

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

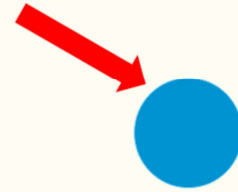
COUNSELOR

CONFERENCE

Staying *fresh* on the first-year basics

Agenda

- Definition of a first-year
- First year requirements
- A-G requirements & UC GPA
- Minimum requirements vs. selection
- Comprehensive review overview
- UC application/timeline in freshman admissions
- Resources & Q&A



Look out for a blue circle on the slides that will show the pg. number to find further information in the Quick Reference Guide!



You will see throughout the presentation a blue star with a page number, this will show you the page number where this information is located in the UC Quick Reference Guide.

Definition of a freshman (first-year)

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A freshman 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.

Student who attends a college or university the summer term immediately after high school graduation. ✓

Student who completes college or university courses while in high school, such as a dual enrollment student. ✓

Student who graduates high school and enrolls in a college or university during the following fall term. ✗

Let's start by defining what a freshman applicant means. A freshman applicant is a student who has graduate from (or is still in) high school and who has not enrolled in a regular non summer term at any college or university follow graduation. Let's over some examples:

1. student who attends a college or university the summer term immediately after high school graduation? Do we think this is a freshman applicant? Yes!
2. Example 2. A student who completes college or university courses while in high school such as a dual enrollment student? Freshman applicant? Yes!
3. Lastly, a student who graduates high school and enrolls in a college or university during the fall term? No, this student would be considered a transfer student.

First-year requirements

- Complete 15 A-G courses
- Earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better in these courses with no grade lower than a C
 - (3.4 for non-CA residents)

Now let's talk about first year requirements, a freshman applicant is eligible to apply if they have:

1. completed 15 A-G courses -

- You may be wondering what are A-G coursework?
 - A-G are subject areas of coursework taking through High School

2. earned a weighted GPA or 3.0 or better, 3.4 for non-CA residents. It is important to note that generally applicants exceed these minimum requirements, and we will cover what that looks like throughout the presentation today.



A-G requirements

A-G requirements

	Subject	Required	Recommended	Notes
A	History	2 years		One year of world history and one year of U.S history
B	English	4 years		College-preparatory English composition and literature
C	Mathematics	3 years*	4 years	A geometry course or an integrated math course with a sufficient amount of geometry content must be completed.

*7th and 8th grade high school-level courses may be used to meet this area

- Starting off with Area A, we have history. 2 years are required, one year of world history and one year of US history.
- Area B we have English which is 4 years required.
- Next we have C, Mathematics. 3 years are required and 4 years are recommend. As noted before, applicants often exceed the minimum requirements. Please note a geometry course or an IM course with sufficient amount of geometry must be completed as part of the 3 year minimum requirement. Another note on Mathematics is that 7th and 8th grade HS level courses can be used to fulfill this requirement.

A-G requirements cont.

	Subject	Required	Recommended	Notes
D	Science	2 years	3 years	At least one from biology, chemistry, or physics, the second year can be earth or interdisciplinary
E	Language other than English	2 years* or through the 2nd level of HS instruction	3 years	ASL, Latin, Greek and Native American languages are acceptable
F	Visual and performing arts	1 year		One yearlong course or 2 one-semester courses from the same discipline (ex: ceramics and art are the same discipline)
G	College-preparatory elective	1 year		Can be course(s) beyond A-F subjects

*7th and 8th grade high school-level courses may be used to meet this area

- D, we have science, 2 years are required and 3 years recommended. At least one must be from biology, chem or physics and the second year can be earth or interdisciplinary.
- E we have Language other than English, 2 years or through the 2nd level of HS instruction is required. This means that completion of Spanish 2, meets this requirement. Language is also an area where HS level from 7th and 8th grade can be used.
- F we have visual and performing arts. 1 yearlong course is required or 2 one semester courses from the same discipline. For example, ceramics and art are the same discipline.
- Lastly we have G, college-preparatory elective, any course beyond the minimum can be used for this requirement or any approved elective course that is offered such as psychology or sociology.

Additional ways to meet A-G

AP or IB Examination

- 3, 4 or 5 on select AP
- 5, 6, or 7 on select IB (HL)

College Coursework

- C or better in a transferable course of 3 or more semester units

SAT/ACT for English

- ACT English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Score of 24
- SAT Writing and Language Test
 - Score of 31

Beyond coursework, there are additional ways to meet A-G. AP or IB examinations are one way. A 3, 4 or 5 on select AP exams or a 5, 6 or 7 on select IB HL exams. College coursework with a C or better in that subject and lastly for English, SAT/ACT scores can be used.

