<p style="text-align:center; color:green">LAVC's Transfer Alliance Program
(TAP/Honors)
Newsletter</p>

**October 2023**
To:     TAP Students and Faculty
From:  TAP Director, Dr. Yih-Mei Hu, Music Department
           TAP Counselor, Chris Petrini, Counseling Department

Dear TAP Students and Community,

We hope your Fall 2023 schedule has finally settled into a nice rhythm, whether it's your first full-time semester in college after completing high school, or you're working on your transfer applications for Fall 2024. Both paths have specific checklists to be working on, so if you have not yet seen Mr. Petrini for your student education plan (SEP) with Honors classes, please schedule one now, so that you'll know what classes to register for in Winter/Spring 2024.

All students are invited to RSVP and come to campus on **Tuesday, October 24** for **LAVC's Fall 2023 College Fair** to connect with CSU, UC, and private universities. Come out and ask specific major questions, inquire about housing, or just grab a sticker or available swag. For students working on PIQs and the UC Transfer Application, please utilize LAVC's Career/Transfer Center and sign up for transfer workshops or career exploration, get support from Success Coaches, and go on university bus trips.
Additional resources are provided within this newsletter for prospective students to explore transfer institutions, either in-person or virtually, to determine which campus is the best fit. Please visit one!

On a related note, even if you emailed your high school transcript and AP Scores to Mr. Petrini as a part of your TAP application, official transcripts and Score Reports must be on file with LAVC's Admissions & Records in order for him to submit a Grad Petition for degrees with CSUGE/IGETC Certification to post to your LACCD transcript. See if your high school uses Parchment to send your transcripts; otherwise, you'll need to contact them for their process. If picking up your high school transcript is the only option, bring in the sealed envelope directly to Admissions and Records with photo identification to submit it. To send in your AP Scores, contact College Board.

Finally, if you are enrolled in a "late-start" class (also referred to as 2$^{nd}$ 8 Weeks or 8WeekB) beginning on **October 23** and it is eligible for an Honors Contract, **Page 1 of the TAP/HONORS CONTRACT is due by October 27 to Dr. Hu**.

Best,
Dr. Hu and Mr. Petrini

## I. FALL 2024 ADMISSION CYCLE FOR TRANSFERRING

You are encouraged to complete your transfer applications WELL BEFORE the end of November to avoid any delay in applying due to possible application system overloads, which has happened in recent years. Transfer applications for Fall 2024 are accepted according to the following deadlines:

- California State University (CSU) - Priority Application Filing Period: **October 1–November 30, 2023**. Please use the [CSU Transfer Application link](#) and refer to the [Cal State Apply Help Center](#) if needed.
- University of California (UC) - Application Filing Period: **October 1–November 30, 2023** (application opened on August 1). Please use the [UC Transfer Application link](#) and refer to the [UC Application Help Center](#) (includes contact information).
- University of Southern California (USC) - There are two (2) transfer application deadlines, depending on major, as defined below. Applicants use the [Common Application for transfer](#).
    - **December 1, 2023**: For majors requiring a portfolio or audition: Cinematic Arts BFA programs; Dramatic Arts BFA programs (theatre majors); Kaufman School of Dance; and Thornton School of Music.
    - **February 15, 2024**: Deadline for all other programs at USC. Students who apply for admission by February 15 will also be considered for USC Merit Scholarships.
- For all other private universities, please see [CTC for support](#), deadlines and information, or [Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC)](#) and read the Partnership Agreement from our Transfer Partners for each campus's list of additional benefits for TAP students.

## II. NEW UC CAMPUS MAJORS FOR FALL 2024

Please be aware of these exciting new majors and programs across the University of California campuses available for transfer beginning in Fall 2024. UCLA's programs have program links. Please see assist.org, catalogs or campus websites for transfer preparation at the other UCs.

**UC Berkeley**
- Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS) — *new college*
- Educational Sciences major

**UCLA**
- [BA and BS Public Health major](#) (may not list both major options as primary and TAP alternate major)
- [Disability Studies major](#) (1st disability studies major in UC system and California! Can be primary or TAP alternate major)
- [Statistics & Data Science](#) *(previously Statistics)* not available as TAP alternate major
- [Music Industry](#) *(previously Music History & Industry)* only available as a primary major for TAP)

**UC Merced**
- Chemical Engineering major
- Data Science and Computing major
- Data Science and Analytics major
- Environmental Humanities major
- Public Health B.S.

