



UNIVERSITY 101

for fall 2026 applicants



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Learn about our Indigenous Strategy, *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, at: ucalgary.ca/indigenous

CLICK
HERE

Watch Piikani Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe, Hon. LLD'01, Cultural Advisor at UCalgary, share **why territorial acknowledgements are important**.

WE'RE HERE *to help*

When you're thinking about university, knowing where to begin can be the hardest part

That's why we're here

If no one's ever walked you through how university works — or what it even looks like — it's easy to feel unsure about where to begin. That's where University 101 comes in.

This guide is here to help you understand what your next steps could look like and help you in exploring your options. Whether you're just starting to think about university or picking things back up after some time away, we'll walk you through the basics and break down what you need to know.

Along the way, you'll get a feel for what's possible at UCalgary. Here, students **Start Something** meaningful right from day one, like launching a project, joining research, getting involved in the community or building new ideas with people from different backgrounds.

Where you start matters. And we're here to help you find your way.



CAREER PATHWAYS



PATHWAYS TO *your career*

Your Path, Your Pace

Your path to a career doesn't have to be a straight line — you can choose the route that fits your goals, interests and timing.

Every path is valid and every step counts. Whether you're aiming for a specific career or still figuring things out, education can help you get there — on your own terms.

You don't have to have it all figured out now. Just take the first step — your path can grow and change with you.

Here are some common steps after high school:

TAKE A CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA PROGRAM, APPRENTICESHIP OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Certificate and diplomas are shorter programs (1 to 2 years) that focus on areas like business administration, digital marketing or legal studies. They're often offered at colleges or technical schools and can lead to work or be a stepping-stone to further education.

Apprenticeships and vocational training offer hands-on experience for specific jobs (like electrician, plumber, hairstylist or welder). These are offered at trade schools or technical institutes and lead directly to skilled careers.

START A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

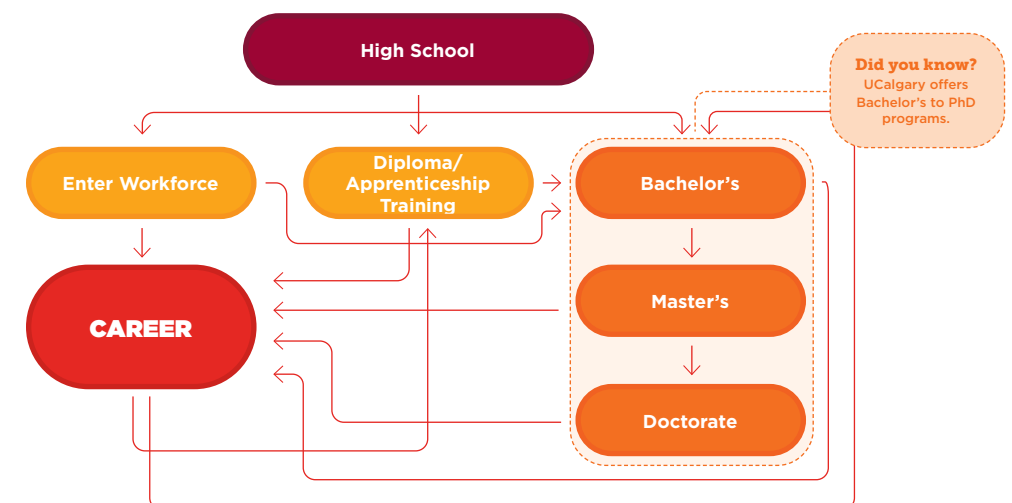
A Bachelor's (undergraduate) degree usually takes four years and can lead to many careers as well as graduate programs. At UCalgary, you can choose from more than 250 program combinations — also called bachelor's degrees — in areas like engineering, business, science, arts and health.

CONTINUE TO A MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE

A master's (graduate) degree builds on your undergraduate studies and may involve advanced classes or writing a thesis — a long research paper on a topic you choose. At UCalgary, you might study public health, architecture or data science. After a master's, students may also choose to pursue a doctorate (PhD), which focuses on research and can lead to careers in leadership, innovation or teaching.

ENTER THE WORKFORCE — AND MAYBE COME BACK

You can start working after high school, a diploma or a degree. And if you want to return to school later, that's always an option. Many students do.



NAVIGATING *career choices*



From learning to earning

There's no one right way to build your future, but understanding your options can help you make confident choices.