Repeating A-G courses

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- D or F grade (NC/NP)
- As many times as necessary
- Similar curriculum
- New grade will **replace** the old grade
- Students must report the original **and** the repeat on UC application
- Non-honors course cannot replace an honors course grade
- College level courses may repeat UC approved honors, AP and IB

In order to complete A-G, a student must complete all courses with a C or better. In the event that they do not, students are able to repeat the courses they received a D or F grade in as many times as necessary as long as the curriculum is the same. If the repeated course is taken in 10th or 11th grade, the new grade will replace the old grade on the UC GPA. It is important to note that your student must report the original and the repeat on their UC application. Non-honors courses cannot replace an honors course grade and college level course may repeat UC approved honors, AP and IB

Non-A-G courses

If a course is not UC A-G approved, it should not be reported in Academic History. For example, P.E is not an A-G course.

Students can identify A-G courses using the A-G course list website.

Students attending a school outside of California can use any California high school course list as a guide for reporting A-G.



Non-A-G courses: Shouldn't be reported in Academic History, but can be reported in the Activities & Awards section. You can identify A-G courses using the A-G course list website and out of state counselors can use any CA high school course list as a guide for reporting A-G.

<https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>

UC A-G course list

The screenshot shows the UC A-G Course List interface. At the top, it says "A-G COURSE LIST" and "Brought to you by UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CSU The California State University". Below this is a search bar with the text "What can we help you find?" and options for "Institutions" and "Courses". The search bar contains the text "School Name or College Board Code" and a search icon. Below the search bar is a "Filters" button with a right-pointing arrow.

Three red arrows point from text annotations to specific elements in the course list:

- A red arrow points from the text "A gold star indicates the course is UC Honors approved." to a gold star icon next to the text "Biology Honors".
- A red arrow points from the text "Course discipline." to the text "Biology / Life Sciences".
- A red arrow points from the text "Learning environment the course is offered in." to the text "Classroom-based" which is preceded by a grid icon.

At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a banner for the "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COUNSELOR CONFERENCE" with a pink and orange background.

A-G Course List allows you and your students to find UC A-G approved coursework at any CA high school for every school year they are enrolled. Course discipline section includes helpful things like LOTE level, disciplines such as biological sciences for science coursework



Now that we covered the A-G requirements, let's talk about the UC GPA.

GPA requirement



The UC GPA is calculated for all A-G subjects completed with letter grades in 10th and 11th grade, including summer terms following 9th, 10th and 11th.

The UC GPA is a bit unique in that it only utilizes grades from A-G subjects in courses taken the summer before 10th grade through the summer after 11th grade. The minimum GPA requirements for CA residents is 3.0 (weighted and capped) and the minimum GPA requirement for non-residents is 3.4 (Weighted and capped GPA)

Weighted and capped/Unweighted UC GPA

Extra grade points for CA UC-approved honors level, AP, IB and transferable college coursework.

Weighted and capped GPA (UC GPA):

Up to 8 semesters (4 years) of extra points total.

No more than 4 semesters (2 years) of extra points for 10th grade coursework.

Unweighted GPA:

No honors points added.

Essentially, weighted and capped GPAs means that it includes extra grade points for CA UC-approved honors level, AP, IB and transferable college coursework. The UC application will award up to 8 semesters of extra points total and no more than 4 semesters of extra points for 10th grade coursework

Unweighted GPA means that no honors points are included in the calculation.

While the weighted and capped UC GPA is what is calculated for the minimum requirement, campuses may utilize an unweighted or uncapped weighted GPA for selection purposes.

How to calculate the UC GPA

Convert grades to grade points

A= 4 points B= 3 points C= 2 points D= 1 point F= 0 points
+/- are not used in high school coursework

Give an extra point for each semester of UC-approved honors, AP, IB or CL course

Maximum of 8 semester points, between 10th and 11th grades only.

