Intro to Academics for First Year Students

An Eleanor Roosevelt College Webinar

UC San Diego

Today we'll be introducing you to Academics at UC San Diego and Eleanor Roosevelt College.

Let's get started!

Requirements to Graduate

- **ERC General Education Requirements (GEs)**
  Courses you need to complete for ERC.
- **Major Requirements**
  Courses you need to complete for your major.
  Only lower-division courses can overlap with GE requirements.
- **University Requirements**
  Specific requirements to meet minimum graduation requirements.
  These courses can overlap with GE and Major requirements.

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We'll begin with the different requirements you need to complete to graduate. General Education courses are courses to meet ERC-specific requirements. The topics and courses are based on the ERC philosophy of developing global citizens and may or may not be related to your major.

Major requirements are courses needed to complete your major and provide knowledge of your major's field of study. Only lower-division courses for your major can overlap with GE requirements.

University requirements are specific requirements that all UCSD students need to take to receive a degree. This includes completing all Major and GE requirements as well as the ELWR, AHI, and DEI requirements which we will take a closer look at in a bit. Please note that university requirements may overlap with major and GE courses.

You can find more information regarding all of these requirements by watching the Academic Overview video in the New Triton Advising website.

Requirements to Graduate

- **180 total units**
  - **60 units must be upper-division**
- **2.00 Major and Overall GPA minimum**

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Additional university requirements needed to graduate include completing at least 180 units (60 of which must be upper-division units). Students must also maintain at least a 2.0 major and overall GPA minimum.

General Education Requirements

http://roosevelt.ucsd.edu
Under “Academics” tab

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- Making of the Modern World (MMW)
- Foreign Language Proficiency
- Fine Arts
- Quantitative & Formal Skills
- Natural Science
- Regional Specialization
- Upper-Division Writing

Each college at UC San Diego has their own set of General Education requirements, also known as GEs. On the screen you can see the ERC specific GE requirements. You can find information about each one on our website (roosevelt.ucsd.edu) or by scanning the QR code on the screen.

You may satisfy some of these requirements with your AP/IB scores and/or transfer coursework. We’ll be hosting a Test Scores and Transfer Coursework webinar soon where we will go into detail about AP/IB scores so please check your emails and register to learn more.

Making of the Modern World (MMW)

**All MMW courses must be taken for a LETTER grade*

- **MMW 11: Pre-history and Ancient Foundations (4 units)**
- **MMW 12: Classical and Medieval Traditions (6 units)**
- **MMW 13: New Ideas and Cultural Encounters (6 units)**
- **MMW 14: Revolution, Industry and Empire (4 units)**
- **MMW 15: Twentieth Century and Beyond (4 units)**

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Making of the Modern World (known as MMW) is ERC's 5-quarter core sequence. You must take these courses at UC San Diego for a letter grade. There are no exceptions. Find more information about sequencing and quarterly course offerings by scanning the QR code.

Major Information

- Take required major courses for a letter grade
- Earn a minimum 2.0 GPA in your major related courses to graduate
- Each department has a website detailing major requirements

*** For major advising, contact the major advisor**

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Now moving onto guidelines for major requirements:

In general, major courses must be taken for a letter grade. However, you should always check in with your respective department to confirm their policies.

You must earn a minimum 2.0 GPA in your major related courses in order to graduate.

Each department has a website listing out the detailed major requirements as well as academic advisors that you may contact for major-specific questions.

Capped Majors

Capped Majors:

- Some Academic Departments limit the number of students into their major(s)
- Students must complete eligible screening courses to apply into a capped department
- See "Capped Major" in TritonLink or specific Major Department website for more information

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A capped major is a major that limits enrollment. If you were not admitted directly to the capped department, you must go through their application process. Note that admission is not guaranteed so we recommend that you have an alternative major to pursue.

You may also see the "Capped Major" page in TritonLink by scanning the QR code. This page will provide specific Major Department websites for more information.

Undeclared Majors

- **Declare a major before completing 90 units**
- **Not sure of a major, then for Fall enroll in:**
  - GEs
  - Explore areas of interest

* See ERC Advising & Department Advising for more information
https://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-advising-resources/index.html

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For students who are Undeclared, please note that you must declare a major by the time you complete 90 units.

