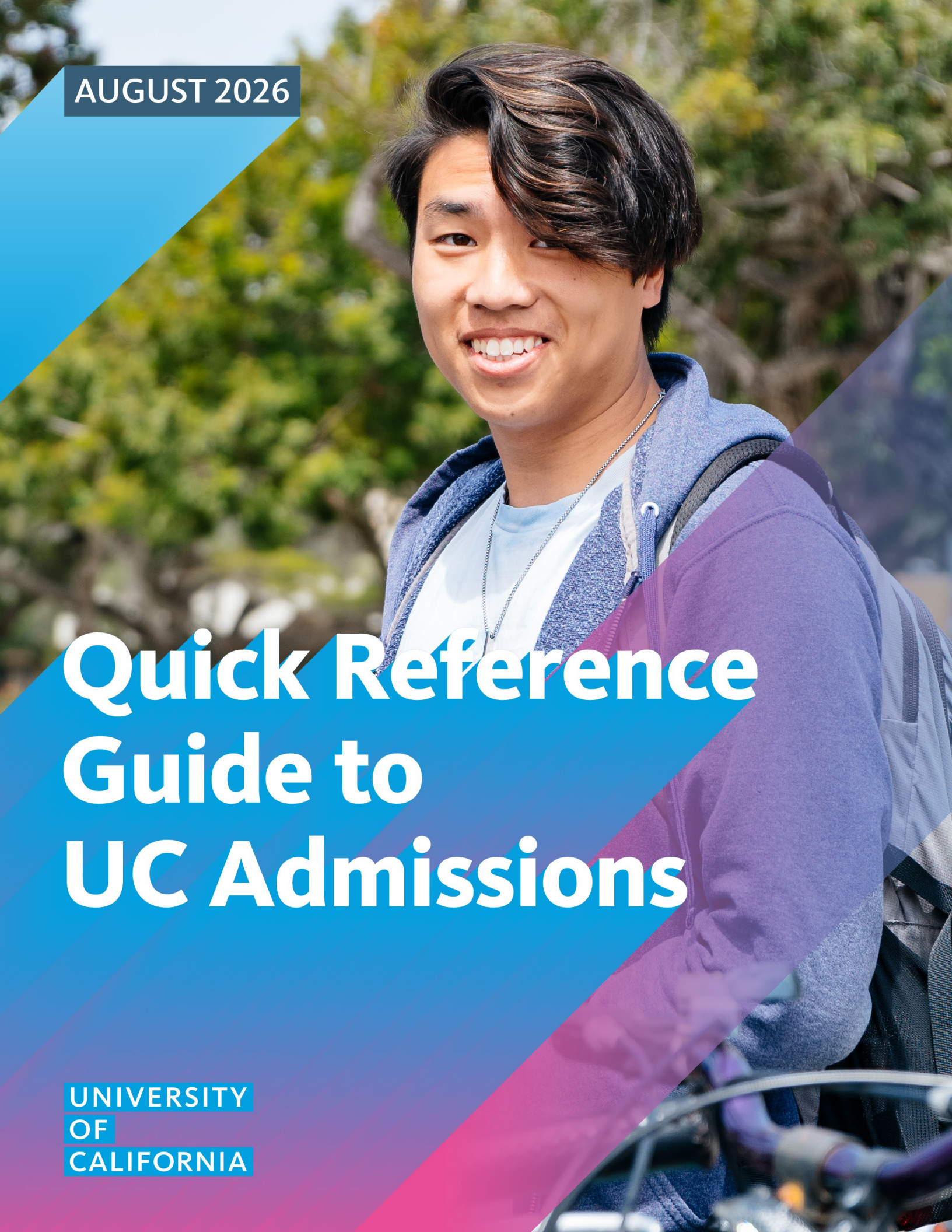




AUGUST 2026

Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions

UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

The University of California opened its doors in 1869 with just 10 faculty members and 40 students. Today, the UC system has more than 300,000 students and 266,000 faculty and staff, with 2.5 million alumni living and working around the world.

UC has built an international reputation of academic excellence while staying true to its mission of research, education and public service. California students remain our top priority, with the state's residents making up more than 84 percent of our undergraduates and nearly one-third transferring from a California community college. Almost 40 percent are the first in their families to attend college, and over half of California undergraduates have their tuition fully covered with grants and scholarships. And our students earn their degrees in a timely fashion, averaging just over four years for first-years and two years for transfers.

While each of our campuses is unique, students can be assured of a vibrant intellectual community at any UC campus, whether they study the arts, engineering, humanities, math, science or social science. Our faculty are the drivers behind innovations in their fields, and they bring that knowledge and the thirst for breaking the boundaries of what we know about ourselves and the universe into their classrooms.

This booklet offers an overview of our admission requirements and selection policies and addresses some of the areas about which we receive the most questions. When information changes during the year, it is updated on the [UC admissions website](#).

INTRODUCTION

In addition, each UC campus's general catalog is an excellent source of information. The catalogs provide detailed descriptions of required courses and the emphasis of each major (e.g., preparation for graduate study or for entry into a career or profession), along with information about how admission policies, such as comprehensive review, are applied at each campus. Catalogs are available online:

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Resources for counselors	8
First-year admission	10
Who is a first-year applicant?	10
Minimum admission requirements	10
Subject requirement	10
Options for meeting UC's A-G subject requirements	11
International or mixed records: Meeting A-G subject requirements	14
Documenting proficiency in a language other than English	15
Seventh and eighth grade courses	16
Honors-level high school courses	16
Summer courses	16
College courses	16
Dual enrollment coursework	16
Meeting A-G subject requirements with U.S. college/university courses	18
Online courses	20
Principal certification	20
Pass-along credit	21
Repeated courses	21
D and F grades, Pass, Credit and Incompletes	21
Sheltered/SDAIE courses	21
Modified courses	21
Grade point average requirement	22
Calculating the UC GPA	22
Validation	23
Validation of subject omissions	23
Validation of deficient grades	23
Validation of mathematics	24
Validation of language other than English	25
California-resident students	25
Who is a California resident?	25
Statewide guarantee	25
Local guarantee, or ELC	25
UC Dual Admission	26
Home-schooled students	26
Admission by exception	26
High school proficiency examination	26
English proficiency requirement	26
First-year admission FAQ	27

First-year selection	28
Factors considered in comprehensive review	28
Campus review	28
First-year admission profiles	29
Campus policies and procedures for reviewing first-year applicants	29
Transfer admission	34
Who is a transfer applicant?	34
Planning for transfer	34
Resources for students and counselors	34
Admission requirements for junior-level transfers	35
Minimum requirements	35
General requirements	35
Seven-course pattern requirement	35
Pass grades	35
Repeated courses	35
Transfer grade point average	36
GPA calculation	36
Transfer Admission Guarantee	36
UC Dual Admission	36
Transfer Pathways and Pathways+	37
General education requirements	37
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) and Intersegmental General Education Curriculum (IGETC)	37
What type of student should follow Cal-GETC or IGETC?	37
First-years with Cal-GETC or IGETC certification	38
Not a requirement, but a consideration	38
Completion options	38
More information about Cal-GETC and IGETC	38
GPA requirement	38
Use of AP and IB exams	38
Cal-GETC and IGETC certification	38
Transfer credit	39
Credit for prior learning	39
Language/literature credit for students whose language of instruction is not English	39
Limits on transfer credit	39
UC/CCC cross-enrollment guidance	40
High-unit limits and admission policy by campus	40
Counting units — examples	41
California community college articulation	41
Course-to-course agreements	41

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Major preparation agreements.....	42	Reporting student data.....	60
General education agreements.....	42	Academic history for first-year applicants.....	61
Other types of transfer students.....	42	Academic history for transfer applicants.....	62
Lower-division transfer students.....	42	Personal insight questions.....	62
Second bachelor's degree applicants.....	42	Information for undocumented students.....	62
Limited status enrollment.....	42	Country of citizenship.....	62
Former UC students.....	42	Social Security number.....	62
Students from other institutions.....	43	Bona fide California residency for admission purposes.....	62
English proficiency requirement.....	43	U.S. military veterans.....	63
Transfer admission FAQ.....	44	Contacting the UC Application Center.....	63
Transfer selection.....	45	Provisional admission.....	63
Factors considered in comprehensive review.....	45	Electronic transcripts.....	63
Campus review.....	45	Campus majors and screening procedures.....	64
Transfer student profiles.....	45	Berkeley.....	64
Campus policies and procedures for		Davis.....	64
evaluating transfer applicants.....	47	Irvine.....	64
Academic record evaluation.....	51	Los Angeles.....	64
Campus selection.....	52	Merced.....	65
Major selection.....	54	Riverside.....	65
International admission and academic records.....	57	San Diego.....	65
Important message about the use of agents.....	57	Santa Barbara.....	65
Academic records.....	57	Santa Cruz.....	65
Evaluation of secondary school coursework for		Exam credit.....	66
advanced credit.....	57	Advanced Placement.....	66
Translations.....	57	International Baccalaureate.....	67
Course descriptions.....	57	A Level examinations.....	67
The application.....	58	UC graduation requirements.....	68
Scholastic information.....	58	Entry-Level Writing Requirement.....	68
Academic history.....	58	American history and institutions.....	68
English language proficiency.....	58	American history and institutions requirement —	
English proficiency requirement.....	59	international students.....	68
First-year applicants.....	59	Language other than English.....	69
Transfer applicants.....	59	Special programs and services.....	70
Exam information.....	59	Educational Opportunity Program.....	70
Applying to the University of California.....	60	Students with disabilities.....	70
When to apply.....	60	Veterans.....	70
Application fees.....	60	Programs for current and former foster youth.....	71
Fee waivers.....	60	Programs for AB 540/undocumented students.....	71
		Programs for system-impacted students.....	72

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tuition, financial aid and residency 73

Financial aid 74

 Grants and scholarships..... 74

 How students apply for aid..... 74

 Financial aid and privacy..... 74

Tuition and cost of attendance 74

 Tuition stability plan..... 74

 Estimated cost of attendance, 2027–28 75

Residence for tuition purposes..... 75

 Undocumented students 75

Explore UC majors..... 77

RESOURCES FOR COUNSELORS

We view high school and college counselors as our partners and colleagues. Year after year, we count on you to help prepare, guide and encourage students as they move through the UC application and selection process. As a counselor, you are an important partner in your students' journeys to UC. In addition to the policy details and resources in this booklet, there are a number of other sources of information available to counselors, from newsletters to special events.

COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

The [UC High School Counselor Conference](#) offers the latest information about UC admission, policies and practices. Anyone who advises high school students about higher education, from guidance counselors to principals and teachers, is welcome. The conference is held each September at locations around the state, including a virtual option.

ENSURING TRANSFER SUCCESS (ETS)

[Ensuring Transfer Success](#) provides new and veteran counselors with comprehensive information about UC transfer admission policies and practices. The event is designed for California Community College staff and faculty who are involved in preparing transfer students for admission to UC, including academic counselors, transfer center directors, articulation officers, student services officers, EOP counselors and disabled student services counselors. ETS, a collaborative project of the University of California and the California Community Colleges, is offered in September to better prepare counselors for the upcoming admission cycle.

COUNSELORS AND ADVISERS BULLETIN

Every month during the academic year, the UC Office of the President emails the latest information on admission policies and practices, upcoming events, and application news and reminders through the [Counselors and Advisers Bulletin](#).

UC COUNSELORS AND ADMISSIONS WEBSITES

The [UC counselors website](#) and the [UC admissions website](#) provide a wealth of information about first-year and transfer admission policies and practices. If you don't find the answer to your question, email AskUC at AskUC@ucop.edu.

CAMPUS COUNSELOR WEBSITES

Each campus has a special website for counselors. Visit the following sites for campus-specific information and to sign up for admission newsletters.

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)



FIRST-YEAR 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 first-year applicant?

A first-year 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. Students who attend a college or university in the summer term immediately after high school graduation are considered first-year applicants. Students who complete college/university courses while in high school are also still considered first-year applicants, regardless of the number of credits earned.

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

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All first-year applications are thoroughly reviewed to ensure students meet the following requirements:

- **Subject requirement:** 15 college-preparatory (A-G) courses as outlined beginning in the next column, with any 11 of those completed by the beginning of 12th grade and seven of the required courses taken in the last two years of secondary school.
- **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 22.)

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 meet one of the following criteria:

- Rank in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates statewide, according to the UC Statewide Index, or
- Rank in the top 9 percent of the graduating class of a participating California high school (eligibility in the local context, or ELC), as determined by UC.

For details about the admission guarantees for California-resident students, see page 25.

All students, whether receiving a 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 28.

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 carefully and broadly.

SUBJECT REQUIREMENT

The required courses — the A-G subject requirements — are detailed in the table beginning on page 11. 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; 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 requirement.

Applicants should keep in mind 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 2025 term typically completed between 45 and 54 semester A-G courses.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS (For students with international academic records, see pages 14–15. For high school students with college coursework, see pages 18–20.)		
Approved A-G high school courses	ACT/SAT examination	AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5, unless otherwise noted IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i>
History/social science (A)		
Two 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. History/social science courses completed prior to ninth grade will not meet this requirement.	No examination meets this requirement.	World history/cultures/geography: AP European History, Modern World History or Human Geography or IB HL History or Geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. history: AP U.S. History or AP African American Studies 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.
English (B) (Composition and literature in the language of instruction)		
Four 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. English courses completed prior to ninth grade will not meet this requirement.	ACT English Language Arts (ELA): 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 the first three years; score of 36 meets the entire four-year requirement. Digital SAT: No score meets the requirement.	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.
Mathematics (C) UC will accept variations in math course sequences selected from the following discipline options as long as the student has met the required three years of mathematics: Algebra I or Math I + Geometry or Math II + Algebra II or Math III or Precalculus or Calculus or Other Advanced Math <i>For detailed information about UC's geometry requirement see page 23.</i>		
Three years required/4 years recommended: Three foundational years of college-preparatory math, including or integrating the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two-and three-dimensional geometry. Math courses completed in the seventh and/or eighth grades may be used to meet part or all of this requirement. Math courses completed prior to seventh grade will not meet this requirement. A math course (e.g., algebra) taken over three or four semesters is acceptable; it will earn only one year of credit. Beginning fall 2026, courses in the Statistics and Additional Math disciplines will count as an additional year of math, but neither will fulfill or validate any of the three foundational course requirements. (See page 23 for more information about validation.)	No examination meets this requirement.	Through summer 2026: AP Statistics, AP Precalculus (score of 4 or 5 only), AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC meets two years of the requirement (but cannot substitute a course covering geometry). Beginning fall 2026: AP Precalculus (score of 4 or 5 only), AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC meets two years of the requirement (but cannot substitute a course covering geometry). IB HL Mathematics Analysis and Approaches meets two years of the requirement (but cannot substitute a course covering geometry).

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS (For students with international academic records, see pages 14–15. For high school students with college coursework, see pages 18–20.)		
Approved A-G high school courses	ACT/SAT examination	AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5, unless otherwise noted IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i>
Science (D) Biology/Life Sciences, Biology/Earth & Space Sciences, Chemistry, Chemistry/Earth & Space Sciences, Earth & Space Sciences, Integrated Science 1 Integrated Science 2, Integrated Science 3, Interdisciplinary Sciences, Physics, Physics/Earth & Space Sciences Science disciplines approved only for the third or fourth year of science: Applied Science, Computer Science, Engineering		
Two years required/3 years recommended: Two years of college-preparatory science, including or integrating topics that provide fundamental knowledge in two of the following: biology, chemistry and 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). Science courses completed prior to ninth grade will not meet this requirement.	No examination meets this requirement.	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. Any two IB HL exams in Biology, Chemistry or Physics meet the minimum two-year requirement.
Language other than English (LOTE) (E) (Non-language of instruction)		
Two years or through the second level of high school instruction required/three years recommended: 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. Language courses taken prior to seventh grade will not meet this requirement. American Sign Language, Native American languages and classical languages such as Latin and Greek are also acceptable. This is not an exhaustive list.	No examination meets this requirement.	AP Language & Culture exam in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish or Spanish Literature & Cultures, or Latin or Any IB HL Language B exam, except English, meets the two-year requirement.
Visual and performing arts (F) Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts		
One yearlong course or two semester courses from the same discipline required. A single course taken over two academic years is acceptable. VPA courses may be repeated multiple times for credit. For details about acceptable VPA coursework at non-California schools, see the A-G Guide VPA guidance . VPA courses completed prior to ninth grade will not meet this requirement.	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.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS: OPTIONS FOR MEETING UC'S A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS (For students with international academic records, see pages 14–15. For high school students with college coursework, see pages 18–20.)		
Approved A-G high school courses	ACT/SAT examination	AP or IB examination <i>AP score of 3, 4 or 5, unless otherwise noted</i> <i>IB HL score of 5, 6 or 7</i>
Additional college-preparatory elective (G)		
One year required: One year (two semesters) beyond those required in A-F areas (pages 11–12) or one year (two semesters) approved in the elective category. The two semesters of coursework can be from two different disciplines. Elective courses completed prior to ninth grade will not meet this requirement.	No examination meets this requirement.	Any AP exam listed on pages 11–12, in addition to AP Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics or Psychology or Any IB HL exam listed on pages 11–12, in addition to Computer Science, Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, or Social and Cultural Anthropology , meets the one-year requirement.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

INTERNATIONAL OR MIXED RECORDS: MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

For students with all or some international coursework, use the options below along with exam results (pages 11–13) and college courses (pages 18–20) for meeting the A-G subject requirements.

Subject requirement	International courses
History/social science (A)	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. Mixed – U.S. and 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.
Language of instruction (B) Composition and literature in the language of instruction	International courses only: Use courses in the language of instruction to meet the requirement. Four years are required. Mixed – U.S. and 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. Only one year of an advanced ESL/ELD course can be used to meet the four-year requirement.
Mathematics (C) UC will accept various combinations of math courses selected from the following options as long as the student has met the required three years of mathematics. Refer to Area C on page 11 for acceptable math patterns.	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; four years are recommended. Mixed – U.S. and 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 on page 11 may be used to meet the mathematics (C) subject requirement. <i>For detailed information about UC’s geometry requirement, see page 23.</i>
Science (D) Any combination below will meet the full requirement: 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	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. Mixed – U.S. and 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. <i>For a list of approved science disciplines, see page 12.</i>

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

INTERNATIONAL OR MIXED RECORDS: MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

For students with all or some international coursework, use the options below along with exam results (pages 11–13) and college courses (pages 18–20) for meeting the A-G subject requirements.

Subject requirement	International courses
Language other than the language of instruction (E)	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; three years are recommended. Mixed – U.S. and 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.
Visual and performing arts (F) <i>Non-California secondary/high schools: See the A-G Guide VPA guidance for details about acceptable VPA coursework.</i>	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. Mixed – U.S. and 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).

Documenting proficiency in a 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 demonstrating 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. Some language departments at colleges/universities will conduct assessments and issue statements of competency on official letterhead, which serve as certification.	Statement of competency on official letterhead indicating proficiency equivalent to at least the second level of high school instruction. In the admission application, students must explain in the Additional Comments section that they have met this requirement with a college or university assessment test.
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, other appropriate sources of expertise or testing the student to determine proficiency.	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.” In the admission application, students must explain in the Additional Comments section that they have met this requirement through principal certification.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

Seventh and eighth grade courses

High school-level courses in mathematics and languages other than English completed in the seventh and eighth grades with grades of C or better may be counted toward the subject requirements. Typically, middle school coursework is validated by higher-level coursework completed in high school. **No subject area requirements outside of math and LOTE may be met with coursework, including college coursework, completed prior to ninth grade.** (Exception: High school courses completed in the summer before ninth grade may meet A-G requirements, provided the courses are reported on the high school transcript with credits and letter grades.)

Honors-level high school courses

To encourage students to undertake more challenging work at the advanced secondary level, we assign extra weight to grades received in honors-level high school courses. Designated AP and IB courses and transferable college courses are considered honors, as are school-created honors courses designed for 10th, 11th or 12th graders that are comparable in terms of workload and rigor to AP, IB or introductory college-level courses in the subject. Courses designed for ninth graders are not approved as honors. Instructions for calculating the GPA, including extra weighting for honors, begin on page 22.

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. Courses taken in the summer following high school graduation cannot be used to meet minimum A-G requirements.

High school courses completed in the summer before ninth grade may meet A-G requirements, provided the courses are reported on the high school transcript with credits and letter grades.

College courses

High school students may choose to complete courses offered by colleges/universities accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies listed on page 17 (also referred to as ICAS-approved accrediting agencies in the Cal-GETC standards). Each course must be at least 3 semester/4 quarter units in value and passed with a letter grade of C (2.0) or better. Courses may be completed in person or online. Transferable college courses completed prior to ninth grade may earn college credit after matriculation at UC but cannot be used to meet A-G requirements (except for math and language other than English).

In general, one semester of a college-level course equates to one year of high school instruction. In the UC first-year admission GPA calculation, however, one college course = one grade = one honors point (within the maximum honors point limitation).

For languages other than English, in most cases, the first semester of a college-level course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction, although there are some exceptions. To see a California community college course's equivalency to a high school course, check [ASSIST](#):

- Under "Search below for transferable courses," select the academic year the course was taken, a college and then "UC Transferable Courses."
- Select the department, identify the course number and look for the footnote indicating the course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.

For more information about meeting the A-G subject requirements with college/university courses, see the table beginning on page 18.