Add up all the points

Divide total points by the number of letter grades counted

- Although the application will automatically calculate students UC GPA, we did want to go through a brief example.
- First, convert the grades to grade points - A=4 points, B=3 points etc. - we do not use +/- in HS coursework
- In terms of weighted grades, you will give an extra point for each semester of UC-approved honors, AP, IB or CL courses with a **maximum of 8 semester points** between 10th and 11th grades
- Then, you'll add all the points together and divide by the number of letter grades
- Students attending an out-of-state school will not have UC-approved honors to include in this GPA, but may have AP, IB and/or CL courses.
 - When filling out the application, students from outside of California can still mark their courses as 'HL/Honors' if the school considers them to be at the honors level, but the GPA to determine if the student has met the minimum 3.4 needed for a non-resident, the GPA will not include those school-created honors.
 - All campuses receive multiple GPAs for selection purposes, and some campuses may choose to focus on the fully-weighted GPA, which will include the school-created honors from non-California high schools.

How to calculate the UC GPA

Example:

15 A's

6 B's

1 C

1 D

1 F

Here is a brief example on how to calculate the UC GPA - Lets say a student received these grades in their 10th & 11th grades

How to calculate the UC GPA – grade points

Example:

15 A's - 15 x 4

6 B's - 6 x 3

1 C - 1 x 2

1 D - 1 x 1

1 F - 1 x 0

You'll calculate the grade points for each grade by multiplying by the grade point received

How to calculate the UC GPA – total grade points

Example:

$$15 \text{ A's} - 15 \times 4 = 60$$

$$6 \text{ B's} - 6 \times 3 = 18$$

$$1 \text{ C} - 1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1 \text{ D} - 1 \times 1 = 1$$

$$1 \text{ F} - 1 \times 0 = 0$$

= 81 total grade points

Then adding all the grade points together - This student received 81 total grade points

How to calculate the UC GPA – unweighted GPA

Example:

$$15 \text{ A's} - 15 \times 4 = 60$$

$$6 \text{ B's} - 6 \times 3 = 18$$

$$1 \text{ C} - 1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1 \text{ D} - 1 \times 1 = 1$$

$$1 \text{ F} - 1 \times 0 = 0$$

$$= 81 \text{ total grade points}$$

81 total grade points

81/24 (total grade points
divided by number of grades)

Unweighted: 3.37

Now we'll divide the total grade points by the number of grades. This student has an unweighted 3.37 GPA

How to calculate the UC GPA – weighted UC GPA

81 total grade points

81/24 (total grade points
divided by number of grades)

Unweighted GPA: 3.37

Let's say this student took:

4 semesters of honors courses and 4
semesters of AP courses and passed
each course

The student would have 8 honors points

81 grade points + 8 honors points = 89

89/24 =

Weighted and capped GPA: 3.70

Note: the extra honors points are simply added to the total grade points; it doesn't matter which 'grades' they are associated with.

Now, let's say that the student took 4 semesters of honors courses and passed each course - the student would have 8 honors points. As a reminder, one grade point is awarded as long as it is an A, B or C regardless of the course. It doesn't matter which 'grade' the points are associated with

The new total grade points is 89 after adding the 8 honors points, dividing by 24 the student's weighted and capped GPA is 3.70

I hope this example was helpful to visually work through how to calculate the UC GPA



Minimum requirements vs. selection

Minimum requirements vs. selection

While it is possible for students to be admitted to UC by meeting the minimum requirements, the majority of admitted students exceed these requirements in one or more areas.

Academics

All campuses generally expect students to exceed minimum requirements in order to be selective.

Comprehensive Review

All campuses consider factors outside of academics including leadership, community engagement and school extracurricular activities in selection.

Students, parents, and counselors often ask whether or not students will be admitted to UC having met but not exceeded the minimum requirements. Campuses across the UC system receive large numbers of applications from highly accomplished students, so while it is possible to be admitted with just the minimum requirements, the vast majority of admitted students exceed requirements in one or more areas.

Academically, we recommend students aim to exceed the minimum A-G requirements and GPA in order to make themselves more selective. All campuses utilize comprehensive review in order to consider non-academic factors such as leadership, community engagement and extracurricular activities in selection, but academics are still a very important part of the admissions process.

We'll go into a bit more detail about comprehensive review later in this presentation.

What is a middle 50 percentile GPA?

The GPA range of the middle 50% of admits (excludes the top and bottom 25%)



These GPA ranges are a general guide to selectivity and should not be seen as a predictor of admission to a specific campus.

Many students interested in attending a UC come across information on UC's website displaying the Middle 50% GPA range for individual campuses but aren't quite sure what it means. The Middle 50% considers the GPA range of all students admitted to a campus, then excludes the bottom 25% and the top 25%, leaving the middle 50% or, in other words, the 26th percentile through the 75th percentile of admitted student GPAs.