If you are unsure of what major to pursue, you should enroll in GE courses and/or explore areas of interest for the upcoming fall quarter. See ERC or the interested department for further information. We also have a resource to help undeclared students with finding a major which you can find with the QR code. It is located on our website under Academic Resources.

University Requirements

- **UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)**
- **American History and Institutions (AHI)**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

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Now we will discuss university requirements which are required of all UC San Diego students regardless of your college or major. We'll go ahead and look at each of these requirements individually.

UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

- Before the fall quarter starts, you must either fulfill the ELWR or be placed in an AWP course by the Writing Placement Process (WPP).
  - Incoming first-year students must complete an ELWR survey sent to you by email.
  - If you have not fulfilled the ELWR, you must complete the WPP in summer. Visit the Placement page for details.
- If you have fulfilled the ELWR with a test score or a college composition course, you must send the official test scores or final college transcript to UC San Diego so you can be exempt from taking the WPP. Self-reported scores do not fulfill the ELWR. Visit the ELWR page for details.

https://awp.ucsd.edu/elwr/index.html

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The first requirement is the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement, also known as ELWR. The University of California requires all undergraduate students to demonstrate proficiency in English composition by the end of their first year.

- All first-year incoming students who do not have another way to fulfill ELWR, either through AP/IB test scores or transfer coursework, must complete UCSD's Writing Placement Process (WPP) in summer.
- If you have fulfilled the ELWR with a test score or a college composition course, you must send the official test scores or final college transcript to UC San Diego so you can be exempt from taking the WPP. Self-reported scores do not fulfill the ELWR.
- If you have not fulfilled the ELWR, you must complete the WPP in summer. Visit the Placement page for details.

Students who take the WPP may be placed in an AWP course for the fall quarter.

For more information on the ELWR requirement, go to the Analytical Writing Program website (awp.ucsd.edu under the "ELWR" tab).

American History and Institutions (AHI)

- How to clear requirement:
  - Attended a California high school and passed U.S. History and Government class(es) with a grade of C or better
    - Students who attended high school outside of California can also clear the requirement with comparable coursework determined by UCSD Admissions
  - Completion of an acceptable one-quarter or one-semester course, with a grade of C or better, in either American history or American government at a community college within California.
    - Students who completed comparable coursework at a recognized institution of higher education (junior college included) outside of California may also clear the requirement with comparable coursework determined by UCSD Admissions
  - A student attending the university on an F-1 or J-1 visa status will be exempt from this requirement (as long as you are still on the visa at the time of graduation)

IF SATISFIED, AHI WILL POST ***AFTER*** WEEK 4
BY UCSD ADMISSIONS

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catalog.ucsd.edu

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First, we have the American History and Institutions requirement, also known as AHI**.** The University requires knowledge of American history and/or government and it may be cleared in one of the following ways:

- If you attended a California high school and passed your U.S. History and U.S. Government class(es) with a C or better.
  - For students who attended high school outside of California, you can also clear the requirement with comparable coursework but that will be determined by UCSD Admissions
- If you completed an acceptable one-quarter or one-semester course, with a grade of C or better, in either American history or American government at a community college within the state.
  - Similarly, if who completed an acceptable one-quarter or one-semester course, with a grade of C or better, in either American history or American government at a recognized institution of higher education, junior college included, in another state as determined by UCSD Admissions.
- If you are attending the university on an F-1 or J-1 visa status, you will be exempt from this requirement as long as you are still on the visa at the time of graduation.

IF SATISFIED WITH COURSEWORK, UCSD ADMISSIONS WILL BEGIN UPDATING

AFTER WEEK 4.

More information about the AHI requirement can be found in the UC San Diego General Catalog (catalog.ucsd.edu).

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Requirement (DEI)

One four-unit course required

A knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion is required of all candidates for a Bachelor's degree who begin their studies at UC San Diego.

- Students must select a course from the approval list on the DEI website.
- Undergraduates may satisfy the requirement by passing, with a grade of at least C- or P.
- This course may overlap with major or general education requirements.

https://undergrad.ucsd.edu/programs/dei/index.html

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Another University requirement you will need to satisfy is the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, also known as DEI. One four-unit course is required to meet the DEI requirement.

