

CSU–UC COMPARISON OF MINIMUM FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL COURSES

15 year-long/30 semester college preparatory 'a-g' courses are required with letter grades of C or better.

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11 UC-required college-preparatory courses must be completed prior to senior year (including summer courses).

**"a"
History/
Social Science**

2 years/4 semesters of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history OR one semester of U.S. history and one semester of American government, **AND**

2 years/4 semesters of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history OR one semester of U.S. history and one semester of American government, **AND**

1 year of history/social science from either the "a" or "g" subject area.

1 year of world history, cultures, or historical geography (including European History) from the "a" subject area.

**"b"
English**

4 years/8 semesters of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD).

4 years/8 semesters of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD):

The ESL/ELD cannot be completed during the senior year.

**"c"
Mathematics**

3 years/6 semesters of mathematics (including or integrating topics covered in algebra I and II, geometry)* (Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy the "c" Mathematics requirement).

3 years/6 semesters of mathematics (including or integrating topics covered in algebra I and II, geometry)* (Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy the "c" Mathematics requirement).

Students applying to UC must complete a geometry course (or integrated math courses with geometry content).

**"d"
Laboratory Science**

2 years/4 semesters of laboratory science

2 years/4 semesters of laboratory science

At least 1 year of physical science and 1 year of biological science, one from the "d" subject area and the other from the "d" or "g" area**

Must include at least two of the three foundational subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics; or one year of biology, chemistry or physics and one year/2 semesters of an interdisciplinary, or integrated, or earth and space science course can be used to meet one year/2 semesters of this requirement. Courses must be from the "d" subject area.

**"e"
Language Other
Than English**

2 years/4 semesters (or equivalent to the 2nd level high school instruction) of a language other than English* (Courses must be the same language, American Sign Language allowed).

**"f"
Visual and
Performing Arts**

1 year/2 semesters (or two one-semester courses in the same discipline) required, chosen from the following disciplines: Dance, Interdisciplinary Arts, Music, Theater, or Visual Arts.

**"g"
College Preparatory
Elective**

1 year of an elective chosen from any area on approved "a-g" course list.

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

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

Information is accurate as of August 30, 2017.

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Repeated Courses

CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C– = C.

Required “a-g” courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Any course may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated.

Required “a-g” courses must be completed with a letter grade of C or better. Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. Repeated courses can have the same or similarly named course titles (e.g. English 9 or English 1). The first instance of a letter grade C or better will be used in the GPA calculation.

Validation of Subject Omission By Other Courses

Mathematics: A letter grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I.

Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a geometry course. (See exception for UC).

A letter grade of C or better in Math IV, Trigonometry, Precalculus or Calculus validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement.

Mathematics: A letter grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I.

Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a geometry course. (See exception for UC below).

The omission of a full year of geometry cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework. However, the omission of the 1st semester of geometry can be validated by successful completion of the 2nd semester. Refer to UC’s Validation Matrix in *Quick Reference for Counselors*.

Language Other Than English (LOTE): A letter grade of C or better in a semester of a higher-level course validates a lower-level course. A higher-level LOTE course can validate the appropriate number of years based on the level. A college course can validate high school LOTE courses. The level of validation depends on the college course prerequisite and description. For courses offered at a California Community College refer to the college’s “a-g” course list on the [“a-g” website](#) and review the “Title/Discipline” column for notations, e.g. LOTE 1 = Level 1, LOTE 2 = Level 2, etc.

Chemistry: A grade of C or better in the second semester of Chemistry **will** validate the first semester.

Chemistry: UC does not allow the validation of Chemistry.

Validation of Deficient (D/F) Grades in Required Courses

Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be validated in the areas of Math and Language Other Than English (LOTE) by successful completion of higher-level coursework. CSU also allows the validation of the D/F grades in Chemistry. For UC, refer to the Validation Matrix in *Quick Reference for Counselors*.

Validation of Subject Requirements by Test Scores

Required “a-g” courses may be satisfied with appropriate test scores on SAT, SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement exams, and designated International Baccalaureate exams. A list of acceptable tests and scores is available on the CSU website; for UC, refer to *Quick Reference for Counselors*. For UC, the omission of a course in Geometry cannot be validated by any examination score.

High School GPA

Calculate GPA using all “a-g” approved courses completed during the summer after the 9th grade through summer after the 11th grade---excluding deficient grades which have been repeated. **CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C– = C.**

Repeated courses are calculated once using the highest grade earned. When completing the online admission application, the repeated course is also only reported once using the highest grade earned.

Calculate GPA using all “a-g” approved courses completed during the summer after the 9th grade through summer after the 11th grade---excluding deficient grades which have been repeated. CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C– = C.

Repeated courses are calculated once using the first instance of a letter grade of C, B, or A. UC does **not** average grades. However, when completing the UC admission application, all “a-g” courses and grades must be reported.

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Honors Points

Maximum of 8 extra grade points (honors points) from four year-long courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, all AP, some IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than two year-long courses (4 semesters) completed in 10th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.

Test Scores–ACT/SAT

Test required for CSU applicants to **impacted** campuses and programs. Test required for CSU applicants to non-impacted campuses, who have earned an “a-g” GPA of less than 3.0.

The CSU combines the highest SAT score from like tests (taken before March 2016 OR after March 2016); may combine best subscores from multiple ACT tests to calculate a best composite. It is highly recommended that students take the ACT/SAT assessment test in their junior year.

The ACT with Writing or the SAT with Writing/Essay is required for all UC applicants.

UC uses the highest composite score from the ACT with Writing or highest total score from the SAT with Writing/Essay from the same test date. Some campuses [may recommend SAT Subject Tests for specific majors](#).

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