This provides a more realistic range of competitive applicants fall rather than one "average" GPA figure. You may have seen these ranges provided by the campus directors during this morning's opening session. These GPA ranges are a general guide to selectivity and should not be seen as a predictor of admission to a specific campus.

California resident freshman application data 2023:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/california-resident-freshman-application-data-2023.pdf

***Please note, data reflected in the director's updates and the systemwide data table may differ based on the date the data was pulled.*



Comprehensive review overview

What is Comprehensive Review?

- 13 factors that measure achievement and promise, while considering the context in which each student has demonstrated accomplishment
- Students that explain their environment and achievements within their environment stand out in the review process

Comprehensive review factors

Multiple measures of achievement and promise:

- Strong grades, AP scores and rigorous coursework
- Achievement in academic subject areas or academic programs
- Awards, recognition, achievement

Context in which each student has demonstrated accomplishment:

- Family and/or educational environment
- Available resources or opportunities
- Challenges students may have faced

Academic factors

- Grade-point average (GPA)
- Courses completed/planned beyond minimum A-G requirements
- Approved honors, AP, IB, university courses
- Eligibility in the local context (ELC)*
- Quality of senior-year program of study
- Academic opportunities in secondary schools
- Outstanding performance in academic subject areas
- Achievements in special projects
- Special talents, achievements, and awards
- Participation in educational preparation programs
- Academic accomplishment within life experiences
- Geographic location

Non-academic factors

- Grade-point average (GPA)
 - Courses completed/planned beyond minimum A-G requirements
 - Approved honors, AP, IB, university courses
 - Eligibility in the local context (ELC)*
 - Quality of senior-year program of study
 - Academic opportunities in secondary schools
 - Outstanding performance in academic subject areas
- Achievements in special projects
 - Special talents, achievements, and awards
 - Participation in educational preparation programs
 - Academic accomplishment within life experiences
 - Geographic location

How to share non-academic factors in the UC application

- About you
- Activities & awards
- Personal Insight Questions
- Additional comments

*Be sure to check out the “**All in the details: Maximizing the activities and awards section**” and “**Better than a bot**” PIQ sessions to learn more!

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Now that we went over the Comprehensive Review factors, let's talk about the different sections of the UC application students can showcase some of the non-academic factors.

- About You - This section covers important information about the student. Students have the option to include information such as first-gen or dependent of a U.S. military veteran
- Activities & Awards - This section students can include activities or awards that they have achieved at their school, in their community
- Personal Insight Questions - This section allows students to share their story in their own words
- Additional Comments - Another section on the UC application where students can share any other information they wish for us to know.

To learn more on how to leverage the Activities & Awards section, be sure to attend or watch the recordings from some of the other sessions today to learn more about these sections.

Note: In compliance with prop 209, UC does not use race, ethnicity, and gender in the admissions review. In light of the Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action, we wish to remind everyone that each PIQ answer will continue to be reviewed in the same manner as before. Students should continue to share their experiences, set context to their accomplishments and provide insight into their individual circumstances. Writing in their own voice about their cultural identity, values, and/or beliefs continues to be encouraged in the PIQs.

At every campus...

- Applications are given multiple reads and are not read by committee.
- Every applicant will receive an individualized review of their application.
- Readers are thoroughly trained.
- Selection of students will vary from campus to campus.
- Each campus uses comprehensive review differently.

While the Comprehensive Review points are the same for the whole system, the review process varies slightly from campus to campus. However, at each campus, these factors remain the same:

- Each submitted application is not read by a committee, but rather given multiple reads
- Every application will have an individual review of their application - meaning that we are not comparing students and applicants are read in the context of their environment
- The readers are thoroughly trained by each respective UC campus
- As we talked about previously, selection of students will vary from campus to campus due to things such as enrollment goals and campus size
- All Campuses utilize the 13 different Comprehensive Review factors, however they use them differently - Some campuses use holistic review approaches where no factor is weighed more than others, while other campuses may weight certain factors. It is important to check with each respective campus if you are interested to learn more.
- Therefore, we do recommend applying broadly among the UC system to increase chances of admissions

ELC and the statewide guarantee

Eligibility in the local context (ELC): CA resident students in the top 9% of their California high school class.

- ELC status adds value to the application and is considered during the review process. ELC students who are not admitted to any of their campus choices will be offered a spot at a UC campus with enough space (if minimum requirements are met).

Statewide guarantee: California resident students in the top 9% of California high school graduates.