The DEI website with the approved list of courses can be found on the degree audit and on the ERC website. Information about the DEI requirement can be found in the UC San Diego General Catalog.

This course may be taken for a letter grade or P/NP and may overlap with major or general education requirements.

Course Numbering

Lower-Division Courses

- Courses numbered 1 – 99
- General, introductory courses or prerequisites in a field of study

Upper-Division Courses

- Courses numbered 100 – 199
- Specialized, advanced courses in a field of study

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Now we'll discuss some general information about courses and policies at UC San Diego. Courses are categorized as either Lower-division or Upper-division.

Lower-division courses are general introductory courses. These are numbered 1-99 and are often prerequisites to courses including upper-division ones.

Upper-division courses are advanced courses in a field of study and are numbered 100-199. Most students will begin taking upper-division coursework when they have junior or senior standing.

Course Prerequisites

- Courses that need to be completed prior to enrollment in subsequent courses
  - For example: CHEM 6A is a prerequisite to CHEM 6B.
- You can check course prerequisites in the course catalog (catalog.ucsd.edu)

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Prerequisites are courses that need to be completed prior to enrollment in subsequent courses. For example, CHEM 6A is a prerequisite to CHEM 6B. In other words, you cannot enroll in CHEM 6B without completion of CHEM 6A first.

You can check course prerequisites in the UCSD course catalog (catalog.ucsd.edu)

Electives

- **Major Electives**
  - Courses required to complete a major.
  - Courses that are beyond foundational courses for the major.
- **General Electives**
  - Courses that do not count towards specific major or GE requirements.
  - Courses may or may not be required to graduate.

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Review the UCSD Catalog for more information.

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There are also different types of electives -- Major Electives and General Electives

Major electives are required to complete a major. These courses are outside of the core courses required for the major where students are given the opportunity to select from a range of courses from their field of study

On the other hand, General Electives are courses that do not count towards a specific major or GE requirement. Some students may need these to fulfill the 180 unit minimum requirement. These courses may or may not be required for graduation.

Overlap Policies

Acceptable Overlaps

- Lower-division courses taken for your major may overlap with ERC GE requirements and minor requirements (if applicable)
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), ERC Upper-Division Writing, and the American History and Institutions (AHI) requirements may overlap with any other requirement for graduation including major, minor, and/or other GE's.

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Some graduation requirements may overlap with each other so you can take one course to fulfill 2 requirements.

Acceptable overlaps include:

- Lower-division courses taken for your major may overlap with ERC GEs and minor requirements
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), ERC Upper-Division Writing, and the American History and Institutions (AHI) requirements may overlap with any other requirement including major, minor, and/ or GE's.

Overlap Policies

Not Acceptable Overlaps

- Upper-division courses taken for your major may NOT overlap with any ERC GE requirements except the ERC Upper-Division Writing requirement.
- Courses taken for one ERC GE requirement may NOT overlap with another ERC GE requirement (with exception of the ERC Upper-Division Writing requirement).

More info at :
https://roosevelt.ucsd.edu/academics/gen-ed/index.html#OverlapPolicies

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There are also some graduation requirements that may NOT overlap with each other and must be taken separately.

Unacceptable overlaps include:

- Upper-division courses taken for your major may NOT overlap with any ERC GE requirements except the ERC Upper-Division Writing requirement.
- Courses taken for one ERC GE requirement may NOT overlap with another ERC GE requirement (with exception of the Upper-Division Writing requirement).

Letter Grade vs. Pass/No Pass

Letter Grade Option:

- All courses default to Letter Grade on WebReg
- Grade counts in Grade Point Average (GPA)
  - Grading Scale: A to F
- Most major courses must be taken for letter grade
- All MMW courses must be taken for letter grade
- Regional Specialization:
  - 2 of the 3 courses must be letter grade

We recommend taking all of your first quarter courses as letter grade. Consult with ERC Academic Advising and your major department by Week 6 to determine if P/NP is appropriate for the course.

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UCSD has two grading options: Letter Grade and Pass / No Pass.

