

2026-2027

HIGHLANDER HANDBOOK

YOUR GUIDE TO THRIVING AT UCR

25+ STUDENT RESOURCES

**to make the most of your time
as a Highlander**

**campus coffee
breaks & quick bites**

TIPS! 

**for class registration
and budgeting**

**Things to do
in Riverside**

**Getting & Keeping
Financial Aid**

**STUDENT ORGS &
STUDENT LIFE**

Mental Health 
Matters 

UC RIVERSIDE



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Access the support you need from those here to help you succeed, including Academic Advisors, Learning Communities, the Student Disability Resource Center, and the Academic Resource Center.

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Learn the basics of course types, prerequisites, and registration, plus how to use your degree audit to stay on track with your academics.

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Learn about campus housing options, the application process, and dining plans to support your student life experience.

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Go beyond the UCR campus to explore the historic city of Riverside.



Welcome

TO

UC

RIVERSIDE

Starting your journey at UCR is super exciting, but we know it can also feel like a lot. That's why we made this guide — to give you one easy place to find the most important stuff.

From classes and majors to research, student services, and campus life, it's all here! Think of it as your go-to resource, not just for your first year, but for your whole journey as a Highlander.

No matter if you're looking for academic help, ways to get involved, or chances to grow, this guide has you covered. We hope it helps you feel confident and ready to make the most of everything UCR offers!

Good luck to you throughout your journey. And remember, the UCR community is here to help!



HIGHLANDER

TRADITIONS KEEPER

Complete 54 UC traditions before graduation to earn a medallion that you can proudly wear at commencement!

**Scan the QR code
for instructions and
a list of all 54 traditions
or visit**



studentlife.ucr.edu/ucr-traditions

UCR's Student Life office will keep track of your completed traditions. You may have already completed some traditions on the list, and that's OK. Once you've reached 54, you will be contacted with details regarding the medal presentation event.

Use the UCR Interactive Campus Map to find your classes, dining options, and favorite campus hangouts.



campusmap.ucr.edu

Parking Maps



transportation.ucr.edu/maps



MUST-KNOW SPOTS ON CAMPUS



Student Services
Building (SSB)



Bell Tower



Orbach Science
Library



Student Lounges



UCR Botanic
Gardens



Student Success
Center (SSC)



Student Recreation
Center (SRC)



Tomás Rivera
Library



Highlander Union
Building (HUB)

Campus Safety



Police & Campus Safety

Provides 24/7 emergency response, safety resources, crime prevention programs, and community support to help maintain a safe and secure campus environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (951) 827-5222

Website: police.ucr.edu



NEED 911? Call if you can. Text if you can't.

Text-to-911 allows individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have limited speech abilities to send a text message directly to 911 emergency dispatchers.

How to Use Text-to-911 to Report an Emergency to UCPD

1. Open your text messaging app.
2. Enter 911 (no dashes or spaces) in the "To" field.
3. Text your emergency details, full address, and cross streets or building location.
4. Use complete words and sentences; avoid abbreviations.
5. Do not send photos, emoticons, videos, or group texts.
6. Answer all the dispatcher's questions; they will end the chat.

Website: police.ucr.edu/text-911

Emergency Notification System (ENS)

Get real-time alerts about emergencies impacting campus safety. Messages are sent via text, robocall, and email. Update or opt in to alerts through R'Web.

Website: emergency.ucr.edu/ENS

UCR SAFE Mobile App

Download this app to quickly access emergency services, safety assistance, safety tips, and to report safety concerns.

Visit your app store to download UCR SAFE, the official safety app of UCR!

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Transportation Services offers on-campus parking permits, free bus rides, and alternative modes of transportation.

BUY A PARKING PERMIT



parkingportal.ucr.edu

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Check out options like bike services (including maintenance), public transit, and ride-sharing.



transportation.ucr.edu

FREE

Scooter Registration

Protect your ride!

