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# First-year admission 201: A deep dive



September 2024

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So you've learned the basics about UC admissions from years of experience working with students? Now it's time to take a deep dive into more advanced topics. In this session we will review validation rules, out-of-state coursework, mixed records, English proficiency, and online courses.



Discussion topics

- **Validation of math and LOTE**
- **Out-of-state coursework**
- **Mixed records**
- **English language proficiency**
- **Online coursework**

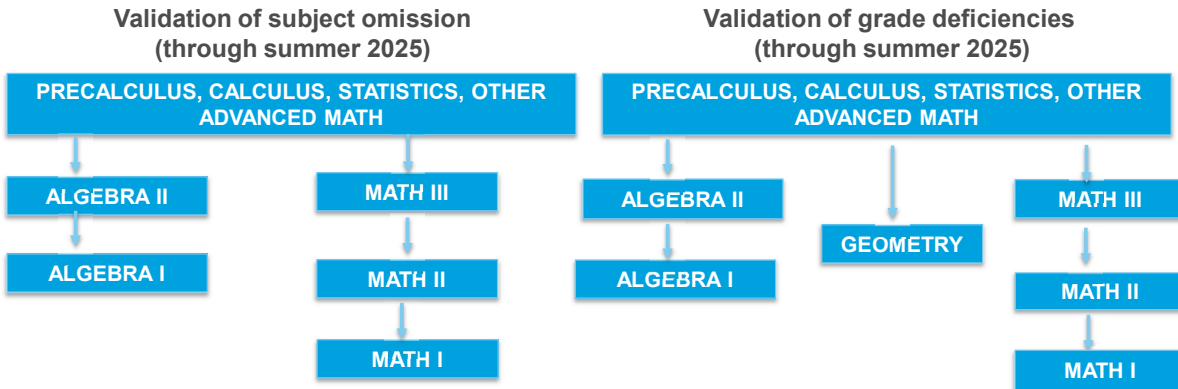


# Validation

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## Math basics: Key concepts and scenarios



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For a detailed breakdown of UC Math requirements, we strongly encourage you to attend the session today that specifically covers UC Math. These charts reflect the math validation policies through summer 2025 ONLY.

This is just a brief refresher:

- **Validation of Subject Omissions:** Completing an advanced-level math course with a grade of C or better can validate a missing lower-level course.
- Example: A grade of C or better in Algebra II can validate Algebra I.
- **Validation of Deficient Grades:**
  - A higher-level course can validate a D or F in a lower-level course if completed with a grade of C or better.
  - Example: A grade of C or better in the second semester of Geometry validates a D in the first semester of Geometry.

### Key Points:

- The second semester of any math course (except computer science) can validate the first semester.
- Geometry cannot be validated by advanced-level coursework; **All students must complete a geometry course or integrated math with geometry content (e.g., Math II).**
- **One transferable college course will not satisfy the full three-year math requirement**
- High school challenge exams can validate geometry course omissions if the school awards letter grades and credits.
- UC will accept a geometry course completed in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## Math validation: Test your knowledge

### Validation of subject omissions:

- Completing an advanced-level course with a C or better can validate a lower-level course
- *Example:* Algebra II (C or better) validates Algebra I

### Validation of deficient grades:

- A higher-level course can validate a D or F in a lower-level course if completed with a grade of C or better

### Test your knowledge

**Scenario:** A student received a D in the second semester of Geometry and then drops the course. They then take and pass AP Precalculus with grades B, A

### Is the Geometry requirement satisfied?

**Answer:** Yes. Because Precalculus is an advanced math, it validates Geometry (through summer 2025).



\*Note: This example assumes the student passed the first semester of geometry and follows a stand-alone math curriculum at their high school, not integrated.

## LOTE validation

### **Validation of subject omissions:**

- Completing a higher-level LOTE course with a grade of C will validate all prior years
- *Example:* A grade of C or better in third year Spanish validates first and second year Spanish



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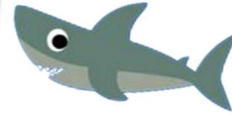
### **Validation of deficient grades:**

- A higher-level course can validate a D or F in a lower-level course if completed with a grade of C or better
- *Example:* A grade of C or better in second year French validates a D or F in first year French



## Middle school and college-level LOTE

Remember! LOTE is about demonstrating proficiency equivalent to 2 years



### Middle school

- High school-level courses completed during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades can be used to fulfill the language other than English (LOTE) requirement
- LOTE and math are the only subject areas that can be met with 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade coursework

### College coursework

- Grade of C or better in any transferable language course (excluding conversation) held by the college as comparable to two years of high school study
- Many colleges list the prerequisites for their second course in language as "Language 1 at this college or two years of high school language." In this case, Language 1 clears both years of the requirement

- Seventh/Eighth Grade
- 7th & 8th grade courses do not need to appear on the high school transcript.
- Math and Language other than English (LOTE) are the only subject areas that can be met by course work in middle school.
- Students who indicate that they attended school outside of the U.S. will be prompted to select the language of instruction for those years.



