Admissions

Undergraduate

Office of Admissions, Recruitment & Financial Aid
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Admissions

Cal Poly comprehensively reviews all applications, seeking students who have strong academic records and are active in and outside the classroom. Admission to Cal Poly is highly competitive. Beyond the basic California State University qualifications, Cal Poly considers other factors for admission deemed important to the campus and does so in an objective format. Review the selection criteria for undergraduate applicants by starting here: http://admissions.calpoly.edu/prospective/criteria.html.

Regular Decision candidates are notified of a formal decision by April 1st and Early Decision candidates are notified in mid-December.

First-Time Freshman Factors

When a freshman application is reviewed, the following are considered:

• The applicant’s intended program of study (the major to which application is made)
• The applicant’s college preparatory courses in secondary school
• GPA earned in college preparatory courses
• Standardized test scores
• The applicant’s extra-curricular activities and work experience

For a comprehensive look at Cal Poly’s selection criteria for a freshman applicant, including deadlines, visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/freshman/.

Upper-Division Transfer Factors

When an upper-division\(^1\) transfer application is reviewed, the following are considered:

• The applicant’s intended program of study (the major to which application is made)
• Number of units completed
• Completion of CSU and Cal Poly program required coursework with a grade of ‘C’ or better
• General Education (G.E. Breadth) or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) courses
• Academic performance in college courses (GPA)
• The applicant’s extracurricular activities and work experience

For a comprehensive look at Cal Poly’s selection criteria for a transfer applicant, including deadlines, visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/transfer/.

The majors below have additional requirements:

• Art and Design – qualified freshman and transfer applicants will be requested to submit an electronic portfolio per specific instructions provided to the applicant
• Music – qualified freshman and transfer applicants will be requested to audition either in person or via specified media
• Architecture – qualified transfer applicants will be requested to submit a portfolio per specific instructions provided to the applicant

Cal Poly only considers transfer applicants at the junior level (60 or more transferable semester units or 90 quarter units by the time of transfer [end of previous spring term for Fall admission]). Cal Poly does not accept applications for these categories:

• Lower-division transfer applicants (less than 60 transferable semester units or 90 transferable quarter units upon transfer)
• Students seeking a second baccalaureate degree
• Students seeking professional growth or professional development

Appeals to Undergraduate Admission Decisions - Freshmen and Transfers

Cal Poly does not set aside spaces for students who appeal admission decisions. Every denied application has been reviewed for maximum consideration. Therefore, for an appeal to have merit it must bring to light new academic information as well as information pertaining to extenuating circumstances that was not present in the application information that clearly shows the student to be stronger than had been earlier evidenced. Neither grades received in the current academic year nor mistakes made by the applicant on the application are a basis for an appeal or the reversal of a decision.

Review the Cal Poly Admissions website for complete information and instructions regarding the process to submit an appeal at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/notselected/.

Application Procedures

For admission consideration, Cal Poly requires applicants to submit the online application (www.csumentor.edu (http://www.csumentor.edu)) with the corresponding $55.00 application fee which is both non-refundable and non-transferable. The application and fee cannot be used to apply to another term.

Applicants should not submit additional information beyond the information submitted on the application unless requested to do so by the Admissions Office. Applicants are advised to submit complete and accurate information on the application for admission. Failure to file complete, accurate, and authentic application documentation may result in denial of admission, cancellation of academic credit, suspension, or expulsion (Section 41301 of Title V, California Code of Regulations).

View detailed online application information at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/index.html.

Cal Poly Application Filing Periods

Cal Poly accepts undergraduate (freshman or transfer) applications for the Fall term only.

Freshman Applicants have two options under which they may apply:

• The “Regular Decision” option is used by the vast majority of freshman applicants and requires applicants to submit Cal Poly’s online application with the corresponding fee during the application filing period of October 1\(^{st}\) to November 30\(^{th}\). 

Last updated: 03/18/16
Please note: Regular Decision applicants will receive notification of their admission status by April 1st and those selected must accept or decline Cal Poly's offer of admission by May 1st.

- The “Early Decision” option is for freshman applicants for whom Cal Poly is a clear first-choice and requires applicants to submit Cal Poly's online application with the corresponding fee and indicating Early Decision admission during the application filing period of October 1st to October 31st. For Early Decision, Cal Poly will use the ACT and/or SAT I (math and critical reading only) scores applicants have at the time of application.