Scan the QR code to register your scooter in the FREE registry system. This helps you identify your property in the event your scooter is lost, stolen, found, or impounded.



transportation.ucr.edu/scooter/registration

The Highlander One-Stop Shop

The Highlander One-Stop Shop (HOSS) is your resource for essential student services including:

- Financial Aid
- Admissions
- Residency for Tuition Purposes
- Scholarships
- Refunds
- Cost of Attendance
- Aid Document Verification
- Transcripts
- Enrollment Verifications
- Diplomas
- Billing Statements



HOSS★

R ONE STOP SHOP

2 STATION 3

4 STATION 5

Monday–Friday
9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
(subject to change)
Walk-ins welcome, but
appointments have
priority!



**The HOSS is located in the
Student Services Building (SSB)**

*between Costo Hall and the
Student Success Center (SSC).*



hoss.ucr.edu

UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

The Office of the Registrar

This office sets your tuition and fees based on your Residency for Tuition Purposes status, number of units you're enrolled in, etc.

= Total Tuition

The Office of Financial Aid

Depending on your financial need (based on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA)), Financial Aid pieces together different types of aid to help cover the cost of attending UCR.



After you accept aid and all other requirements are met, the aid is credited to your student account.

Student Business Services (SBS)

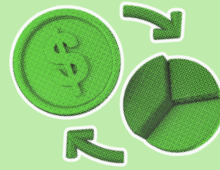
If you still owe a balance after financial aid is applied to your student account, you pay SBS in R'Web. Unpaid balances may result in course registration and aid disbursement delays.

Financial Aid Refunds

If you still owe a balance after financial aid is applied to your student account, your account must be paid by the deadline to avoid registration holds and future disbursement delays. Review your student account online via R'Web > Student Account > Student Account Online to see your current balance due and payment options.



TYPES OF AID



The Financial Aid Office pieces different types of aid together to help you cover the cost of attending UCR. But what types of aid are available? And how are they applied to your student account?



GRANTS

are funds you don't have to pay back.



SCHOLARSHIPS

are given based on achievements, interest, and/or financial need.



WORK-STUDY

allows you to work to pay for your education expenses.



LOANS

are borrowed funds that do need to be repaid.

COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL AID CYCLE

Submitting a FAFSA/CADAA each year is only the first step in qualifying for financial aid. Scan the QR code for more information about how to get and keep financial aid each year.



youtube.com/@ucrfinancialaidoffice/videos

FINANCIAL WELLNESS STARTS HERE



FINANCIAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

Offering both workshops and 1:1 financial coaching, the Financial Wellness Program can help you set and achieve financial goals and prepare for the future with information about credit and debt repayment.



financialaid.ucr.edu/financial-wellness-program



BASIC NEEDS

Get food, hygiene products, and childcare items from R'Pantry, as well as emergency housing assistance, help with CalFresh applications, and support through the Economic Crisis Response Team.

basicneeds@ucr.edu (951) 827-4491

basicneeds.ucr.edu





HIGHLANDER ON A BUDGET

Here are some tips and tricks for sticking to a budget and managing your money as a new Highlander!

1 STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Your R'Card and UCR email address unlock various discounts for local restaurants, online subscriptions, computer software, and more!
ucrcard.ucr.edu.



2 USE SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSE

Scholarships can help cover expenses. Use your UCR NetID and password to log in and start answering questions. The more you answer, the more you match!
ucr.scholarshipuniverse.com



3 ATTEND CAMPUS EVENTS

Check events.ucr.edu for upcoming FREE events for entertainment. Most events include FREE food!

4 CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES

The Financial Wellness Program has a collection of budgeting tools, including apps and spreadsheets, to help keep you on track!



financialaid.ucr.edu/financial-wellness-program/budgeting



Take Care of You

● ● ● ● ● ● ● AT UC RIVERSIDE

Your physical and mental health are key pillars of your success here at UCR. Take advantage of campus resources, wellness activities, and simple daily habits that help you feel and do your best.

