

FRESHMAN ADMISSION

Gaining admission to the UC system requires focused — and early — preparation. Putting students on the right path will help them avoid surprises later. Because admission to many UC campuses is extremely competitive, students should strive to fulfill our minimum admission requirements and, in many cases, exceed them by large margins.

The basic foundation of the UC admission requirements is the completion of a set of high school courses (see subject requirement, at right). Students are also expected to maintain a minimum GPA to be considered for admission.

WHO IS A FRESHMAN APPLICANT?

A freshman applicant is a student who has graduated from (or is still in) high school and who has not enrolled in a regular (non-summer) term at any college or university following graduation. Students must graduate from an accredited high school or qualify for admission by examination (see page 22). Students who attend a college or university summer term immediately after graduating from high school are considered freshman applicants. Students who complete college/university courses while in high school are also still considered freshman applicants, regardless of the number of credits earned.

Applicants must meet minimum requirements — detailed in the following pages — no later than the date of high school graduation.

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants will receive a full review of their applications to ensure they meet the following requirements:

- **Subject requirement:** 15 college-preparatory (A-G) courses, with 11 of those done by the beginning of 12th grade, as outlined beginning in the next column
- **GPA requirement:** A grade point average of 3.0 (3.4 for nonresidents) or better, weighted by a maximum of eight semesters of honors points (For instructions on calculating the GPA, see page 17.)

In addition, California-resident applicants will be guaranteed admission to the UC system, although not necessarily to a campus, term or major to which they applied, if they:

- Rank in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates statewide, according to the UC admissions index, or

- Rank in the top 9 percent of their high school graduating class (the local context), as determined by UC.

For details about the admission guarantee for California-resident students, see page 21.

All students, whether receiving the guarantee or not, will have their applications reviewed comprehensively by all UC campuses to which they apply and will compete for available space. Their qualifications will be assessed using campus-based comprehensive review processes, which emphasize academic achievement but also account for a wide range of academic and personal accomplishments in the context of available resources and opportunities. For more on comprehensive review, see page 23.

Each campus reviews and selects its own students independent of every other campus. Because selectivity varies by campus due to the size and competitiveness of applicant pools, a student's chances for admission will also vary by campus. For this reason, it is important for students to review all of their campus options and choose both carefully and broadly.

SUBJECT REQUIREMENT

The required courses — the A-G subject requirements — are detailed in the table beginning on page 10. Students have several options for meeting these requirements beyond high school coursework, including various exams and college courses. High school courses must be completed with a letter grade of C or better (a grade of C- is acceptable and calculated as a C). College/university courses must be completed with a letter grade of C or better as well. However, a C- is not acceptable in college courses. Credit (CR) and Pass (P) grades are not acceptable in high school or college courses to meet the subject requirements, except during the winter, spring and summer 2020 terms. (See Temporary Modifications to Freshman Admission Requirements Due to COVID-19, on page 17, for more information.)

Eleven of the 15 required courses must be completed prior to the beginning of 12th grade or the last year of secondary school. No particular course pattern is required, except for students who are considered in the local context (see page 21). Seven of the 15 required courses must be taken in the last two years of secondary school.

All applications are given a complete review, regardless of whether all requirements are met. However, applicants should be reminded that admission to the university is competitive, and most applicants present more than the minimum requirements when applying for admission. For example, students offered admission for the fall 2020 term completed between 23 and 28 yearlong courses, or a mean of 56 semester courses.

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FRESHMAN APPLICANTS : OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S MINIMUM A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

(For students with international academic records, see pages 13–14.)

| Subject requirement | Approved A-G high school courses | ACT/SAT examination | AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5; IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i> | U.S. regionally accredited college/university courses (in person or online) <i>3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units required*</i> |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| History/social science (A) | <p>2 years required: Two years of history/social science, including: One year of world history, cultures and historical geography and One year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.</p> | <p>SAT Subject Tests: World History: Score of 540 meets one year of the requirement. U.S. History: Score of 550 meets one year of the requirement.</p> | <p>World history/cultures/geography: AP exam in European History, World History, World History: Modern or Human Geography or IB HL History or Geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. history: AP U.S. History or IB HL History of the Americas meets one year of the requirement. Civics/American government: AP Government & Politics: U.S. or Comparative meets a half year of the requirement.</p> | <p>World history/cultures/geography: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course in world history, world cultures and/or world geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. history: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course meets one year of the requirement. American government or civics: Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course meets a half year of the requirement.</p> |
| English (B) (Composition and literature in the language of instruction) | <p>4 years required: Four years of college-preparatory English composition and literature, integrating: extensive reading of classic and modern literature and content-rich works of nonfiction; frequent writing, from brainstorming to final paper; and practice listening and speaking with different audiences. Only one year of an advanced ESL/ELD course can be used to meet the four-year requirement. A non-ESL/ELD college-prep English course is required in the senior year; a senior-year-level course in English composition/literature is not specifically required.</p> | <p>ACT combined English/Writing or English Language Arts: Score of 24 meets the first three years; score of 30 meets the entire four-year requirement. SAT Writing and Language Test: Score of 31 meets first three years; score of 36 meets entire four-year requirement. SAT Subject Test in Literature: Score of 560 meets first three years.</p> | <p>AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition meets all four years of the requirement. IB HL English: Literature (formerly IB Language A1 English) meets all four years of the requirement.</p> | <p>A letter grade of C or better in a nontransferable English composition and literature course meets one of the first three years of the requirement. A letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable English composition and literature course meets the fourth year and/or the entire requirement.</p> |

