CSU-UC Comparison of Minimum Freshman Admission Requirements

	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)
SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS		
	15 yearlong college preparatory courses are required with grade of C or better:	
		11 UC-required college-preparatory courses must be completed prior to senior year (including summer courses)
"a" | History/Social Science	**2 years of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history OR one semester of U.S. history and one semester of American government, AND…**	
	1 year of history/social science from either the "a" or "g" subject area	1 year of world history, cultures, and geography from the "a" subject area
"b" | English	**4 years of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD):**	
		The ESL/ELD cannot be completed during the senior year)
"c" | Mathematics	**3 years of mathematics (algebra I and II, geometry); 4 years recommended*** **(**Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy the "c" Mathematics requirement.**)**	
		Students applying to UC must complete a geometry course (or a series of integrated math courses with geometry content).
"d" | Laboratory Science	**2 years of laboratory science**	
	At least 1 year of physical science and 1 year of biological science, one from the "d" subject area and the other from the "d" or "g" area**	Must include at least two of the three foundational subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics; both courses must be from the "d" subject area; 3 years recommended
"e" | Language Other Than English	**2 years (or equivalent to the 2nd level high school course) of language other than English (must be the same language, American Sign Language accepted)***	
		3 years recommended
"f" | Visual and Performing Arts	**1 year (equivalent to one year or two semesters) required, chosen from <u>one</u> of the following disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater, or Visual arts (e.g., painting, web/graphic design, film/video, inter/multimedia arts).**	
"g" | College Preparatory Elective	**1 year of an elective chosen from any area on approved "a-g" course list**	
REPEATED COURSES		
	Required "a-g" courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Any course may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated.	Required "a-g" Courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. The first instance of grade C or better will be used in the GPA calculation.

* Coursework completed in 7th or 8th grade can be used to satisfy "c" and "e" requirements.   *** It is best to prepare for both UC and the CSU by completing two laboratory courses from the "d" subject area.*
Note: Numerous Career Technical courses are approved for fulfillment of "a-g" requirements.

	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)
VALIDATION OF SUBJECT OMISSION BY OTHER COURSES		
Mathematics	A grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I. A grade of C or better in Trigonometry or Pre-calculus validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement. Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a geometry course. (See exception for UC below).	
		The omission of a geometry course (or a series of integrated math courses containing geometry content) cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework. However, the omission of the 1st semester of geometry can be validated by successful completion of the 2nd semester. Refer to UC's Validation Matrix.
Language Other than English (LOTE)	A grade of C or better in a second semester of a higher-level course validates a lower-level course. A higher-level LOTE course can validate the appropriate number of years based on the level. A college course can validate a high school LOTE course. The level of validation depends on the college course prerequisite and description. For courses offered at a California Community College refer to the college's "a-g" course list on the "a-g" website and review the "Category" column.	
Chemistry	A grade of C or better in the second semester of Chemistry will validate the first semester.	UC does not allow the validation of Chemistry.
VALIDATION OF DEFICIENT (D/F) GRADES IN REQUIRED COURSES		
	Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be validated in the areas of Math and Language Other Than English (LOTE) by successful completion of higher-level coursework. CSU also allows the validation of the D/F grades in Chemistry. For UC, refer to the Validation Matrix in Quick Reference for Counselors.	
VALIDATION OF SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS BY TEST SCORES		
	Required "a-g" courses may be satisfied with appropriate test scores on SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement exams, and designated International Baccalaureate exams. A list of acceptable tests and scores is available on UC and CSU websites. For UC, the omission of a course in Geometry cannot be validated by any examination score.	
HIGH SCHOOL GPA		
	Calculate GPA using all "a-g" approved courses completed during the summer *after* the 9th grade through summer after the 11th grade. All "a-g" courses and grades must be reported.	
HONORS POINTS		
	Maximum of 8 extra grade points from four year-long courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, AP, or IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than two year-long courses (4 semesters) completed in 10th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.	
TEST SCORES – ACT/SAT		
ACT or SAT Reasoning	Test required for CSU applicants to impacted campuses and programs. Test required for CSU applicants to non-impacted campuses, who have earned an "a-g" GPA of less than 3.0. CSU combines best critical reading and math scores from multiple sittings of SAT; may combine best subscores from multiple ACT tests to calculate a best composite. It is highly recommended that students take the ACT/SAT assessment test in their junior year of high school.	The ACT Plus Writing or the SAT is required for all UC applicants. UC uses the highest composite score from the ACT Plus Writing or highest total score from the SAT from the same test date. Some campuses may recommend SAT Subject Tests for specific majors.

Information is accurate as of September 2015