Student Health Services (SHS)

SHS provides on-campus medical care, women's health, pharmacy, x-ray and lab services. Students can schedule appointments for routine or urgent medical needs, and walk-ins are accepted for certain services.



studenthealth.ucr.edu

The Well

The Well offers peer health education and wellness programs that allow you to excel personally and academically. Students can participate in workshops and programs that are designed to promote healthy lifestyles. It also offers Grab-n-Go Supplies where you can get up to five FREE items per day.



well.ucr.edu

Case Management

Case Managers can help you manage crises, find helpful resources, and access emergency support. They can also help you create plans and connect with campus and community services.



casemanagement.ucr.edu

Location:

The Well Center

Email:

casemanagement@ucr.edu

Phone:

(951) 827-5000

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS offers FREE, professional, and confidential mental health services. Choose from a range of services, including individual or group sessions, to support mental health and well-being.



counseling.ucr.edu

Location:

Counseling Center

Email:

caps@ucr.edu

Phone:

(951) 827-5531

Wellness Habits NEW HIGHLANDER EDITION



- Prioritize good, restorative sleep.
- Always stay hydrated.
- Find a sense of belonging.
- Stay organized — use your Google Calendar and the tools available to you.
- Find a quiet spot on campus.
- Find a study system that works for you!



Important Dates & Deadlines **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

Registering for classes, making payments, campus closures, and more — the academic calendar is your go-to for major dates and deadlines.



10 WEEKS
EVERY QUARTER

registrar.ucr.edu/calendar





Mark Your Calendar

FAFSA/CADAA

Applications typically open in October and with a priority deadline on or around March 2. File a new application every year!

Payment Deadlines

Tuition and fees are typically due in the middle of the month prior to the start of the new quarter. Check your Statement of Account on R'Web!

Course Registration

As one quarter begins, it's already time to prep for the next. The academic calendar tells you when upcoming classes are posted and when you can check R'Web for your registration time ticket.

Finalizing Your Schedule

Check the academic calendar for key deadlines, such as the last day to add or drop classes, withdraw, or change your status to part-time.

Academic Help



1 ACADEMIC ADVISING

Each college has professional academic advisors who can guide you through class planning, degree requirements, major and minor changes, and any academic questions you may have.



ask.ucr.edu/academic-advising



2 STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (SDRC)



The SDRC provides accommodations and support services for students with permanent and temporary disabilities. Services may include exam accommodations, note-taking assistance, accessible materials, and more.

sdrc.ucr.edu



The SDRC is located in the Student Services Building (SSB).

3 ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)



The ARC offers FREE tutoring, study skill workshops, writing support, and Supplemental Instruction (SI) for challenging courses!

arc.ucr.edu



The ARC is located in Sproul Hall,
north of the Bell Tower and the HUB

4 LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) connect your residential experience with shared interests and support right where you live.

Learning Communities (LCs), offered through academic units, link you with peers in your major or area of study to build connections, enhance learning, and help you thrive academically.



CLASSES 101

Breadth Requirements (General Education)

These are well-rounded courses outside your major that you must complete. They help you gain knowledge and skills across a variety of disciplines, ensuring a broad and balanced education.

Prerequisites

These are classes you need to take before enrolling in higher-level ones. They ensure you have the necessary background knowledge and skills to succeed in advanced courses.

Lower-Division (001–099)

These are introductory classes that are usually completed in the first two years. They provide foundational knowledge in a subject and prepare students for more advanced, upper-division coursework.

Upper Division (100–199)

These are specialized courses that are usually completed in the last two years. They focus on advanced topics in your major and often involve research, projects, and in-depth study.

Electives

These are classes you can choose outside your major requirements. They can help you explore personal interests, discover new fields, and complement your degree.

Major-Specific Courses

These are the courses that are required for each degree. They provide the core knowledge and skills needed to complete your chosen field of study.



COURSE REGISTRATION

Course registration starts with checking the academic calendar for the release date of the next quarter class schedule.