Dual enrollment coursework

Many California high schools have partnered with their local community college to offer college coursework opportunities to their students. These are often referred to as "dual enrollment programs." UC awards credit for transferable college courses completed through a [dual enrollment program](#), but the following information should be considered:

- California high schools cannot add college courses to their UC-approved A-G course lists, even though instruction may happen on the high school campus with a qualifying high school instructor.
- UC-transferable college courses that fall within the A-G subject areas, including those completed through dual enrollment, will earn an extra point in the UC first-year admission GPA calculation — within our maximum honors points limitations — if completed with a letter grade of C (2.0) or better. (**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 must report dual enrollment college courses under the appropriate college name on the UC application; if admitted, students will be required to submit an official college transcript for all college courses completed, including those completed through a dual enrollment program. Dual enrollment courses should not be reported on the UC application as high school coursework.
- Course credit and grades earned will be included on the college transcript. Students cannot disregard this credit and "start over." The grades earned in those courses are calculated in the GPA for first-year and transfer admission. Transferable courses completed in high school cannot be repeated after matriculation to UC, and transferable credits earned will be applied toward total units for degree completion.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

- All UC campuses have an expected time to degree completion. Credits earned with dual enrollment are included in the cumulative total toward units/terms for degree completion. Generally, degree completion cannot be in excess of 150% of the published length of the program. Students exceeding unit/term limits may face ineligibility for continued enrollment and financial aid.

With the rise in dual enrollment programs, some high school students with extensive college credit are now presenting full California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) or Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) certification upon entrance to UC. Cal-GETC and IGETC are intended to facilitate transfer from the California community colleges and improve time to degree for transfer students.

All campuses except San Diego will honor full Cal-GETC certification and full IGETC certification (after fall 2025) from first-year students if the requirements were completed prior to entering UC and if the college/school and major would usually accept Cal-GETC or IGETC from a transfer student. UC San Diego will apply transferable credits toward relevant general education requirements. Neither partial Cal-GETC nor partial IGETC will be accepted from entering first-years at any campus. (See page 49 for more information about partial IGETC.)

College/university accreditation agencies

UC accepts college/university coursework from institutions accredited by one of the seven formerly regional accrediting agencies listed below:

1. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
— Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
— New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)
3. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), formerly North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
6. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)
7. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) — Accrediting Commission for Schools (ACS WASC) — WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)



FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS WITH U.S. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY COURSES		
For California community college coursework, refer to the UC Transferable Courses list in ASSIST for Cal-GETC/IGETC and/or UC-transfer eligibility area approvals as outlined below. Additional UC-transferable courses in ASSIST, including those meeting Cal-GETC or UC areas, may also apply. College courses may be taken in person or online. They must be worth at least 3 semester/4 quarter units, and a letter grade of C (2.0) or better is required to meet A-G subject areas.		
General guidance	Cal-GETC/IGETC courses	UC-transfer eligibility area courses
History/social science (A)		
World history/ cultures/geography: A UC-transferable course in world history, world cultures and/or world geography meets one year of the requirement. U.S. history: A UC-transferable course meets one year of the requirement. American government or civics: A UC-transferable course meets a half year of the requirement.	Cal-GETC Area 3B or Area 4 courses with a clear world or U.S. history focus and offered by a history department will meet the respective world history and/or U.S. history requirement for the History/Social Science (A) first-year admission requirement. Cal-GETC 3B or 4 courses that are taught outside a history department but are cross-listed with a U.S. or world history course will also meet one of the two years of the History/Social Science (A) first-year admission requirement.	UC-B or UC-H courses with a clear world or U.S. history focus and offered by a history department will meet the respective world history and/or U.S. history requirement for the History/Social Science (A) first-year admission requirement. UC-B or UC-H courses that are taught outside a history department but are cross-listed with a U.S. or world history course will also meet one of the two years of the History/Social Science (A) first-year admission requirement.
English (B)		
A nontransferable English composition and literature course meets one of the first three years of the requirement (one year per course). A UC-transferable English composition and literature course meets the fourth year and/ or the entire requirement (one year per course).	Cal-GETC Area 1A or Area 1B courses meet the fourth year and/or the entire English (B) first-year admission requirement.	UC-E courses meet the fourth year and/or the entire English (B) first-year admission requirement.
Mathematics (C)		
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. Validation: Cal-GETC Area 2A and UC-M courses that will validate the omission of Algebra II or Mathematics III are Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra and College Algebra. All other Area 2A courses do not validate Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III. Transferable college statistics courses taken in fall 2026 or later will not validate Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III. Additional considerations: While not appropriate for Cal-GETC 2A or UC-M and often not transferable to UC, college-level trigonometry courses will meet one year of the Math (C) first-year admission requirement, excluding geometry. These courses also validate Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III. Computer science courses, no matter their Cal-GETC transferability approvals, are only appropriate to meet the College-Prep Elective (G) first-year admission requirement.	A Cal-GETC Area 2A approved course will meet one year of the Math (C) first-year admission requirement, excluding geometry.	A UC-M approved course will meet one year of the Math (C) first-year admission requirement, excluding geometry.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS WITH U.S. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY COURSES <i>(continued)</i>		
For California community college coursework, refer to the UC Transferable Courses list in ASSIST for Cal-GETC/IGETC and/or UC-transfer eligibility area approvals as outlined below. Additional UC-transferable courses in ASSIST, including those meeting Cal-GETC or UC areas, may also apply. College courses may be taken in person or online. They must be worth at least 3 semester/4 quarter units, and a letter grade of C (2.0) or better is required to meet A-G subject areas.		
General guidance	Cal-GETC/IGETC courses	UC-transfer eligibility area courses
Science (D)		
A UC-transferable course in biology, chemistry or physics, or other science courses such as anatomy, astronomy or environmental science, with at least 30 hours of laboratory work (not “demonstration”) meets one year of the requirement. Courses must fall under one of the approved science disciplines, except applied science, computer science or engineering.	Cal-GETC Area 5A and 5B courses with a laboratory (Area 5C) will meet one year of the Science (D) first-year admission requirement. For two Area 5 courses to meet the two-year Science (D) admission requirement, one course must be taken in 5A and one in 5B; both must have a laboratory (5C) component. The associated 5C course may be a separate lab or co-requisite but must be a required portion of the course. Additional considerations Cal-GETC 5A or 5B courses taught outside of the departments or not primarily grounded in the core concepts of the biology, physics or chemistry disciplines (lacking BIO, PHYS, and CHEM prefixes and department codes) are interdisciplinary as far as Area D is concerned. These courses may fulfill one of the required two Area D courses provided they have a laboratory (5C) component.	UC-S approval alone is not sufficient for a course to qualify for Area D for first-year admission given that UC-S designation does not require a laboratory component.
Language other than English (E)		
Any UC-transferable course(s) (excluding conversation) equivalent to two years (second level) of high school language other than English meets the requirement. UC-transferable courses in ASSIST with the following footnote: “Corresponds to two years of high school study” or any language instruction courses above the initial footnoted course will meet the entire Language Other than English (E) first-year admission requirement. Such courses could include Spanish for Spanish speakers.	IGETC Area 6A: Language Other than English courses that are equivalent to or exceed two years of high school level instruction. <i>No corresponding Cal-GETC area</i>	<i>No corresponding UC eligibility area</i>
Visual and Performing Arts (F)		
Any UC-transferable courses within one of the four visual/performing arts disciplines of dance, music, theater or visual arts may fulfill the high school VPA requirement.	A Cal-GETC Area 3A course will meet the Visual and Performing Arts (F) first-year admission requirement.	<i>No corresponding UC eligibility area</i>

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

MEETING A-G SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS WITH U.S. COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY COURSES <i>(continued)</i>		
For California community college coursework, refer to the UC Transferable Courses list in ASSIST for Cal-GETC/IGETC and/or UC-transfer eligibility area approvals as outlined below. Additional UC-transferable courses in ASSIST, including those meeting Cal-GETC or UC areas, may also apply. College courses may be taken in person or online. They must be worth at least 3 semester/4 quarter units, and a letter grade of C (2.0) or better is required to meet A-G subject areas.		
General guidance	Cal-GETC/IGETC courses	UC-transfer eligibility area courses
Additional college-preparatory elective (G)		
Any UC-transferable course beyond the minimum required number of courses in any of the A-F areas on pages 18–19 or a UC-transferable course that falls within the elective (G) category Computer science courses, no matter their Cal-GETC transferability approvals, are appropriate to meet only the first-year College-Prep Elective (G) admission requirement.	Any course approved for Cal-GETC can be used to meet the College-Prep Elective (G) first-year admission requirement. UC-transferable courses without a Cal-GETC designation cannot be used to meet Area G.	Any course approved for a UC transfer admission eligibility area (UC-B, UC-H, UC-M, UC-E, UC-S) can be used to meet the College-Prep Elective (G) first-year admission requirement. UC-transferable courses without a UC transfer admissions eligibility area cannot be used to meet Area G.

Online courses

Students can complete UC-approved online courses offered by U.S. online high schools or online courses offered by U.S. colleges/universities to meet any A-G subject area requirements. Online high schools and colleges/universities must be accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies listed on page 17. (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 an online high school that has an A-G course list registered with UC.
- Enroll in an online course offered by their California high school. 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.
- Independently 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). **Note:** Students must ensure that their California high school reviews and, if appropriate, grants principal certification for the publisher's course if it is to be used to fulfill an A-G subject requirement. (See Principal certification, at right.)

UC distinguishes between online schools and online publishers. An **online school** is a credit- and diploma-granting institution accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies listed on page 17 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. (See Principal certification, below.) UC is not responsible for misinformation or misrepresentation about approved courses on an online publisher's website; the [A-G Course List](#) is the only official repository of approved schools and courses.

Principal certification

Principal certification is a process by which a student's current high school can review coursework completed through a U.S. institution, organization or program without an A-G course list. Such courses might be acceptable for meeting A-G subject requirements and could include courses from:

- Nonaccredited high schools (both within and outside of California)
- Online course publishers
- Accredited high schools in California that have not yet established an A-G course list
- University extension/continuing education programs

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

- Language schools
- Foreign exchange programs

In order for a course completed at any of the above types of institutions, organizations or programs to be accepted by UC, the principal of the student's current/home high school must certify that the course is comparable to college-preparatory courses approved at the high school. Further, UC faculty expects that such "certification" follows a careful review of the course curriculum and/or testing of ability level by the principal, department chair, district curriculum director or other qualified school/district personnel. The principal designates certification by granting permission for the course to be listed on the student's official transcript, along with credits granted and letter grades earned.

Pass-along credit

UC will accept completion of non-California U.S. domestic high school-level academic courses to meet any/all of the A-G subject requirements for students who subsequently enroll in and graduate from a California high school. This process is called pass-along credit and is an extension of the principal certification process.

- UC expects that the California high school administrators/faculty will review the content of non-California U.S. high school courses to determine comparability.
- The courses must be recorded on the California high school transcript with course titles, letter (or percentage) grades and unit values.
- The California high school has the choice of recording the non-California U.S. domestic high school courses as they appear on the out-of-state transcript or reporting the courses as approved courses on the current/home high school's UC A-G course list.
- Students who accept an offer of admission to a UC campus are not required to submit an official transcript from the non-California U.S. domestic high school if the courses appear on the official transcript of the California high school from which the student will graduate.
- Pass-along credit is not allowed for courses that have not been A-G approved at a **California** high school with an existing A-G course list.
- Pass-along credit is not allowed for international coursework.

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 a curriculum similar to the original course (the same content but not necessarily the same title).

- The new grade will replace the original grade in the GPA calculation if the repeat is completed by the summer following 11th grade. UC does not average the grades.
- All A-G coursework (original and repeats) must be reported on the admission application.
- A non-honors college-prep course cannot be used as a repeat of a **UC-approved** honors-level course or AP or IB course.
- A non-honors 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 (English and math only).
- 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. **Please note:** A grade of C- in a high school course is treated as a C.

- Grade 9 — 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.

Sheltered/SDAIE courses

Sheltered/SDAIE (Specially Designated Academic Instruction in English) courses may be used to meet A-G requirements; these phrases simply refer to particular instructional methodologies used throughout the course. Acceptable sheltered/SDAIE courses must be equivalent in content and skills development to comparable courses taught in the same subject area. For example, 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

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

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.

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 first-year 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.

Calculating the UC GPA

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.

When calculating the minimum required GPA, we assign extra grade points for successfully completed UC-approved honors-level 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. This is called the weighted and capped GPA. Students may 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. Please note, honors points are **not** added to specific courses or grades; rather, in the GPA calculation the honors points are added to the total grade points (see example at right).

In calculating an out-of-state student's GPA to determine if the 3.4 minimum has been met, UC will grant honors weight for AP or IB courses only, but not for school-designated honors courses. The weight is given to letter grades of A, B or C. School-designated honors courses may be considered in the campus selection process.

Students who receive competency-based assessments instead of grades, such as nontraditional, narrative or "mastery" transcripts, can be considered for admission only by exception. They will still be reviewed under UC's comprehensive review policy, but campuses are limited in the number of students who may be admitted by exception.

In addition to the GPA used for establishing UC qualification (weighted and capped GPA), campuses may look at an applicant's academic record in a variety of ways during the selection process. These GPA variations may include a fully weighted GPA that includes all honors grade points earned in grades 10 and 11 and an unweighted GPA in which no honors grade points are included.

GPA calculation example

The total number of grades received is 24. Grade points are assigned to each of the 24 grades and then multiplied by the number of grades received. Do not round up for any GPA calculation (e.g., 3.875 is 3.87 not 3.88).

15 As: $4 \times 15 = 60$ grade points

6 Bs: $3 \times 6 = 18$ grade points

1 C: $2 \times 1 = 2$ grade points

1 D: $1 \times 1 = 1$ grade point

1 F: $0 \times 1 = 0$ grade points

Total grade points = 81

Unweighted GPA = 3.37

(Total grade points divided by the number of grades: $81/24$)

To arrive at a weighted GPA, honors points are then added. In this example, the student took the following honors courses:

10th grade: 4 semesters of school-created honors courses and 2 semesters of AP coursework (total: 6 semesters but limited to 4 semesters)

11th grade: 6 semesters of AP coursework (total: 6 semesters but limited to 4 semesters)

Total honors points = 8

Total grade points = 81 grade points + 8 honors points = 89

Weighted and capped GPA = 3.70

(total grade points divided by the number of grades: $89/24$)

To arrive at a fully weighted GPA, we add the full number of honors points, without limitation:

Total honors points = 12

81 grade points + 12 honors points = 93

Fully weighted GPA = 3.87

(Total grade points divided by the number of grades: $93/24$)

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

VALIDATION

When a student has successfully completed advanced work (earning a grade of C or better) in an area of sequential knowledge, the student is presumed to have completed the lower-level coursework. Validation can occur with just a semester of higher-level coursework. **For first-year applicants, validation applies only to certain courses in mathematics (C) and languages other than English (E).**

There are two types of validation:

- **Validation of a subject omission:** validation of a lower-level course even if the lower-level course was not actually completed
- **Validation of a deficient grade:** validation of a D or F grade in a lower-level course after completion of a higher-level course with a grade of C or better

Validation of subject omissions

If a student takes an advanced-level course in mathematics or a language other than English without completing the lower-level course, earning a C or better in the advanced course will validate the missing lower-level course and it will not be considered a subject omission. (See validation charts on pages 24 and 25.) No additional semesters of A-G coursework are added to the A-G course totals. For example, a C or better in Spanish II validates Spanish I, but only Spanish II is included in the A-G course totals; a C or better in Algebra II validates Algebra I, but only Algebra II is included in the A-G course totals. However, the omission of a geometry course cannot be validated by higher-level coursework, except as noted on page 24.

Geometry: To meet the mathematics (C) subject requirement, students must complete either one yearlong course in geometry or one yearlong course as part of an integrated mathematics sequence that includes sufficient geometry (e.g., Math II). UC allows students to self-report on the admission application a geometry course or a sequence of integrated-style math courses completed in seventh or eighth grade to meet this requirement.

Geometry coursework completed prior to seventh grade cannot be used to meet the requirement.

The **omission** of a yearlong geometry course cannot be validated by advanced-level math courses. However, validation applies in the following cases:

- The omission of the first semester of geometry can be validated by successful completion of the second semester of geometry with a letter grade of C or better.

- The omission of the first semester of an integrated course with sufficient geometry content (e.g., Math II) can be validated by successful completion of the second semester of an integrated course with sufficient geometry content with a letter grade of C or better.
- The omission of a yearlong integrated course with sufficient geometry content (e.g., Math II) can be validated by a higher-level integrated course (e.g., Math III) with a letter grade of C or better, provided that the higher-level course shows clear evidence of geometry content. The expectation is that Math I, which includes some geometry content, has been completed; the combination of Math I and Math III, then, gives the student sufficient geometry content to clear the requirement.

Geometry challenge examination: Standardized exams (SAT, ACT, AP, IB, etc.) cannot validate the **omission** of a geometry course. However, we will accept a “challenge” examination, administered by the high school (e.g., the school geometry course final exam), to demonstrate proficiency to validate the course omission if the high school awards both letter grades and credits on the official transcript for the successful completion of such an exam.

Validation of deficient grades

In mathematics and language other than English only, completion of a higher-level course with a C or better validates an earlier grade of D or F in a lower-level course. For example, a D in the first semester of Algebra II is validated by a grade of C or higher in the second semester of Algebra II.

Please note that validation is not the same as repeating a course to replace a D or F grade in the GPA calculation. If a student uses a higher-level course to validate a lower-level course, both grades are used in calculating the GPA. See the validation charts on pages 24 and 25 for details.

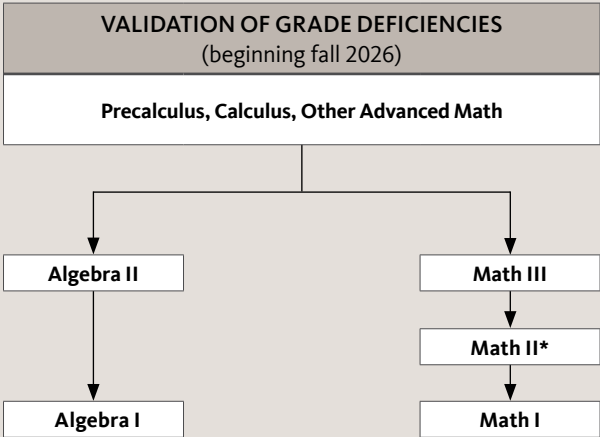
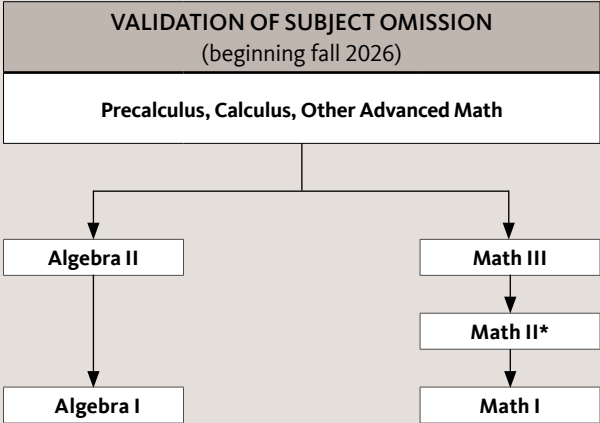
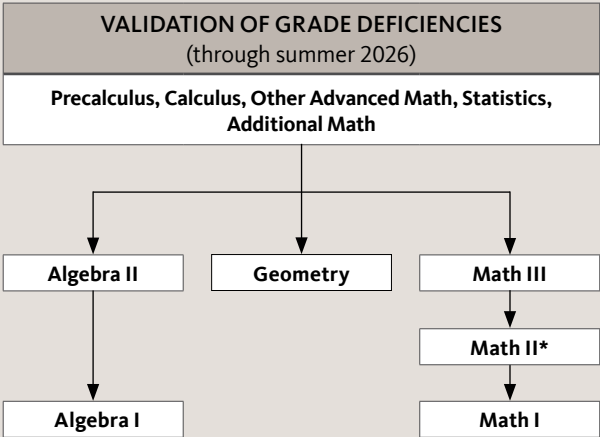
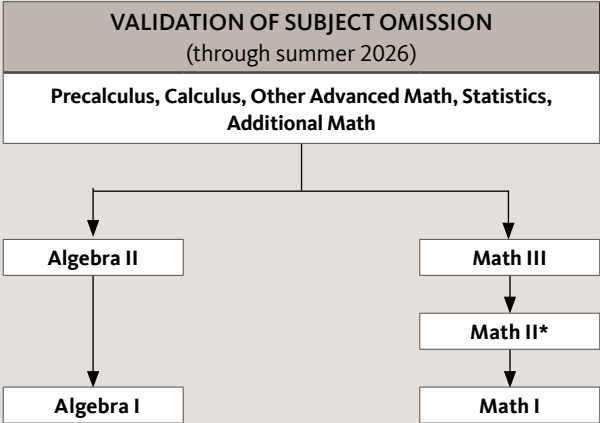
Geometry: A grade of D or F in geometry or the equivalent can be validated by successful completion of at least the first semester of a more advanced math course if the more advanced course was completed no later than summer 2026. More advanced coursework completed in fall 2026 or later cannot be used to validate a grade deficiency in geometry. For details, see the math validation chart on page 24.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

MATH VALIDATION, BY DISCIPLINE

The discipline — rather than the course title — assigned to each math course determines validation. (Note: The second semester of every math course will validate the omission of and/or deficient grades in the first semester of the course, with the exception of computer science courses approved under Area C. Computer science coursework is not included in the validation rules.)

Beginning with coursework taken in fall 2026, courses in the Statistics or Additional Math disciplines will no longer validate Algebra II or Math III. Such courses, however, will remain in Area C and can be used as extra math courses.