You've seen how education can take many forms: certificates, diplomas, degrees and beyond. Each one can open doors to different careers.

Career exploration can help you decide which path is right for you.



DISCOVER WHAT'S OUT THERE

You don't have to have your dream job picked out, but it helps to learn what kinds of careers exist, what they involve and what they require. Some questions to ask yourself:



What are you curious about?



What kind of work environment do you enjoy?



Do you like solving problems, helping people or leading teams?

CLICK
HERE

alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta

Tools like **ALIS Occupation Profiles** can help you explore hundreds of careers in Alberta. You can see what different jobs are like, what they pay and what kind of education or training you'll need.



CONNECT INTERESTS TO OPPORTUNITIES

At UCalgary, your degree is more than a credential — it's a launchpad.

You might be interested in forensics, but there isn't always a degree with the same name as the job. Your path could begin with a degree in chemistry, biology or psychology — each opening doors to careers in forensics, pharmaceuticals, environmental science or healthcare.

A degree in English can lead to opportunities in publishing, law or communications. Computer science might lead to gaming, cybersecurity or data analysis.

Your interests matter. Your degree helps turn them into real-world opportunities. Let's explore where your passions can take you.

The key is to:



Explore careers that interest you.



Understand what skills and knowledge they require.



Choose a program that helps you build those skills — even if the name doesn't match the job title.



WHAT MATTERS *to you?*



Choosing a post-secondary institution is a big decision – and a personal one. It's about where you'll live, who you'll meet and how you'll grow.

Start by thinking about your goals. Do you want to dive into a specific career? Explore your interests? Get involved in campus life? Travel? Your answers can help guide your decision.

Programs are often the first thing students look at. Does the school offer the subject you're interested in? What are the options to customize your degree?

Here's a quick breakdown of options to customize your degree at UCalgary:

MAJOR: Your main area of focus. About one-third of your courses will be in this subject.

DOUBLE MAJOR: Within your degree, you can take two majors in the same faculty (i.e., Political Science and Spanish).

COMBINED DEGREE: You can take two degrees from different faculties, completed at the same time (i.e., Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education).

MINOR: A smaller, optional area of focus — great for exploring another interest.

EMBEDDED CERTIFICATE: A set of courses focused on a theme (like sustainability), completed as part of your degree — at no extra cost.

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Some schools also offer **co-op** or **internship opportunities** that let you gain work experience while you study.

If you're interested in **global learning**, **work-integrated learning** or **athletics**, check what's available. These experiences can shape your education in powerful ways.

But there's more to consider. **Location** matters, whether you want to stay close to home or try some place new. **Size** can affect your experience, too. Some students thrive in large lecture halls; others prefer smaller, more personal classes.

And then there's the **feel** of the place. Is the campus safe, welcoming and easy to navigate? Are there clubs, sports or student groups that match your interests?

At UCalgary, you'll find resources to help you thrive. Learn more about our student supports: ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/why-ucalgary/student-experience



Cost is another factor. Look at tuition, but also at **scholarships**, **bursaries** and **living expenses**. Some programs are shorter or longer than others — so think about how that fits with your plans.

And don't forget to think ahead. What kind of **post-grad opportunities** does the school support? Will your program prepare you for further study or the job market?



Meet Kyle

Faculty of Nursing

“For me, UCalgary — the biggest thing about it is the campus culture. There's so much opportunity for students to get involved ... clubs, volunteering, active living.”



Meet Cassidy

Werklund School of Education

“The Chancellor's Scholarship provided me more than financial support — it gives me the freedom not to work so I can focus on school ... and it opened doors to community involvement.”

START SOMETHING

At UCalgary, we challenge our students to Start Something — we don't wait for change, we make it!

MEET GILLIAN *An inspired entrepreneur*

STARTING SOMETHING AT UCALGARY BEGINS WITH A QUESTION.

For Gillian, a chemical engineering student, it was: Could I create a better skin-care solution for acne?

That idea led her to **Ready for Research**, a digital badge that teaches students how to connect with professors, ask questions and apply for research funding. It showed her how to take her first steps.

Gillian brought her idea into the **Makerspaces** — collaborative labs open to all students, filled with tech like 3D printers, coding software and chemistry tools. With support, she began turning her research into a real product.

Like Gillian, we are here to help you make change. Ask big questions. Try new things. Build your ideas.



