

# Communities of Learning

UC Santa Cruz combines the resources of a world class public research university with a distinctive undergraduate experience characterized by our college system. Each college is a vibrant living/ learning community supported by faculty and staff who provide academic support, organize student activities, and sponsor events that enhance the intellectual and social life of the campus.

After accepting the UC Santa Cruz offer of admission, all undergraduate students become affiliated with one of our 10 colleges. During the admissions acceptance process you will have an opportunity to indicate your college preferences.

The colleges differ in academic focus, environment, location, architecture, and programs offered. However, all 10 colleges are dynamic, engaging learning communities that offer opportunities for students to help build and shape their experiences.

*"Students can feel lost at a large university. The colleges at UCSC give students a sense of community."*

Tyler K., Film and Digital Media major



## Cowell College

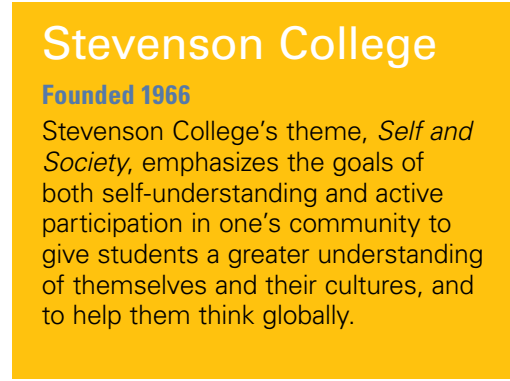
**Founded 1965**

Cowell College is the founding college of UC Santa Cruz. Its motto, *The Pursuit of Truth in the Company of Friends*, represents its twin commitments to academic endeavor and supportive community.

## Kresge College

**Founded 1971**

Kresge College's theme, *Power and Representation*, explores the many ways we constitute ourselves as individuals in relation to communities, focusing on representations of class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, and race.



## Stevenson College

**Founded 1966**

Stevenson College's theme, *Self and Society*, emphasizes the goals of both self-understanding and active participation in one's community to give students a greater understanding of themselves and their cultures, and to help them think globally.



## Oakes College

**Founded 1972**

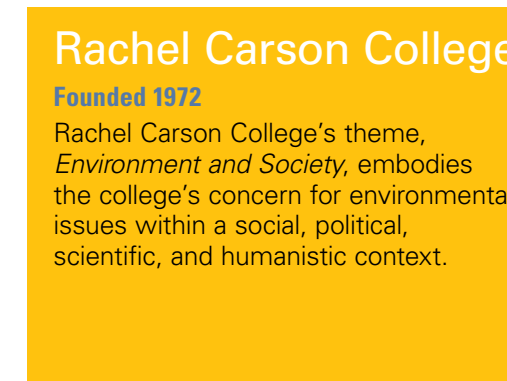
Oakes College's theme, *Communicating Diversity for a Just Society*, prepares students to become active citizens and future leaders capable of communicating across differences to bring about a more egalitarian and just society.



## Crown College

**Founded 1967**

Crown College's theme, *Science, Technology, and Society*, explores the relationship of science and technology with the world around us, including both the positive and negative impacts of technology on our environment and social institutions.



## Rachel Carson College

**Founded 1972**

Rachel Carson College's theme, *Environment and Society*, embodies the college's concern for environmental issues within a social, political, scientific, and humanistic context.



## Merrill College

**Founded 1968**

Merrill College's theme, *Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness*, helps students to understand the nature of cultural identity by examining the relationships between societies of the world and their struggles to preserve their cultures.



## College Nine

**Founded 2000**

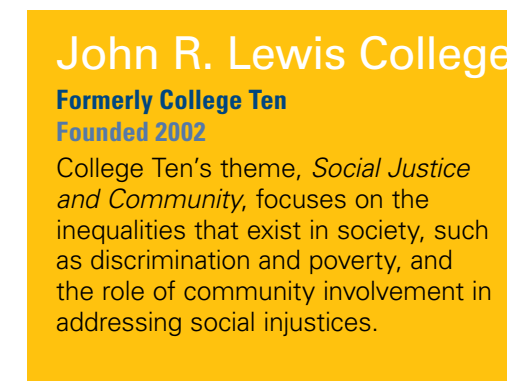
College Nine's theme, *International and Global Perspectives*, recognizes the importance of cultural competency and focuses on issues such as economic globalization, environmental degradation, human rights, and international and ethnic conflicts.



## Porter College

**Founded 1969**

Porter College's theme, *Ars Longa, Vita Brevis: Life is Short, Art Endures*, manifests our belief that creativity is integral to all fields of study from art to physics to linguistics, and promotes an environment in which original thought, creative imagination, and personal and cultural differences are appreciated.



## John R. Lewis College

**Formerly College Ten**

**Founded 2002**

College Ten's theme, *Social Justice and Community*, focuses on the inequalities that exist in society, such as discrimination and poverty, and the role of community involvement in addressing social injustices.



### Common to All Colleges

A small community within the larger university

Required core course for freshmen

Integration of student, academic, and residential life

Commitment to diversity

Student activities and events

Each college's core course is a unique class that emphasizes the theme of the college and helps students develop critical thinking and writing skills.



# The Colleges: Communities of Learning

### Things to Consider

College theme

Focus of core course for freshmen

Housing and theme options

Special activities or programs

Geographic location on campus

Each residential community offers a variety of theme housing options. Based on academic pursuits, hobbies, individual backgrounds, and lifestyle preferences, these options complement a student's experience in residence. If you want to live in a specific residential theme, be sure to consider this when indicating your college preferences [housing.ucsc.edu/themes](https://housing.ucsc.edu/themes)

## Requesting College Affiliation

Students accepting the offer of admission to UC Santa Cruz are asked to indicate five UCSC college preferences during the online acceptance process at [my.ucsc.edu](https://my.ucsc.edu). You may also choose to indicate "no preference," as many students do, meaning you will be fine with any of our 10 colleges.

Review the information in this guide and on the UCSC website to learn about each of our colleges, including themes, programs, and college courses.

After the acceptance deadline (May 1 for freshmen; June 1 for transfers), the Office of Admissions will affiliate you with a college. The college assignment takes into account available space at each college and the preferences you have indicated.

Next, the Campus Housing Office will send you information about the housing options available to you and instructions for completing the online housing application. The housing application periods open in mid-May for new freshmen and mid-June for new transfers entering in the fall; students admitted for the winter quarter apply for housing in late November.

Students interested in finding their own accommodations in the off-campus community are encouraged to use the UCSC Community Rentals Office. Community Rentals maintains online rental listings to assist students in locating rental housing and serves as an information and advising resource.

### Helpful Resources

Campus web sites

Campus visit

Virtual tours

Campus catalog

Current students

Faculty and staff

Alumni



For more information about the colleges visit [housing.ucsc.edu/colleges](https://housing.ucsc.edu/colleges)