## College-level LOTE continued

Spanish					
	Course	Title	IGETC Areas	Semester Units	UC Areas
+ *	SPAN 120	Spanish I	6A	5.00	
o	SPAN 121	Spanish II	3B, 6A	5.00	UC-H
*	SPAN 122	Spanish for the Native Speaker I	6A	5.00	
o	SPAN 123	Spanish for the Native Speaker II	3B, 6A	5.00	UC-H
	SPAN 141 (In English)	Spanish and Latin American Cultures	3B	3.00	UC-H
	SPAN 220	Spanish III	3B, 6A	5.00	UC-H
	SPAN 221	Spanish IV	3B, 6A	5.00	UC-H
	SPAN 250	Conversational Spanish I	6A	3.00	
	SPAN 251	Conversational Spanish II	6A	3.00	

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- + Corresponds to two years of high school study
- \* SPAN 120 and SPAN 122 combined: maximum credit, 1 course
- o SPAN 121 and SPAN 123 combined: maximum credit, 1 course

### Additional methods of demonstrating proficiency

METHOD	GUIDANCE	DOCUMENTATION
Formal schooling in a language other than English	Students educated through sixth grade or higher in a school where a non-English language was the medium of instruction have met the requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain in the Additional Comments section of the application</li><li>• Submit a school transcript or other official document after admission</li></ul>
Assessment test by a college or university	Satisfactory score/grade on a proficiency test administered by a college or university	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statement of competency on official letterhead indicating proficiency equivalent to at least the second level of high school instruction</li></ul>



- Students instructed in a language other than English through the equivalent of U.S. sixth grade or higher generally meet the LOTE (E) requirement.
- Students must verify meeting the LOTE (E) requirement by one of the listed methods to document their language competence

**LOTE proficiency**

METHOD	GUIDANCE	DOCUMENTATION
Certification by high school principal	Acceptable if other options are not available. Certification should be based on language teachers' judgment or other appropriate expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notation on the official high school transcript including the language and level of proficiency</li></ul>



## LOTE validation

### Test your knowledge

Student receives C, D in French 1 in 9th grade.  
Student then takes American Sign Language (ASL 101F) at Fullerton College in 11th grade.

### Do they meet LOTE?

**Answer: (check assist)** Yes, the course at Fullerton corresponds to 2 years of high school study

ASL American Sign Language	
Course	Title
* ASL 101 F	American Sign Language I
ASL 102 F	American Sign Language II
ASL 203 F	American Sign Language III
ASL 204 F	American Sign Language IV
ASL 206 F	American Deaf Cultures

\* Corresponds to two years of high school study

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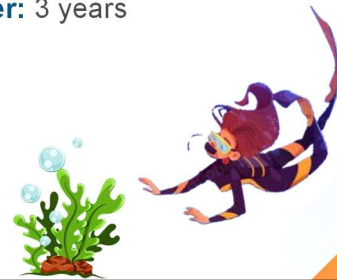
### Test your knowledge

Student places directly into Spanish 3 in 9th grade.  
They earn the following grades:

- First semester Span 3: D
- Second semester Span 3: C

### How many years of LOTE do they have?

**Answer:** 3 years



# Out-of-state coursework

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## Out-of-state coursework

### **UC DOES:**

- Accept college-prep academic coursework from out-of-state schools
- Allow pass-along credit for out-of-state coursework
- Accept transcripts directly from out-of-state schools

### **UC DOES NOT:**

- Maintain A-G course lists with out-of-state schools
- Review or approve courses from out-of-state schools
- Allow courses that do not clearly fall within A-G subject areas

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Out-of-state GPA calculation

**HONORS COURSE WEIGHTING FOR OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS**

- UC grants honors weight only for **AP, IB and college courses** when calculating GPA.
- **No honors weight** is given for school-designated honors courses.
- Honors weight is applied to letter grades **A, B, C**.
- Up to 8 semesters of honors courses can be counted for extra GPA points, with no more than 4 semesters from the 10th grade.





## Mixed records

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The University of California defines first-year applicants who have completed a portion of their secondary studies outside the United States as “mixed record” students.