Ready for Research

A free online program that helps you start a research project, connect with a professor and apply for funding.



Makerspaces

On-campus workshops where students use tools like 3D printers, coding software and science equipment to test and build ideas.



PURE Awards

Funding of up to \$7,500 for students who want to spend the summer doing a research project with a professor in any program.

BRING YOUR IDEA TO LIFE — AND PUSH IT BEYOND LIMITS.

To take her idea further, Gillian joined **LaunchPad**, a program through the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, where students get mentorship and pitch ideas for funding. That's where **bAlm** was born, a startup focused on skin-health education and confidence. Gillian's pitch won \$12,000 at the Innovation Rodeo.

At UCalgary, we help you take your ideas seriously — from first thought to final pitch, and everything in between.

Where will you start?

NOT EVERY STUDENT BUILDS A BUSINESS — BUT EVERY STUDENT CAN BUILD EXPERIENCE.

UCalgary is a place where you can start small, explore what matters to you and build something that could change your future, and maybe even someone else's.



LaunchPad

A program where students work on a business or idea with help from mentors, then pitch it for funding, like *Dragon's Den* for students.



Work-Integrated Learning

A paid co-op or internship during your degree where you work with a real company or organization and gain experience in your field.



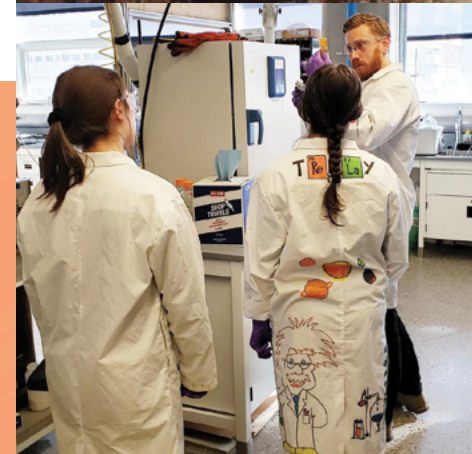
Global Learning

Take classes in another country while earning credit toward your degree. Pay UCalgary tuition and see the world and learn in a new setting.



Field School

Take your course in a unique location, such as an archaeological site or the Rothney Observatory, where you apply what you're learning in real life.



EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE *UCalgary degree*

At UCalgary, there are tools to help you explore your options and learn what each degree offers.



**CLICK
HERE**

EXPLORE OUR PROGRAMS

Find a full list of undergraduate programs at UCalgary and compare majors. Discover more about each program and what makes it unique.

ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/programs



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SELECTING AND CUSTOMIZING YOUR DEGREE

Understand the options within a program: a major, minor, honours and concentration. This guide helps you shape a degree that fits your goals and interests.

ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/programs/selecting-degree

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FIRST-YEAR DEGREE GUIDE

See which courses you'll take in your first year for every program. It's a helpful way to picture what studying that major would actually look like day to day.

ucalgary.ca/student-services/degree-guide

DEGREE PROFILES

These profiles connect what you're studying with potential careers. Learn about jobs, skills, associations, and even suggested podcasts or books to dive deeper.

libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/CCPD/degree-profiles

Learn from real students and hear their stories

YOUR UCALGARY JOURNEY STARTS WITH CURIOSITY

Explore, ask questions and imagine what's possible. We're here to support you every step of the way because your future is worth discovering.

CHOOSE UCALGARY PODCAST

**CLICK
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Hear from our students, faculty and staff about their experiences, from choosing a major to global learning.

Search *Choose UCalgary* Podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or Simplecast.

CHOOSE UCALGARY ON INSTAGRAM

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Follow along to see student takeovers, helpful tips, and behind-the-scenes looks at campus life and programs.

