When selecting and answering the UC Personal Insight questions, you may consider the following tips and points.

**In general they are looking for:**

- Initiative, motivation, leadership, persistence, service to others, special potential and substantial experience with other cultures
- All achievement
- Any unusual circumstances or hardships you have faced and the ways in which you have overcome or responded to them.
  - How you confronted and overcame your challenges, rather than describing a hardship just for the sake of including it in your application
  - What you learned from or achieved in spite of these circumstances

**Intended major:**

*Please describe how you have prepared for your intended major, including your readiness to succeed in your upper-division courses once you enroll at the university.*

- How your academic interest developed
- Include any work experience, volunteer work, or any related experience that enhanced your skills in your field of study
- If you are applying to multiple campuses and have

**Leadership:**

*Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time.*

- Can be at any place in the community, in the church, family, college, etc.
- Analyze and reflect upon the leadership experience
- What came out of your leadership
- Can you connect the outcome with your major or career

**Creative Side:**

*Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: problem solving, original and innovative thinking, and artistically, to name a few. Describe how you express your creative side.*

- Unique idea that had a positive impact
- Creating something new
- To be specific – give example(s)
- How your developed eth idea, and how you expressed or recognized for your idea

**Talents:**

*What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?*

- Describe your talents or skills within the college experience
- Why you are proud of it and/or how is impacting your life

**Educational Opportunity:**

*Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. Provide example and details.*
• Speak to your educational experience - choose either the opportunity or the barrier.
  • Opportunities could include:
    o Transfer preparation programs
    o Internships
    o Research opportunities
    o International experiences
    o Community service
  • Barriers may reflect on anything that caused you access and success through your education
    o Commuting time/ transportation
    o A traumatic event
    o Medical challenges
    o Family circumstances
    o Full-time employment
    o Times when well-being was compromised
    o An undiagnosed or severe learning difference
    o Financial challenges

**Challenges:**

Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement?

• What was the challenges you encountered that impact your transfer?
• How did it impact you a person or student?
• How did you overcome it or resolved the obstacles? Examples are:
  o Successfully complete a challenging course
  o Discussing how your background impacted academic achievement
  o Situations or circumstances may resulted to take a break – gap in education
  o Poor grades or withdrawing from an entire academic term
  o Returning to college after ‘long’ absence
  o Serving in arm forces
• What you learned from it

**Volunteer and Community Work:**

What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?

• What inspired you to make a change in the community and/or work as a volunteer?
• What was your role in the effort?
• Provide examples

**Additional topics that would like to share about yourself**

Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California?

• Why UC? Why now?
• What you are proud of that you could not explain in any other questions
• Provide specific examples

Brainstorm and start early
The focal point is you! Don’t talk about others
Do not repeat the information within your application
Stay on the topic
Don’t use humor, cliché, and/or slang
Avoid Quotes
Use your own words
Pay attention to the language:
  - Avoid being negative
  - Don’t nag
  - Don’t barrage
Don’t list, add your experience

350 words for each questions
All have equal value
These question are to add values to your application
This is for them to know you, so be yourself