* In general, each one-term college/university course with the minimum unit value requirement equates to one year of high school instruction. Exception: In most cases, the first-level LOTE course is equivalent to two years of instruction. Refer to assist.org for confirmation.

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| Subject requirement | Approved A-G high school courses | ACT/SAT examination | AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5; IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i> | U.S. regionally accredited college/ university courses (in person or online) <i>3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units required*</i> |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Mathematics (C)</p> <p>UC will accept variations in math pathways, including, but not limited to, the following course sequences, which include integrated math:</p> <p>Alg I + Geom + Alg II Alg I + Geom + Math III Alg I + Math II + Math III Geom + Math II + Math III Geom + Math III Math I + Math II + Math III Math I + Geom + Alg II Math I + Geom + Math III Math I + Math II + Alg II Math I + Math II + Adv Math Math II + Math III</p> <p><i>For detailed information about UC's geometry requirement see page 18.</i></p> | <p>3 years required:</p> <p>Three years of college-preparatory math, including or integrating the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry.</p> <p>Math courses completed in the seventh and/ or eighth grades and approved integrated math courses may be used to meet part or all of this requirement.</p> <p>A math course (e.g., algebra) taken over three or four semesters is acceptable; it will earn only one year of credit.</p> | <p>SAT Subject Tests:</p> <p>Math Level 1: Score of 570 meets the two years of required elementary and advanced algebra (but not geometry).</p> <p>Math Level 2: Score of 480 meets the two years of required elementary and advanced algebra (but not geometry).</p> | <p>AP Statistics meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</p> <p>AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</p> <p>IB HL Mathematics meets two years of the requirement (but not geometry).</p> | <p>Letter grade of C or better in each non-UC-transferable course in elementary algebra, geometry or intermediate/advanced algebra meets one year of the requirement.</p> <p>Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course that has advanced algebra or the equivalent as a prerequisite meets the elementary and advanced algebra requirements, as does a nontransferable course in trigonometry.</p> <p>The full three-year requirement cannot be met with statistics alone.</p> |
| <p>Science (D)</p> <p>Biology/Life Sciences Biology/Earth & Space Sciences Chemistry Chemistry/Earth & Space Sciences Earth and Space Sciences Integrated Science Integrated Science 1 Integrated Science 2 Integrated Science 3 Interdisciplinary Sciences Physics Physics/Earth & Space Sciences</p> <p>Science disciplines approved only for the 3rd or 4th year of science: Applied Science Computer Science Engineering</p> | <p>2 years required:</p> <p>Two years of college-preparatory science, including or integrating topics that provide fundamental knowledge in two of the following: biology, chemistry or physics. One year of approved interdisciplinary or Earth and space sciences coursework can meet one year of the requirement. Computer science, engineering and applied science courses can be used in area D as an additional science (i.e., third year and beyond)..</p> | <p>SAT Subject Tests:</p> <p>The following scores each meet one year of the requirement: Score of 540 in Biology (Ecological or Molecular) Score of 530 in Chemistry Score of 530 in Physics</p> | <p>Any two AP exams from different disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science or Physics (C: Electricity & Magnetism; C: Mechanics; Physics 1; or Physics 2) meet the minimum two-year requirement.</p> <p>Any two IB HL exams in Biology, Chemistry or Physics meet the minimum two-year requirement.</p> | <p>Letter grade of C or better in a UC-transferable course in biology, chemistry or physics, or other science courses such as anatomy, physiology or environmental science, with at least 30 hours of laboratory work (not "demonstration") is required of each course to meet one year of this subject area requirement. Courses must fall under one of the approved science disciplines, except Applied Science, Computer Science or Engineering.</p> |

