

Systemwide Guidelines for Special Talent Admissions

Special talent is defined as demonstrated ability in program areas, such as athletics or the arts, for which designated campus personnel offer recommendations that are considered as part of admissions decision making process.

Special talent admission must be tracked if the campus process exists that involves:

- a) faculty or the admission committee of a specialty school, academic department or program, or
- b) personnel in non-academic programs including but not limited to Athletics

and where the application receives a supplemental review based on skill or ability for the program (e.g., art, music, theater performance, athletics) from the stakeholder(s) identified above, **and** results in a recommendation for admission to the program.

Consideration of all applicants identified for special talent admissions must follow campus-documented procedures for the department to confirm with admissions the support for the applicant with special talent.

All admission decisions are approved by the admissions director or a member of senior campus leadership external to the recommending department or program.

An individual who identifies a candidate for admission by exception for a special talent program cannot make the final admission decision.

Campuses shall establish a policy requiring students admitted by exception into an athletics program to participate in the program for a minimum of one academic year per Section 66022.5 of the California Education Code.

Special talent admission is independent of scholarship/financial aid status.

See the 2021-22 applyUC Data Dictionary available on [Sharepoint](#) for specifications.