**START ON R'WEB
& SELECT THE REGISTRATION ICON**

REGISTRATION PRO TIPS

- Check your R'web for any holds and follow the instructions to resolve them early. Holds block your registration, so check and clear them before your time ticket opens!
- When the next quarter's classes are published, use your degree audit tool in R'web to see what requirements you're missing. This will help you determine which classes you should take next.
- Make an appointment with your advisor early to ensure your plan for the following quarter will get you to where you want to go!
- Create a Term Plan under the Registration icon in R'web. You can make multiple plans for easy registration when your time ticket opens!
- Watch out for Linked activities! Ensure you sign up for any additional activities (labs, discussions, etc.) all at once to avoid registration errors.

Scan the QR code for registration instructions and error solutions.



[registrar.ucr.edu/
registering](https://registrar.ucr.edu/registering)



SUMMER Sessions & YOUR FOUR-YEAR PLAN

AFTER 2ND YEAR

- Start or continue a minor/second major.
- Study abroad.

AFTER 1ST YEAR

- Take a prerequisite for a fall course.
- Get ahead by taking more breadth courses.

Take advantage of Summer Sessions to catch up or get ahead!

AFTER 3RD YEAR

- Stay on track with graduating in four years.
- Take classes to free up time for internships next year.

summer.ucr.edu

@ucrsommersessions



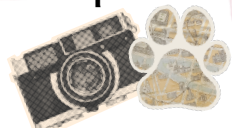


Student Success Programs

in the Division of Undergraduate Education

The Division of Undergraduate Education will empower you to become a leader, engaged global citizen, and lifelong learner.

- Black Student Success
- Pre-Professional Advising Center (PPAC)
- Campus Collective Peer Mentoring
- Kessler Scholars
- First Generation



ue.ucr.edu

Education Abroad with International Affairs

Explore the world while working toward your degree.
From summer programs to full academic years,
studying abroad helps you build global perspective.

international.ucr.edu/abroad

Jobs on UCR Handshake through the Career Center

Use UCR Handshake to find both on-campus jobs and off-campus internships. Handshake is just one of the many resources the Career Center offers, so visit careers.ucr.edu for more information!



ucr.joinhandshake.com



Interested in Student Life?

Student Life supports student engagement and campus involvement. They coordinate student organizations, leadership programs, campus events, and volunteer opportunities. They will help you connect with your peers to make the most of your college experience.

Location:

Student Life (HUB 229)

Email:

ucrlife@ucr.edu



studentlife.ucr.edu

Highlander Link

The Highlander Link lists the more than 500 student clubs and organizations available on campus. Search by group, explore events, and track your involvement — all in one place!



highlanderlink.ucr.edu



Associated Students of UCR (ASUCR)

ASUCR is the student government in charge of representing the interests and needs of UCR's undergraduate students.



asucr.ucr.edu

Fraternity and Sorority Life

Fraternity and Sorority Life offers opportunities for leadership, community service, professional networking, and building lifelong friendships.



**[studentlife.ucr.edu/
what-we-do](https://studentlife.ucr.edu/what-we-do)**

The Highlander

The Highlander is a student-run campus news outlet that covers campus events, student issues, sports, arts, and opinions. It gives you a platform to report, write, and engage with the UCR community.



highlandernews.org

Student Resource Centers

Our Resource Centers offer safe spaces that celebrate diversity and provide support, events, and resources for students from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



inclusion.ucr.edu

Housing & Dining

Residence Halls

UCR's four Residence Halls are Aberdeen-Iverness, Dundee, Lothian, and Pentland Hills. They are designed to provide a supportive and engaging environment for first-year students. These halls offer various amenities and programs to help you transition to university life.



housing.ucr.edu/ucr-housing-options/residence-halls

Aberdeen-Iverness



Dundee

Lothian



Pentland Hills

Application Process

To apply for on-campus housing, please submit your application as soon as possible after you submit your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to UCR. Housing requests are placed on an assignment list based on the date the application or contract is received. Residence Hall contracts have quarterly deadlines. Campus apartment and family housing applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

Location:

Housing Services Office

Email:

housinginfo@ucr.edu

Phone:

(951) 827-6350

Housing & Dining

Campus Apartments

UCR has campus apartment communities for continuing, transfer, and graduate students. They offer a broad range of living styles and provide secure, affordable, and convenient housing. Campus Apartments include Falkirk, Glen Mor, North District, North District 2, The Plaza, and Stonehaven.