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FRESHMAN APPLICANTS : OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S MINIMUM A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

(For students with international academic records, see pages 13–14.)

| Subject requirement | Approved A-G high school courses | ACT/SAT examination | AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5; IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i> | U.S. regionally accredited college/university courses (in person or online) <i>3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units required*</i> |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Language other than English (LOTE) (E) (Non-language of instruction) | 2 years or through the second level of high school instruction required: Two years of the same language, or coursework equivalent to the second level of high school instruction, including emphasis on speaking and understanding, development of awareness and understanding of the cultural context around the target language, practice with reading and composition, and instruction on grammar and vocabulary. Language courses taken in seventh and/or eighth grades may be used to meet part of this requirement. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable. | SAT Subject Tests: The following scores meet the entire requirement: Score of 520 in Chinese With Listening Score of 540 in French/ French With Listening Score of 510 in German/ German With Listening Score of 520 in Italian With Listening Score of 500 in Korean With Listening Score of 530 in Latin Score of 470 in Modern Hebrew Score of 520 in Spanish/ Spanish With Listening | AP Language & Culture exam in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish or Spanish Literature & Cultures, or Latin or Any IB HL Language B exam meets the two-year requirement. | Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable course(s) (excluding conversation) equivalent to two years (second level) of high school language of instruction. Acceptable California community college courses will be listed on the UC Transferable Courses list in ASSIST with the following footnote: "Corresponds to two years of high school study." |
| Visual and performing arts (F) <i>Non-California secondary/high schools: See hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/a-g-subject-requirements/f-visual-performing-arts for details about acceptable VPA coursework.</i> | 1 yearlong course or 2 semester courses from the same discipline required: One year chosen from the following disciplines: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts. A single course taken over two academic years is acceptable. | No examination meets this requirement. | AP Art History, Art and Design (2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design or Drawing) or Music Theory meets the one-year requirement. IB HL Dance, Film, Music, Theatre Arts or Visual Arts meets the one-year requirement. | Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable college course (in person or online) that clearly falls within one of the five visual/performing arts disciplines: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts. Many California community college courses identified as meeting the Arts (Area 3A) requirement of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum meet the VPA requirement. |
| Additional college-preparatory elective (G) | 1 year required: One year (two semesters) beyond those required in A-F areas above or One year (two semesters) approved in the elective category. | SAT Subject Test: Any exam listed above with the score indicated (except Math Level 1) meets the one-year requirement. LOTE exams must be in a different language than the LOTE used to meet area E. | Any AP exam listed above, in addition to AP Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics or Psychology or Any IB HL Exam listed above, in addition to Computer Science, Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, or Social and Cultural Anthropology each meets the one-year requirement. | Letter grade of C or better in any UC-transferable course beyond the minimum required number of courses in any of the A-F areas above or a course that falls within the elective (G) category. |

* In general, each one-term college/university course with the minimum unit value requirement equates to one year of high school instruction. Exception: In most cases, the first-level LOTE course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.

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INTERNATIONAL OR MIXED RECORDS: MEETING THE A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

For students with all or some international coursework, use the options below and exam result(s) and college course(s) on the previous pages for meeting the A-G subject requirements.

