

UC-CSU comparison of minimum first-year admission requirements

	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)
SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS		
	15 yearlong/30 semester college preparatory A-G courses are required with letter grades of C or better: [CSU and UC do not use +/- grades]	
		11 UC-required college-preparatory courses must be completed prior to senior year (including summer courses)
A History/Social Science	2 years/4 semesters 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, or historical geography (including European History) from the A subject area.
B English	4 years/8 semesters of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD):	
	Advanced ESL may be substituted for one of the 4 years of English.	ESL/ELD cannot meet the senior year of English.
C Mathematics	3 years including/integrating topics covered in the foundational subjects of elementary algebra, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and advanced algebra;* (4 years strongly recommended)	
	Students applying to CSU and UC must complete a geometry course (or integrated math courses with geometry content).	
D Science	2 years;** 3 years recommended	
	At least 1 year/2 semesters of physical science and 1 year/2 semesters of biological science; one year must be from the D subject area and the second year may be from the D or G area. Year-long sequence courses of the same subject are not required. Laboratory Science Requirement can be met with different semesters provided the student completes one year of physical science and one year of biological science. Integrated/Interdisciplinary courses may be used to fulfill either physical or biological science	Must include at least two of the three foundational subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics (including Biology/Earth & Space Sciences, Chemistry/ Earth & Space Sciences, and Physics/Earth & Space Sciences as part of the Next Generation Science Standards [NGSS] models); or two years of a three-year NGSS integrated science model; or one year of biology, chemistry or physics and one year of an approved science chosen from the earth & space sciences or interdisciplinary sciences disciplines. <i>Approved courses in the applied science, computer science, and engineering disciplines may only be used for a 3rd year (or beyond) of the science requirement.</i> Courses must be from the D subject area.
E Language Other Than English	2 years (or equivalent to the 2nd level of high school instruction) of a language other than English;* 3 years recommended (Courses must be in the same language, American Sign Language allowed)	
F Visual and Performing Arts	1 year/2 semesters (or two one-semester courses in the same discipline) required, chosen from the following disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts or Interdisciplinary Arts	
G College Preparatory Elective	1 year/2 semesters of elective course work 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 so as long as the course curriculum is the same or similar to the original course. Course titles should be exactly the same or similarly named course titles. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. Repeated courses are only used once and the instance with the highest earned grade will be used in the GPA calculation.	Required A-G courses must be completed with a letter grade of C or better. Courses with D/F grades may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. Repeated courses can have the same or similarly named course titles (e.g., English 9 or English 1). The first instance of a letter grade C or better will be used in the GPA calculation.

* High school-level coursework completed in 7th and/or 8th grade can be used to meet the area C and/or E requirements only.

** It is best to prepare for both UC and the CSU by completing two laboratory courses from the D subject area.

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VALIDATION OF SUBJECT OMISSION BY OTHER COURSES		
Mathematics	A letter grade of C or better in the second semester of Geometry will validate the first semester. A letter grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I.	
	Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a Geometry course.	
	<p>A letter grade of C or better in any semester of an area C course with a discipline of Precalculus, Calculus, or Other Advanced Mathematics on the A-G website validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement.</p> <p>A letter grade of C or better in Statistics will validate Algebra I and Algebra II but will not validate Geometry.</p> <p>A letter grade of C or better in Integrated style Math 3 which includes geometry content validates the omission of Integrated style Math 2. Refer to CSU's Admission Handbook.</p>	<p>The omission of a full year of geometry cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework.</p> <p>Through the 2025-26 academic year: A letter grade of C or better in any semester of a math course with the discipline of Precalculus, Calculus, Statistics, Other Advanced Math or Additional Math will validate two years of the requirement, but not Geometry. Effective fall 2026 and later: A letter grade of C or better in any semester of a math course with the discipline of Precalculus, Calculus or Other Advanced Math will validate two years of the requirement, but not Geometry.</p> <p>A letter grade of C or better in Integrated style Math 3 which includes geometry content validates the omission of Integrated style Math 2. Refer to UC's Validation Matrix in Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions.</p>
Language Other than English (LOTE)	A letter grade of C or better in a 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 high school LOTE courses. The level of validation depends on the college course prerequisite and description. For courses offered at a California Community College refer to ASSIST and look for the footnote indicating the course corresponds to two years of high school instruction.	
Chemistry	A grade of C or better in the second semester of Chemistry <u>will</u> validate the first semester.	UC does not allow validation of Chemistry.
VALIDATION OF DEFICIENT (D/F) GRADES IN REQUIRED COURSES		
	<p>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.</p> <p>CSU also allows the validation of D/F grades in Chemistry. For CSU, refer to the CSU Admission Handbook.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>UC exception: beginning in fall 2026, no higher-level course will validate deficient grades in Geometry. For UC, refer to the Validation Matrices in Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions.</p>
VALIDATION OF SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS BY TEST SCORES		
	Required A-G courses may be satisfied with appropriate test scores on ACT, SAT, Advanced Placement exams, and designated International Baccalaureate exams. A list of acceptable tests and scores is available on the CSU website ; for UC, refer to Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions . For UC, 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---excluding deficient grades which have been repeated. CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C- = C	
	Repeated courses are calculated once using the highest grade earned. When completing the online admission application, the repeated course is also only reported once using the highest grade earned.	Repeated courses are calculated once using the first instance of a letter grade of C, B, or A. UC does not average grades. However, when completing the UC admission application, all A-G courses and grades must be reported.
HONORS POINTS		
	Maximum of 8 extra grade points (honors points) from four yearlong courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, all AP, some IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than 2 semester courses completed in 10 th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.	Maximum of 8 extra grade points (honors points) from four yearlong courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, all AP, some IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than two yearlong courses (4 semesters) completed in 10 th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.

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TEST SCORES – ACT/SAT		
ACT or SAT	The CSU no longer considers ACT/SAT examinations in determining admission eligibility for all CSU campuses and in awarding CSU scholarships. Student will not be penalized if they choose not to submit scores. If students choose to submit test scores as part of their application, they will be used as one factor of the multiple measures used for English and quantitative reasoning/mathematics college course placement (www.CSUSuccess.org) in the campus they plan to enroll in.	UC no longer considers SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If students choose to submit test scores as part of their application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after enrollment.