When you enroll in courses on WebReg, the grading option will default to Letter Grade. You will need to manually change it if you want it to be P/NP.

A **Letter grade** reflects your performance in a class and results in grade points that count toward your GPA. Students can earn up to an A or as low as an F. UCSD does not differentiate between A's and A+'s.

Keep in mind that most majors and graduate school requirements must be taken for letter grade. For ERC GE requirements, all MMW courses and some Regional Specialization must be taken for letter grade.
We recommend that you take all your first quarter courses as letter grade so you can get an idea of what level of work is considered a passing grade.

You can always consult with ERC Academic Advising and your major department during the quarter before Week 6 if you have questions about your grading options.

Letter Grade vs. Pass/No Pass

Pass / Not Pass (P/NP) Option:

- C- or better to Pass (or P grade)
  - Passed courses will earn units but will not be calculated in GPA
- Below a C- results in No Pass (or NP grade)
- Cannot exceed 25% of UCSD units taken as P/NP

Consult with ERC Academic Advising and your major department by Week 6 to determine if P/NP is appropriate for the course.

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You must receive at least a C- or better to earn a Pass (or P grade) in the class. Passing a course earns you units but is not calculated into your GPA.

Students may only take up to 25% of all UCSD units as P/NP.

Contact ERC Academic Advisors or major advisors by Week 6 to determine if P/NP is appropriate for a course.

The Quarter System

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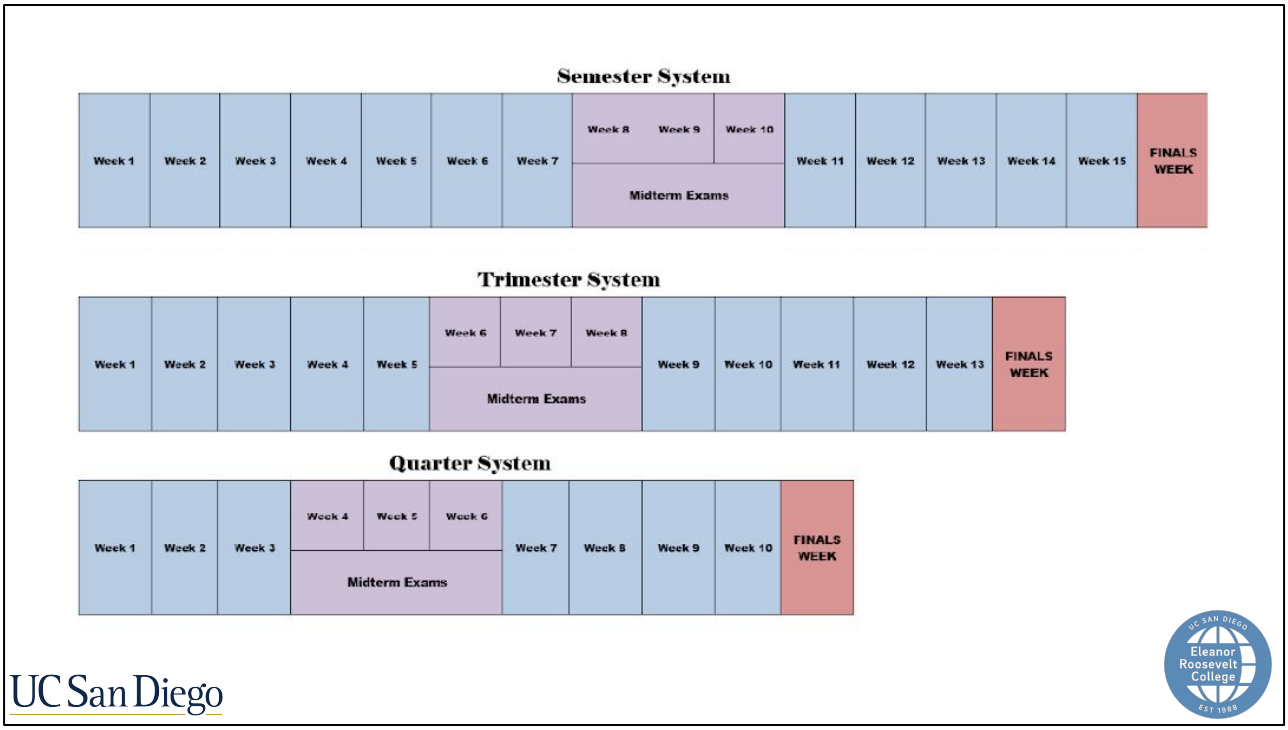
Now we'll move onto discussing the quarter system. Many students coming to UCSD will be transitioning from a semester or trimester system to the quarter system.