Please note: Early Decision applicants will receive notification of their admission status in mid-December and those selected must accept or decline Cal Poly's offer of admission by January 15th. Applicants not selected for Early Decision admission will also have their application reviewed through the Regular Decision process and will receive equal consideration through that process with those who applied directly for Regular Decision. International students and all applicants wishing to apply to the majors of Art and Design or Music cannot be considered for Early Decision admission.

Transfer Applicants apply through the “Regular Decision” process which requires applicants to submit Cal Poly’s online application with the corresponding fee during the application filing period of October 1st to November 30th.

Please note: Regular Decision applicants will receive notification of their admission status by April 1st and those selected must accept or decline Cal Poly’s offer of admission by May 1st.

Offers of admission to Cal Poly are conditional pending satisfactory compliance with the “Terms and Conditions of Admission” found online at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/admitted/terms.

Former/Returning Students

Former Students Returning in the Same Major

Students who were previously enrolled at Cal Poly and who wish to return to the university must follow the guidelines appropriate to their category.

Former students, who left Cal Poly in good standing (2.0 or higher GPA) before completing their degree, may essentially resume their former program of study (major) without competing for admission with new applicants, providing the following conditions are met:

1. The student has not enrolled in classes at Cal Poly for two consecutive quarters (excluding summer term).
2. The student has not been on an approved leave of absence from Cal Poly.
3. A CSU paper application and corresponding fee is filed or postmarked before the application deadline date listed below for the appropriate term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Quarter</td>
<td>July 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Quarter</td>
<td>October 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Quarter</td>
<td>February 1st</td>
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Former students who did not leave the university in good standing (i.e., were academically disqualified), will have their application and transcripts sent to their department college for review before reinstatement can occur. Applicants in this category are advised to contact their major's academic department or advising center to begin dialogue about satisfying any requirements before submitting their application.

Former Students Returning in a New Major

Former Cal Poly students wishing to return to Cal Poly in a different major must file an online application with the corresponding fee by the same application deadline as new applicants. Applicants in this category will compete equally with new applicants for the available transfer openings in their declared major.

Other Information

Consistency with State Regulations

The philosophy of the Cal Poly Admissions Office is consonant with the mission of California Polytechnic State University and is in accordance with Title V, Chapter 1, Subchapter 3, of the California Code of Regulations, and specifically, the California Code of Regulations for the California State University System, Title V, Section 40600.

Graduate Admission Requirements

View online information for graduate admission at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/graduate/.

Determination of Residence for Tuition Purposes

The Cal Poly Admissions Office determines the residence status of all new and returning students for tuition purposes. View comprehensive online information at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/mycalpoly/resinfo.html.

International Students

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International Admissions

Cal Poly, as part of the California State University (CSU) system, assesses the academic preparation of international students using factors such as academic performance, verification of English proficiency, and financial resources (to meet federal regulations). For this purpose, international students include those who hold U.S. visas as students, exchange visitors, or those in other nonimmigrant classifications. The CSU uses separate requirements and application filing dates in the admission of international students.

Reference the International Admissions section on the Cal Poly Admissions website for detailed information, at http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/.

Application Procedures

Cal Poly does not have a separate international application. International applicants submit the online application (www.csumentor.edu (http://www.csumentor.edu)) appropriate to their level of entry with the corresponding $55.00 application fee which is both non-refundable and non-transferable. The Cal Poly Admissions Office will contact each international applicant regarding additional requirements once the application has been received. View
application information, deadlines and selection timelines by visiting http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/deadlines.html.

For details on additional information required from international applicants, in addition to the application for admission:

**International Freshman Applicants** – visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/checklist.html.

**International Transfer Applicants** – visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/checklist.html. Please note: Cal Poly does not accept applications for undergraduate transfer students with less than 60 transferable semester units (90 quarter units) or applications for second undergraduate degrees.

**International Graduate Applicants** – visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/checklist.html.

After all required documents have been received, the Admissions Office will determine eligibility for admission and will notify the applicant of the result. International applicants admitted to Cal Poly receive a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 form) which is necessary to obtain a student visa to enter the United States or for requesting permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for transfer to Cal Poly from another U.S. institution. Other requirements may be imposed by USCIS. Applicants should note the I-20 form is valid for enrollment only at Cal Poly for the term indicated and that it includes an expiration date.

**Deadlines**

**Undergraduate Deadlines for International Students**

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For detailed information about deadlines, visit http://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/international/deadlines.html.

International students should also visit the Cal Poly International Center website at http://international.calpoly.edu/index.html for additional international student information and services.