

# FRESHMAN ADMISSION

to be approved to meet the mathematics (C) requirement, Sheltered Algebra must be equivalent to Algebra I. California high schools are not required to identify their sheltered/SDAIE sections differently on their A-G course lists, but if different transcript abbreviations are used for students in these courses, they must be included on the A-G course list.

## Modified courses

Some high schools offer a separate section of their A-G courses for students with disabilities or special needs, using alternative delivery methods to accommodate those students who may need additional support and assistance. If the curriculum is identical to a course already approved by UC, the course will meet A-G requirements even though the instructional method may be modified. California high schools are not required to identify these sections on their A-G course lists, but if separate transcript abbreviations will be used for these courses, they must be included on the A-G course list.

## Summer courses

Courses taken during the summer at a high school or college/university may be used to meet the subject and GPA requirements if they meet the A-G course criteria and are equivalent to A-G courses offered during the regular academic year.

## Online courses

Students can complete UC-approved online courses offered by U.S. regionally accredited online high schools, or online courses offered by U.S. regionally accredited colleges/universities to meet any A-G subject area requirements. (Please note: UC will accept fully online or hybrid college-preparatory science courses only if they include teacher-supervised, hands-on labs. Teacher supervision of labs may be synchronous or asynchronous, that is, occurring at the same time as the labs are completed or occurring separately after the labs have been completed, depending on the learning environment).

For high school courses, students may:

- Take an online course through a U.S. regionally accredited online high school that has an A-G course list registered with UC
- Enroll in an online course taught by a UC-registered online course publisher that is accredited as a supplementary education center/program by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Enroll in an online course offered by their California high school.

For the last option, the online course must appear on the high school's A-G course list and can be either a course developed at the high school itself or a course purchased or licensed from a UC-registered online course publisher.

UC distinguishes between online schools and online publishers as follows: An **online school** is a U.S. regionally accredited credit-granting institution that offers the majority of its

courses through internet-based methods, with time and/or distance separating the teacher and student, while an **online publisher** develops curriculum and sells or licenses its online courses. Publishers typically do not issue credit toward a diploma to students who complete their courses. Credit for A-G courses must be issued by the student's (California) home high school, and the courses must appear on the school's official transcript.

## Repeated courses

A student is allowed to repeat each A-G course in which a D or F grade was originally earned as many times as necessary until the first time they earn a letter grade of C or better.

- The replacement (repeat) course must have curriculum similar to the original course (the same content but not necessarily the same title).
- The new grade earned will be used in the GPA calculation. UC does not average the grades.
- All A-G coursework (original and repeats) must be reported on the admission application.
- A regular college-prep course cannot be used as a repeat of a **UC-approved** honors-level course.
- A regular college-prep course may be used as a repeat of a non-UC-approved honors-level course.
- A UC-approved honors-level course may be used as a repeat of a college-prep course.
- College-level courses of high school content (remedial) may be used to repeat a college-prep course.
- College-level courses that are UC-transferable may be used to repeat approved school-created honors, AP and IB courses.

## D and F grades, Pass, Credit and Incompletes

An explanation of how UC considers A-G courses in which a student earns grades of D, F, Pass, Credit or Incomplete is outlined below. **Note:** A grade of C- is treated as a C.

- Grade 9 or earlier — identified as subject omissions. As with all ninth-grade courses, these grades are not included when calculating the GPA.
- Grades 10–12 — identified as subject omissions and/or grade deficiencies. If the courses are not repeated by the summer following 11th grade, the D and/or F grades are used in calculating the GPA.
- Incompletes — identified as subject omissions.
- Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit — cannot be used to meet subject requirements and are identified as subject omissions.

**See Temporary Modifications to Freshman Admission Requirements Due to COVID-19 on page 17 for winter, spring and summer 2020 grading.**

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## GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT

We require a minimum grade point average of 3.0 for California residents, 3.4 for nonresidents. All campuses use the same method of calculating a preliminary grade point average for the purpose of determining whether a student meets or exceeds the minimum GPA required for freshman admission. We calculate the GPA based on all A-G subjects completed with letter grades in grades 10 and 11, including summer terms following grades 9, 10 and 11. Grades earned for courses completed in grade 9 are not counted in the GPA; however, those courses may be used to meet the subject requirement if they were completed with a letter grade of C or better.

To calculate the GPA, point values are assigned to the grades a student earns in these courses, and the total is divided by the number of A-G courses. Points are assigned as follows: A=4 points, B=3 points, C=2 points, D=1 point and F=0 points. Pluses and minuses earned in high school coursework are not used; for example, a B+, a B and a B- are each assigned 3 points. Pluses and minuses earned in college courses **are** used if the college/university awards them.

We assign extra grade points for successfully completed UC-approved honors-level (for California high schools) and designated Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, and also for transferable college courses completed with a letter grade of C or better (not C-) in the A-G subjects. (Note: One college course earns one grade and one honors point in the GPA calculation, even though the single course may meet one year or more of a high school subject requirement.) Students may earn up to eight semesters, or four years, of honors points with no more than four semesters, or two years, of credit for courses completed in grade 10. It is acceptable for students to complete more than eight semesters of honors courses, but no more than eight extra points will be computed into the GPA. Grades of D and F in honors courses are not assigned extra points. Lastly, please note, honors points are **not** added to specific courses or grades; rather, in the GPA calculation the honors points are added to the grade points (see example on the next page).

In addition to the GPA used for establishing UC qualification, campuses may look at an applicant's academic record in a variety of ways during the selection process. These GPA

## TEMPORARY MODIFICATIONS TO FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in an unprecedented disruption in schooling for students around the world, UC temporarily suspended the letter grade requirement for A-G courses completed in winter, spring and summer 2020. This modification pertains to any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 during the winter, spring or summer 2020 terms, and is explained further below. Additional information about UC's COVID-19 response as it relates to undergraduate admission can be found at [admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html).

### LETTER GRADE REQUIREMENT

- UC will accept Pass or Credit grades in A-G courses completed in winter, spring or summer 2020 to meet A-G requirements.
- Pass or Credit grades are assumed to represent achievement at the C- or higher level, regardless of

what those grades mean at individual high schools.

- Pass or Credit grades in a repeated course will replace the prior D or F grade; students must still report both the original grade and the repeated grade.
- Courses in which a Pass or Credit grade has been earned cannot later be repeated for a letter grade.
- Pass or Credit grades earned in math or LOTE courses will validate the omission of lower-level math or LOTE coursework, except geometry.
  - Exception to the exception: Pass or Credit grades in the second semester of geometry will validate the omission of the first semester of geometry.
- Pass or Credit grades earned in math or LOTE courses will validate deficient grades (D/F) in lower-level math or LOTE coursework, including geometry.

### GPA CALCULATION

- UC will continue to calculate the UC GPA using letter grades earned in 10th and 11th grades, including summers following 9th, 10th and 11th grades.
- Pass, Credit, No Pass and No Credit grades will not be factored into the GPA calculation.
- UC-approved honors, designated AP and IB, and UC-transferable college courses in which a Pass or Credit grade is earned will not receive an extra point in the GPA calculation.
- UC-approved honors, designated AP and IB, and UC-transferable college courses in which a Pass or Credit grade is earned will be included in the honors tallies (total number of honors courses completed) to demonstrate rigor in the curriculum.