

Q&A: CNAS Welcome Session

How many students from CNAS move onto the School of Medicine?

That is a difficult question, because they can apply in their junior or senior years, or even after gap years. However, I believe some of those statistics are on the HPAC website at www.hpac.ucr.edu

Is it easy to change majors within CNAS?

Yes, you just need to meet selective criteria depending on the number of UCR units you have earned.

Is the winter quarter a short quarter? If so, can we take more units in the fall and spring quarter to graduate on time?

All 3 quarters are 10 weeks long on average, plus finals week. So long as you take about 15 units a quarter you can graduate in 4!

All of our quarters are the same, 10 weeks, including summer, which has 2 sessions of 5 weeks each.

Are their fee waivers to help pay for the mandatory summer orientation?

No fee waivers, but financial aid is available if you apply before the deadline.

What would the process be for a freshman admitted as an Environmental Science major to change to be a Biology major? Is it difficult to do so?

No, please go onto your student portal, MyUCR, and let them know you want to change your major to BIOL.

Is there a way for us to start early for CNAS during the summer?

Yes, but it is not recommended depending on your MATH placement. This is because we want all students to be in a Learning Community, which we will discuss in a few moments, and it is hard to do so if you are taking courses during summer. For more information, you can e-mail cnasstudent@ucr.edu and we can address this question on an individual basis.

How much would it cost (on average) for a quarter at UCR in CNAS for a typical student who wants to graduate in 4 years?

Tuition is \$5,000, not counting housing, food, and books if you are a CA resident. Housing is

about \$16,000 including food.

How many classes per week do average CNAS students take to graduate on time?

4 courses per quarter. This translates to having about ~ 16 hours of class per week.

Is there any difference between the classes an undeclared major (CNAS) and biology major take?

No, for the first two years all undeclared and Life Science majors take the same courses. Life Science majors are Biology, Neuroscience, Plant Biology, Microbiology, Cell Molecular Developmental Biology.

Who can I email to ask specific questions about my plans for courses, graduating early, and my major? I am a neuroscience major.

We will discuss all of this during Highlander Orientation. You will get individual advising from your NURO advisor.

If you receive some financial aid at UCR, how many units can you take?

A minimum of 12 units for financial aid and a maximum of 20 units.

Would an honors student have the option to be in another learning community even though honors is already a living-learning community?

No, since the Honor's students have their own Learning Community, that is the one you would remain in.

Could you explain what a cohort is again?

A cohort is essentially a group of students that you will be taking classes together with, usually within a Learning Community; It's usually between 10-15 students.

If we are in a learning community, then can we still select the classes that we want to take? Or are we limited to what the classes are for that LC?

Learning community places you in the math class and sometimes the science class. I took my math classes and chemistry classes with my community and it was great having 21 other students to study with. you can still chose one or two other classes per quarter depending on the units but it helps you get through some of your GE's with study partners!

When is the Highlander

Orientation?

It begins July 9th and runs through Aug. 12th. You will be able to begin registering for Highlander Orientation around May 1st.

Is this presentation being recorded for later viewing?

Yes, this presentation is being recorded and will be posted to our event website next week - highlanderday.ucr.edu. We will have it on our website, www.cnasstudent.ucr.edu.

Are CNAS students required to be a part of a learning community?

While it is not a requirement for graduation, it is a requirement to apply for certain paid positions in CNAS and applying to paid research.

Is the learning community the same as the LLC of housing?

It's a little different. This is where you are able to select housing with other students in your similar discipline.

I've heard that the Honors Program gives you a lot of work, so is it possible to do internships while being in the Honors Program?

Yes, I believe so, but you should touch base with the Honor's Program.

The Honors Program does have a few extra courses, but it roughly averages out to about 2 quarter-long courses a year. These courses also generally are more focused on personal development or on exploring research, and although they aren't totally free of work, they aren't quite as intensive as a general education course. It is definitely possible to do research, internships, or anything else you want to do while in Honors

Do we need to apply to be in a Learning Community or as long as we're at CNAS, we'll be automatically placed into a learning community?

As long as you are a CNAS major, you will be put into a Learning Community based on your major and MATH placement. Don't forget to do the Math Placement Exam before Highlander Orientation.

So for this CNAS learning community will we be automatically placed in housing with our cohort?

No, housing is selected by the student and given as a first come first serve basis.

Thank you for the super helpful information! I have a question regarding research. How long

does research typically last, and how much research would you advise a freshmen take on?

You're welcome. Freshman can usually begin doing research in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of their freshman year. That is the earliest. However, once in a research lab, you can continue for all 4 years.

When can you get involved in the UCR science ambassadors program?

You can join after your first year at UCR, and applications typically go out in the Spring. You can go to the CNAS website at cnas.ucr.edu and look for science ambassadors under the People tab to see more information.

Is there a English Placement Exam? I passed my AP Calculus exam with a 5, so I don't think I need to take the Math Placement Exam?

There is an ENGL placement exam, but with the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we are still working this out.

For Bio chem majors do you get field research?

Yes, if you are a medical sciences emphasis, it is required for students to work in a field of their desire. For example, if you are planning on being a dentist, it is important to work in a dentist office to shadow.

Do you need to take summer classes to graduate?

Not necessarily. It really depends on your MATH placement. If you begin in calculus your first year, you don't need to take summer school. Sometimes students do enroll in summer so their other quarters will be less rigid.

This webinar has been very helpful! is it difficult to switch majors from CHASS to CNAS? Does it impact my admission?