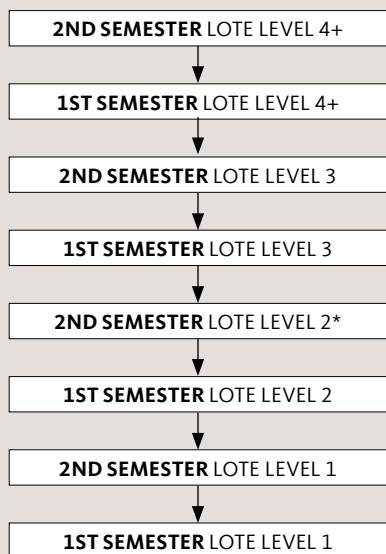


* Math II in an integrated math sequence is considered to contain sufficient geometry content to clear UC's geometry requirement.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

VALIDATION OF LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

For any language other than English (defined as having syntax, grammar, reading, listening, speaking and writing that is different from the English language), a higher level/year of the same language validates a lower-level course. The second semester of a course validates the first semester of a course at each level. A higher-level course validates all levels of lower-level courses. Commonly acceptable languages include: American Sign Language (despite no speaking/listening), Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin (despite no speaking), Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, etc. (This is not an exhaustive list of acceptable languages.)



* Includes transferable college courses that correspond to the second level of high school study. See footnotes in [ASSIST](#).

CALIFORNIA RESIDENT STUDENTS

California-resident students whose combined high school GPA and A-G course totals place them in the top 9 percent of the state's high school graduates are guaranteed admission to UC (statewide guarantee), as are students in each participating California high school who are in the top 9 percent of their class (local guarantee, or ELC). First-year applicants deemed to be in one of these groups who are not admitted to any campus where they apply will be offered admission at another campus, provided space is available.

Students must complete the A-G requirements by the end of their senior year in high school to be considered fully qualified to enroll.

Who is a California resident?

A student is considered a resident for admission purposes if they meet at least **one** of the following conditions:

- Have attended high school in California for at least three years during grades 9-12 and will graduate or have graduated from a California high school
- Have lived in California for the last 12 months
- If under 18, have a parent or legal guardian who lives in California
- Have a parent, legal guardian, spouse or registered domestic partner who is an employee of the University of California or a UC-affiliated national laboratory

Nonimmigrants (students on a foreign/nonimmigrant visa) are not eligible for California resident status for admission purposes.

Determining residency for tuition purposes is a separate process with different requirements.

STATEWIDE GUARANTEE

To determine whether students rank in the top 9 percent statewide, refer to our online [Statewide Index instructions](#). The Statewide Index considers A-G course totals and the UC GPA (weighted and capped). The course totals include all A-G courses completed in grades 9-11, acceptable math and language other than English courses completed in grades 7 and 8, and A-G courses in progress and planned in grade 12.

LOCAL GUARANTEE, OR ELC

The [eligibility in the local context \(ELC\) program](#) recognizes students' accomplishments in light of the opportunities offered by their particular high schools. ELC status adds value to a student's application and is one of the factors considered under comprehensive review.

For California students to be considered eligible in the local context, they must complete 11 specific yearlong courses by the end of the junior year (including summer): one year of history/social science, two years of English, two years of mathematics, one year of science, one year of language other than English and four courses selected from among the remaining A-G subject requirements. Please note that students are not required to have

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION

completed coursework in visual and performing arts by the end of the junior year to qualify for ELC.

We will identify ELC students in each participating high school on the basis of the UC-calculated GPA in all A-G coursework completed in grades 10 and 11, including summer courses. For this evaluation, we use a fully weighted GPA that includes all honors points earned. Students can learn if they qualify for ELC immediately after submitting the application for admission by logging back into their application and checking their ELC status. If identified for ELC, students then must complete all remaining subject requirements and graduate from high school.

UC DUAL ADMISSION

The [UC Dual Admission](#) program is a transfer path for California first-year applicants. Each year, UC will invite select students to the program in two invitation waves, and those who accept the Dual Admission offer will receive a conditional offer of admission to UC via the Transfer Admission Guarantee (see page 36) and preliminary financial aid information. To meet the program requirements, students must attend a California community college to prepare for transfer to UC, during which time they will have access to transfer preparation support services at the receiving UC campus and/or the UC campus nearest to their residence. Upon completion of program requirements, students will be guaranteed transfer admission to their selected campus and major.

California-resident high school seniors who apply for first-year admission will qualify for the Dual Admission program if they meet the following criteria:

- They are not admitted to any UC campus to which they applied
- They have a 3.0 UC GPA at the time of application
- They will graduate from a California high school
- They are missing one or more A-G subject requirements at the time of high school graduation (first wave only)

For further updates, see the [UC Dual Admission website](#). Questions about the UC Dual Admission program can be sent to UCDualAdmission@ucop.edu.

HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

[Home-schooled students](#) who work with their local public high school district to receive approval that their home-school (independent study) curriculum is equivalent to the public high school curriculum and the approved A-G course list are considered for admission like any other applicant. In such cases, the district issues an official academic record.

Home-schooled students who are not completing an approved curriculum may be considered for admission by exception on a campus-by-campus basis. See Admission by Exception, below.

ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION

Sometimes even the most creative, focused and intellectually passionate students aren't able to fulfill our admission requirements. They may be home-schooled and without "official" academic records, their school may issue nontraditional transcripts or their life circumstances may have prevented them from living up to their promise. If such students have the ability and potential to succeed at UC, they may be selected for admission by exception. Each campus can offer admission to a few such students. Applicants should use the personal insight questions or additional comments section of the application to explain their unique story. Students cannot request consideration for admission by exception. Exceptions are at the sole discretion of each campus.

HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION

If a student does not have a diploma from a school accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies, the university will accept the California Certificate of Proficiency awarded by the State Board of Education upon successful completion of the [California HiSET Proficiency exam](#). We will also accept proficiency examinations from other states as well as the General Educational Development (GED) Certificate. However, a student must still meet the subject and GPA requirements to qualify for admission. **Note:** UC does not accept "GED" equivalencies from other countries.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Students who have completed all of their secondary school/ high school in a country where English is not the language of instruction, as well as students who have had fewer than three years of instruction in English, will need to demonstrate English proficiency. For details, see page 59.

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION FAQ

Q: If a student earned a D in the first semester of high school physics but passed the second semester of physics with a B grade, has the student met one year of the Area D/science requirement?

A: No, the student has not met one year of the science requirement. UC does not allow validation of any science subjects. The student will need to repeat the D grade for a C or better to complete one year of Area D. (See pages 21 and 23 for information about repeats and validation.)

Q: I have students currently enrolled in our statistics class. If they didn't take Algebra II previously, can they validate the Algebra II requirement with the stats course?

A: A statistics course can validate the Algebra II math requirement only if it was completed prior to fall 2026. Beginning in fall 2026, courses in the statistics discipline will no longer validate any lower-level math coursework, though they will still be considered an additional year of math.

Q: My student wants to take a language course through an accredited online publisher, but the publisher doesn't have a UC-approved A-G course list. Will UC accept this course to meet A-G requirements?

A: Students who enroll in courses offered through an online publisher may earn A-G credit for those courses only by receiving principal certification from their home high school. (See page 20 for more information about principal certification.)

Q: My student completed one semester of a visual arts course during their freshman year. Can they take another semester of visual arts coursework during their senior year to meet Area F or must the semesters be completed consecutively?

A: Area F (VPA) can be met with either a yearlong course or two semester courses from the same discipline (dance, music, theater, visual arts, interdisciplinary arts). The discipline for each course is listed on the A-G course list for each California high school. (See page 12 for more information about the VPA requirement). If a student is completing two semester-long VPA courses, they do not need to be taken consecutively; however, students must complete both semesters before high school graduation.

Q: Will geometry completed in sixth grade meet UC's geometry requirement?

A: No, UC will only accept high school-level math and LOTE courses completed in seventh and eighth grades to meet specific A-G requirements. UC does not accept coursework completed in sixth grade to meet any requirement, and geometry is the one math course that cannot be validated. The student will need to meet the geometry requirement with high school-level coursework completed in seventh grade or later. (See page 16 for information about seventh and eighth grade courses.)

Q: If a student is earning an AA degree while still in high school, should that student apply as a first-year or as a transfer student?

A: A student earning a high school diploma in the same year that they plan to enter UC must apply as a first-year applicant, regardless of how many college units they've accumulated while in high school. (See page 10 for the definition of a first-year applicant.)

Q: How can a student who completed ninth and 10th grades outside of the U.S. meet the Area B/English requirement?

A: UC will use the primary language of instruction from ninth and 10th grades toward meeting Area B. English courses from the U.S. high school for 11th and 12th grades will complete the Area B requirement. Only one year of approved ESL/ELD may be used toward the requirement, and it cannot meet the 12th grade year of English. (See page 14 for information about meeting Area B with a mixed record.)

Q: A student was educated in Russia through ninth grade and is now completing high school in the U.S. How can the student meet the Area E/LOTE requirement if our school does not offer Russian language courses?

A: If a student is educated outside of the U.S. in a school where the primary language of instruction is not English, the student is considered proficient in that language. No additional LOTE coursework is required or expected. The student will indicate that their language of instruction was Russian and will include a brief explanation in the Additional Comments section of the UC application. (See page 15 for additional information about meeting LOTE with a mixed record.)

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

Most campuses have more qualified applicants than they have room to accommodate, so they apply standards that are more demanding than the minimum requirements.

Using a process called comprehensive review, admissions staff look beyond grades to assess applicants' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to them and the capacity each student demonstrates to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus.

To guide the campuses in their comprehensive review of applicants, UC faculty developed the factors listed below. All campuses place the highest importance on academic achievement in assessing applications. However, the review process and specific weight (if any) given to each factor can differ from campus to campus and year to year. Each campus evaluates each application individually and independently from every other campus to which the student has applied.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The factors UC considers for each applicant in the comprehensive review process are:

- Academic grade point average in all completed A-G courses, including additional points for completed UC-designated honors courses
- Number of, content of and performance in all A-G subject areas beyond the minimum requirements
- Number of and performance in approved honors courses, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses and transferable college courses
- Identification by UC as ranking in the top 9 percent of the student's high school class (eligible in the local context, or ELC)
- Quality of a student's senior-year program, as measured by the type and number of academic courses in any A-G subject area in progress or planned
- Quality of the academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in the student's high school
- Outstanding performance in one or more academic subject areas
- Outstanding work in one or more special projects in any academic field of study

- Recent, marked improvement in academic performance, as demonstrated by academic GPA and the quality of coursework completed or in progress
- Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus
- Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of a student's high school curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs
- Academic accomplishments in light of a student's life experiences and special circumstances, including but not limited to: disabilities, low family income, first generation to attend college, need to work, disadvantaged social or educational environment, difficult personal and family situations or circumstances, refugee status or veteran status
- Location of a student's secondary school and residence

The UC undergraduate admission process does not discriminate against, or provide preferential treatment to, any individual on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin, consistent with federal and state law.

CAMPUS REVIEW

The comprehensive review process varies by campus. To see how the policy is applied locally, visit the campus websites:

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION PROFILES

The first-year admission profiles summarize the academic qualifications of applicants and admitted first-years to each UC campus for the fall term. The profile for each campus is available online.

Please be cautious in drawing conclusions from this information. The numbers are useful only as a general guide to selectivity and not as a predictor of a student's chances for admission to a particular campus.

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

In addition, keep these factors in mind:

- The data reflect the selection process for the previous year's fall term applicants. The selection process and enrollment goals may vary from year to year, therefore the results may differ significantly.
- Aggregated data mask differences in degree of competition for admission among them. Some campuses and colleges admit students directly into individual majors, and the degree of competition among majors may vary widely.
- GPA is defined as a student's GPA in the A-G requirements as calculated by UC. The average high school GPA listed for each campus is computed from 10th and 11th grade coursework, including up to eight semesters of honors courses (no more than four from 10th grade). These GPAs are drawn from application data at the systemwide office.

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to the campus-specific answers on the following pages regarding their policies and procedures for reviewing first-year applicants, please note the following:

- If they are not admitted to any campus to which they applied, California-resident students who are in the top 9 percent in the statewide context or top 9 percent in the local context are guaranteed a place at a UC campus that has space to accommodate them; students are not guaranteed admission to a specific UC campus.
- All UC campuses use the same faculty-approved comprehensive review factors when reviewing applications, but the method of review may differ by campus. Links to campus-specific information describing how applications are evaluated can be found on page 28.
- All colleges and majors are selective at every UC campus and require academic performance above UC minimum admission requirements.
- Responses to the personal insight questions are reviewed to provide perspective and context to an applicant's academic, personal and extracurricular achievements.

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS	
Does applying Undeclared have any bearing on an applicant's chances of admission?	
Berkeley	Applying Undeclared in the College of Letters and Science does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. Students interested in a high-demand major in the College of Letters and Science , the College of Engineering or the Haas School of Business should select those majors as their first choice on the application.
Davis	Applying Undeclared or Undeclared/Exploratory does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Irvine	Applying Undeclared does not negatively affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Los Angeles	Applying Undeclared in the College of Letters and Science does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, selecting Undeclared-Engineering does impact admission due to space limitations.
Merced	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major.
Riverside	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. Note: Undeclared is not an option for the Bourns College of Engineering, School of Business, School of Education and School of Public Policy.
San Diego	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, applicants interested in highly <u>selective majors</u> are advised to apply directly to the major.
Santa Barbara	Applying Undeclared does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. Applying Undeclared is an option only in the College of Letters and Science . Undeclared is not an option in the College of Creative Studies or the Robert M. La Follette College of Engineering . Students intending on majors in those colleges should apply directly to the preferred major as movement between colleges later may not be allowed.
Santa Cruz	Applying Undeclared/Undecided does not affect admission and offers an opportunity for students to explore before declaring a major. However, the Computer Science majors (B.A. and B.S.) are selective. Students interested in Computer Science must apply to the major.
For which programs is the intended major a factor in admission?	
Berkeley	Applicants' first-choice major is a factor in admission to the colleges of Chemistry; Computing, Data Science, and Society; Engineering; Environmental Design; and the Haas School of Business . The College of Letters and Science has several high-demand, or capped, majors with limited capacity. Applicants must indicate their primary major interest for any college to which they intend to apply.
Davis	Major choice is a factor in admission to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences , the College of Engineering and the College of Letters and Science . Applicants are highly encouraged to indicate their primary major interest for any college to which they intend to apply and to indicate a non-selective alternate major.
Irvine	Major choice is a factor in admission for all majors. Based on selection criteria, applicants are admitted to either a primary or alternate major.
Los Angeles	Major choice is a factor in admission to the schools of Arts and Architecture, Engineering, Music, Nursing, and Theater, Film and Television . Applicants must list a major within the respective school as their primary major.
Merced	None
Riverside	Students are admitted based on the major selected on the application. If a student does not qualify for the selected preferred major, the student will automatically be considered for the alternate major.
San Diego	Applicants are reviewed for admission to their first-choice major. In the Jacobs School of Engineering, Bioengineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering are in high demand and limited in capacity. Applicants to these majors are strongly encouraged to select an alternate major. If not offered admission to the first-choice major, applicants may be considered for an alternate major or Undeclared, if there is space.

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS	
For which programs is the intended major a factor in admission? <i>(continued)</i>	
Santa Barbara	In the College of Creative Studies and the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering , students are admitted to a specific major. In the College of Letters and Science , students are admitted to a major or a pre-major. If admitted to a pre-major, the student must meet additional requirements at UCSB prior to being in the full major. Applicants and current students must audition to be accepted into the Music B.M., Dance B.A. or Dance B.F.A. programs. The Theater B.A. (Theater Design emphasis only) will require a portfolio review and scheduled (virtual) interview. Auditions are not required for the Music Studies B.A. or Theater B.A. programs without emphases.
Santa Cruz	First-year applicants receive the same application review regardless of major. The Baskin School of Engineering , the Division of Social Sciences , and the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences have several high-demand majors that may be limited in capacity. Applicants are highly encouraged to indicate their primary major of interest to which they intend to apply and to indicate an alternate major outside their primary major area.
Does the campus consider students for an alternate major?	
Berkeley	No, only an applicant's first-choice major is considered at this time.
Davis	Yes. Applicants are encouraged to list an alternate major, but not in the same area as the primary major (e.g., two majors in the same college).
Irvine	UC Irvine reviews all applicants for their first-choice major. If not selected for their first-choice major, applicants may be considered for their alternate major on a case-by-case basis if space is available. Nursing Science and Business Administration will not be considered as alternate majors.
Los Angeles	UCLA only guarantees review of an applicant's first-choice major.
Merced	Yes. Applicants are considered for their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major.
Riverside	Yes. Applicants are considered for their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major.
San Diego	Yes. Applicants applying to highly selective majors, such as Bioengineering , Computer Science , Computer Engineering , Electrical and Computer Engineering , and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering , are encouraged to choose an alternate major. If not offered admission to the first-choice major, applicants may be considered for an alternate major or Undeclared, if there is space.
Santa Barbara	Yes. Applicants are considered for their alternate major if they are not selected for their first-choice major and space is available in their alternate choice. Alternate majors are not available in the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering .
Santa Cruz	Yes. In particular, students proposing Computer Science (B.A. and B.S.) are encouraged to choose an alternate major.
Which of the campus's majors require an audition or submission of supplemental materials?	
Berkeley	Applicants who select any of the following Haas School of Business programs as their first choice will be asked to submit supplemental application materials: • Global Management Program • Spieker Undergraduate Business Program • Management, Entrepreneurship, and Technology (M.E.T.) Program
Davis	Those who wish to major in Landscape Architecture must apply to the Pre-Landscape Architecture major. After students have enrolled at UC Davis they will be required to submit a separate major application to the department in February to be considered for formal acceptance to the Landscape Architecture major.
Irvine	Dance B.A. and B. Mus. require an audition. Art B.A. requires the submission of a portfolio. Drama B.A. applicants have the opportunity to submit an optional audition/portfolio.

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS

Which of the campus's majors require an audition or submission of supplemental materials? *(continued)*

Los Angeles	All majors in the following professional schools require submission of additional materials, including but not limited to a supplemental application, portfolio or audition: • School of Arts and Architecture • School of Music • School of Nursing • School of Theater, Film and Television See our professional schools' websites for details and deadlines.
Merced	None
Riverside	None
San Diego	Students applying to Music, Theatre and Dance or Visual Arts may submit an optional portfolio/audition video.
Santa Barbara	All applicants requesting a major in the College of Creative Studies must submit a supplemental application. An audition is required for students who wish to major in Music, B.M., Dance B.A., and Dance B.F.A. A portfolio and virtual interview is required for Theater B.A. (Theater Design emphasis) students.
Santa Cruz	None

Which colleges/schools or majors are most selective for first-year applicants?

Berkeley	Majors in the colleges of Chemistry; Computing, Data Science, and Society ; and Engineering , as well as the Haas School of Business , are the most selective. Additionally, the College of Letters and Science has several high-demand, or capped, majors that have limited capacity. For more information, see the high demand majors policy from the College of Letters and Science.
Davis	The following majors are the most selective: Animal Science, Business, Design, Pre-Landscape Architecture, Psychology and most majors in the College of Engineering .
Irvine	Business Administration, Nursing Science , all majors in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science and the Henry Samueli School of Engineering , and the following majors in the School of Social Sciences: Business Economics, Cognitive Sciences, Economics, Psychology and Quantitative Economics
Los Angeles	Majors in our professional schools are most selective. See detailed information about the admission process for first-year applicants .
Merced	Majors in the School of Natural Sciences and the School of Engineering are the most selective. Students are encouraged to complete precalculus or higher before applying.
Riverside	Majors in the Bourns College of Engineering and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
San Diego	Selective majors include Bioengineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Data Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering , and Public Health . High-interest majors are also very popular but are not yet considered "selective." High-interest majors may include Biological Sciences, Cognitive Science, Business Economics, Economics, Mathematics, Nano Engineering, Psychology and Structural Engineering and are subject to change each year. Students applying to a selective or high-interest major should consider listing an alternate major on the UC application. For more information, please visit the selective majors website .
Santa Barbara	The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering is generally the most selective. The College of Creative Studies requires faculty review and can be highly selective.
Santa Cruz	The Computer Science majors (B.A. and B.S.) may be more selective than other majors.

FIRST-YEAR SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS

What method of comprehensive review does your campus utilize? *

Berkeley	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Davis	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Irvine	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Los Angeles	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or nonacademic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Merced	Fixed weight incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors considering both academic factors, weighted at 70%, and nonacademic factors, weighted at 30%
Riverside	Fixed weight incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review criteria that are used to calculate an Academic Index Score
San Diego	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors with no fixed weight on any factor. Every achievement, academic or non-academic, is considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.
Santa Barbara	Holistic review incorporating the faculty-approved comprehensive review factors. Every achievement, academic or non-academic, is considered within the context of the opportunities available to the applicant.
Santa Cruz	Holistic review. Achievements, academic or nonacademic, are considered within the context of opportunities available to the applicant.

* "Holistic" means that no single factor carries a specific weight consistently across all applications in the admission review; instead, the review incorporates an individual's circumstances, educational context and what each individual has presented on the application. "Fixed weight" means that various factors are weighted (e.g., could be 50/50, 75/25, etc.) in the admission review and the weighting is consistent across all applications.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

UC has a long history of welcoming transfer students to our campus communities each year. In fact, nearly a third of our entering students started out at a community college. Because admission to a number of campuses is extremely competitive, however, transfer students must fulfill our minimum requirements and, in many cases, exceed them by large margins. Getting on the right path early will help transfer students avoid surprises as they work toward their degrees.

Who is a transfer applicant?

A transfer applicant is a student who has enrolled in a fall, winter or spring term at a college or university after high school graduation. Students who meet this definition cannot disregard their college record and apply as first-years.

While we welcome transfer students from institutions around the world, we give priority consideration to California community college (CCC) students applying for admission to UC as juniors.