**UC San Diego**
- Aerospace Engineering major with Specialization in:
- Aerothermodynamics
- Astrodynamics and Space Applications
- Flight Dynamics and Controls
- Astronomy and Astrophysics major
- Mathematical Biology major

**UC Santa Cruz**
- Creative Technologies major
- Latin American and Latino Studies/Education, Democracy and Justice major
- Math Theory and Computation major
- Microbiology major

## III. UC APPLICATION GUIDANCE

As transfer season is in full swing, we want to share a user guide for transfer applicants, as well as highlight some key UC application best practices to ensure your success. Most of this guidance could also be generally applied to any of the above transfer applications.

- o **Authenticity in personal insight questions (PIQ) is critical.** The UC has stepped up their screening for non-original work in applications where responses were copied from the internet or assisted by ChatGPT. This is your primary opportunity to tell your story in your own voice, which is what reviewers want to hear. Don't let temptation to impress override your integrity. You are welcome to solicit feedback from instructors, family and friends, so take time to write, revise and thoroughly proofread your own work. Here's a PIQ Tip Sheet.
- o **Accuracy of your academic record matters!** Report courses exactly as they appear on your transcript, including non-transferable courses and withdrawals. You must report all courses completed at any post-secondary institution, and <u>you may not omit any courses or previous institutions from your application</u>. Best practice is to use a transcript (official or unofficial) to self-report your academic history. DO NOT work from memory, and list all coursework per campus. A transcript will show *which campus* a particular course was taken from, and as LACCD is made up of **9 different colleges**, it's easy to get confused. Even if you took an online class at "LAHC" - Los Angeles Harbor College, and never were on campus, you must enter it as one of your institutions on the UC Application. Regardless of whether you think a course will be transferable or if the types of grades earned (W, EW, AR, NP, etc.) count, providing an accurate history is imperative. Thus, you must enter every college course you attempted no matter where (even if you attended a college or university outside of the United States) or when you did so. The information you enter in the **Academic history** section of the application will be verified when you submit official transcripts by July 1, 2024, to the campus you will be attending. Discrepancies between the two records could result in your admission being rescinded, so be thorough and diligent.
- o **Report all AP scores in Exams section of application.** Do not omit a non-passing score as "students should be aware that AP test scores lower than 3 will not adversely affect their chances for admission. Thus, enter all AP exams exactly as they appear on your College Board Score Report. If you took an AP class in high school, but not the AP Exam, there is no score to report.
- o **Explain W's and EW's.** It will not affect admissions, but you should always address any non-passing grades in the **Academic history** section of the application so Admissions has a clear understanding of your academic progress. Likewise, use the **Additional comments** section if there are issues you'd like to address that you didn't have the opportunity to discuss elsewhere within the application. This should not be lengthy, but a place to note unusual circumstances or explain gaps in education, or anything else that might be unclear in other parts of the application. It's advised to also use **Additional comments** section to note extraordinary circumstances related to COVID-19, if applicable.
- o **Do not submit letters of recommendation** (unless specifically asked to by a particular campus)**.**
- o **Listing different majors for different campuses is allowed.** So long as students will have completed major preparation by the end of Spring 2024, they are encouraged to apply to all campuses/majors in which they have interest. For example, a student could apply to UCLA for BA Psychology, but also apply to UC Irvine for BA Sociology. Your major does not need to be consistent across the UCs.

- o **Do not forget to apply to the UC campus in which you submitted a TAG**. Make sure the major you put on your TAG application is the same one you mark on your UC Application. If they do not match, your TAG will be voided.
- o **Do not attempt to "backdoor" into a competitive major.** Whichever major you select on your UC Application as your first-choice major is the one you will be reviewed for. If you are admitted as a BS Physics major, you will not be allowed to change your major to BS Mechanical Engineering, even if you've completed all of the major preparation for it. Your transfer institution has the final say on this.
- o **Updating the application.** On your initial application (due November 30), you will enter all of the college coursework you have attempted/completed through the end of **Summer 2023**. You will then enter your in-progress **Fall 2023** courses, as well as the courses you are planning to take in **Winter and/or Spring 2024.** The **Transfer Academic Update (TAU)** will open in mid-December, and all students will be required to log in and update their application with their final Fall 2023 grades by **January 31, 2024**. In addition, if any changes were made to your Winter/Spring 2024 schedule since you submitted your initial application, the TAU allows for students to correct this information, ensuring UC campuses have the most current academic information available. Note: If a student meets the **January 31** priority deadline with their first update, *they may go back into the application and make additional updates without penalty through at least the end of February 2024.*

  ### UC Application Resources
  - o UCLA Transfer Admission Guide – Fall 2024 & other Transfer Resources
  - o UCLA Transferability Guide for Four-Year and Out-of-State College Coursework
  - o Undocumented student resource site
  - o Veterans resources site

## IV. TAP CERTIFICATION vs TAP COMPLETION

In LAVC's Transfer Alliance/Honors Program we often use the term, "TAP Certification," and many students state one of their goals is to be **TAP Certified**. Thus, we want to clarify which TAP students actually need to be certified and explain the process as it relates to your UC Application.