You would have to check with admissions to switch from CHASS to CNAS. This can be done via your student portal, MyUCR.

When can I expect internship opportunities?

Internships are great during the summer! Some will start taking students in after your freshman year. I interned in summer 2019 and I will be with Goldman Sachs in summer 2020. You can usually start looking at the ones for next summer in September-January.

Is it possible to do a minor that is not in the CNAS?

Definitely and you can select one of the many disciplines in CHASS or computer science in Engineering. We also have an education minor.

Is there a major that satisfies most of requirements for medical school?

Any of our Life Science majors will satisfy your medical school requirements.

I have a friend who is a General Math Major and is still fulfilling her requirements for Medical School with a few extra Biology classes!

Do you need to take a placement test for math and English? Is this something that will show in myUCR? If it isn't there, then does it mean I don't have to take them?

You will receive notification regarding the placement exams in your MyUCR account. If you have additional questions about this please contact your admissions counselor.

Yes, all students must take the MAE, Math Placement Exam and an ENGL placement exam. You should have received e-mails on this from Admissions or you will once you SIR to UCR. If you have AP credit and have a 3, 4, or 5 already, you are exempt from needed the placement exams.

How many classes/units should I register per quarter to graduate within four years?

Generally, taking 15-16 units per quarter will allow you to finish in four years, which usually takes 4 courses, but can sometimes be done with 3 courses per quarter.

How can we become a peer mentor for the learning community?

I believe you will receive the opportunity to apply after you complete your Freshman Year learning community. I graded for a Learning community class during my Sophomore year.

If you received a 3 on the AP Calc AB exam, what math would you be placed in?

You would be placed into the second quarter of calculus.

May I ask what the pipeline program that Gina mentioned is? And how I can apply?

Hi! I'm involved in a couple pipeline organizations like everyone is talking about (<https://medschool.ucr.edu/pipeline-programs>), but the specific one I mentioned is UCR Health Coach Program. It is a "professional volunteer clinical internship." Check it out! <https://hcp.ucr.edu/>

If I got a 4 on AP Calc bc, what math will I place in? I also got a 3 in AP Language, so what English will I place in?

You would be in the 3rd quarter of calculus and in the 2nd quarter of English composition.

Does the Physics program consist of a lot of students or is it impacted in any way?

No, there are only about 150 students or so.

What is the reasoning behind taking a gap year before applying to medical school and what are some benefits? I am not sure if I would like to take that route.

It varies for everyone! I personally am taking a gap year because I want to spend a dedicated time to study for the MCAT (medical school entrance exam), as well as apply for medical school. I have had obligations such as jobs or internships or schooling through all 3 summers currently.

If I haven't sent the AP scores yet, how long do I have for that to be considered for not taking the placement exams?

We must receive all AP scores before you attend Highlander Orientation. If not, then you must take the placement exams.

Are life science classes impacted? is it hard to get the classes you need?

It's not difficult to get classes as long as you are in a learning community and you pass each class from quarter to quarter. If students need to repeat a D grade or lower, it can be very difficult to get classes.

As far as math and chemistry classes go there have always been enough seats for us to get in where we need. The more units you gain the earlier you get to register for each quarter so especially later in your college career you can always get what you need to graduate!

How do we take the math placement test?

<https://arc.ucr.edu/math>

What happens if we do not perform well on the placement exams, will it hurt us somehow?

Not at all, you may have to take an extra class but you can always catch up easy. I placed low in math and caught up to the rest of my major within my first year!

Please read the website (<https://arc.ucr.edu/mae>) because there are ways to prepare for the final exam.

Are orientation dates being moved?

No, not at this time.

Is it possible to do a minor that is not in CNAS?

Yes! I am minoring in Finance which involves classes from CHASS and the School of Business!

I'm trying to register for orientation and no dates are available-- does this mean they're all taken?

Hi, they haven't been open yet. We are hoping to open them during the first part of May.

Not a question but, where can I get a UCR shirt?

You order these from our UCR Bookstore. Right now on our highlanderday.ucr.edu website there a coupon for 20% off of UCR Gear!

How do you join learning communities? Is it like joining an LLC?

You can join at your Freshman orientation I believe. They will place you in your community and help you register for your first quarter classes.

Would you say that the rate that AP classes move is similar to the rate or how fast college classes move?

It really depends on the class. Once you are in the classes and in the flow of the quarter it will just feel normal. The speed never has felt too fast for many of my classes but if you are ever struggling, Professors and TAs always have office hours to sit down with you and lay everything out!

Are there any exceptions, given the COVID-19 environment, for having a lower AP score?

No, we would still have students take the MATH placement test if their AP score is too low.

I am admitted to UCR to the college of CNAS for Biology, I am considering to minor in Psychology. Is that possible or allowed?

Yes, and yes. You would work with your academic advisor during Highlander Orientation and after your 2nd quarter at UCR.

Is it possible to graduate in less than 4 years? Who can I email to go over my classes to do so?

Yes, but it is not an easy task. You would need to work with your academic advisor after your first quarter grades are posted.

If you score higher than a 680 on the SAT for the reading and writing section do you still have to

take the English placement exam?

No, the 680 allows students to go right into ENGL
1A.

If I take the AP exams, will I have to take the English placement exam?

You do not have to but I would recommend it in case you don't pass the AP Lang and AP Lit tests. If you have passed, then don't bother. However, if you are pre-med, I would not recommend using AP scores because you will need to take a year of English anyways.