Most of you are familiar with the Semester system which is about 15 weeks of instruction and finals. This is similar to the Trimester system, which is about 13 weeks.

UCSD is on the Quarter system which, as you can see, is only 10 weeks of instruction and finals. The transition to the quarter system is often difficult due to the fast pace. **You can see in this illustration that the Quarter system midterms occur Week 4-6. But, in reality, midterms can start as early as week 3 and continue as late as week 9.**

This is something to keep in mind when planning your courses. We do not recommend enrolling in more than 16 units during your first quarter for this reason.

What is Considered a Full Academic Load?

- **12 Units / Quarter = Minimum for full-time status**
  - * Financial Aid
  - Living on-campus
  - International student visas / I-20s
  - Athletes
- **36 units / Year = Minimum progress**
  - Fall through Summer
- **16 Units / Quarter = Full load of courses (Recommended)**
  - Most courses are 4-units so 4 classes

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*** Cal Grant: Minimum 15 units/quarter**

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A lot of incoming students will then ask, "What is considered a full academic load at UCSD?"

12 units per quarter is the minimum amount to be considered a full time student. It is also the minimum needed for financial aid, living on campus, student athletes, international student visas and I-20s.

Another important thing to note is the Minimum Progress regulation. You must complete 36 units each academic year to maintain minimum progress to qualify for further registration.

However, we recommend that you enroll in 16 units per quarter. Most of our courses are 4 units which means 16 units is about 4 courses. This will keep you on track to finish in four years and allows the option to drop a course and still be full-time. As mentioned in the previous slide, we do not recommend taking more than 16 units a quarter.

For those of you who are on Cal Grant, this funding is limited to four academic years. To stay within this limit, you should be completing 15 units or more per quarter.

Sample Four Year Plan

plans.ucsd.edu

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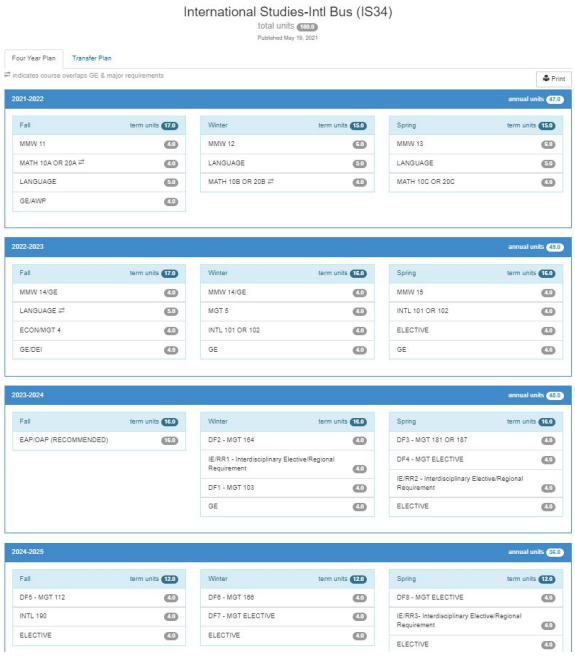

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To get a general idea of your academic plan at UCSD, please view the academic plan for your major on plans.ucsd.edu. After you have completed your first quarter of classes at UC San Diego, contact your college and major academic advising offices for additional guidance. We **DO NOT** create long-term plans with new first year students until Winter Quarter.

Students are encouraged to view their intended major's sample four-year plan for an overview of how to complete the major, GEs, and University requirements to graduate. Again, to view a sample major plan, go to plans.ucsd.edu.

Note that these sample four-year plans assume a student has no transfer credit nor qualifying test scores so please be sure to read the notes associated with the plan for guidance.

