



UC SANTA BARBARA // EXTENSION  
Professional and Continuing Education

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Dear Parents of UCSB International Students,

Hello! I am Dr. Bob York, the Dean of UC Santa Barbara (UCSB)- Extension. Congratulations to your talented child on getting admission in the country's fifth best public university.

With our outstanding professors, the high-quality student body, first-class academic environment, and beautiful natural scenery, your child is on to a memorable academic journey.

To make sure this journey is smooth and successful, they will need to be strong at certain academic skills, the most important being "academic writing". *"Why does my child need to be good at English writing, if he or she is going to be an engineer or a mathematician or an economist"* you may ask. The answer is that the U.S. educational system requires students to take a number of "General Education" (GE) courses before they can proceed with their majors. These GE courses are history, culture, and social science based curriculums. The grades in these courses will appear on the final transcript of your child, and in order to get good grades in those courses, your child will need to be good at US style academic writing.

I do not know the academic writing level of your child, but I do know that around 75% of international students are at the bottom level of UCSB's Entry Level Writing Requirement test.

In order to successfully facilitate your child's transition into UCSB's academic environment, I would like to recommend a preparatory course: "Preparation for Academic Writing." The class is designed to help international students to improve their grammar, vocabulary, critical thinking etc aspects of academic writing. This course will also teach effective comprehension and enhance students' ability to comprehend complex reading paragraphs.

I strongly believe that this course is the best possible preparation for international students to smoothly transition from their high school to rigorous academic environment at UCSB. They can do this on-line, from their home, before they come to UCSB. So when they arrive, they are already more prepared, and are ready to perform to their highest potential. For more information, please visit the following page.

[LING X405, Preparation for Academic Writing](#)

I welcome your child to UCSB, and wish them success at the University of California, Santa Barbara!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob York".

Bob York  
Dean, Professional and Continuing Education  
University of California, Santa Barbara