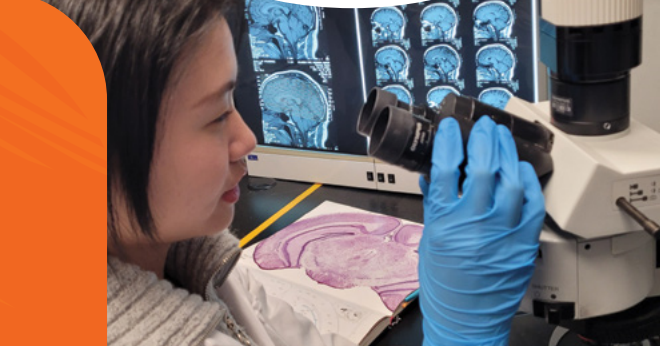
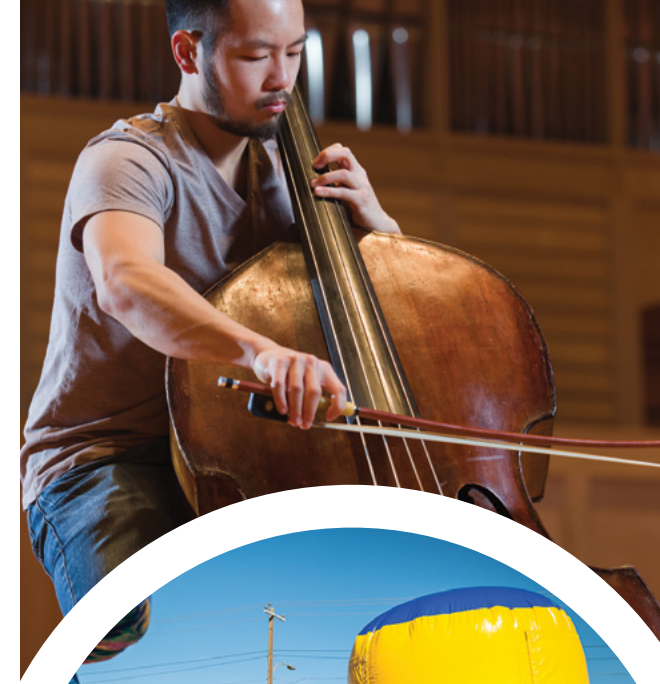
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The Experience Catalogue is your one-stop shop to discover ways to get involved on campus — including more than 400 student clubs, plus leadership programs, volunteer opportunities and more.

elevate.ucalgary.ca/catalogue



READY TO JOIN CANADA'S MOST *entrepreneurial university?*

You've found a program that feels right for you.

Now it's time to apply. Here are a few quick answers to help you get started.

1. HOW DO I APPLY?

You'll submit your application online. If you're a student in Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan or Yukon, you'll apply through ApplyAlberta. This allows us to access your transcripts automatically. If you're from outside those provinces, you'll apply directly through UCalgary's application portal.

2. WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Apply early! It works to your advantage. You'll automatically be considered in multiple admission reviews, giving you more chances to be admitted as you have new completed courses and grades to be considered. On your application, you'll choose two programs. List your top choice first.

3. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Admission is competitive. Each program has five required high school courses. They're chosen to help you succeed in your first year.



NEW TO THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS? UNDERSTANDING THESE KEY TERMS CAN HELP.

Early and Standard Admission: Students currently in high school are reviewed first through our early and standard admission processes.

Early admission uses four required courses and looks at your Grade 11 subjects. Standard admission uses five required courses at the Grade 12 level if you have them, or Grade 11 level if the Grade 12 course is still in-progress. For standard admission, you must have one Grade 12 required course complete.

While you are in high school, each time UCalgary receives updated grades, you will be reviewed through the early and standard admission processes.

Conditional Offer: Most high school students receive a conditional offer, which means you must finish required courses, graduate and maintain your admission average.

Supplemental Requirements: Some programs require extra steps like portfolios, auditions or additional applications. All applicants must also meet English language proficiency requirements, which may include a test depending on your background.

Applying to UCalgary: What Happens When?

ONCE YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, HERE'S HOW WE REVIEW IT AND MAKE DECISIONS:

- ➔ **October 1:** Application opens.
- ➔ **November:** The first review happens. We make a smaller percentage of offers to applicants with the strongest grades in November.
- ➔ **February:** The second review is when most offers are made, with about 80% of total offers happening by this time.
- ➔ **May:** We aim to make most offers to high school applicants by early May.
- ➔ **June:** All required Grade 12 high school subjects must be completed by June 30.
- ➔ **August:** We'll review final grades for all students who received a conditional offer to make sure they've met all requirements before finalizing admission.

Students must accept their admission offer and pay the deposit by **May 1** or within 30 days of receiving their offer, whichever is later.

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Applying early means you're included in all reviews and can access UCalgary's scholarship opportunities. If you have questions about the timeline or application process, we're here to help.

ucalgary.ca/recruiters



Once you apply, you'll get access to your UCalgary Student Centre.

You can check your application status, see exactly what documents you need to send and keep track of important deadlines. Everything's in one place, so you'll always know what's next.