Sample Degree Audit

Log in to TritonLink to access your personalized degree audit.

You will find course requirements for the following:

- Major
- ERC General Education
- University requirements

Tritonlink.ucsd.edu > TritonLink Tools > Advising Tools > Degree Audit

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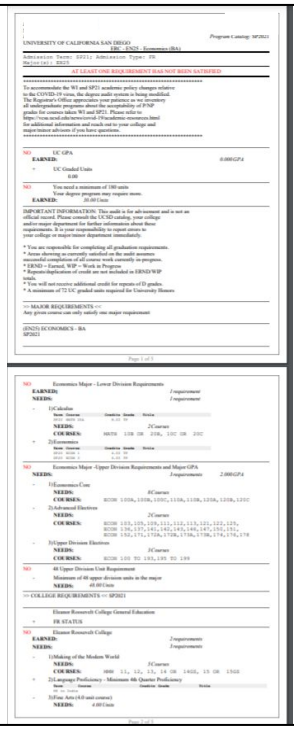


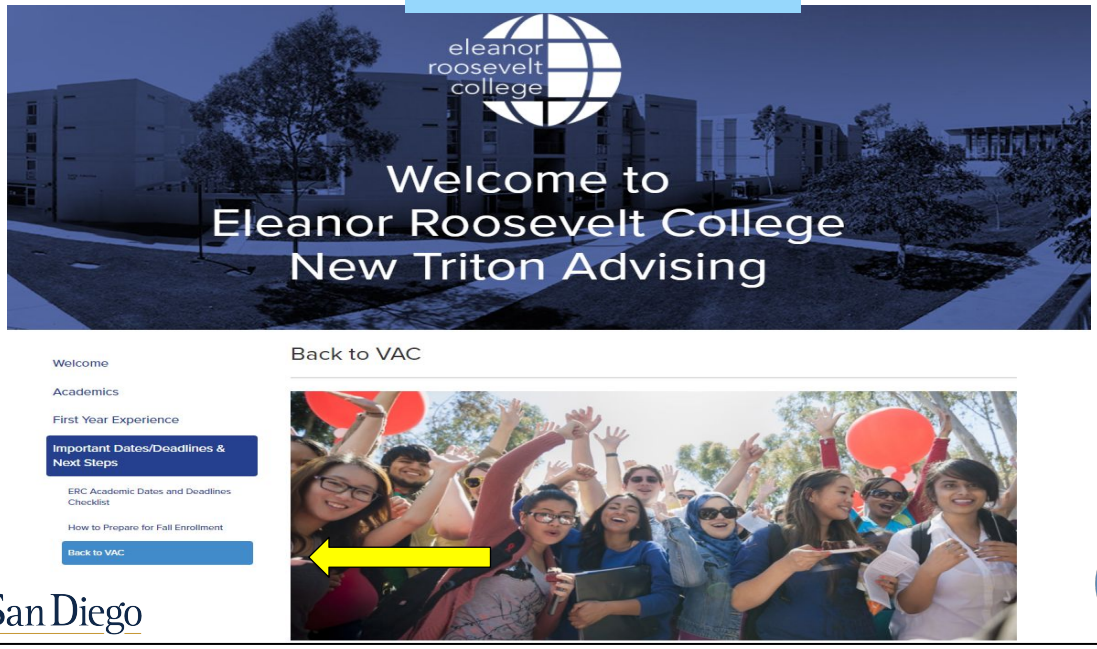
To track your academic progress, the campus a tool called the degree audit. On the screen you can see what a sample degree audit looks like. Log into TritonLink to see your own degree audit.

The degree audit is a checklist showing all requirements needed for your major, General Education, and University requirements to graduate. The degree audit will list the courses to fulfill those requirements with color status indicators:

- **RED** indicates areas have not been completed
- **BLUE** indicates work in progress which is when a requirement is in the process of being completed
- **GREEN** indicates areas have been completed

In a couple weeks, ERC advisors will host a webinar on how to read and interpret the degree audit in more detail. Webinar registration is already open so be sure to register.