A CCC transfer student is defined as having completed at least 30 semester (45 quarter) UC-transferable units at one or more California community colleges and whose last college attended in a regular session (fall/spring or fall/winter/spring) before enrolling at a UC campus is a California community college.

PLANNING FOR TRANSFER

A UC education is excellent preparation for advanced study and for many professions. Transfer students are encouraged to thoroughly research how UC's majors may fit into their particular career goals, keeping in mind that most majors will prepare students for a wide range of diverse careers.

Prospective transfer students should research the specific requirements of their intended major and campus and the UC-transferable college courses that can meet these requirements. In addition, they should plan their coursework carefully. In many cases, completing all or at least a portion of the major preparation requirements is essential to gaining admission to the preferred campus and major.

When requirements are stated as a full-year sequence, students should complete the entire course series at one institution before transferring, if possible. The topics covered in a particular term of the sequence at a college/university may not be the same as at a UC campus and could result in missing or duplicative coursework.

Students should also carefully consider their choice of a general education (GE) pattern. A combination of major preparation and GE courses will help students meet the minimum admission requirements and prepare for upper-division study. For more information on general education patterns, see page 37.

Additionally, students should expect a more demanding academic experience once they transfer, in part because much of their coursework will be at the junior and senior level. Students changing from a semester to a quarter system should also be prepared for a faster pace. Students can best prepare for university work by completing a comprehensive and challenging program.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND COUNSELORS

In addition to our general [admissions website](#) and [transfer hub](#), a number of resources are available to help transfer counselors and prospective transfer students.

Our [transfer counselor admissions website](#) has details on all of the topics discussed in this booklet, as well as a number of documents from our annual Ensuring Transfer Success conference, guidance for reviewing transferability of coursework from outside of the California Community College system and links to transfer admission webinars designed specifically for counselors.

The [UC Transfer Pathways](#) outline a single set of first- and second-year (lower-division) courses students should take to prepare for common majors at any of our nine undergraduate campuses. They are particularly useful in helping students identify major preparation coursework for multiple UC campuses.

The [UC Transfer Admission Planner \(UC TAP\)](#) is an online tool to help prospective California community college transfer students track and plan their coursework. UC TAP also offers a [counselor interface](#) for California community college counselors.

[ASSIST](#) is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities. It houses all California community college UC Transfer Course Agreements, their articulation agreements with UC campuses and more.

Campus [general catalogs](#) contain useful information about majors, lower-division coursework requirements and more. Campus admissions offices can also offer information and assistance.

The [California Community Colleges Transfer Counselor Website \(TCW\)](#) is a one-stop repository of transfer counseling tools and resources.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR JUNIOR-LEVEL TRANSFERS

The majority of our transfer students come to UC at the junior level from California community colleges. The requirements described below represent the minimum academic standards all students must attain to be considered for admission to UC. For students who are transferring from an institution other than a CCC, see page 43 for more information.

Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to a particular campus. Admission to the campus or program of choice often requires students to meet more demanding standards. See the section on transfer selection beginning on page 45 for details.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission as a junior transfer, a student must meet the following criteria by the last regular term prior to transfer:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	
Requirement	Details
Total units	Complete 60 semester (90 quarter) units of UC-transferable college credit. (Credit must be from institutions accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies listed on page 17.)
Minimum GPA	2.4 GPA for California residents; 2.8 GPA for nonresidents
Pass/ No Pass limit	No more than 14 semester (21 quarter) units of the required units may be taken Pass/No Pass (unless attending a Pass-only institution)
Academic standing	Must be in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or better) at the last attended institution and any previous UC campus
SEVEN-COURSE PATTERN REQUIREMENT	
Requirement	Courses required (Each course must be 3 semester or 4–5 quarter units and be completed with a grade of C or better.)
English composition (UC-E)	2 courses
Mathematics (UC-M)	1 course
Breadth requirements	4 courses from at least two of the three following subject areas: arts and humanities (UC-H), social and behavioral sciences (UC-B), physical and biological sciences (UC-S)

The seven-course pattern may be completed with a Pass/Credit/Satisfactory grade if such designations are equivalent to a letter grade of C (2.0) or better; however, some campuses may require letter grades in English and math for selection purposes. Additionally, some AP and IB exams with appropriate scores can be used to meet minimum requirements. **Note:** Only one of the two English composition/literature courses required can be met with an AP exam score.

If a student meets the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) prior to transferring, the student may meet the seven-course pattern. (For more on Cal-GETC and IGETC, see page 37.)

All campuses recommend that students complete math and English as early as possible. Some highly recommend or require completion by the end of the fall term one year prior to enrolling at UC. For more information, see Campus Policies and Procedures for Evaluating Transfer Applicants, beginning on page 47.

Pass grades

Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades are acceptable in transferable courses. Students may take up to 14 semester or 21 quarter units as P/CR for the required number of units needed for UC eligibility, if the school designates P/CR grades as equivalent to a C (2.0) or better in their college catalog. Students are strongly encouraged to take courses in their intended major (or preparation for the major) for letter grades. **Please note:** Transferable P/CR grades equivalent to a C- may be transferable toward the total units required for admission, but the course subject matter *will not* be applied to the course pattern eligibility requirements.

Repeated courses

A student is allowed to repeat each course in which a C-, D+, D, D-, F or NP grade was originally earned, as many times as necessary, until the first time the student earns a letter grade of C or better. The following rules apply:

- The replacement (repeat) course must have curriculum similar to the original course (the same content but not necessarily the same title) and must be offered at the same level as the original course.
- The new grade earned will replace the deficient grade in the GPA calculation. UC does not average the grades. **Please note:** A No Credit (NC) or Not Pass (NP) grade in a repeated course will not replace a deficient grade.
- All coursework (original and repeats) must be reported on the admission application.
- A non-honors course can be used as a repeat of an honors course.
- An honors course may be used as a repeat of a non-honors course.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

- Repeat of C (2.0) grades is not allowed, regardless of the repeat policy at the sending institution. This is considered duplication of credit.
- Students may not repeat a lower-level course in a sequential subject (chemistry, ESL, language other than English, math) if a grade of C (2.0) or higher has already been earned in a more advanced course.
- UC courses must be repeated at UC, but not necessarily at the original campus.
- Non-UC courses may be repeated at any college or university accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies listed on page 17 (or international university recognized by the Ministry of Education).
- UC will not grant credit for college courses if the content duplicates material of a previously completed course or examination for which credit has already been granted, with the exception of the repeat of deficient (C-, D, F, NP or NC) course grades.

TRANSFER GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Calculation of the transfer grade point average includes all UC-transferable units attempted at all colleges and universities accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies (or international universities recognized by the Ministry of Education) attended, including college courses completed while a student was enrolled in high school.

GPA CALCULATION

Follow these steps, using all units earned from UC-transferable courses, to calculate the cumulative grade point average.

1. Assign points to each grade earned:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • 4 points for each A | • 1 point for each D |
| • 3 points for each B | • 0 points for each F |
| • 2 points for each C | |

2. Multiply the points assigned for each grade by the number of course units/credits (e.g., a 4-unit/credit class with a grade of B equals 12 grade points, a 3-unit course with a grade of B equals 9 grade points, etc.). We recognize plus and minus grades if that is the grading system at the institution where the courses were completed. Add 0.3 for each plus and subtract 0.3 for each minus (e.g., B+ = 3.3; B- = 2.7, etc.). No college/university grade point value shall be less than 0 or greater than 4.00.

- Courses identified as Academic Renewal (AR, common to CCCs), Pass/No Pass, Credit/No Credit, Satisfactory/Non-Satisfactory, Excused Withdrawal (EW) and/or Withdrawal have no grade point value and are not included in the GPA calculation.
- Exclude courses repeated if the first grade was C- or below. If the first grade was a C-, D+, D, D- or F, do not include it in the GPA calculation; instead use the replacement (repeated) course grade. UC does not average the grades for repeated courses.
Exception: If the replacement course grade is NP, NC, EW or W, use the original grade in the GPA calculation.
- Add the total grade points and then divide the sum by the total transferable units attempted to get a preliminary transfer GPA.

GPA examples:

- 189 grade points/60 units attempted = 3.15 cumulative GPA
- 212 grade points/70 units attempted = 3.02 cumulative GPA

TRANSFER ADMISSION GUARANTEE (TAG)

Six UC campuses offer guaranteed admission in particular majors to CCC students who meet specific requirements, which may include completion of certain major preparatory courses and attaining a minimum GPA for the chosen major. (See the [TAG matrix](#) for more detail.) Students must submit the TAG application in September for the following fall term or May for the following winter/spring term. By participating in a [TAG program](#), students may, at some campuses, receive early review of their academic records, early admission notification and specific guidance about major preparation and general education coursework.

UC DUAL ADMISSION

The [UC Dual Admission](#) program is a transfer path for select California students. Each year, UC will invite select first-year applicants to the program, and those who accept the Dual Admission offer will receive a conditional offer of admission to UC via the Transfer Admission Guarantee and preliminary financial aid information. While students prepare to transfer from a CCC, they will have access to transfer preparation support services at the receiving UC campus and/or the UC campus nearest to their residence. Upon completion of program requirements, students will be guaranteed admission to their selected campus and major. Questions about the UC Dual Admission program can be directed to UCDualAdmission@ucop.edu. For further details and updates visit the [UC Dual Admission website](#).

TRANSFER ADMISSION

TRANSFER PATHWAYS AND PATHWAYS+

UC Transfer Pathways identify a single set of lower-division, pre-major preparation courses for common majors.

These pathways are especially helpful to students who know or have a general idea of a major they would like to study but have not decided which UC campuses they would like to apply to. The UC Transfer Pathways cover the following majors:

Aerospace Engineering	English
Anthropology	Environmental Engineering
Bioengineering	Environmental Science
Biological Sciences*	History
Business Administration	Materials Science and Engineering
Chemical Engineering	Mathematics
Chemistry	Mechanical Engineering
Civil Engineering	Philosophy
Communication	Physics
Computer Science	Political Science
Data Science	Psychology
Earth Science/Geology	Sociology
Economics	Statistics
Electrical Engineering	

* As of the fall 2027 application cycle, the Biochemistry, Biology, Cell Biology and Molecular Biology Transfer Pathways have been consolidated into one Biological Sciences Transfer Pathway.

Each pathway outlines the set of courses students should take to be competitive across the UC system. Some campuses may want fewer courses for admission, but none will require more. In addition, campuses may have grade requirements for particular courses, but with this roadmap, students will know which classes to take to prepare for all campuses in a single major.

Pathways+ combines the most attractive aspects of both TAG and Transfer Pathways: the security of an admissions guarantee to one of six TAG campuses, plus strong major preparation for any campus offering the Pathways major. Pathways+ provides students with a solid foundation for academic success and timely degree completion after transfer.

A student who submits a TAG, completes the pathway pre-major courses and earns a satisfactory GPA will be guaranteed admission to the TAG campus, well-prepared for junior-level transfer to other UC campuses in that major and well-positioned to graduate in a timely fashion.

The **UC Transfer Pathways (UCTP) Associate Degree in Chemistry or Physics** is a subset of Pathways+ and includes an

associate degree from the community college in addition to the other benefits of Pathways+.

If there isn't a pathway for a major, we encourage students to find campus-specific major preparation information on [ASSIST](#) or in the [campus catalogs](#).

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Each school and college at every UC campus has its own set of general education (GE) requirements. They are described in the campuses' general catalogs and articulation agreements (available on [ASSIST](#)). With careful planning, a student can meet many or all of the lower-division GE requirements while attending another college or university.

The general education requirements specify the courses students must take or units they must accumulate in each subject/discipline area to meet graduation requirements. Students should consider the general education recommendation for the school/college at the UC campus in which their major resides; in some cases it may be more important to concentrate on completing the prerequisites for the major that form the primary basis for admission selection. At some campuses and in some majors, transfer students must fulfill all or a portion of the major preparation and/or general education requirements before transferring.

Transfer applicants who matriculate at a CCC before the fall 2025 term may satisfy lower-division general education requirements by completing the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). IGETC, including certification and exemptions, is described below. Information about general education requirements is also available on [ASSIST](#). Students matriculating at a CCC in fall 2025 and later may satisfy lower-division general education requirements by completing the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC).

CALIFORNIA GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER CURRICULUM (CAL-GETC) AND INTERSEGMENTAL GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER CURRICULUM (IGETC)

Cal-GETC is a series of courses **California community college transfer students** may complete to meet the lower-division (first- and second-year) general education requirements at the University of California. IGETC courses are available for students who matriculated at a California Community College prior to fall 2025.

What type of student should follow Cal-GETC or IGETC?

Cal-GETC and IGETC are general education patterns that are most helpful to students who know they want to transfer but haven't yet decided on a particular campus or major. UC will also accept [IGETC for STEM](#) as partial fulfillment of GE requirements. (See page 39 for more information about IGETC for STEM.) For information on the Cal-GETC and IGETC acceptance practices

TRANSFER ADMISSION

at each UC school/college/major, see Campus Policies and Procedures for Evaluating Transfer Applicants, beginning on page 47.

Students who intend to transfer into majors that require extensive preparation, such as engineering or the biological, physical and natural sciences, should first concentrate on completing the prerequisites for the major.

Students with a substantial amount of coursework from institutions outside the United States should consult with a community college counselor to determine whether they should complete full UC IGETC, Cal-GETC or the lower-division general education requirements at the campus they plan to attend.

In addition, some colleges or majors prefer that transfer students follow a more prescribed first- and second-year curriculum. Refer to Campus Policies and Procedures for Evaluating Transfer Applicants, beginning on page 47, for campus and program-specific recommendations.

First-years with Cal-GETC or IGETC certification

Cal-GETC and IGETC are intended to facilitate transfer from the California Community Colleges and improve time to degree for transfer students. With the rise in dual enrollment programs, some high school students with extensive college credit are now presenting full Cal-GETC or UC IGETC certification upon entrance to UC.

All campuses except San Diego will honor full Cal-GETC or IGETC certification from a first-year student if the requirements were completed prior to entering UC and if the college/school and major would usually accept Cal-GETC or IGETC from a transfer student. UC San Diego will apply transferable credits toward relevant general education requirements. Neither partial Cal-GETC nor partial IGETC will be accepted from entering first-years at any campus. (See page 49 for more information about partial Cal-GETC and partial IGETC.)

Not a requirement, but a consideration

Neither Cal-GETC nor IGETC is required for admission. Completing the Cal-GETC or IGETC pattern does not guarantee admission to the campus or program of choice. However, completing GE requirements, whether through Cal-GETC, IGETC or the campus-specific requirements, may be considered by the campus in selecting among qualified candidates. In fact, some campuses and programs may accept only students who complete Cal-GETC or IGETC. Students should check campus admissions websites for information about selection.

Completion options

Students have the option of completing Cal-GETC or IGETC at their community college or the specific lower-division general education requirements of the UC school or college at the campus they plan to

attend. Students must consult their community college to identify which pattern is most appropriate for them.

More information about Cal-GETC and IGETC

For more information about Cal-GETC, see [*Standards, Policies and Procedures for California General Education Transfer Curriculum, Version 1.4* \(pdf\)](#). For more information about IGETC, see [*Standards, Policies and Procedures for Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, version 2.4* \(pdf\)](#).

GPA requirement

IGETC and Cal-GETC courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. A grade of Credit or Pass may be used if the community college's policy states that it is equivalent to a grade of C (not a C-) or better.

Use of AP and IB exams

Cal-GETC and IGETC course credit may be earned for scores of 3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement (AP) exams and 5, 6 or 7 on International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level exams that the community college faculty recognizes as equivalent to its IGETC-approved and Cal-GETC-approved courses. An acceptable score on an AP English exam may be used to meet the English composition requirement, but not the critical thinking/English composition requirement. For more information, see pages 16–18 of [*Standards, Policies and Procedures for Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, version 2.4* \(pdf\)](#) and pages 8–10 of [*Standards, Policies and Procedures for California General Education Transfer Curriculum, version 1.4* \(pdf\)](#).

Cal-GETC and IGETC certification

Cal-GETC and IGETC are certified by the CCCs, not by UC campuses. Students should request a certification from the last CCC they attend for a regular term prior to transfer. If a student requests certification from a CCC that is not the last school of attendance, it is at the discretion of that community college to certify. Cal-GETC or IGETC certification may be recorded as a notation on the transcript or issued as a separate certificate. Either method of certification is acceptable as long as it indicates full certification for UC and the date of completion.

If the lower-division general education requirements are not fully satisfied prior to transfer, the student will be subject to the regulations regarding general education requirements of the school or college of the campus to which the student transfers, with the following exceptions:

- Partial Cal-GETC: While partial Cal-GETC certification may not be available at a transfer student's community college, a transfer student accepted into a college or school that recognizes Cal-GETC as satisfying the general education requirements may complete a maximum of two courses of the Cal-GETC pattern after transfer if the college or major program to which the student transfers would accept partial

TRANSFER ADMISSION

Cal-GETC certification. **Warning:** Students need to meet minimum UC transfer admission requirements (seven-course pattern). Therefore, partial certification that includes a deficiency in English and/or math may also indicate a student does not meet minimum transfer requirements.

- Partial IGETC: A transfer student accepted into a college or school that recognizes IGETC as satisfying the general education requirements may complete a maximum of two courses of the IGETC pattern after transfer if the college or major program to which the student transfers accepts partial IGETC certification. **Warning:** Students need to meet minimum UC transfer admission requirements (seven-course pattern). Therefore, partial certification that includes a deficiency in English and/or math may also indicate a student does not meet minimum transfer requirements.

IGETC for STEM: A transfer student intending to major in science, engineering or mathematics may complete up to three courses after transfer. UC will accept IGETC for STEM if the student is pursuing an associate degree for transfer in a major that accepts the IGETC for STEM option **and** if the UC school, college or major to which the student transfers accepts partial IGETC certification. The courses to be completed after transfer may consist of at most one in each of the following areas: arts and humanities, social and behavioral science, and language other than English.

TRANSFER CREDIT

We have developed and maintain UC Transfer Course Agreements (UC TCAs) with all comprehensive California community colleges. These agreements, which are available on [ASSIST](#), specify those courses that will receive baccalaureate degree credit from the university. For additional information about transfer credit from institutions other than CCCs, see page 43.

All comprehensive CCCs also have agreements with UC campuses that specify which of their transferable courses may be used to meet various general education and/or major preparation requirements. These agreements were developed to ensure continuity in students' academic programs. It is important that prospective transfer students take college courses that are acceptable to UC for transfer credit.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Transfer students often receive credit at their transfer institution for knowledge gained outside of a formal classroom setting. UC recognizes the following types of credit for prior learning (CPL):

- AP/IB/A Levels: UC requires the official score report or statement of results.

- Credit earned from another institution: UC requires the official academic record to be sent directly from the institution where the coursework was completed.
- Military credit: UC requires the official Joint Services Transcript (JST). Military credit cannot be counted toward the minimum 60 semester/90 quarter transferable units required for junior standing, but active-duty personnel or veterans of the U.S. military should inform UC on the admission application if they have completed courses provided by the military (not courses completed at a collegiate institution). UC may award credit after transfer for some military courses if the content is equivalent to a course taught at the university.
- Credit by exam: UC requires that the course title, units, grade and grade points appear on the official academic record of an institution accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies (also referred to as ICAS-approved accreditors in the Cal-GETC standards) within a specific academic term. Grades assigned for credit earned by exam are treated in the same manner as grades assigned for other transferable courses completed.

LANGUAGE/LITERATURE CREDIT FOR STUDENTS WHOSE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IS NOT ENGLISH

A student who has completed at least nine years of education (or through the ninth grade) conducted in a language of instruction that was not English, including a full year of coursework equivalent to a year within grades 9–12 of the U.S. curriculum, may receive credit for language courses in the language of instruction only for courses taken at international collegiate institutions (where the language of instruction is not English) or for upper-division courses taken at UC or at another English-speaking institution of approved standing. College credit for literature in the language of instruction is allowed.

LIMITS ON TRANSFER CREDIT

Students will be granted up to 70 semester (105 quarter) units for first- and second-year (i.e., lower-division) coursework completed at any institution or combination of institutions; this limitation does not apply to units earned at UC. Subject credit will be granted for appropriate coursework taken in excess of this unit limitation and may be used to meet admission and selection requirements. The unit counts include all transferable coursework completed, in progress and planned through the spring term before fall transfer (or through the fall term before winter/spring transfer).

Some campuses and programs do not offer admission to students who have accumulated a combination of lower-division and upper-division (and/or UC) units beyond 80 semester (120 quarter) units. For more information about campus limitations, see the chart on page 40.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

Note: If all of a student's coursework was completed at two-year colleges, the student is unlikely to be at risk of being denied admission due to excessive units.

Units earned through AP, IB and/or A Level examinations are not included in the limitation but do not put applicants at risk of being denied admission.

Units earned at any UC campus (extension, summer, cross/concurrent and regular academic-year enrollment) are not included in the limitation, are added to the maximum transfer credit allowed and may put applicants at risk of being denied admission due to excessive units.

In addition, there is a limit to the number of units for which UC grants credit in various areas. The most common examples are:

- English as a second language courses: a maximum of 8 semester (12 quarter) units
- Physical education activity courses: a maximum of 4 semester (6 quarter) units
- Physical education theory courses: a maximum of 8 semester (12 quarter) units

UC/CCC CROSS-ENROLLMENT GUIDANCE

UC Cross-Enrollment is a long-standing program that allows current California community college students to enroll in a UC

HIGH-UNIT LIMITS AND ADMISSION POLICY BY CAMPUS

The chart below defines the number of units that causes a student to reach high-unit junior or senior standing for UC admission evaluation purposes. The intended purpose of this chart is not to advise a prospective student whether or not they can apply to UC; rather, it should alert students with a high number of UC-transferable units that there may be some difficulty in the ability of some campuses to offer them admission. Participating campuses may have different limitations for Transfer Admission Guarantee applicants. (See the [TAG matrix \(pdf\)](#) for specific information.)