FUNDING *your education*

Going to university means planning for costs like tuition, books, housing and daily expenses. At UCalgary, a dedicated Student Financial Support team is here to help guide you through funding options and answer your questions every step of the way. After applying for admission, here are four main ways to help pay for your studies:



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

"My academic average is not high enough to win a scholarship."

Awards at UCalgary have varied criteria; not all are based on grades. Your community involvement, leadership and unique experiences matter too.

"The process takes too long."

Applying for high school awards is simpler than you think. The application takes about 15 minutes and makes you eligible for hundreds of awards.

"Student loans mean I'm in big debt forever."

Student loans help you invest in your future, and there are repayment options to fit your budget after graduation.

- 1. Automatic awards** are based on your admission average and don't require an extra application.
- 2. Prestige scholarships and Entrance awards** require an additional application after you apply for admission. Our awards team reviews your information and matches you with every award you qualify for. There's no need to pick which ones yourself.
- 3. Continuing student awards** provide funding in later years. About 75% of our awards support students beyond their first year of studies.
- 4. Government student loans and grants** are available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents to help cover costs.

**CLICK
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Use UCalgary's Cost Estimator tool to explore what your expenses might be — it's easy and personalized.

ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/tuition-and-fees/undergraduate-student-cost-estimator

**CLICK
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Learn more about funding your education and fees.

ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/fees-finance

First-Generation Scholars Program

Being the first in your family to attend university is a big deal and it can come with questions. At UCalgary, we created the First-Generation Scholars Program to support students just like you.

Meet Renata

Bachelor of Commerce, Supply Chain Management

“ I'm the first in my family to attend university, and that's something I carry with a lot of pride ... This journey has shown me what I'm capable of and reminds me that every step forward is also for those who came before me.”



If you're the first in your family to pursue post-secondary education, you may be eligible for:



\$2,500 toward your first-year tuition.



Support from a mentor who's been there.



Academic advising tailored to your journey.



A community of fellow first-generation students.

Indicate you are first-generation when you fill out the high school awards application after applying for admission. We'll take it from there!

LEARN MORE

**CLICK
HERE**

ucalgary.ca/about/ahead-of-tomorrow/first-generation-scholars-program

FIND YOUR *fit here*

Picking a university is like buying a car

If you were buying a car, one of the first things you'd ask for is a test drive. Choosing a university works the same way. The best way to find your fit is to experience it for yourself. Here are a few ways you can "test drive" UCalgary.

ATTEND AN IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL EVENT

From Open House to Faculty Information Nights, there are plenty of chances to connect with UCalgary. At **Open House** — our biggest event — you'll explore campus, sit in on sample lectures and meet faculty, staff and current students all in one place. **Want a student's perspective?** Join our Ask a UCalgary Student events to hear first-hand what university life is really like. Or check out our **University 101 webinar**, designed to help you explore your options, understand your next steps and feel more confident about your future.

*Can't attend live? Most events are recorded and available anytime on the **Choose UCalgary** YouTube channel.*

[CLICK HERE](#)

discover.ucalgary.ca/portal/undergraduate_events

TAKE A CAMPUS TOUR

Tours are the best way to get a feel for campus and find your fit. Explore where different majors learn and work, see research in action, and discover what our students do every day. UCalgary offers daily in-person tours and weekly virtual tours. Each tour ends with a chance for one-on-one advising with a member of the Recruitment and Admission Team who can answer all your questions.

*Can't join a live tour? Download the **Discover UCalgary** app to take the tour anytime that works for you.*

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discover.ucalgary.ca/portal/undergraduate_tours

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University of Calgary Future Students



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University of Calgary Student Recruitment Team



Choose UCalgary Podcast



WE'D LOVE *to meet you*

WE'RE EXCITED TO BE PART OF YOUR NEXT STEPS

Whether you're just starting to explore what comes next or ready to dive in, remember you don't have to figure it out alone.

The UCalgary Student Recruitment Team knows that everyone's path to university is unique. We're here to answer your questions from admissions to campus life and help you find the support and resources that fit your journey.

[CLICK HERE](#)

ucalgary.ca/recruiters

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Want to stay up to date with campus events, important dates and helpful tips as you explore your options? Join our mailing list to stay connected and informed every step of the way.

[CLICK HERE](#)

discover.ucalgary.ca/register/undergradrequest



Start something.