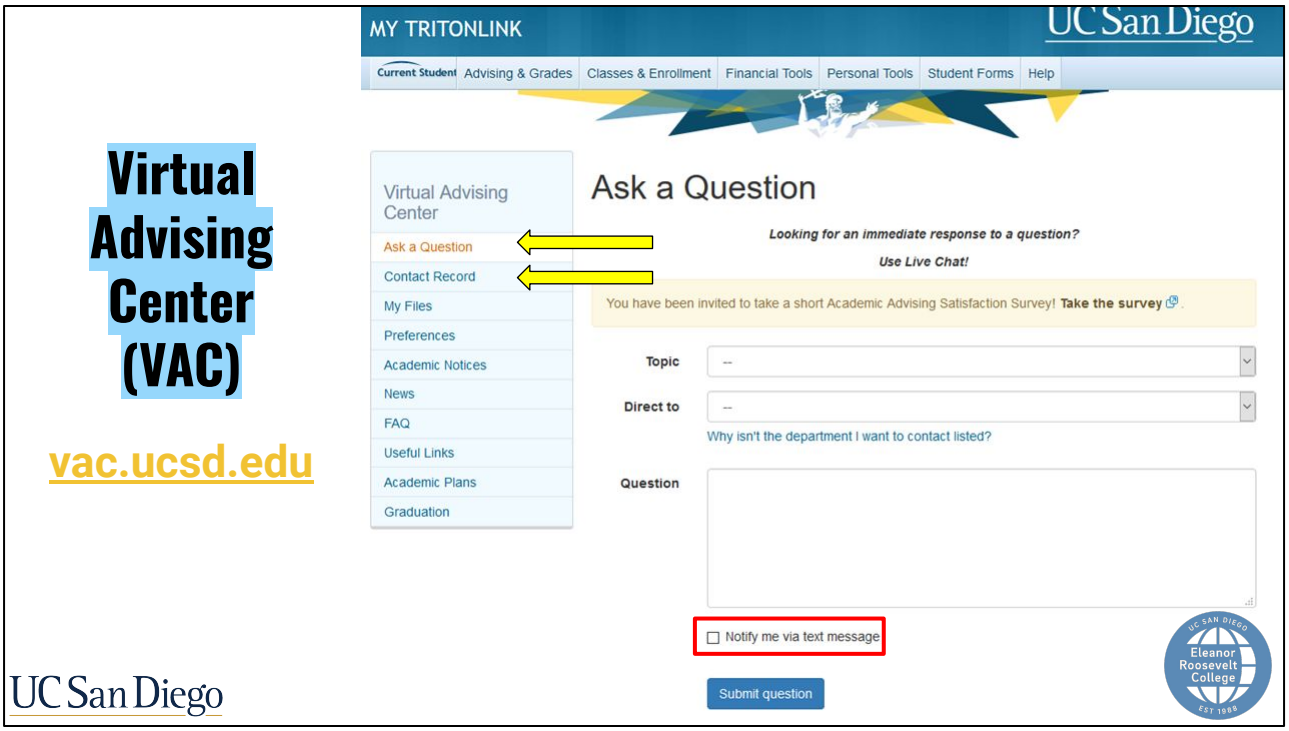
vac.ucsd.edu



Now, you should have a general understanding of academics and degree requirements to graduate.

Prior to Fall enrollment, return to the “Back to VAC” section in the New Triton Advising site to view your Enrollment Guidance.

Let’s take a quick look at how to submit your questions for when that opens.



The Virtual Advising Center, known as the VAC, is an online advising system students use to submit questions to academic advisors. Once you have access to the VAC, you will be able to submit a question to ERC Advising, major department, or any other academic department on campus.

To access the VAC go to http://vac.ucsd.edu.

- Click on the “Ask A Question” tab on the left hand side
- Select a “Topic” using the pull down menu
- “Direct” your question to ERC Advising, major advisor, or another academic department
- Submit your question in the text box provided
- Select the “Notify me via text message” box to receive a text when the advisor responds to your question.
- Once an advisor responds to your question, you will be notified by email to log in to the VAC and view the response in the “Contact Record” tab also on the left hand side.

An academic advisor will answer questions during business office hours. Remember that you will not have access to this tool until August.