High-unit transfer unit counts:

- High-unit junior standing: 80–89 semester (120–133.5 quarter) UC-transferable units
- Senior standing: 90 semester (135 quarter) or more UC-transferable units

High-unit limits and admission policy by campus: After applying the UC lower-division maximum transfer credit limitation policy, all upper-division and all UC units are added to the total unit count. Use the resulting unit count in reference to column two in the chart below.

Campus	Number of units that place an applicant in high-unit junior or senior standing	Admits high-unit juniors and/or seniors?	
Berkeley	80 semester/120 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Some	Seniors: Some
Davis	80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required	High-unit juniors: Some	Seniors: Some
Irvine	90 semester/135 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Some	Seniors: Some
Los Angeles	86.5 semester/130 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: No	Seniors: No
Merced	80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required	High-unit juniors: Some	Seniors: Some (<i>Students must submit an appeal to be considered for admission at the senior level.</i>)
Riverside	80 semester/120 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Some	Seniors: Some
San Diego	90 semester/135 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Yes	Seniors: No
Santa Barbara	90 semester/135 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Yes	Seniors: No
Santa Cruz	90 semester/135 quarter units or more	High-unit juniors: Yes	Seniors: Some (<i>Students must submit an appeal to be considered for admission at the senior level.</i>)

TRANSFER ADMISSION

COUNTING UNITS — EXAMPLES		
CCC enrollment plus enrollment at a university with only lower-division units	CCC enrollment plus enrollment at a university with lower and upper-division units	CCC enrollment plus UC or UC Extension enrollment (applying to a different UC)
60 sem units at CCC + 15 sem units at university 75 total sem units - 5 excess sem units 70 sem units awarded by UC Lower-division units limited to 70 Total = 70 sem units	30 sem units at CCC + 35 lower-division sem units at university 65 lower-division sem units (no excess units) + 17 upper-division sem units at university 82 total sem units awarded by UC*	74 sem units at CCC - 4 excess units 70 total sem units + 14 sem units at UC or UC Extension 84 sem units awarded by UC CCC lower-division units limited to 70 All UC units added to the total Total = 84 sem units*
CCC enrollment plus UC/CCC cross-enrollment	International university enrollment plus enrollment at CCC and CSU	Exam credit + enrollment at CCC
102 qtr units at CCC + 15 qtr units cross-enrollment 117 total qtr units CCC units do not exceed 105 qtr (70 sem) Cross-enrollment is UC credit 117 qtr units awarded by UC	45** qtr lower-division units at intl univ + 29 sem units at CCC + 26 sem upper-division units at CSU 85** total sem units Lower-division units = 59 sem (does not exceed limit) All upper-division units added to lower-division total 85 sem units awarded by UC*	16 sem units AP credit + 75 sem units at CCC 91 total sem units - 5 sem units excess CCC 86 sem units awarded by UC***

* High-unit junior/senior standing; Dean's review required at some campuses

** Convert quarter units to semester units by dividing by 1.5

*** No dean's review required; exam credit cannot jeopardize junior standing

course for a nominal fee during a regular academic term, generally at their local UC campus. Transcript authority for cross-enrollment coursework rests with UC, often with the Extension Division.

Cross-enrollment credit is no longer capped in the lower-division 70 semester-unit maximum; instead, that credit is now added to the capped 70 semester units because the credit is conferred by UC. Students with multiple cross-enrollment courses may jeopardize their standing as a junior-level transfer.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARTICULATION

Campuses use information in the UC Transfer Course Agreements (UC TCAs) to develop various campus-specific articulation agreements with the CCCs. These agreements,

described below, allow prospective transfer students to work toward a specific UC degree while enrolled at a CCC. Students should refer to [ASSIST](#) for updated information on course-to-course, major preparation and general education agreements, including for commonly numbered courses.

Individual deans of colleges and schools at the UC campuses determine the applicability of transfer courses to meet degree requirements. Campus articulation officers serve as liaisons between the community college articulation officers and the UC faculty.

COURSE-TO-COURSE AGREEMENTS

Course-to-course agreements specify the California community college courses that are comparable to or acceptable in lieu of corresponding courses at a particular UC campus.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

MAJOR PREPARATION AGREEMENTS

Major preparation agreements specify which California community college courses may be used to meet requirements for particular majors or programs of study at a particular UC campus. Some campuses and majors/programs require completion of some or all major preparatory courses listed in the agreement.

GENERAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

General education agreements specify which California community college courses may be used to meet general education requirements of specific colleges and schools at a particular UC campus.

OTHER TYPES OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

LOWER-DIVISION TRANSFER STUDENTS

Some campuses admit a limited number of transfer students before they reach junior standing. Refer to the [Check Majors](#) website to see which campuses will accept lower-division transfer students for a particular term.

SECOND BACHELOR'S DEGREE APPLICANTS

A [second baccalaureate](#) applicant is a college graduate who wishes to obtain a second bachelor's degree in a major different from that of the first degree. Admission to the second bachelor's program is limited to fall enrollment.

LIMITED STATUS ENROLLMENT

This option is for applicants who are not seeking to obtain a bachelor's degree at UC and who are primarily interested in taking courses for a short period of time in preparation for graduate programs or for professional development. Limited status applicants may or may not already have a bachelor's degree.

Campus policies on limited status applicants vary and are posted to the [Check Majors](#) website prior to the application period.

FORMER UC STUDENTS

Students who were previously enrolled at a UC campus in a regular academic term (fall, winter and/or spring) and who would like to return to the same UC campus should follow the instructions below relevant to their situation:

- Students with an absence of *less than one year*: Contact the Registrar's Office for specific procedures on how to re-enroll.
- Students with an absence of *one year or more*: Contact the Registrar's Office for specific procedures on how to re-enroll.
 - This process may be called "readmission," "re-enrollment" or "reinstatement."
- Students should not submit a UC application for admission; instead they must file an application for readmission with the Registrar's Office.
- Students who left a UC campus on *academic probation or not in good academic standing*: Contact an adviser in the school/college in which they were previously enrolled for guidance on any requirements for readmission.
- If the last term and/or cumulative UC GPA is below 2.0, the student is not in good academic standing.

There are a few important points to keep in mind:

- UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR): If ELWR was not completed and the student is returning to the same campus, the requirement must be completed at that campus.
- General education (GE) requirements: If a student is returning to the same UC campus, completion of the Cal-GETC or IGETC (GE) pattern at a California community college is not acceptable.

Transferring to another UC campus: Students who were previously enrolled at a UC campus and want to transfer to a different UC campus must be in good academic standing (last term and/or cumulative UC GPA of 2.0 or above) at their prior UC campus to be considered for transfer admission, even if that UC campus is not their last school of attendance.

There are a few other important points to remember:

- UC students are considered UC-eligible and are not required to complete the seven-course pattern requirement. However, completing the seven-course pattern is strongly encouraged as it may be considered a factor in the selection process by some UC campuses.
- All courses completed, and grades and units earned, at a UC campus during fall, winter, spring and summer terms, including UC courses completed prior to matriculating at UC, are transferable to another UC campus (however, only UC Extension courses numbered 1–199 are transferable). This means the UC GPA "follows" the student to another UC campus. While the courses transfer, each academic department reserves the right to determine how coursework from another UC may satisfy specific requirements at the new UC.
- UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR): If ELWR was not completed and the student is transferring to a different UC campus, the requirement can be completed at another college/university.
- General education (GE) requirements
 - If the student is transferring to a different UC campus, Cal-GETC and IGETC are acceptable if the college and/or major allows Cal-GETC or IGETC.

TRANSFER ADMISSION

- If the student has completed all GE requirements at the previous UC campus, neither IGETC nor Cal-GETC is required; instead, the student should request a letter of reciprocity from the prior UC campus verifying that all lower-division GE requirements were satisfied.

STUDENTS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Although UC does not have pre-approved formal agreements of transferable coursework outside of the California community college system, units or credits from a college or university accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies generally are transferable if a course is comparable to one offered at a UC campus. If a course is not equivalent to a particular UC course, it must be appropriate for a UC degree in terms of its purpose, scope and depth. For more information, refer to UC's [transfer credit practices](#).

Some courses are not transferable to UC. The following types of courses, for example, will not garner UC transfer credit:

- Remedial English (composition courses below the first-term college level)
- Mathematics below college algebra (any course for which intermediate algebra or its equivalent is not a prerequisite)
- Instructional/how-to courses, such as how to use computer software (e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

To get an idea of likely transferable courses from four-year institutions and out-of-state two-year colleges, refer to the general catalog for any UC campus or to a Transfer Course Agreement (TCA) that UC has with any CCC. TCAs are on [ASSIST](#).

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Some students with coursework from schools where the language of instruction is not English may be required to demonstrate English proficiency. For details, see page 59.

TRANSFER ADMISSION FAQ

Q: A student is interested in a major that requires a substantial amount of major preparation, including a three-semester biology series. Can the student take part of the series at one California community college (CCC) and the rest of the series at a different CCC?

A: Most campuses strongly prefer or require that students complete a full sequence of courses in a series at one CCC. Courses are often taught differently across different CCC campuses, even when the colleges are in the same CCC district. A student who completes a series across multiple CCCs may not have covered all the topics required and may not be competitive for admission. Students should check with the UC campuses where they intend to apply to inquire whether splitting series across multiple CCCs is acceptable or not.

Q: My student attended an out-of-state university for one year after high school, then decided to come back to California and enroll at a CCC. Do they qualify for the Transfer Admission Guarantee program?

A: Use guidance from our [transfer credit practices](#) web page to decide whether courses taken at any college or university are UC-transferable. UC-transferable courses completed at another college or university may be used to meet the overall unit requirement for TAG. However, in order to meet TAG, a student must have at least 30 of 60 semester units (45 of 90 quarter units) completed at one or more California community colleges and a CCC must be the last college of attendance in a regular session prior to transfer.

Q: My student enrolled at a California community college in spring 2025 after graduating from high school and taking time off to work. They would like to transfer to UC in fall 2027. Cal-GETC was implemented in fall of 2025. Can the student choose to follow the Cal-GETC pattern instead of IGETC?

A: Students who enrolled at a CCC prior to fall 2025 may follow the IGETC pattern. If the student wishes, they can choose to follow Cal-GETC instead of IGETC. Community college counselors should refer to the Cal-GETC standards document for information on using IGETC-approved courses in the same Cal-GETC area(s) for certification.

Q: I have a student who indicated they completed a UC Transfer Pathway on the UC application but has now realized that they did not complete all requirements for the pathway. Will this affect an admission decision?

A: The Transfer Pathways question on the application is used for statistical purposes only and does not impact an admissions decision.

Q: My student took dual enrollment coursework at their community college while enrolled in high school. Among the courses they took was the first semester of general chemistry, earning a C. They're now attending the community college to transfer to a UC. Their intended major requires the general chemistry series, and they would like to retake the first semester of general chemistry for a better grade. Will the new grade be used in the GPA calculation?

A: Courses that have been completed with a grade of C (2.0) or higher cannot be repeated for credit, regardless of the repeat policy at the sending institution. This would be considered duplication of credit. Students are welcome to consult with their intended UC campus for guidance around major preparation.

Q: If I certify IGETC or Cal-GETC completion using non-CCC courses, does that guarantee UC will honor the credit for the non-CCC coursework?

A: You should exercise caution and follow the course guidelines in the IGETC or Cal-GETC standards of the [Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates \(ICAS\)](#) when using non-CCC courses to meet IGETC or Cal-GETC requirements. If UC decides that a course is not UC-transferable, it will not be used in the total unit calculation to determine junior standing, nor will it be used to meet any portion of the seven-course pattern. However, if the student is admitted and an IGETC or Cal-GETC certification is received using a non-transferable course, UC will honor the certification without awarding individual credit for that course.

TRANSFER SELECTION

Each campus, in consultation with the UC Office of the President, develops targets for the number of new transfer students expected to enroll. When a campus has more qualified applicants than it has room to accommodate, it applies standards that are more demanding than the minimum requirements.

Using a process called comprehensive review, admissions officers look beyond required coursework and grades to evaluate applicants' academic achievements in light of the opportunities available to them, their readiness to undertake upper-division coursework in their major and the capacity each student demonstrates to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus. Each campus makes its own selection decisions independent of every other campus to which the student has applied.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

To guide the campuses in their comprehensive review of applicants, UC faculty developed the factors listed below.

All campuses place the highest importance on academic achievement in evaluating applications. However, the specific evaluation process and weight given to each factor may differ from campus to campus and year to year.

Based on campus-specific institutional goals and needs, transfer admission decisions will be based on a broad variety of factors, drawn from the following:

- Completion of a specified pattern or number of courses that meet general education requirements
- Completion of a specified pattern or number of courses that provide continuity with upper-division courses in the student's major, such as a UC Transfer Pathway, an associate of arts or science degree for transfer offered by a California community college, or a UC campus-specific major preparation course pattern
- Grade point average in all transferable courses and, in particular, grade point average in lower-division courses included in a UC Transfer Pathway or required for the applicant's intended major
- Participation in academically selective honors courses or programs
- Completion of a UC Transfer Pathway or an associate degree for transfer (ADT) offered by a California community college
- Special talents, achievements and awards in a particular field, such as visual and performing arts, communication or athletic endeavors; special skills, such as demonstrated written and oral proficiency in other languages; special interests, such as intensive study and exploration of other cultures; experiences

that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, such as significant community service or significant participation in student government; or other significant experiences or achievements that demonstrate the student's promise for contributing to the intellectual vitality of a campus

- Completion of special projects undertaken in the context of the college curriculum or in conjunction with special school events, projects or programs
- Academic accomplishments in light of the student's life experiences and special circumstances
- Location of the student's college and residence

The UC undergraduate admission process does not discriminate against, or provide preferential treatment to, any individual on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin, consistent with federal and state law.

CAMPUS REVIEW

Every campus and many selective schools and programs have additional criteria in selecting transfer applicants. For the most detailed and up-to-date information about each campus's transfer selection criteria, see their websites:

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

TRANSFER STUDENT PROFILES

The transfer student profiles summarize the academic qualifications of applicants and admitted transfer students to each UC campus for fall of the previous year.

Please be cautious in drawing conclusions from this information. The data are useful only as a general guide to selectivity and not as a predictor of a student's chances for admission to a particular campus.

In addition, keep in mind that the data reflect the selection process for the previous fall's applicants. Because the pool of students who apply to UC is different every year, the level of academic performance necessary for admission to a particular

TRANSFER SELECTION

campus or major is different, too. Acceptance rates depend on the number of applicants, their academic qualifications and the number of spaces campuses have available. The selection process and enrollment goals may vary from year to year, therefore the results may differ significantly.

Additionally, aggregated data mask the degree of competition for admission among them. Most campuses and colleges admit students directly into individual majors, and the degree of competition among majors may vary widely.

The transfer student profiles are available online:

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING TRANSFER APPLICANTS	
When must the required seven-course pattern be completed?	
Berkeley	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
Davis	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
Irvine	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
Los Angeles	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
Merced	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment for fall transfer. For spring transfer, it is recommended that the math and English courses be completed no later than the summer term preceding enrollment.
Riverside	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
San Diego	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment. However, units completed in the summer before fall enrollment may be used to complete Cal-GETC, IGETC and campus GE requirements.
Santa Barbara	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment. Priority consideration will be given to students who complete the mathematics requirement and at least one English composition course by the end of fall prior to enrollment. Additional courses/units not needed for eligibility may be taken in summer prior to UCSB enrollment and used to complete Cal-GETC/IGETC, campus GE requirements and non-required major preparation.
Santa Cruz	Math and English should be completed as early as possible, and all seven courses must be taken no later than the spring term preceding enrollment.
Are there other timing requirements or restrictions for major preparation courses?	
Berkeley	Business: Students must meet all prerequisites with letter grades and at least 60 semester units by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment. Prerequisite courses and appropriate exam credit may not be more than five years old. Engineering: All required core courses must be completed by the end of spring term prior to enrollment. To meet the reading and composition requirement, applicants must complete English 1A and 1B. All majors: Students should complete major preparation by the end of the spring term prior to transfer. See UC Berkeley's Transfer Admission Information by College.
Davis	Highest priority for admission goes to applicants who complete selective major requirements by the end of spring term prior to fall enrollment. See UC Davis's selective major requirements for transfer admission.
Irvine	All majors require students to complete major coursework by the end of spring term prior to fall enrollment. See UC Irvine's Transfer Requirements by School .
Los Angeles	For all majors, students should complete major preparation by the end of spring term prior to transfer. See UCLA's Transfer Admission Guide for major-specific requirements and recommendations.
Merced	Selective majors require students to complete major preparation coursework by the end of spring term prior to fall transfer and by the end of the fall term prior to spring transfer. See UC Merced's Transfer Preparation by School for more information.
Riverside	Selective majors require students to complete major preparation coursework by the end of spring term prior to transfer. For details, see UC Riverside's Major Preparation Guide .

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING TRANSFER APPLICANTS	
Are there other timing requirements or restrictions for major preparation courses? <i>(continued)</i>	
San Diego	For majors that require specific major preparation coursework for admission,, students must complete the minimum major preparation courses by the end of spring term prior to fall enrollment in order to be considered for admission. For details, visit UCSD's transfer major preparation website.
Santa Barbara	For majors that require specific major preparation coursework for admission, students must complete courses by the end of spring term prior to fall enrollment. Please note that the major preparation GPA for selective majors will be calculated using grades earned in required major preparation courses completed through the fall term. For details, see our selective majors website .
Santa Cruz	Transfer students should complete as much lower-division prerequisite coursework in their major as possible before enrolling. Some majors are screened for completion of specific major preparation coursework during the admission process. For details, see Screening Majors for Transfers and Non-Screening Majors for Transfer Students .
Are there other timing requirements or restrictions for GE coursework for certain majors?	
Berkeley	For all schools and colleges, except Computing, Data Science, and Society and Letters and Science , GE/breadth coursework is required for admission and must be completed by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment. Please visit ASSIST for each department's required courses.
Davis	No. For details regarding UC Davis campus GE, refer to the general catalog and ASSIST .
Irvine	No
Los Angeles	No
Merced	Public Health majors are required to complete IGETC or Cal-GETC prior to enrollment.
Riverside	No
San Diego	No
Santa Barbara	No
Santa Cruz	No
For which programs are Cal-GETC and IGETC certification acceptable or not recommended for California community college transfers?	
Berkeley	Chemistry: Neither Cal-GETC nor IGETC is required. However, when completed by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment, full certification satisfies the English reading and composition requirement. Note: Neither Cal-GETC nor IGETC meets the entire breadth requirement. Computing, Data Science, and Society: Full Cal-GETC or IGETC certification or the college's requirements (reading and composition, quantitative reasoning and language other than English) are acceptable for all majors. Partial certification is not accepted. Letters and Science: Full Cal-GETC or IGETC certification or the college's requirements (reading and composition, quantitative reasoning and language other than English) meet the breadth requirement. Partial certification is not accepted. Engineering and Business: Neither Cal-GETC nor IGETC is accepted. Environmental Design: Full Cal-GETC or IGETC certification fulfills the breadth requirements. Partial certification is not accepted. Natural Resources: Cal-GETC and IGETC are acceptable; however, specific lower-division major requirements must still be satisfied.
Davis	All undergraduate colleges accept Cal-GETC and IGETC. For selective majors, a priority must be to first complete all required lower-division major preparation and selection criteria. For all other majors, completion of lower-division major preparation is recommended before focusing on the Cal-GETC or IGETC pattern.
Irvine	All schools accept Cal-GETC and IGETC. However, selection by the campus is based on demonstrated academic achievement and preparation for the intended major.

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING TRANSFER APPLICANTS	
For which programs are Cal-GETC and IGETC certification acceptable or not recommended for California community college transfers? <i>(continued)</i>	
Los Angeles	All schools accept Cal-GETC and IGETC; however, neither Cal-GETC nor IGETC is recommended for applicants to the School of Engineering and Applied Science .
Merced	Engineering: Cal-GETC and IGETC are strongly discouraged but are accepted; students are encouraged to focus on lower-division major preparation prior to transfer. Natural Sciences: Cal-GETC and IGETC are not recommended but are accepted; students are encouraged to focus on lower-division major preparation prior to transfer. Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts: Cal-GETC and IGETC are recommended, and students are encouraged to complete as much lower-division major preparation as possible before transfer.
Riverside	School of Business: Cal-GETC or IGETC is highly recommended. Education; Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; Public Policy: Cal-GETC or IGETC is recommended. Engineering: Cal-GETC and IGETC are accepted; additional coursework may be required after enrollment. Natural and Agricultural Sciences: Cal-GETC and IGETC are accepted; additional coursework may be required after enrollment.
San Diego	John Muir, Earl Warren, Eleanor Roosevelt, Thurgood Marshall, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Colleges: Cal-GETC or IGETC clears all lower-division GE requirements; some upper-division courses are required after enrollment. Revelle College: Cal-GETC and IGETC are both acceptable; lower-division GE requirements may not be cleared. Additional coursework may be required after enrollment.
Santa Barbara	Letters and Science and Creative Studies: Cal-GETC and IGETC are both acceptable.* Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering: Students are encouraged to focus on major preparation rather than GE but may use Cal-GETC or IGETC to satisfy GE requirements.
Santa Cruz	Engineering and physical and biological sciences: Cal-GETC and IGETC are not recommended. Students should ensure completion of lower-division courses for their intended major, as indicated in the UCSC catalog and on ASSIST .
Which schools/colleges accept partial Cal-GETC or IGETC certification from California community college transfers? **	
Berkeley	None
Davis	All, but a student submitting a partial Cal-GETC or IGETC may not be missing more than two requirements. Students have one year to complete missing IGETC requirements at UC Davis and must notify the college once requirements are completed. There is no time limit for Cal-GETC completion.
Irvine	All
Los Angeles	All, except School of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Nursing, and School of Theater, Film and Television
Merced	None
Riverside	All
San Diego	All
Santa Barbara	All
Santa Cruz	All

* Students planning to transfer to UCSB into a major in biological or physical sciences, computer science, economics, engineering, mathematics, psychological and brain sciences, or statistics must be careful to complete lower-division major preparation courses to ensure competitiveness and make normal, timely progress through the major.