- These students will be offered a guaranteed spot at a UC campus, space allowing.

If a student is a California resident and ranks in the top 9 percent of students in their California high school class — and the high school participates in our ELC program — they may be eligible for ELC designation.

We will identify the top 9 percent of students based on GPA in UC-approved coursework completed in the 10th and 11th grades. To be considered for ELC, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and complete the following A-G courses prior to senior year: 1 year of history, 2 years of English, 2 years of math, 1 year of science, 1 year of LOTE, and 4 years of other A-G courses in any area.

A benchmark GPA is calculated for each participating high school, and students who meet or exceed that benchmark GPA for their particular school are designated as ELC.

We use a formula called the Statewide Index to determine which students are in the top 9% of California high school graduates. The updated Statewide Index considers the A-G course totals and the UC GPA. We count the total number of UC-approved A-G courses completed and in progress/planned in 9th-12th grade and calculate the UC GPA using the A-G courses completed between the summer following 9th grade and the summer following 11th grade. If the total number of A-G courses is equal to or greater than the number of A-G courses listed in the index for that GPA, the student is in the top 9%.

Selection-related questions

pg.
27-30

Do campuses consider major in the selection process?

Selection and selective majors vary by campus. Detailed information is available in the **Major mayhem: Everyone wants my major, what do I do?** session.

How are SAT and ACT scores used in admissions?

SAT and ACT scores are not used in admissions decisions. If scores are submitted, they can be used to meet select A-G requirements or, after matriculation, to satisfy GE areas or for course placement.

Students often wonder if their choice of major will impact their chances of admission. It depends on the campus and the major; the session titled “Major mayhem: Everyone wants my major, what do I do?” will have more in-depth information on that subject. In general, we do recommend that applicants add an alternate major to their application to increase their chances of being admitted. Undeclared/undecided is an option for first-year applicants at all campuses.

As of Fall 2021, SAT and ACT scores are no longer used in admission decisions. Students may self-report scores after submitting the application if needed to clear an A-G subject area. Otherwise, official scores can be used to determine course placement or to satisfy GE requirements once the student is enrolled at a UC; students should review their campus’ website to see what requirements, if any, their scores will satisfy.



UC application

UC application

pg. 56

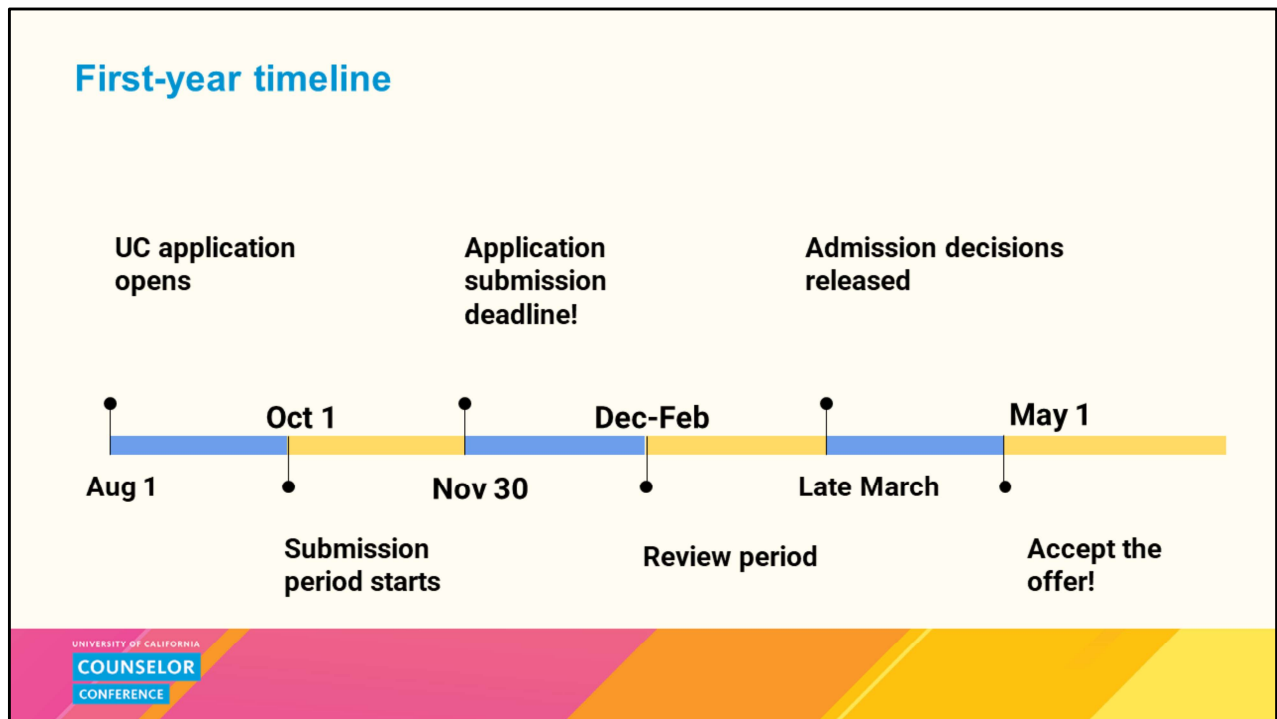
- 1 application, 9 UC campuses
- Can apply to multiple UC campuses
- \$80 application fee (\$95 for international applicants)
- Possible application fee waiver for up to 4 campuses
 - Fee waiver integrated into the application
- No letter of recommendation required
- No transcript submission when applying
 - Submit official transcripts after admittance