| Subject requirement | International courses |
|---|---|
| <p>History/social science (A)</p> | <p>International courses only: In lieu of U.S. history, the history of the home country is acceptable. When no course in the history of the home country is available, students should complete other history or social science courses for this requirement. Two years of history/social science coursework is required.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: For students graduating from a U.S. high school, a U.S. history course, or one semester of U.S. history and one semester of civics/American government is required, in addition to one year of world history/geography/cultures.</p> |
| <p>Composition/literature (B)</p> <p>Composition and literature in the language of instruction</p> | <p>International courses only: Use courses in the language of instruction to meet the requirement. Four years are required.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: Use courses in the language of instruction for coursework outside the U.S. and use appropriate English courses for coursework in the U.S. If the student will graduate from a U.S. high school, a non-ESL/ELD college-prep English course is required in the senior year; a senior-year-level course in English composition/literature is not specifically required.</p> |
| <p>Mathematics (C)</p> <p>UC will accept various combinations of math courses (single-subject or integrated-style), including but not limited to the following course sequences:</p> <p>Alg I + Geom + Alg II Alg I + Geom + Math III Alg I + Math II + Math III Geom + Math II + Math III Geom + Math III Math I + Math II + Math III Math I + Geom + Alg II Math I + Geom + Math III Math I + Math II + Alg II Math I + Math II + Adv Math Math II + Math III</p> | <p>International courses only: Many international high schools use an integrated method of curriculum instruction. Math courses may be listed as “integrated math,” “general mathematics” or simply “mathematics.” All of these titles are appropriate listings of mathematics courses from an integrated-style program. At least three years of integrated math are required to meet the subject area requirement.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: Combinations of courses in an integrated math program with other math courses are acceptable to meet the mathematics subject requirement. If a student completes only part of the sequence, the combinations listed at left may be used to meet the mathematics (C) subject requirement.</p> <p><i>For detailed information about UC’s geometry requirement, see page 18.</i></p> |
| <p>Science (D)</p> <p>Any combination below will meet the full requirement:</p> <p>IS 1 + IS 2 + IS 3 IS 2 + IS 3 IS 1 + IS 2 + one year in another approved science discipline, except Applied Science, Computer Science or Engineering IS 1 + one year in biology, chemistry and/or physics + one year from another approved science discipline, except Applied Science, Computer Science or Engineering IS 1 + one year in biology, chemistry or physics + IS 3 Introductory science (e.g., Earth science, physical science, geosciences, environmental science) + IS 2 + IS 3</p> | <p>International courses only: If multiple science subjects are covered in a single course, consider this as “integrated science.” Science courses may be listed as “integrated science,” “general science(s),” or “science.” All of these titles are appropriate listings of science courses from an integrated-style program. At least three years of “integrated science” (IS) are required to meet the subject area. In most cases, the first year of an integrated science sequence fulfills only the elective (G) requirement; the second and third years of the sequence fulfill the science (D) requirement. Students enrolled in an IS program are strongly advised to complete the entire three-year sequence.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: If a student completes only part of an IS sequence, the combinations listed at left may be used to meet the science (D) subject requirement.</p> <p><i>For a list of approved science disciplines, see page 11.</i></p> |

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INTERNATIONAL OR MIXED RECORDS: MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

| Subject requirement | International courses |
|--|---|
| <p>Language other than the language of instruction (E)</p> | <p>International courses only: Use English courses taken outside the U.S. to meet this requirement; it is also acceptable to use another language other than the language of instruction to meet this requirement. Two years of the same language are required.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: Use the language of instruction beginning with the U.S. equivalent of sixth grade. For bilingual students who have not satisfied the requirement before coming to the United States, see “Additional methods of documenting proficiency in a language other than English” below.</p> |
| <p>Visual and performing arts (F)</p> <p><i>Non-California secondary/high schools: See hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/a-g-subject-requirements/f-visual-performing-arts/ for details about acceptable VPA coursework.</i></p> | <p>International courses only: In educational systems that follow a strict curriculum that does not allow flexibility in choosing courses, completing VPA coursework may not be an option. Any VPA-type coursework completed outside the U.S. is acceptable. One year (or two semester courses in the same discipline) is required.</p> <p>Mixed – U.S. & international courses: A student who did not complete a yearlong VPA-type international course must complete an approved yearlong VPA course (or two semester courses from the same discipline).</p> |

Language other than English

Generally, a student instructed in a language other than English through the equivalent of U.S. sixth grade or higher will have already met the language other than English [LOTE] (E) requirement. Such students may be better served by enrolling in additional electives or, if their English is limited, English as a Second Language courses. These students must meet the LOTE (E) requirement by one of the methods listed on page 12 or document competence in a language other than English as explained below.

Additional methods of documenting proficiency in a language other than English

| Method | Guidance | Documentation |
|---|--|--|
| Formal schooling in a language other than English | Students who have been educated through the sixth-grade level or higher in a school where a language other than English was used as the medium of instruction have met the requirement. | In the admission application, students must explain in the Additional Comments section that they have met this requirement based on formal schooling in a language other than English at the sixth-grade level or higher. After acceptance of an offer of admission, submit a school transcript or other official document. |
| Assessment test by a college or university | Earning a satisfactory score/grade on a proficiency test administered by a college or university can demonstrate a student's proficiency in a language other than English. Most language departments at colleges/universities will conduct an assessment and issue a statement of competency on official letterhead serving as certification. | Statement of competency on official letterhead indicating proficiency equivalent to at least the second level of high school instruction |
| Certification by high school principal | In cases where the options above are not available, certification by the high school principal is acceptable. Principals should develop and maintain clear standards for providing this certification. Certification should be based on the judgment of language teachers, advice of professional or cultural organizations with an interest in maintaining language proficiency, or other appropriate sources of expertise. | A notation on the official high school transcript that includes the language and level of proficiency, expressed as “equivalent to ‘X’ years of high school level instruction” |