### A. TAP Certification

UCLA's Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) is a transfer program whereby "TAP Certified" students "receive priority consideration for admission to majors in the College" and are eligible to apply for scholarships reserved for the Transfer Alliance Program within UCLA.

As an additional benefit, TAP Certified students not selected for admission to their first-choice major at UCLA will also have their application reviewed for an alternate major, following these criteria:
Your alternate major must have been specified on your original UC Application at the time of submission; you may not add it to your application after **November 31 deadline**.
You must have completed the minimum major preparation for your alternate major to be considered.
Your alternate major must be within the College, and **cannot be one of the restricted alternate majors**.

However, not every LAVC TAP student completing our program ends up applying to UCLA. Sometimes, it's because UCLA does not offer a particular major like **accountancy, child development, communicative disorders, kinesiology,** or **interior design.** Other times, students want to have a college experience outside of Los Angeles so they do not apply to UCLA. For example, if a TAP student applies to UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara and UC Berkeley, we would not "TAP Certify" this student because we only need to TAP Certify those LAVC TAP students who applied to UCLA by the November 30 deadline.

## B.  TAP Completion

However, **ALL students** completing LAVC's Transfer Alliance / Honors Program (TAP) requirements will have their transcript notated with a "TAP Completion – Spring 2024" Memorandum regardless of where they applied for transfer.  Thus, students will be able to share their participation in TAP on their UC application in multiple places, but should certainly list it in the **Educational preparation program** in the **Activities & awards** section of the application.  They would also be able to note this on resumes/job applications, scholarship essays, and future graduate/professional school applications to demonstrate their enriched academic experiences and additional preparation.  Our office works directly with LAVC's Admissions and Records and provides a list of "completers" to them for transcript notation, as well as with LAVC's Associated Student Union (ASU) so that all students receive recognition at our Spring Commencement and in the accompanying program.

## C.  TAP Certification Process

In order to be TAP Certified for Fall 2023 admission, students must complete their required 15 Honors units, including LIB SCI 101, **with at least 9 units completed by the end of Fall 2023**.  They must also participate in TAP for a full calendar year (Fall/Spring or Spring/Fall).
In January 2024, we will receive a list from UCLA of all LAVC students (TAP & non-TAP) who applied to transfer for Fall 2024. We will query out the TAP students and review their LAVC academic record with these questions at the center of our evaluation:

Has this student completed at least **9 Honors units by the end of Fall 2023**?
Is the student enrolled in sufficient Honors courses to be able to complete their remaining units to reach 15 Honors units by the end of Spring 2024? This includes Winter 2024 enrollments using Honors contracts (if still eligible), and/or verifying the student is enrolled in the requisite number of Honors units for Spring to fulfill their obligation.
Have they completed LIB SCI 101 at any point, or will they by the end of Spring 2024? It does not need to be taken as an Honors class.

If the answer is Yes to all of the above, then Mr. Petrini will send that student an email with one form where the student agrees to completing the remaining Honors courses to reach their goal. Additionally, the student completes an online form with UCLA TAP which gets sent to Undergraduate Admission allowing the student's information to be shared back to LAVC's TAP. This final list of students gets uploaded to UCLA TAP, verifying these Honors students from Los Angeles Valley College are "TAP Certified."  This signals to UCLA which students are eligible for the aforementioned benefits of receiving priority consideration for admission to majors in the UCLA College, or to an appropriate alternate major.

## D.  Alternate Major Notes

o  Majors in the Samueli School of Engineering, the School of Arts and Architecture, the Herb Alpert School of Music, the School of Nursing, and the School of Theater, Film and Television **are not acceptable for alternate major** review.
o  **BA Public Affairs is eligible to be a primary (first-choice) or an alternate major**, even though it is not in the UCLA College. It is a common alternate major for Political Science majors or Pre-Law students.
o  **BA Education and Social Transformation** in the School of Education & Information Studies also has a unique status.  **It is ONLY acceptable as a primary (first-choice) major**, earning a similar exception as the BA Public Affairs. **However, it is not acceptable as an alternate major. Thus, think of it as a restricted alternate major.**

- Finally, either the **B.A. or B.S. Public Health** can be listed as a primary major for TAP consideration beginning for Fall 2024.  However, applicants cannot choose one of these as their primary and the other as their alternate.