** Please refer to [IGETC standards version 2.4 \(pdf\)](#) for guidance on partial IGETC and [Cal-GETC standards version 1.4 \(pdf\)](#) for guidance on Cal-GETC. Refer to UC Senate regulation 479 (SR 479) for the definition of partial Cal-GETC.

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING TRANSFER APPLICANTS	
Which schools/colleges accept the optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC?	
Berkeley	The College of Letters and Science will not allow the optional LOTE certification on the Cal-GETC form to satisfy LOTE for transfer students. Beginning in fall 2026, students will need to complete a second semester (or third quarter) of a college-level course in a language other than English, with a grade of C- or better, to satisfy the LOTE graduation requirement.
Davis	The optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC will be accepted to satisfy the LOTE graduation requirement in the College of Letters and Science . Should a student enter UC Davis with a completed Cal-GETC that does not have the optional certification completed, the campus will accept an amended Cal-GETC form with the certification after the student has matriculated.
Irvine	The optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC will be accepted to satisfy the LOTE graduation requirement. Should a student enter UC Irvine with a completed Cal-GETC that does not have the optional certification completed, the campus will accept an amended Cal-GETC form with the certification after the student has matriculated.
Los Angeles	The optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC will be accepted to satisfy the LOTE graduation requirement. Should a student enter UCLA with a completed Cal-GETC that does not have the optional certification completed, the campus will accept an amended Cal-GETC form with the certification after the student has matriculated.
Merced	The optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC is not required by any colleges at UC Merced. There is a general education requirement that requires a level 3 LOTE, which may be satisfied either with coursework completed at UC Merced or with applicable transfer credit from another institution.
Riverside	Optional LOTE certification on the Cal-GETC form is not required. Some majors may require a Level 3 or 4 LOTE requirement, which may be satisfied either with coursework completed at UC Riverside or with applicable transfer credit from another institution.
San Diego	Revelle College and Eleanor Roosevelt College will allow the optional LOTE certification on Cal-GETC to satisfy the LOTE general education requirement. Should a student enter UC San Diego with a completed Cal-GETC that does not have the optional certification completed, Revelle and Eleanor Roosevelt colleges will accept an amended Cal-GETC form with the certification after the student has matriculated. The other UC San Diego colleges do not specifically require LOTE and will not accept the LOTE certification for their general education requirements.
Santa Barbara	All four colleges at UC Santa Barbara — Creative Studies, Letters and Science, the Gevirtz School of Education (as of fall 2029) and the Robert M. La Follette College of Engineering — will accept the completed Cal-GETC certification to satisfy general education requirements. For the College of Letters and Science, where there is an LOTE requirement, Cal-GETC will fulfill all GE requirements, including LOTE. The optional LOTE certification is not required.
Santa Cruz	There is no LOTE graduation requirement. Optional LOTE certification on the Cal-GETC form is not required.

TRANSFER SELECTION

ACADEMIC RECORD EVALUATION	
Campus	Does the campus allow Credit/No Credit (Pass/No Pass or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grading to meet major preparation course requirements?
Berkeley	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
Davis	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
Irvine	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
Los Angeles	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
Merced	Students are advised to complete major preparation courses for letter grades. Individual academic departments decide whether or not Credit/No Credit coursework meets lower-division major requirements. Students should consult with the department of their intended major before choosing the Credit/No Credit option. Where Credit/No Credit grades are acceptable, the catalog of the institution offering the course must indicate that Credit is equivalent to a grade of C (2.0) or higher.
Riverside	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
San Diego	Major preparation courses must be taken for a letter grade.
Santa Barbara	Students are advised to complete major preparation courses for letter grades. Where Credit/No Credit grades are acceptable, the catalog of the institution offering the course must indicate that Credit is equivalent to a grade of C (2.0) or higher.
Santa Cruz	Students are advised to complete major preparation courses for letter grades. Individual academic departments decide whether or not Credit/No Credit coursework meets lower-division major requirements. Students should consult with the department of their major before choosing the Credit/No Credit option. Where Credit/No Credit grades are acceptable, the catalog of the institution offering the course must indicate that Credit is equivalent to a grade of C (2.0) or higher.

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS SELECTION	
Does the campus use the personal insight responses in the selection of transfer applicants for UC admission? *	
Berkeley	Yes
Davis	No
Irvine	Yes
Los Angeles	Yes
Merced	No
Riverside	No
San Diego	No
Santa Barbara	No
Santa Cruz	No
Does the campus admit students to a specific major or to the campus?	
Berkeley	To major in Business; Chemistry; Computing, Data Science, and Society; Engineering; Environmental Design; and Natural Resources. Applicants who list a high-demand major in the College of Letters and Science will be guaranteed a spot in the major if admitted. Applicants who list a <u>direct admission-to-major</u> in the College of Letters and Science will be directly admitted into the major. <u>All majors</u> admit to the academic division where the major is located, and students will declare their major only after enrollment and departmental approval.
Davis	To major
Irvine	To major
Los Angeles	To major
Merced	To major
Riverside	To major
San Diego	To major. Campus does not admit transfer students as Undeclared.
Santa Barbara	To major or pre-major. In many majors students are admitted to pre-major status until they fulfill all lower-division requirements for the full major. Campus does not admit transfer students as Undeclared.
Santa Cruz	To proposed major. (Students are admitted as “proposed majors” and officially declare their major once all qualification requirements are met.) See UC Santa Cruz’s <u>transfer admission website</u> .
Does the campus consider admission to an alternate major if the student cannot be accommodated in the first-choice major?	
Berkeley	No
Davis	An applicant may be considered for admission to an alternate major if a valid one is indicated on the application. Such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.
Irvine	Applicants who do not meet the criteria for their first-choice major may be considered for their alternate major on a case-by-case basis. Consideration for an alternate major is given if criteria for the major are met and space is available. Nursing Science and Business Administration will not be considered as alternate majors.

* While campuses vary in their use of the personal insight responses, all use them to evaluate gaps in applicants’ educational history or in the evaluation of applicants for certain scholarships.

TRANSFER SELECTION

CAMPUS SELECTION	
Does the campus consider admission to an alternate major if the student cannot be accommodated in the first-choice major? <i>(continued)</i>	
Los Angeles	In general, applicants are not considered for admission to alternate majors.
Merced	Alternate majors may be offered to select students who meet the qualifications.
Riverside	An applicant may be considered for admission to an alternate major if a valid one is indicated on the application. Such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.
San Diego	If the applicant's first choice is selective and/or requires completion of minimum major preparation and they do not meet selection requirements, they may be considered for admission to the alternate major indicated on the application if there is space.
Santa Barbara	An applicant may be considered for admission to an alternate major if a valid alternate major is indicated on the application and if space is available. Students applying in the College of Creative Studies or audition majors in the College of Letters and Science are encouraged to choose an alternate major in the College of Letters and Science. Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering majors may only be selected as a first-choice major.
Santa Cruz	An applicant who does not meet first-choice major criteria may be considered for selection to an alternate major if alternate major criteria are met.

TRANSFER SELECTION

MAJOR SELECTION	
Which colleges, schools or majors require completion of specific major preparation coursework?	
Berkeley	All majors. For information on selection procedures and required major prerequisites, see the Berkeley Academic Guide and ASSIST .
Davis	Biological Sciences and Engineering: all majors Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: Animal Biology, Animal Science, Biotechnology, Managerial Economics, Viticulture and Enology, Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology Graduate School of Management: Business Letters and Science: Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics, Data Science, Economics, Mathematical Analytic and Operations Research, Mathematical and Science Computation, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology For more information, see UC Davis's selective major requirements.
Irvine	Many majors have preparation requirements. See UC Irvine's transfer requirements by school .
Los Angeles	All majors with the exception of the Education and Social Transformation major and some majors in the School of Arts and Architecture. See UCLA's Transfer Admission Guide .
Merced	Most majors at UC Merced have specific preparation requirements for transfer applicants. However, the following 10 majors (and their emphases) participating in the SSHA Pilot Program do not require students to meet major-specific transfer selection criteria for admission consideration: Anthropology, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Global Arts Studies, History, Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Writing Studies .
Riverside	Business Economics, Economics, Economics/Administrative Studies, Neuroscience, Psychology and all majors in the Bourns College of Engineering, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and School of Business .
San Diego	Astronomy and Astrophysics, Biological Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Data Science, Economics, Jacobs School of Engineering majors, Environmental Systems, Mathematics, Physics, Public Health, Real Estate and Development, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography majors. For details, see UCSD's transfer major preparation requirements.
Santa Barbara	In the College of Letters and Sciences , specific coursework preparation is required of applicants to all majors in the departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics and Data Science (including Actuarial Science). In the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering and the College of Creative Studies specific coursework preparation is required of applicants to all majors. The College of Creative Studies requires a supplemental application. See our selective majors website .
Santa Cruz	Most majors screen for major preparation .
What is the minimum GPA needed in UC-transferable courses for admission consideration for a specific college, school or major?	
Berkeley	Chemistry; Computing, Data Science, and Society; and Letters and Science: 3.0 Engineering: 3.5 (Note: Some exceptions may be made.) Business, Environmental Design and Natural Resources do a complete review of applicants who meet their respective course requirements regardless of GPA.
Davis	Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: 2.8 Biological Sciences: 2.8 Graduate School of Management — Business: 3.0 Engineering: 3.1 Letters and Science: 2.8 A higher GPA is required for a UC Davis Transfer Admission Guarantee, and usually for selection, given varying enrollment targets.

TRANSFER SELECTION

MAJOR SELECTION	
What is the minimum GPA needed in UC-transferable courses for admission consideration for a specific college, school or major? <i>(continued)</i>	
Irvine	Depending on major, minimum GPA ranges from 2.7 to 3.0. See UC Irvine's transfer requirements by school.
Los Angeles	Arts and Architecture: 3.0 Communication: 3.7 Education and Social Transformation: 3.2 Engineering and Applied Science: 3.4 Letters and Science: 3.2 Nursing-Generic/Prelicensure: 3.5 School of Music: 3.2 Public Affairs: 3.2 Theater, Film and Television: 3.2 For more information, see UCLA's Transfer Admission Guide .
Merced	Engineering: 2.4 Natural Sciences: 2.4 Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts: 2.4, with the exception of Public Health , which is 3.0
Riverside	Depending on the major, minimum GPA ranges from 2.4 to 3.1. GPAs are subject to change depending on campus enrollment goals.
San Diego	Depending on the major, GPA ranges from 2.8 to 4.0.
Santa Barbara	College of Creative Studies: 3.0 Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering: 3.4 College of Letters and Science: 2.7–3.4 See our selective majors website .
Santa Cruz	Depending on the major, minimum GPA ranges from 2.4 to 2.8. GPAs are subject to change depending on campus enrollment goals. For minimum GPAs in major preparation coursework, see UC Santa Cruz's transfer student admission website .
Which colleges, schools or majors are highly selective (number of applicants greatly exceeds spaces available)?	
Berkeley	Most majors in Business; Computing, Data Science, and Society; Engineering and Natural Resources Letters and Science: Art Practice, Analytics, Political Economy, Public Health and Social Welfare For more information, visit the majors page of the Berkeley admissions website.
Davis	Biological Sciences and Engineering: all majors Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: Biotechnology, Managerial Economics, Viticulture and Enology Graduate School of Management: Business Letters and Science: Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics, Computer Science, Data Science, Economics, Mathematical Analytic and Operations Research, Mathematical and Science Computation, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology For more information, see UC Davis's selective major requirements .
Irvine	Business Administration Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences: All majors Engineering: Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Health Sciences: Nursing Science School of Social Sciences: Business Economics, Cognitive Sciences, Economics, Psychology, Quantitative Economics

TRANSFER SELECTION

MAJOR SELECTION	
Which colleges, schools or majors are highly selective (number of applicants greatly exceeds spaces available)? <i>(continued)</i>	
Los Angeles	All majors in Engineering and Applied Science; Arts and Architecture; Nursing; Music; Public Affairs; and Theater, Film and Television Letters and Science: Biochemistry, Biology, Business Economics, Communication, Economics, Financial Actuarial Mathematics, Global Studies, Human Biology and Society (B.A./B.S.), International Development Studies, Mathematics/Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Statistics. Please consult UCLA's Transfer Admission Guide for details.
Merced	Most majors at UC Merced have specific preparation requirements for transfer applicants. However, the following 10 majors (and their emphases) participating in the SSHA Pilot Program do not require students to meet major-specific transfer selection criteria for admission consideration: Anthropology, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Global Arts Studies, History, Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Writing Studies.
Riverside	See UC Riverside's transfer admission website.
San Diego	Selective majors include Bioengineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Data Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Public Health. High-interest majors are also very popular but are not yet considered "selective." High-interest majors may include Biological Sciences, Cognitive Science, Business Economics, Economics, Mathematics, Nano Engineering, Psychology and Structural Engineering and are subject to change each year. For more information, please visit the selective majors website.
Santa Barbara	All Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering majors (including Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, beginning fall 2028) and all College of Creative Studies majors. In the College of Letters and Science, all majors in the following areas/departments: Actuarial Science, Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Data Science, Dance, Music (B.M. only) and Theater B.A. (Theater Design emphasis).
Santa Cruz	Computer Science B.A. and B.S.

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

An increasing number of prospective UC students have completed part of their high school or college work outside the United States, and their academic records include both U.S. and international credentials. Students with such mixed records often have questions about how to complete the university's application for admission. The information in this section is provided to assist these students.

Each UC campus has experienced international admission specialists to evaluate international academic records and determine transferability of international coursework. They are knowledgeable about the different grading systems and methods of reporting coursework in other countries.

Our international admission specialists are able to provide general information to students; however, most cannot provide formal evaluations for students before they apply. Additional guidance on how international coursework can meet requirements for first-year applicants can be found on pages 14–15. For transfer students, additional guidance can be found on our [Transfer Credit Practices website](#).

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE USE OF AGENTS

UC does not partner with agents for the purpose of representing the university for undergraduate student recruitment or to administer any part of the undergraduate admission application process. The university does not endorse the engagement of agents or private organizations for the purpose of recruitment or enrolling international students for undergraduate degree programs. Agents who may be retained by students to help with the application process for undergraduate degree programs are not recognized as representatives of the university and do not have a contractual agreement or partnership to represent UC.

UC expects all applicants to complete their own application materials as the use of agent services is not aligned with UC's [Statement of Integrity](#) or the expectations explained as a part of applying for undergraduate admission to the UC campuses.

UC expects an application to be the work of the applicant and all information on the application to be complete, accurate and truthful.

ACADEMIC RECORDS

Students who accept an offer of admission to a UC campus must provide official academic records from all international institutions they attended beginning with the equivalent of the first year of high school (ninth grade) in the United States, even if ninth

grade is part of middle school in the home country. **Because it can take a substantial amount of time to obtain records from schools outside the United States, applicants should have legible photocopies of their official international academic records.** After a student submits an application, the student should be prepared to send these copies to UC upon request. Official academic records will be required at the campus the student elects to attend.

The official record must list the titles of courses and examinations the student completed, the grades (marks) earned, the dates attended and any degree or diploma earned. In the United States, the academic record is usually referred to as a transcript; in other countries it may be called by another name, such as statement of marks, statement of results, *relevé du notes*, record of learning or record of achievement.

We recognize that occasionally it may be difficult to obtain international records in the event of political upheaval or natural disaster; however, these situations are rare. Failure to provide official records may jeopardize a student's enrollment at UC.

EVALUATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL COURSEWORK FOR ADVANCED CREDIT

In most cases, we do not grant credit for secondary-level certificates or diplomas. However, credit is awarded for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Levels (A Levels) and the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A Levels (H2) in academic subjects similar to courses offered at UC and in which grades of A*, A, B or C were earned, as well as for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams (see pages 66–67).

TRANSLATIONS

Secondary school records generally do not need to be translated unless they are in a language with an alphabet other than the Roman alphabet. In that case, official translations are required.

Students must submit certified translations of all international college/university records that are not issued in English. We will accept English-language translations provided by international universities or those performed by certified translators with knowledge of educational records and terminology.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The admissions office may need descriptions of college/university coursework to determine course content and verify that the student has completed preparatory coursework for admission. Many international universities can provide translations into English. If a university cannot, we will accept a student translation.

We do not use course evaluations provided by professional credential evaluation agencies. All academic record and course evaluations are performed by UC's international admission specialists.

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

THE APPLICATION

SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

On the undergraduate application, students must list all institutions attended, including any schools outside the United States, beginning with the equivalent of the ninth grade, even if the student satisfied or plans to meet the UC admission requirements with only U.S. coursework. Students may not omit or otherwise disregard any part of their academic record, even if they think it may affect their chances for admission.

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Students who currently attend or previously attended school outside the United States should report their international coursework and grades in the Academic History section of the admission application to the best of their ability, following the instructions provided. **They should list all courses attempted and record the grades earned exactly as reported by the international school** — whether as numbers, letters, percentages or words. Students should not attempt to convert grades to the U.S. grading scale.

Prospective first-year applicants should report all external exams (such as GCE or IGCSE) completed and planned on the International Exams page in the Test Scores section of the application and select the grades/marks received exactly as they appear on the certified results sheet rather than the mark assigned by the teacher at the end of the course. Additional information about meeting UC's subject requirements based on international secondary courses can be found on pages 14–15.

Transfer applicants should list hours, credits or units for coursework as noted on their academic records if their coursework is not reported as quarter or semester units, and record the marks/grades earned exactly as reported by the international college or university — whether as numbers, letters, percentages or words.

International Baccalaureate (IB) predicted scores

We request predicted IB scores from students enrolled in IB programs outside the United States. Prospective first-year applicants may provide predicted scores on the IB Exams page of the application for admission. If predicted IB scores are not available when the application is submitted, or if the school does not release predicted grades to students, the application will still receive full consideration for admission. Predicted scores will not be the sole basis of admission selection by UC campuses.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Students must report exam scores that demonstrate English proficiency. For details about the requirement, see page 59.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

Whether a student is applying as a first-year or transfer applicant, if some or all of the student's high school/secondary school was completed in a school where English was **not** the language of instruction, the student may be required to demonstrate English proficiency.

FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS

Students who have completed all of their secondary school/high school in a country where English is not the language of instruction, as well as students who have had fewer than three years of instruction in English, will need to demonstrate English proficiency. This can be done in any of the following ways:

- Score 3, 4 or 5 on the AP examination in English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition
- Score 6 or 7 on an IB Standard Level examination in English (Language A only)
- Score 5, 6 or 7 on an IB Higher Level examination in English (Language A only)
- Score 6.5 or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)*
- Score 80 or higher before January 2026 or 4.5 or higher after January 2026 on either of the Tests of English as a Foreign Language internet-based tests (TOEFL iBT)* listed below:
 - TOEFL iBT
 - TOEFL iBT Home Edition
- Score 115 or higher on the Duolingo English Test (DET)
- Score 24 or higher on ACT English Language Arts (ELA)
- Score 31 or higher on Writing and Language in the SAT**
- Earn a grade of C or better in a UC-transferable college course in English composition (worth 3 semester or 4 quarter units)

Any one of these examinations must be completed by December of the final year of high school/secondary school and self-reported to the campuses by the following January. Official scores should be sent after admission only to the campus where the student intends to enroll.

Please note: A UC campus may require a score higher than the minimum for admission selection. And some campuses may request an interview during the application review process to determine English language skills. TOEFL, IELTS and DET scores are valid for two years from the date of the exam, and scores must be available in July prior to enrolling at UC.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS

Transfer students can demonstrate English proficiency by completing the two UC-transferable English composition courses required for junior transfer admission (see page 35) and earning at least C or B grades, depending on the campuses to which they apply.

Students are considered proficient if they meet the following criteria:

- For Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz: grades of C or higher in the English composition courses
- For Los Angeles and San Diego: grades of B or higher in the English composition courses

UCLA may require additional English proficiency testing for admitted applicants.

Students who do not earn the required minimum grades may need to take English as a second language classes or an examination, depending on the campus. Campus requirements may vary; contact the campus admissions office for more information.

Note: UC does not accept English composition courses from international universities where the language of instruction is not English.

EXAM INFORMATION

Information about TOEFL and IELTS exams is available at most U.S. consulates and overseas U.S. educational advising offices, as well as online:

TOEFL Services

E-mail: toefl@ets.org

Web: www.toefl.org

IELTS International

E-mail: ielts@ieltsintl.org

Web: www.ielts.org

Duolingo English Test

Web: englishtest.duolingo.com

* UC does not accept IELTS One Skill Retake or MyBest TOEFL; only the highest composite score from a single sitting is allowed.

** The digital SAT Reading and Writing section score has not been approved to meet English language proficiency.

APPLYING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Students may apply to one or more of UC's nine undergraduate campuses using a single [application](#).

Applying broadly will significantly increase students' chances of being admitted to a campus where they can fulfill their educational goals, even if it is not their first choice.

