

**EXAMPLE COLLEGE  
RESEARCH PAPER**

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Mr. Roehrich

English 3-4

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The University of California, Merced

The University of California, Merced is a very new school. It opened in the fall of 2005 and is the first research university of the twenty-first century. It is located just north of Fresno and a little bit east of San Francisco. Because it is so new, it is easier to get into than other UC schools. There is less competition for spaces and it is still growing. You will receive just as good of an education at this school as you could at other more difficult to get into schools, but the acceptance rate is higher. This is the reason I chose this school as my first choice of colleges.

Because this college is so new, there are only about 800 students living on campus; however, they are a diverse crowd. This year there is approximately thirty-two percent Asian American, twenty-eight percent Latino, twenty-five percent Caucasian, six percent African American, and one percent Native American students attending this school for the year of 2007-2008. Though they come from very different ethnic backgrounds, nearly ninety percent of the students are California residents.

To apply to this school, you must complete the application, fill out a personal statement by answering the provided questions, pay the fees of the application, report your test scores, and send in your letters of recommendation. The cost of the application is sixty dollars. To get in for the fall semester of 2009, your application must be submitted by January 15, 2009. The minimum requirement for grade point average is a 3.0 for California residents. It is a 3.4 for nonresidents. You must take the ACT Assessment plus writing or the SAT Reasoning test and

two different SAT Subject tests. The different subjects are English, history and social studies, mathematics, science, or language other than English. If a freshman applicant scores over a 410 (425 for nonresidents) on their ACT Assessment plus writing tests or the SAT tests, they are eligible for admission on their test scores alone. That means that they could be accepted into the college without their GPA being considered.

College is not cheap by any means, but if you are a resident of California, it is much less expensive than it is for nonresidents. Annual tuition for a resident is approximately \$3,904.00 for undergraduates and \$4,604.00 for graduates. For nonresidents, annual tuition is \$4,664.00 for undergraduates and \$12,158.00 for graduates. That is per semester. Then, on top of that, there is the cost of room and board. For a triple occupancy dorm it costs \$8,970.00, for a double occupancy dorm it costs \$10,550.00, and for a single occupancy dorm it costs \$11,950.00. Because going to college is so expensive, there is financial aid available to students in need. There are three different types of financial aid: grants, loans, and scholarships. The grants that are offered are federal grants, Cal grants, and the Golden Bobcat Grant. The acceptable loans are federal subsidized loans, federal unsubsidized loans, parent loans, and alternative loans. Scholarships are available from the FAFSA, institutional scholarships, and from UC Merced scholarship donors.

There are several undergraduate majors available at this school. There are three types of schools within the university: Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social Science, Humanities, and Arts. Each of these schools offers major that apply to the subjects. The school for engineering and the school for natural science each offer five, and the school for social science, humanities, and arts offers eight majors. There is also tutoring, free of charge to all registered students, in business, chemistry, Japanese, management, and get help with writing. Considering

this is a very new campus, there are quite a few clubs. The clubs are organized into categories such as, academic, arts/music/dance, community service, cultural, religious and faith-based, special interests, and wellness. Within each category are several different clubs. The academic clubs are clubs related to school subjects like chemistry or math. The special interests clubs include chess club, amnesty international, Dungeons and Dragons, and more. Karate club, martial arts, soccer, and Ultimate Frisbee club fall under the Wellness category. Overall, there is approximately seventy-four different clubs on the campus.

The University of California, Merced is a great choice for me, mainly because it is new, it is located in a pretty area, and it is easier to get into than most other UC schools. This campus has a diverse group, which means that I would be exposed to different cultures and interesting people. This school also offers many types of financial aid, plus it is much less expensive for residents of California. After doing this research, I have grown to like Merced even more than I did before. I hope I get accepted!

Works Cited

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