Wednesday, September 15
Veterans Day Holiday	Thursday, November 11
Non-Instructional Day	Wednesday, November 24
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday, November 25–Friday, November 26
Fall Instruction Ends	Friday, December 10
Final Exams	Saturday, Dec. 11 and Monday, Dec. 13–Friday, Dec. 17
Fall Semester Ends	Friday, December 17



Spring Semester 2022

Submission Period for Health Insurance Waiver Spring '22	Friday, November 12–Saturday, January 8
Deadline to Submit Health Insurance Waiver Spring '22	Saturday, January 8
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Monday, January 17
Spring Instruction Begins	Tuesday, January 18
Last Day to Add/Drop Courses (by 4 p.m.)	Monday, February 7
Presidents Day Holiday	Monday, February 21
2022-23 FAFSA Deadline	Wednesday, March 2
Spring Recess	Monday, March 21–Thursday, March 24
César Chávez Holiday	Friday, March 25
Instruction Ends	Friday, May 6
Final Exams	Monday, May 9–Friday, May 13
Semester Ends	Friday, May 13

Important deadlines and other requirements can be found in your Student's Checklist. For a comprehensive list of dates and deadlines visit studentsfirst.ucmerced.edu/datesdeadlines.

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LIFESTYLE

- WEEKLY RESIDENT EVENTS
- MONTHLY GIVEAWAYS
- LIVE AMONGST OTHER UC MERCED STUDENTS



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