[housing.ucr.edu](https://housing.ucr.edu/ucr-housing-options/campus-apartments)
[/ucr-housing-](https://housing.ucr.edu/ucr-housing-options/campus-apartments)
[options/campus](https://housing.ucr.edu/ucr-housing-options/campus-apartments)
[-apartments](https://housing.ucr.edu/ucr-housing-options/campus-apartments)



Oban Family Housing

Family Housing is available to students at all class levels who are also supporting families of their own. Oban Family Housing offers one- and two-bedroom apartment homes equipped with stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers, and central heating and cooling.





CAMPUS

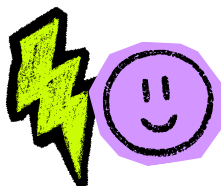
CRAVINGS

Whether you're grabbing coffee between classes or sitting down for a full meal, Highlanders have no shortage of tasty dining options all across campus.

THE HUB PLAZA DINING

The HUB is the place to go for a variety of restaurants and plenty of seating.

- **Chronic Tacos**
- **The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf**
- **The Habit Burger Grill**
- **The Halal Shack**
- **Hibachi-San**
- **Panda Express**
- **SCOOPS**
- **Subway**



dining.ucr.edu/campus-dining/hub-plaza-dining



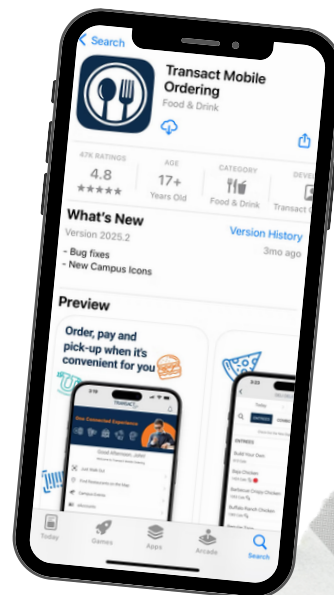
COFFEE SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, CONVENIENCE STORES & MORE



dining.ucr.edu/campus-dining

SAVE TIME & SKIP THE LINE WITH **MOBILE ORDERING**

Download the Transact Mobile Ordering app to get food faster at select locations. Pay with credit or debit card, Dining Dollars, or Bear Bucks. You'll be notified every step of the way!





Exploring

THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE



Mount Rubidoux



Farmers Market



Downtown Riverside



Mission Inn

R

iverside is a vibrant city that blends historic character with diverse dining, local shops, scenic outdoor spaces, and a relaxed Southern California vibe.

Downtown Riverside | 8 minutes from campus

Explore the historic Mission Inn, Riverside Food Lab, and a weekly farmers market.

University Village | 4 minutes from campus

Right across from campus, University Village is a go-to spot for students to grab food, hang out, and unwind with a mix of popular restaurants, local favorites, and entertainment options.

Farm House Collective | 6 minutes from campus

Outdoor shopping space that celebrates local makers, musicians, and food artisans inside a revitalized 1950s landmark.

Mundial Coffee | 5 minutes from campus

Spanish for “global,” Mundial offers a global experience in every cup.

Back to the Grind | 7 minutes from campus

After 29 years, this coffeehouse, cafe, venue, and gallery continues to be a local favorite with plenty of opportunities to socialize.

Mount Rubidoux | 11 minutes from campus

Open daily from dawn until dusk, this important landmark is a 45- to 60-minute hike that is a valued asset to the people of Riverside.

Riverside ArtsWalk | 6 minutes from campus

Hosted on the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 9 p.m., the Riverside Art Walk also includes FREE admission to the Riverside Art Museum and the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture.

Looking for more
ways to
EXPLORE?



hospitality.ucr.edu/visiting-ucr/local-attractions