WHEN TO APPLY

The fall 2027 application filing period begins Oct. 1 and goes through Nov. 30. The application for fall term opens on Aug. 1 to give prospective students ample time to complete it before the submission deadline of Nov. 30. The filing periods for all terms, if campuses will be accepting applications, are as follows:

Application Filing Periods	
Fall quarter/semester*	Oct. 1–Nov. 30
Winter quarter/spring semester	July 1–31
Spring quarter	Oct. 1–31

* Berkeley and Merced are on the semester system; all other campuses are on the quarter system.

Most majors and programs are open to new students in the fall term. In other terms, campuses are rarely open to first-year applicants and openings for transfer students are generally limited. Students should [check majors](#) if they are considering applying to a term other than fall.

Students should not send transcripts (academic records) or letters of recommendation during the application process unless they are requested to do so by a specific campus. Official academic records and test scores, if applicable, will be required after an offer of admission is accepted.

A student's application will be sent to the campuses the student designates, and all designated campuses will consider it simultaneously, yet independently of one another. Students may apply to different majors at different campuses.

APPLICATION FEES

Application fees are nonrefundable and subject to change. The application fee is \$80 for each campus a student selects, \$95 per campus selected for non-California residents attending school outside the United States. Schools, colleges and organizations can now pay for student application fees in advance. Email appcenterissues@ucop.edu with questions about the voucher process.

FEE WAIVERS

We will waive application fees for up to four campuses for students who otherwise would not be able to apply for admission. Students who qualify for a fee waiver and select more than four campuses must pay \$80 for each additional choice. To be eligible for the UC fee waiver, a student's family income and size must fall within specific guidelines, and students must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or bona fide California residents. See page 62 for the definition of a bona fide California resident.

Students can apply for a fee waiver within the online application prior to submitting it. UC also accepts application fee waivers from the College Board, ACT, NACAC, SCOIR and California community college EOPS programs, which can be emailed to the UC Application Center in lieu of payment. (See page 63 for the contact information.) Waivers cannot be combined to cover the cost of applying to more than four campuses.

REPORTING STUDENT DATA

All applicants are asked to provide detailed information concerning their coursework and grades in the Academic History section of the application. Admissions staff use this record to conduct initial assessments of students' academic records and to make offers of admission. A final evaluation of an applicant's admission is made after a student accepts an offer from UC and final, official academic records are presented.

It is important that applicants complete the Academic History thoroughly and accurately. Students should not work from memory. Instead, they should use grade reports and academic records. California-resident first-year applicants should also refer to their high school's approved [A-G course list](#). We don't approve courses for schools outside of California, but out-of-state and international students can use any California high school's [A-G course list](#) as a guide for the likely acceptance of their courses to meet UC's first-year admission subject requirements.

Changes to the Academic History that occur after the application is submitted may need to be reported to the campuses applied to. Refer to instructions for [updating an application](#) on the UC admissions website.

Applicants should be reminded that the information on the application will be verified following receipt of the official academic record and any test scores. All information must be complete, accurate and the applicant's own work. Failure to submit accurate information will jeopardize consideration for admission to UC for the current or any future terms. Students found to have falsified application information will be subject to penalties up to and including denial of admission, withdrawal of an admission offer, registration cancellation, expulsion or revocation of a University of California degree.

APPLYING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

In addition to the post-admission verification, we conduct a pre-admission verification with a random sample of applicants, who are notified in December that they must submit verification documents in order to be considered for admission. Applicants may be asked to verify an item from one of the following application sections:

- Academic History
- Awards/Honors
- Volunteering/Community Service
- Educational Preparation Programs
- Other Coursework
- Extracurricular Activities
- Personal Insight Questions
- Work Experience

Failure to submit the required documentation by the deadline will result in an application being withdrawn from further admission consideration at all campuses.

ACADEMIC HISTORY FOR FIRST-YEAR APPLICANTS

Students must report all academic courses completed in grades 9, 10 and 11 (secondary school); all academic courses in progress and planned for grade 12 (and 13, if applicable); any math or English college courses and any UC-transferable college/university courses completed, in progress or planned. Complete course titles must be used. California students can select their coursework in the online application directly from their school's A-G course list. All other students must type in course/grade information.

Courses taken in grades 9, 10 and 11

All grades for all academic courses completed in grades 9, 10 and 11 must be reported. If a course is repeated, both the initial and repeated course and grades earned must be shown. For more information about grades in repeated courses, see page 21. Grades earned in grade 9 will not be used in the GPA calculation for admission purposes.

Summer courses

All applicants must report any summer term courses they attempted. Grades from courses completed during the summers after grades 9, 10 and 11 will be included in the GPA calculation. In the UC A-G course lists, summer is considered the last term of the academic year (e.g., summer 2025 = 2024–25 course list).

Courses taken in seventh and eighth grades

High school-level courses in mathematics and languages other than English (or a foreign language for international students) completed in the seventh and eighth grades with letter grades of C or better may be used to meet appropriate subject requirements. UC does not require the submission of a middle

school transcript, nor are high schools required to list middle or junior high school courses on high school transcripts. No other subject requirements may be met with coursework completed in middle school, even if the coursework was at the high school level.

Honors-level courses

All Advanced Placement (AP) and some International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are considered by UC to be honors level. Search the [A-G reference list](#) for “Advanced Placement” and “International Baccalaureate” to see which AP and IB courses have been approved for honors status. In addition, UC allows some courses as honors. California high schools identify these on their schools' A-G course lists. Students enrolled in California high schools should not mark any courses as honors that do not appear on their schools' A-G course lists.

Transferable college/university courses that fit into an A-G subject category offered at an institution accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies (or at an international university recognized by the country's Ministry of Education) and completed with a letter grade of C or better (or the U.S. equivalent for international courses) are designated as honors level for first-year admission purposes. **Note:** Users are encouraged to refer to [ASSIST](#) and to pages 18–20 of this guide to determine which current California community college courses may meet A-G requirements.

Online courses

Students who completed (or plan to complete) online A-G courses offered by their high school should enter the courses the same way they do all other A-G courses taken at the school.

Students who completed (or plan to complete) online courses offered by an online course publisher (see page 20) must have the course added to their home high school transcript with credits and a letter grade by following a process known as principal certification (see page 20).

Students who completed (or plan to complete) courses offered by an **online school** (see page 20) must list the name of each online school they enrolled in and report the specific courses taken. Upon a student's acceptance by UC, official academic records from the online school must be sent to the UC campus where the student will enroll.

Courses taken outside the United States

If part or all of a student's high school education took place outside the United States, the student should complete the Academic History, including repeated courses or years, as thoroughly as possible. Students should report grades earned outside the United States exactly as given by their school — as numbers, letters, percentages or words. Students who are completing (or have completed) 13 years of secondary school should work backwards beginning with year 13 (i.e., year 13 should be reported as 12th grade, year 12 should be reported as 11th grade, etc.)

APPLYING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Students who sat or will sit for international external exams should report the exam subjects and grades on the International Exams page in the Test Score section of the application.

Refer to additional information about meeting UC's subject requirements based on [international secondary courses](#) on pages 14–15.

Submission of test scores

Students may submit scores from the ACT or SAT, but UC will not consider such scores when making admission decisions or awarding scholarships. Scores may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after enrollment.

Students who wish to report scores to meet minimum subject requirements must first submit the application for admission. They can then return to their application to update the test score section with their self-reported scores. Admitted students who reported test scores should have official scores sent only to the campus where they intend to enroll.

ACADEMIC HISTORY FOR TRANSFER APPLICANTS

It is important that all information requested in the Academic History be included and that the information is accurate. All college or university courses attempted at all institutions (including repeated courses), in progress and planned should be listed, regardless of length of attendance or grades earned or whether the student thinks the courses will be transferable. Lower-division transfer applicants must include their full high school academic history, including dual enrollment courses, in addition to their college work.

Transfer Academic Update

Transfer students who apply for fall admission will be asked in December to update their applications through the UC Transfer Academic Update (TAU) process. Once they log in to their application, they will be able to give UC their final grades from the previous fall, as well as a list of all courses in progress or planned for winter and/or spring. The TAU will open on Dec. 15, and the priority submission deadline is Jan. 31. The Transfer Academic Update form is open until March 15. It is important for students to submit a TAU by the priority deadline so that the campuses have updated academic information when reviewing the application. We cannot guarantee that a campus can go back to review an application if an additional TAU has been received after the priority deadline. To avoid confusion or delays in processing, students should make every effort to submit a complete and accurate TAU by the priority deadline, and refrain from submitting multiple updates unless absolutely necessary. Failure to submit the form may jeopardize a student's chances of admission.

PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

All applicants must respond, in their own words, to four short-answer questions. These responses are intended to highlight students' readiness for a UC education.

Each question aligns to one or more of the comprehensive review criteria that campuses consider in their admission decisions.

- **First-year applicants** must select four out of eight questions to answer.
- **Transfer applicants** must respond to one required question in addition to three out of seven additional questions.
- Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words.
- All questions have equal value in the admission selection process. There is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others.

INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

All students, including [undocumented applicants](#), must thoroughly and accurately complete the entire application.

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

"No Selection" is an available and valid response for undocumented applicants, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. By choosing "No Selection," applicants will not be asked other questions about permanent residency and visa status.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Applicants are required to disclose their Social Security number (SSN) if they have one. Students with an SSN for work purposes (usually through DACA) should enter that number. Students who don't have a valid SSN or SSN for work purposes, but do have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), should enter the ITIN in place of an SSN. These identification numbers are often used to match students when awarding financial aid or issuing notice of potential tax credits. Students who do not have a valid SSN, SSN for work purposes or ITIN should leave this item blank.

BONA FIDE CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY FOR ADMISSION PURPOSES

Being classified as a bona fide California resident for admission purposes allows an applicant to be considered for admission using a lower minimum GPA than is applied to nonresidents. A student who answers yes to the following question in the

APPLYING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

application is considered a bona fide California resident for admission purposes:

- By the time you attend UC, will you have attended a California school for three or more years during grades K-12?

Being considered a bona fide California resident for admission purposes does not guarantee a student will be considered as such for UC tuition and financial aid purposes under California law [AB 540](#).

U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

UC is proud to welcome student veterans and military personnel to our campuses. Whether a student is a current or former member of the military, they can find a supportive community dedicated to helping them succeed.

- Most of UC's veterans who enroll as undergraduates start at a California community college.
- UC undergraduate veterans receive substantial grant and scholarship aid; many student veterans are also eligible for Veterans Administration education benefits.
- Every year nearly 2,000 veterans and students with military affiliation enroll at UC.

Veterans should be advised that UC is designed as a full-time, daytime, in-person educational experience. Some students can receive approval for part-time enrollment under special circumstances once they're enrolled at a UC campus.

CONTACTING THE UC APPLICATION CENTER

Students who have a question about the application should call the UC Application Center at (800) 207-1710 (within the United States) or (925) 298-6856 (from outside the United States) or e-mail ucinfo@applyucsupport.net.

Hours

Monday–Friday: 9 a.m. –5 p.m., except as noted below.

Nov. 2 –13: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. PST

Nov. 16–20: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. PST

Nov. 23–25: Monday–Wednesday, 8 a.m.–10 p.m.

Nov. 27–28: Friday–Saturday, 7 a.m.–11 p.m. PST

Nov. 29–30: Sunday–Monday, 7 a.m.–midnight PST

Dec. 1: Tuesday: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. PST

Closed on the following holidays:

Nov. 26, Dec. 25 and Jan 1

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION

An offer of admission is provisional, or conditional, until the campus receives a student's final official academic records, which are used to verify an applicant's qualifications for UC. If any information in the application is found to be incomplete or inaccurate, or if a student's performance drops significantly after submitting an application, the offer of admission may be revoked. Each campus provides newly admitted students with conditions for admission that must be satisfied prior to enrollment.

Final official transcripts/academic records must be postmarked or submitted electronically by July 1, and all other documents and test scores (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, etc.) are due by July 15 for fall enrollment. Document submission deadlines for winter and spring terms vary, depending on the campus the student will attend. Students should refer to communications from the campus.

ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS

A list of approved electronic transcript vendors is provided in the [Counselors Resource Library](#) in early spring of each year.

CAMPUS MAJORS AND SCREENING PROCEDURES

Some UC majors require an audition or submission of a portfolio or other supplemental materials. Explore all UC majors with our [online search tool](#).

BERKELEY

Select first-year applicants will have an opportunity to submit two [letters of recommendation](#). One letter must be written by a teacher or instructor. Applicants will identify letter writers as part of the application process. Letters are due by 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2026, and must be submitted electronically. After this date, it is not guaranteed that a letter can be read as part of the application review.

HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Students must submit a supplemental application, including a self-reported academic record, additional essay questions and résumé. Applicants will receive emailed instructions from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions five to seven days after submission of the UC application. See the [Haas undergraduate admissions](#) website for details.

DAVIS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Landscape Architecture

Students who wish to major in Landscape Architecture must apply to the Pre-Landscape Architecture major. After students have enrolled at UC Davis they will be required to submit a separate major application to the department during their sophomore year to be considered for formal acceptance to the Landscape Architecture major. Contact the Landscape Architecture Advising Office at (530) 754-8628 or see the [Department of Human Ecology application process](#) for details about the portfolio application and other information.

IRVINE

CLAIRE TREVOR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Art

Applicants must submit a portfolio of 10 images of artwork or not more than three minutes of video to be considered for the Art major. See the [Art](#) website for more information.

Dance

Applicants must audition in multiple techniques. Auditions will be held in January and February prior to the fall quarter when enrollment is anticipated. See the [Dance](#) website for details.

Drama

Drama applicants have the opportunity to complete an optional audition or portfolio. See the [Drama](#) website for details.

Music

Auditions are required for applicants to the B. Mus. degree program, which offers the following specializations: piano, vocal arts and strings (violin, viola, violoncello and double bass). Students who play other instruments are invited to consider the B.A. in Music degree, which does not require an audition. Auditions are held between December and February prior to the fall quarter when enrollment is anticipated. See the [Music Department](#) website for details.

LOS ANGELES

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

Applicants to all majors must demonstrate artistic ability and potential through submission of a portfolio, audition, interview and/or questionnaire. See the [school website](#) for details:

Architectural Studies (open to transfer students only)

Art

Computational Art

Dance

Design

Games

World Arts and Cultures

HERB ALPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Applicants to the following majors are required to audition and/or interview and submit a supplemental application. See the [School of Music](#) website for details:

Ethnomusicology

Global Jazz Studies

Music Composition

Music Education

Music Industry

Music Performance

Musicology

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Applicants must complete a supplemental application. See [School of Nursing](#) website for more information.

SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION

Visit the [school website](#) for detailed information about supplementary application materials, forms and deadlines.

Film and Television

A personal essay, critical essay, creative writing sample and two letters of recommendation are required for admission. Film and videotapes are not accepted. Prior experience is not required.

CAMPUS MAJORS AND SCREENING PROCEDURES

Theater

Applicants must interview and submit additional supporting materials. To qualify for admission on the basis of performance, students must audition.

MERCED

SJV PRIME+, a partnership between UC Merced, UCSF Fresno and the UCSF School of Medicine, includes a provisional acceptance to the UCSF School of Medicine. The [SJV PRIME+ BS/MD](#) program requires completion of a supplemental application.

RIVERSIDE

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Art (Studio)

Transfer applicants are required to electronically submit a portfolio consisting of 10 images of original work and/or three clips of moving images or sound work. See the [Art Department](#) website for guidelines.

SAN DIEGO

MUSIC, THEATRE/DANCE AND VISUAL ARTS

Applicants to Music, Theatre/Dance and Visual Arts may submit an optional portfolio/audition video. Students who choose one of these majors on the UC application will be provided with a link to submit their art portfolio/audition video online. Faculty in the major will review the submission and share their evaluations with the UC San Diego Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The optional art portfolio may assist the overall application review but is not required for admission to UC San Diego.

SANTA BARBARA

Students interested in transferring into one of UCSB's [selective majors](#) must meet certain requirements prior to transfer.

COLLEGE OF CREATIVE STUDIES

Applicants must submit supplementary materials directly to the college, including a separate application form, unofficial academic records from all high schools and colleges/universities attended, and two letters of recommendation. Students applying to Art, Music Composition, or Writing and Literature must also submit supplemental information. See the [College of Creative Studies](#) website for complete instructions.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Dance

Applicants must audition for the Dance B.A. and B.F.A. programs. Auditions for the B.A. program are held in late January/early February. Auditions are also offered during registration week of the fall quarter for admitted students who are unable to audition earlier. Students should plan to attend the earlier audition to reserve space in the program. See the [Theater and Dance](#) website for more information.

Music

Applicants to the Music B.M. program must submit a supplemental audition form, due in December, and audition in late January prior to the fall quarter when enrollment is anticipated. See the [Music](#) website for details.

Theater

Auditions are not required for the general Theater B.A. program. Auditions are required for the Theater B.F.A. (Acting emphasis) program after enrollment at the end of the student's first year. Beginning fall 2028 an audition will be required as a part of the admission process. A portfolio review and scheduled (virtual) interview are required for the B.A. (Theater Design emphasis) program. See the [Theater and Dance](#) website for more information.

SANTA CRUZ

ART

Although Art is not a screening major, students must complete one of two options in order to pursue the Art major at UCSC. One option is the [portfolio review](#). The second option is to pass two ART 10 foundation equivalent courses. Find equivalent courses on [ASSIST](#).

MUSIC

First-year applicants who wish to be considered for a [music scholarship](#) must submit an audition recording.

EXAM CREDIT

We offer college credit to students who have taken and scored well on designated Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate Higher Level (IB HL) and A Level exams.

In addition to awarding credit toward UC graduation requirements, some departments on some campuses grant credit for specific subjects and/or for general education requirements. See campus general catalogs for information about how credit for these exams is applied.

Units granted for AP, IB and A Level exams are not counted toward the maximum number of credits required for formal declaration of a major or the maximum number of units a student may accumulate prior to graduation. Students who enter UC with exam credit do not have to declare a major sooner than other students, nor are they required to graduate earlier.

Students should be advised that college courses taken before or while attending UC may duplicate AP, IB and/or A Level examinations. Additionally, exams may duplicate each other (for example AP and IB exams in the same subject area). If a student does duplicate an exam of the same subject content and/or a college course, we will award credit only once.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

We grant credit for the Advanced Placement (AP) exams listed in the chart at right for scores of 3, 4 or 5. Units may be granted toward UC graduation or for specific subjects and/or for general education requirements, as determined by each campus. UC does not award credit for projected scores.

AP exams can also be used to meet some of the minimum transfer admission subject requirements in English (UC-E), math (UC-M), the humanities (UC-H), behavioral/social sciences (UC-B) and biological/physical sciences (UC-S).

Students are encouraged to take AP tests when appropriate. Although the College Board reports all AP test results to us, students should be aware that AP test scores lower than 3 will not adversely affect their chances for admission.

For the most up-to-date list of [AP exam credit](#) visit the UC admissions website.

CREDIT GRANTED FOR AP EXAMS

African American Studies 4 qtr/2.6 sem

Art and Design

2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design, Drawing: 8 qtr/5.3 sem
(8-unit maximum for all three tests)

Art History (UC-H) 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Biology (UC-S) 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Chemistry (UC-S) 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Computer Science

Computer Science A: 8 qtr/5.3 sem
Computer Science Principles: 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Economics (UC-B)

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics: 4 qtr/2.6 sem

English

Language and Composition (UC-E), Literature and Composition (UC E/H): 8 qtr/5.3 sem (8-unit maximum for both tests)

Environmental Science (UC-S) 4 qtr/2.6 sem

Government and Politics (UC-B)

United States, Comparative: 4 qtr/2.6 sem

History (UC-B/H)

United States, European, World, Modern World: 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Human Geography (UC-B) 4 qtr/2.6 sem

Language other than English (UC-H)

Chinese Language and Culture, French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, Latin, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture: 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Mathematics (UC-M)*

Calculus AB: 4 qtr/2.6 sem
Calculus BC: 8 qtr/5.3 sem
(8-unit maximum for both tests)

Music Theory (UC-H)** 8 qtr/5.3 sem

Physics (UC-S)

Physics 1, Physics 2: 8 qtr/5.3 sem
Physics C/Mechanics, Physics C/Electricity and Magnetism: 4 qtr/2.6 sem
(8-unit maximum for all tests)

Psychology (UC-B) 4 qtr/2.6 sem

Statistics (UC-M) 4 qtr/2.6 sem

* AB subscore on Calculus BC exam: Students who take the BC exam and earn a subscore of 3 or higher on the Calculus AB portion will receive 4 quarter units of credit for the Calculus AB exam, even if they do not receive a score of 3 or higher on the BC examination. The maximum credit awarded for both exams is 8 quarter units. No credit is awarded for the AP Precalculus exam.

** Music Theory subscore: We grant credit for the full Music Theory exam. Students who earn only a subscore will not receive exam credit.

EXAM CREDIT

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The IB organization awards either a diploma or a certificate for individual IB exams. Students who complete the IB diploma with a score of 30 or above will receive 6 quarter (4 semester) units toward their UC degrees in addition to 8 quarter (5.3 semester) units each for designated Higher Level exams passed with a score of 5 or higher. Students who receive IB certificates with a score of 5 or higher on designated Higher Level exams will receive 8 quarter (5.3 semester) units per exam.

Designated exams may be considered equivalent to UC first-year-level courses in the subject and may be used to meet general education requirements as determined by each campus.

Students or counselors should consult campus catalogs and websites for more information on how subject credit may be granted.

We award 8 quarter (5.3 semester) units of credit for each of the following IB Higher Level exams with scores of 5, 6 or 7. No credit is awarded for Standard Level (SL) exams. Designated IB HL exams passed with scores of 5 or higher can be used to meet portions of the seven-course pattern for transfer students, but not the English composition requirements.