## V. UC CAMPUS FALL EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

This Fall, University of California campuses are offering a range of in-person or virtual opportunities for prospective students, including college fairs, appointments, admissions sessions, tours, and videos on admission, applications, housing, and/or financial aid and scholarships. Each campus continues to work closely with state, federal and local agencies to ensure the safety of the campus and community. Therefore, the format of events could change depending on current guidelines. See each link for specific campus details and registration information.

UC Berkeley:  Berkeley Showcase, **October 21** ; Daily campus tours
UC Davis:  Daily campus tours
UC Irvine:  Fall Preview Day, **October 21** ; Daily campus tours
UCLA:  Fall Open House, **October 14** ; Virtual admission information sessions
UC Merced:  Daily campus tours
UC Riverside:   Discover UCR Day, **October 7** ; Daily campus tours
UC San Diego:  Fall Showcase Open House, **October 7**; Daily campus tours
UC Santa Barbara:  Virtual UC application events ; Daily campus tours
UC Santa Cruz:  Fall Open House, **November 4;** Daily campus tours

## VI.  FALL EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AT TAP PARTNER HTCC COLLEGES

Cal Poly Pomona (Pomona, CA) In-person and virtual campus tours
Chapman University (Orange, CA) In-person and Self-guided campus tours
Loyola Marymount University (West Los Angeles) Connect with one of their six colleges or schools
Occidental College (Northeast Los Angeles) Explore Occidental (in-person), **November 10**
Pitzer College (Claremont, CA) In-person and virtual campus tours
Pomona College (Claremont, CA) In-person and virtual campus tours
Scripps College (Claremont, CA) In-person and virtual campus tours
University of San Francisco: Open House: Day in the Bay, **October 28**

## VII.  LAVC CAREER & TRANSFER CENTER

The Career & Transfer Center is your best resource to keep current with everything transfer. Their Linktree allows the easiest way to browse their transfer resources, and register for workshops, UC/CSU/Common application support and much more.  If you are thinking of applying to USC, their Transfer Ambassadors have availability to share their student experience with you as peer mentors.  Finally, don't miss LAVC's Fall 2023 College Fair happening Tue**sday, October 24, 9am-2pm** at Monarch Square.  Take time to connect with representatives from numerous transfer institutions and ask them questions you cannot find answers to online!

## VIII.  HONORS TRANSFER COUNCIL of CA (HTCC) EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to attend the HTCC 2023 Honors Transfer Fair, **Friday, October 13th** which will be held virtually from 9:00am-2:00pm.  Workshops for students range from "How to Build Research Posters that Judging Committees Will Love," to "How to Write Abstracts that Research Conference Committees Will Love."  In addition, there is a session providing an overview of competitive scholarships and fellowships, as well as mentorship on how to write a competitive scholarship application.  The afternoon features presentations from Directors of Honors Programs or Transfer Directors at HTCC partner universities from around the country.  **It is free to attend, but students must RSVP by Monday, October 9.**

In addition, if you are interested in publishing your creative nonfiction, short fiction, poetry, photography, visual art, foreign language work, or open media in *Scribendi,* the deadline for submissions is October 14. See Academic Opportunities for Honors Students for more information, as well as to discover other opportunities to share or present your academic research at conferences throughout the year.

Finally, if you are interested in participating in the 24th Annual Building Bridges Research Conference at UC Riverside,  mark your calendar for April 20, 2024. It gives community college honors students the opportunity to present their academic work in one of four presentation types: Research Poster, Individual Oral, Group Oral, or Performance.  Students may present in up to two events if they are in different categories; students should be working on preparing their proposal(s) during the Fall 2023 semester.  If interested, please contact Dr. Hu for further information.

## IX. JACK KENT COOKE UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

The 2023-2024 Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship application opens on **Thursday**, **October 5, 2023** and closes on **Thursday**, **January 11, 2024**. Eligible students are those transferring to begin studies in Fall 2024, and those not already enrolled in a four-year institution. The amount and duration of awards varies by student, based on the cost of attendance and length of the program, plus other scholarships received, but recipients can be awarded up to a maximum of $55,000 per year for up to three years. The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship application is submitted using the Common App for Transfer. Email scholarships@jkcf.org with questions or visit Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

## X. UPDATING OUR RECORDS

If you are receiving this newsletter and have already transferred or are no longer an active TAP/Honors student, please send an email to **Chris Petrini** at **petrinca@lavc.edu** to update us on your status and include the email address you would like us to remove. In addition, please let us know where/if you have "transferred to _____" or why you are "no longer participating in TAP due to _____." Thank you very much and best of luck in the future!