- There is one application for all nine UC campuses.
- Students can apply to as many of the nine (9) UC campuses they want to.
- The application fee is \$80 (\$95 for international applicants)
- There is a possible application fee waiver for up to four (4) free campuses. The application fee waiver is integrated into the application and determined by family economic factors asked for in the UC application
- Letters of recommendation are not required in the UC application
- The UC application does not ask for transcripts to be submitted when applying. Students are asked to submit transcripts after they are accepted into a UC.



Freshman admission timeline

First-year timeline



- Aug 1: the UC Application opens for editing
- Oct 1: Student can start to submit their application
- Nov 30: The UC Application deadline
- Dec-Feb: UC Campuses are reviewing submitted applications
- Late March: All UC Campuses release admission decisions
- May 1: Deadline for students to accept their admission offer
- July 1: Transcript Deadline
- July 15: All other documents and AP exam scores

Important notes:

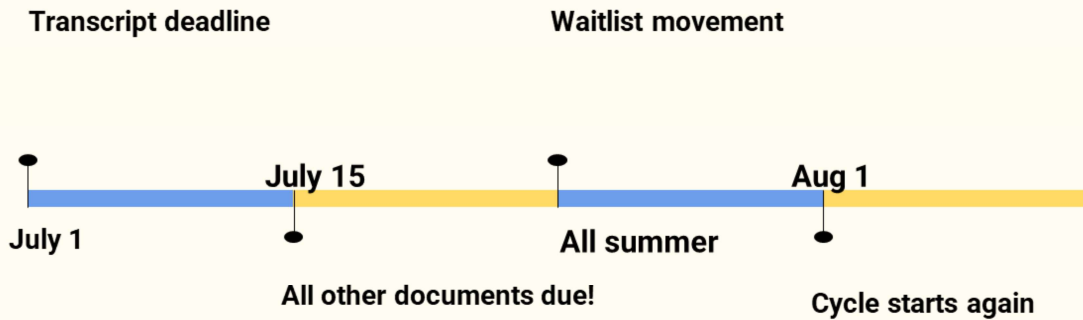
Students can only accept an admission offer to one (1) campus.

May 1st is a hard deadline to accept an admission offer.

Once an admission offer is accepted by the student, the acceptance of the offer is final.

Acceptance of an admission offer cannot be transferred from one campus to another.

First-year summer timeline



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July 1: Transcript Deadline

July 15: All other documents and AP exam scores

Important notes:

Official documents and transcripts are submitted after a student SIR's to a campus Student should regularly check their application portals and emails for any updates from campuses.

Waitlist decisions maybe shared after May 1st

Waitlist admits receive a specific timeline to accept their waitlist offer, typically this one week after notification of being admitted off the waitlist

Each campus approaches the waitlist differently, if you have more questions about specific campuses waitlist processes it is best to check with them.



Resources

Counselor resources

UC Counselors
website



2023 Quick Reference
Guide



Counselors and
Advisers Bulletin (CAB)



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UC Counselors website: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/>
2023 QRG:

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/_files/documents/quick-reference-guide-to-uc-admissions.pdf

Subscribe to the CAB:

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/connect-to-resources/counselors-and-advisers-bulletin.html>

Additional counselor resources

A-G course list



Campuses and majors



UC Info Center



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A-G course list: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>

Campus and majors: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses-majors/>

UC Info Center: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center>



Q&A