For the most up-to-date list of [IB exam credit](#), visit the UC admissions website.

Anthropology,
Social and Cultural

Biology

Business Management

Chemistry

Computer Science

Dance

Economics

Film

Further Mathematics
(earned in 2020 or before)

Geography

Global Politics

History

History of Africa & the
Middle East

History of the Americas

History of Asia & Oceania

History of Europe

Language A: Language
and Literature

Language A: Literature

Language B: all languages

Mathematics
(earned in 2020 or before)

**Mathematics Analysis
and Approaches**

Music

Philosophy

Physics

Psychology

Theatre

Visual Arts

A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

We award credit for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Levels ([A Levels](#)) and the Singapore-Cambridge GCE A Levels (H2) in academic subjects similar to courses offered at UC and in which grades of A*, A, B or C (or the equivalent) are awarded.

This credit may be applied toward graduation requirements as elective credit only, or specific credit and/or credit toward general education requirements, as determined by evaluators at each campus.

The evaluation of the credit awarded for A Level examinations is subject to change and may be reviewed and revised periodically by campus faculty. All results must be sent directly to the UC campus from the official examination board(s) to be considered for credit.

We grant up to 12 quarter (8 semester) units of credit for each of the following GCE and Singapore-Cambridge A Level exams.

Please note: This is not a complete list, only a sample of the most frequent exam subject results UC has received in the past.

Accounting

Afrikaans

Arabic

Art and Design

Biology

Chemistry

Chinese

Classical Studies

Computer Science

Economics

English – Language

English – Literature

French

Geography

German

Hindi

History

Marathi

Marine Science

Mathematics

Mathematics – Further

Music

Physics

Portuguese

Psychology

Putonghua

Sociology

Spanish

Tamil

Telugu

Urdu

Urdu – Pakistan only

UC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All UC students — whether they enter as first-years or as transfer students — must fulfill certain requirements outside their majors to graduate. Many students are able to meet the requirements in high school or at their community college.

ENTRY-LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

Students may meet the Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) prior to enrollment with the following test scores:

- Score 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement exam in English (Language or Literature) or Seminar.
- Score 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement assessment in Research.
- Score 5 or higher on an International Baccalaureate Higher Level exam in English (Language A only).
- Score 6 or higher on an International Baccalaureate Standard Level exam in English (Language A only).
- Score 30 or higher on ACT English Language Arts or 63 or higher on the ACT English + Reading
- Score 680 or higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the paper-and-pencil SAT (offered prior to March 2024). Scores from the digital SAT are not approved to satisfy the ELWR.

Students who don't meet the ELWR with an acceptable test score can meet the requirement by completing, with a grade of C or better, a UC-transferable college course in English composition (worth 4 quarter or 3 semester units) prior to UC matriculation. Students may also complete the writing placement process at the campus where they will enroll. For more information, visit the [ELWR](#) website.

AMERICAN HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONS

All undergraduate degree programs at UC require study in American history and institutions. This requirement may be met through examination or enrollment in specific courses. Each campus decides how its students can meet the requirement. See the campus general catalogs for more information.

Satisfactory completion in high school of a one-year course in U.S. history or a half-year course in U.S. history and a half-year course in American government fulfills this requirement at all UC campuses except Santa Barbara. (At UCLA, students must also have earned a B average in these courses.) UC Santa Barbara requires students to complete a college-level course.

Satisfaction of a community college's history and institutions requirement will also meet the requirement at most campuses. It is highly recommended that transfer students complete this requirement before they enroll at UC.

The requirement for international students varies by campus:

AMERICAN HISTORY & INSTITUTIONS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT — INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	
Berkeley	Waived, but only for enrolled students who have completed at least 90.5 semester units (senior status) and hold a current nonimmigrant visa (F-type is most common) and an I-94 departure record.
Davis	NOT waived regardless of the type of visa held; students must meet the AH&I requirement for graduation.
Irvine	NOT waived regardless of the type of visa held; students must meet the AH&I requirement for graduation.
Los Angeles	Waived, but only for enrolled students who have an F-1 or J-1 visa, if they petition for exemption by showing proof of temporary residency in the U.S.
Merced	NOT waived regardless of the type of visa held; students must meet the AH&I requirement for graduation.
Riverside	NOT waived regardless of the type of visa held; students must meet the AH&I requirement for graduation.
San Diego	Waived, but only for enrolled students who have an F-1 or J-1 visa, if they petition for exemption by showing proof of temporary residency in the U.S. through the office of their college's provost.
Santa Barbara	Waived, but only for enrolled students who have an F-1 or J-1 visa, if they petition for exemption through the director of international students and scholars.
Santa Cruz	NOT waived regardless of the type of visa held; students must meet the AH&I requirement for graduation.

UC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (UC CAMPUS REQ.)

A language other than English may be required or recommended at the college, school, major or program level.

Most non-language undergraduate majors require or recommend that students demonstrate competence in at least one language other than English. Study of a language other than English is also appropriate for students considering graduate study, even if their undergraduate major does not have a language requirement. Many graduate programs require students to demonstrate proficiency in at least one language other than English, and in some programs students are expected to be able to study documents in the original language.

If a student completed more than two years of a language other than English in high school, or more than two semesters (or three quarters) in college/university, or if the language of instruction was not English during secondary/university study outside the United States, this requirement may already be satisfied.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

UC offers a robust array of programs and services to help every student have a fulfilling and stimulating college experience.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or similar but differently named programs on UC campuses provide assistance through mentorship, academic programs, financial assistance, counseling/advising and/or other campus support services to those who are first-generation college students and/or from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

In addition to assisting students through to graduation, these support programs prepare students for admission to graduate and professional schools and serve students from all ethnic backgrounds. They are open only to California residents and to American Indians from any state.

EOP and similar programs at UC do not require a separate admission process and may or may not award financial assistance. Students can indicate their interest on their application for admission.

SUPPORT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING UC CAMPUSES:

UC Berkeley

UC Davis

UC Santa Barbara

UC Santa Cruz

COMPARABLE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE AT OTHER CAMPUSES:

UC Irvine

Student Success Initiatives

UCLA

Academic Advancement Program

UC Merced

Fiat Lux Scholars Program

UC Riverside

Academic Resource Center

UC San Diego

Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Each campus has an office that coordinates a variety of services for students with permanent and temporary disabilities.

These services include:

- Disability management counseling
- Assistance with registration and enrollment
- Orientation programs
- Accessibility tours and maps
- On-campus van transportation
- Minor wheelchair repairs
- Equipment loans

Academic support is available through:

- Readers
- Interpreters
- Note-takers
- Special test-taking arrangements
- Adaptive equipment

For more information and links to campus programs, see the [campus programs and support services](#) page on the UC admissions website.

VETERANS

Our campuses offer an array of special events and services, from veteran-specific orientations and receptions to personalized academic counseling and tutoring, to help [student veterans](#) transition to UC.

Every campus has a designated veterans services coordinator to help connect students with supporters and advocates in health services, career centers and student veteran groups across campus. Additionally, campus financial aid offices can work with students to maximize their aid and minimize the need to work and borrow while in school.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PROGRAMS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

All UC campuses are committed to helping current and former foster youth successfully transition to the university. Various campus programs offer guidance and counseling, academic advising, housing, financial aid and other support services that may include:

- Orientation to university life
- Student employment opportunities
- Assistance with financial aid applications
- Life skills counseling
- Career planning
- Priority class registration

Additionally, UC will waive the \$80 application fee for up to four campuses for low-income students. Students can apply for a fee waiver within the online application and will be notified immediately whether they have qualified.

UC Berkeley
[Hope Scholars](#)

UC Davis
[Guardian Scholars](#)

UC Irvine
[Foster Youth Resilience in Education \(FYRE\)](#)

UCLA
[Guardian Scholars](#)

UC Merced
[Guardian Scholars](#)

UC Riverside
[Office of Foster Youth Support Services](#)

UC San Diego
[Hope Scholars](#)

UC Santa Barbara
[Guardian Scholars](#)

UC Santa Cruz
[Hope Scholars](#)

PROGRAMS FOR AB 540/UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Undocumented students of all ethnicities and nationalities can find a safe environment and supportive community at the University of California. Various programs are in place to help students transition to and succeed at UC.

Campuses offer a range of support services — from academic and personal counseling to financial aid and legal advising — that can help students balance a full-time course load and other day-to-day challenges they may face. In fact, every campus has designated staff or faculty members who can work with students to find the right support on campus and answer questions.

UC Berkeley
[Undocumented Student Program](#)

UC Davis
[Undocumented Student Resource Center](#)

UC Irvine
[DREAM Center](#)

UCLA
[Undocumented Student Program](#)

UC Merced
[Undocumented Student Program](#)

UC Riverside
[Undocumented Student Programs](#)

UC San Diego
[Undocumented Student Services](#)

UC Santa Barbara
[Undocumented Student Services](#)

UC Santa Cruz
[Undocumented Student Services](#)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PROGRAMS FOR SYSTEM-IMPACTED STUDENTS

Our campuses offer services for incarcerated, formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students to help them succeed at UC.

UC Berkeley

[Berkeley Underground Scholars](#)

UC Davis

[Underground Scholars Program](#)

UC Irvine

[Underground Scholars Program](#)

UCLA

[Bruin Underground Scholars Program](#)

UC Merced

[Bobcat Underground Scholars](#)

UC Riverside

[Riverside Underground Scholars](#)

UC San Diego

[Triton Underground Scholars](#)

UC Santa Barbara

[Gaucho Underground Scholars](#)

UC Santa Cruz

[Underground Scholars](#)

TUITION, FINANCIAL AID AND RESIDENCY

As trusted counselors and advisers, you play a pivotal role in guiding students toward their higher education goals. We want to equip you with compelling information to share with your students, assuring them that a world-class University of California education is financially accessible.

UC's [Blue and Gold Opportunity](#) is our commitment to accessibility and predictability for California students and has something for all UC students. It offers:

- **Significant financial support for California students**

For **most California students from families with an income up to \$100,000, UC tuition is covered by financial aid.** While UC tuition for 2027–28 is \$16,278, the average grant award for California undergraduates is a generous \$24,000. This isn't just about tuition; for many students, this substantial aid package helps with crucial costs beyond tuition and fees, like housing, books and living expenses. This means a UC education isn't just a possibility; it's a very real and attainable goal.

- **Less debt**

Concerns about student loan debt are common, but you can reassure your students. In part, due to UC's robust financial aid programs, **over half of our undergraduate students graduate completely debt-free.** For those who do utilize student loans, the average amount borrowed is approximately \$17,000. This is significantly less than the national average of nearly \$28,000, underscoring UC's commitment to minimizing student debt and maximizing post-graduation financial flexibility. This allows students to focus on their futures with greater peace of mind.

- **Predictable tuition for all UC students**

Financial planning for college can feel complex, but UC tuition offers invaluable predictability. When a student first enrolls, their tuition costs are set and will remain the same for up to six years. Given that the average student graduates in just over four years, this means **most students will not experience any tuition increases during their entire undergraduate careers.** This clarity helps families budget effectively and empowers students to concentrate on their academic journey without the added stress of unpredictable costs.

Visit the [UC financial aid website](#) for more information about [UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity](#).

WHO CAN GET FINANCIAL AID

California residents who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are considered for the full spectrum of state, federal and UC aid. Information from the FAFSA will determine if the student meets the need requirements for the types of aid that require a demonstration of need. The FAFSA is also used when students apply for aid that does not require financial need, like some federal loans and scholarships.

Undocumented students may qualify for the equivalent of in-state tuition under California law (AB 540; see page 75) and both state and university aid under the California Dream Act.

Most undergraduates from other states pay nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) for the entire time they are enrolled at UC. NRST will add \$41,022 to a student's cost of attendance for the 2027–28 academic year. Very limited university financial aid is available to help cover the cost of an undergraduate education at UC. Eligible students will be considered for all federal financial aid programs. Students from other states are also encouraged to apply for private scholarships.

Most international undergraduates pay nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) for the entire time they are enrolled at UC. NRST will add \$41,022 to a student's cost of attendance for the 2027–28 academic year. International students are ineligible for federal student aid but may be considered for very few university scholarships.

For more information about financing a UC education for those planning to attend UC on a visa, see the [UC financial aid website](#).

Veterans and military-connected students are valued at UC. Each campus has dedicated staffing resources to help our more than 4,000 military-connected students thrive at the university. Military-connected students should visit the [UC financial aid website](#) for information about Veterans Administration education benefits and tips for maximizing financial aid.

Foster youth should visit the [UC financial aid website](#) for information about California Chafee Grants and contact information for campus coordinators who are available to provide assistance.

Student parents are welcome at UC. Our campuses have support services for students with children and aid support to assist with the unique costs of being a student parent. Student parents should visit the [UC financial aid website](#) for information about the resources available to them at UC.

Native American students from California are a priority for UC. The [Native American Opportunity Plan](#) is the university's commitment to California students who are enrolled in federally recognized Native American, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. This plan ensures that grants and scholarship assistance will cover UC tuition.

California middle class families can benefit from the state-funded [Middle Class Scholarship](#) program, which aids California resident undergraduates and students pursuing a teaching credential with family income up to \$262,000 and household assets that do not exceed \$262,000 while attending the 2027–28 academic year. The amounts vary from student to student.

TUITION, FINANCIAL AID AND RESIDENCY

FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Grants and scholarships are known as gift aid. Most of the gift aid awarded by UC, the federal government and the state of California is granted on the basis of financial need. A much smaller portion of gift aid is awarded based on merit, like having a special talent or an exceptionally strong academic record in high school.

Grants and scholarships are awarded through a variety of programs, including the federal Pell Grant program, the state's Cal Grant and the Middle Class Scholarship programs.

Other UC scholarships from campuses and alumni associations are based on a student's academic merit, financial need or both. There are also scholarships available to students with specific backgrounds, academic interests or career goals. Students apply for these scholarships in the admission application.

HOW STUDENTS APPLY FOR AID

Undergraduates from California (including AB 540 students)

To be considered for the full range of financial aid offerings, California students entering UC in fall 2027 should apply for financial aid early and no later than March 2, 2027. To apply, students should follow these steps:

1. Submit an application for admission. Students have the opportunity to apply for a number of UC scholarships in the application.
2. File a 2027–28 FAFSA or a 2027–28 California Dream Act Application between October 1, 2026 and March 2, 2027.
 - Students who are U.S. citizens and permanent residents must submit a [FAFSA](#) to be eligible for all federal, state and university aid programs, including student and parent loans.
 - Undocumented students who meet the requirements for AB 540 must submit a [California Dream Act application](#) to be considered for state and institutional financial aid. For students from mixed status families, see our [Financial Aid and Privacy page](#).
3. California residents and students eligible for in-state tuition under AB 540 should make sure the Cal Grant GPA verification is submitted to the California Student Aid Commission. Most California public and charter high schools and California community colleges automatically submit students' GPAs for Cal Grants. If your school doesn't, have the student download a [Cal Grant GPA Verification Form](#) and ask the school to submit it. The form must be submitted by March 2, 2027.

Undergraduates from other states

To be considered for federal financial aid programs, students must submit a 2027–28 [FAFSA](#). To ensure financial aid offers,

including student and parent loans, are available shortly after admission offers are made, the FAFSA should be submitted by March 2, 2027.

Students should expect to receive financial aid award offers from UC shortly after they have been officially admitted.

FINANCIAL AID AND PRIVACY

UC understands that students and their families may have concerns about privacy as they complete their financial aid applications. To address this, we have a site dedicated to [providing information that California families should consider](#) when determining which financial aid application to file.

TUITION AND COST OF ATTENDANCE

When we estimate what UC will cost each year, we consider all the expenses associated with being a student: tuition and fees, housing and meals, transportation, and books and supplies. But this figure—the total cost of attendance, or “sticker price”—is not what most students pay. Over 65 percent of California residents receive some gift aid (grants and scholarships), with an average award of \$24,000. For eligible California residents, that can cover nearly half the total cost of attending UC for a full year.

The table on page 75 provides estimates of the average cost of attendance for undergraduates first enrolling in 2027–28. Actual fees may be higher, and students' costs will vary depending on their living arrangements, personal expenses and the campus they attend. The net cost, after accounting for grants and scholarships, is substantially less for most California residents attending UC. Students can get an estimate of their aid eligibility and net cost by using the [UC financial aid calculator](#).

TUITION STABILITY PLAN

The University of California Board of Regents approved a multiyear [Tuition Stability Plan](#) on July 22, 2021. The plan helps students and families budget for a UC education by keeping systemwide tuition and fees stable and predictable and providing new resources for financial aid.

Since fall 2022, tuition has been adjusted for each incoming undergraduate class and has remained flat until those students graduate, for up to six years.

The plan provides unprecedented predictability for families in helping to manage their educational costs while allowing the university to provide greater financial aid for the majority of UC's lowest income students, preserve the excellence of its academic and research programs, and expand enrollment of California students.

TUITION, FINANCIAL AID AND RESIDENCY

RESIDENCE FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Students rely on clear, accurate information to make informed enrollment decisions. A key part of that decision is understanding the true cost of attendance—including their tuition rate based on their residency classification. Under UC's current process, most students receive a final residency determination at the time of admission rather than after enrollment, providing greater clarity about tuition costs as they consider their options.

Residency questions embedded within the UC application enable the majority of applicants to receive a determination during the admission process. In prior admission cycles, approximately 75% of undergraduate applicants have received a final residency determination at admission. To further support this effort, the UC Office of the President implemented the Systemwide Statement of Legal Residence (SSLR), an additional tool that expands the ability to provide timely determinations.

The SSLR is designed for applicants whose residency cannot be fully determined through the UC application alone. It offers an optional opportunity during the admission process to complete a more comprehensive evaluation—helping to ensure a greater number of students receive a final residency determination at the time of admission. Through the SSLR, students respond to detailed questions about their personal and family circumstances. While this may include sensitive information, such as immigration status, all collected information is used to determine tuition classification. The University of California maintains strict security and privacy protocols to protect the integrity and confidentiality of student information.

With the addition of the SSLR, approximately 85% of undergraduate applicants now receive a final residency determination at admission. This reflects UC's ongoing commitment to transparency and student success—helping applicants understand their tuition costs earlier and plan confidently for their educational future.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Undocumented students who qualify for AB 540 status receive a nonresident tuition exemption and may be considered for state and university financial aid programs under the California Dream Act.

Students qualify for the AB 540 tuition exemption by meeting the time and coursework, degree and signed affidavit (as applicable) requirements:

1. Time and coursework requirements

Either:

Attendance for three full-time years or the equivalent at any combination of the following:

- California high school
- California adult school (including non-credit courses offered by a community college)
- California community college

Or:

Three years of California high school coursework and a minimum of three years of attendance in California K-12 schools

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR FIRST-YEAR AND TRANSFER ADMITS IN 2027–28

	California residents — After financial aid, most residents pay less		Nonresidents	
	Living on campus	Living off campus	Living on campus	Living off campus
Tuition and fees	\$18,178*	\$18,178*	\$59,200**	\$59,200**
Books and supplies	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400
Health insurance allowance/fee	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900
Housing and meals	\$21,700	\$20,400	\$21,700	\$20,400
Personal/transportation	\$3,900	\$4,800	\$3,900	\$4,800
TOTAL	\$49,078	\$48,678	\$90,100	\$89,700

* California-resident undergraduates who first enroll in 2027–28 will be charged \$16,278 (\$14,832 tuition + \$1,446 student services fee) and should expect that their tuition will remain the same for up to six years. The fees figure above includes the average cost of additional campus-based fees. All fees are subject to change without notice.

** In addition to the systemwide tuition (\$16,278 for 2027–28), nonresidents should expect to pay \$41,022 in supplemental tuition. Nonresident students should expect this supplemental tuition to remain the same for up to six years.

TUITION, FINANCIAL AID AND RESIDENCY

2. Degree or unit requirements

Meet one of the following requirements:

- Graduation from a California high school (or attainment of the equivalent)
- Attainment of an associate degree from a California community college
- Fulfillment of minimum transfer requirements from a California community college to a UC or CSU campus

3. Signed Nonresident Exemption Request

Certify that steps to legalized immigration status are being taken or will be taken as soon as they are eligible, if not already a U.S. citizen.

To make sure they are considered for financial aid, undocumented students who may qualify for AB 540 status should file a [California Dream Act application](#) between October 1, 2026, and March 2, 2027, and make sure their GPA is submitted by their school for Cal Grant consideration.

Undergraduate applicants provide residency information in the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) portion of the application for admission; students whose residency status is unclear from the responses on the application for admission will be asked to complete a systemwide or campus SLR. A residence deputy will determine eligibility for AB 540. Students should be prepared to provide documentation, including academic transcripts.

For more information, see the [California Dream Act](#) page on the UC financial aid website.

EXPLORE UC MAJORS

Whether you want to view all available majors across our nine undergraduate campuses or see which campuses may offer a particular major, our [online majors search tool](#) makes it easy.

TO USE THE MAJORS SEARCH TOOL:

1. **Select applicant level.**
Some majors may not be available for all applicant levels.
2. **Select term.**
Please note, limited majors are available during winter/spring terms.
3. **Select campus(es) of interest.**
The “all campuses” option allows you to see available majors across the system.

Optional: If there is a specific major or category of majors you are interested in, you can indicate those in your search.

Important: If you are using the majors search tool outside of an application filing period, please check the box labeled “Show closed majors”

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE CAMPUS MAJORS WEBSITES:

[UC Berkeley majors](#)

[UC Davis majors](#)

[UC Irvine majors](#)

[UCLA majors](#)

[UC Merced majors](#)

[UC Riverside majors](#)

[UC San Diego majors](#)

[UC Santa Barbara majors](#)

[UC Santa Cruz majors](#)