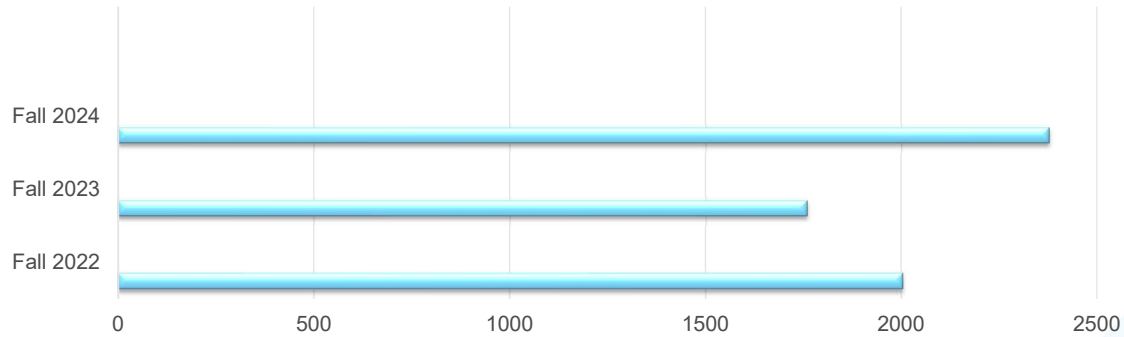
Mixed record applicants are students graduating from high school in the US regardless of citizenship, visa or immigration status.

In this section we will talk about using international coursework to meet UC A–G requirements and how students should present this information effectively and accurately in the UC application.



**A look at the numbers**

## California HS graduates who also attended HS outside the U.S.



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This is a look at the number of California high school graduates applying to UC for the last 3 years who completed some of their secondary studies outside the United States. For Fall 2024 nearly 2400 UC applicants graduating from a California high school completed some portion of grades 9-12 outside the US.

Our high schools in California are vibrant with global diversity, bringing together students from all over the world. In San Diego we see many transborder families who cross daily for work and education and families who come from further abroad to work or study in technology, medicine, engineering, academia and more.

Regardless of their backgrounds, these children often face challenges adjusting to a new education system which may differ significantly from their home country.

Rather than trying to equate foreign education with U.S. standards, it's important to recognize the unique strengths and learning experiences these children are bringing with them which can complement and even enhance their future education in the U.S.

## Using international coursework for A-G requirements

- Schools or districts may need to interpret international records to meet graduation requirements, but UC considers all academic courses and grades from the original international record.
- Coursework completed outside the US may be applied to A-G subject areas if it was completed at an appropriately recognized school.
- Course content and outcomes in the context of the education system are considered including:
  - Internally assessed coursework and
  - Externally assessed benchmark credentials

Schools or districts may need to equate international coursework to meet graduation requirements, often resulting in only a subset of courses being recorded on the transcript with comparable titles and a Pass or converted grade. While this satisfies graduation needs, UC requests a complete record of all courses and results from the original academic record. This ensures a fair and accurate review of the student's entire secondary academic history.

If coursework was completed at a recognized secondary institution (public or private) within a national framework, it can fulfill subject requirements, whether broadly titled (e.g., Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry) or more specific (e.g., Socioeconomic Structure of Mexico, Ethics and Values).

Some countries have internally assessed coursework while others have specific externally assessed benchmark credentials. Some examples of externally assessed exams are the UK GCSE and A Levels and the India year 10 and 12 board exams.

### Applying international coursework to UC A-G

- A. Students graduating from a US high school must complete the US History requirement
- B. Language of Instruction (LOI) outside the US plus appropriate English classes in the US. A non-ESL/ELD course is required in the senior year.
- C. Combinations of courses in an integrated math program with other math courses are acceptable
- D. Courses titled “Science” are considered integrated and may be used in combination with other science courses (9th grade integrated science only meets an elective)
- E. LOI beginning in grade 6 or as discussed earlier in this workshop
- F. International coursework is acceptable



I am going to start out the slide by saying that none of this is exact. This will vary depending on what grade the student enters the US curriculum and where they are coming to you from.

Courses completed for a grade at the secondary level outside the US can be used to fulfill most A-G subject areas. Students graduating from US high schools must fulfill the US History requirement (or combination of US History/Civics/Government). Their senior year English course must be a college prep level (non-ESL/ELD) course but does not need to be senior-year-level. For area E, generally a student educated outside the US through grade 6 or higher will have already met the LOTE requirements. These students may be better served by enrolling in additional electives or, if their English is limited, ESL courses.

Good to know

**In the US, the academic record is usually referred to as a transcript. In other countries it may be called something else, such as a statement of marks, statement of results, relève du notes, record of learning or record of achievement.**

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If possible, it's best to ask for the document using the appropriate name. Otherwise, ask for the academic record rather than a "transcript."

Examples

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# Let's look at some examples



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If you've attended this workshop at past counselor conferences, you know we've covered various education systems.

This year, we're narrowing our focus to a single country to illustrate the different ways students have presented themselves on their UC applications.

Our aim is to help you better understand how to guide your students in accurately reflecting their global coursework, even when their official school transcript appears different.

### Example 1

COURSE	GRADE YEAR	G1	G2
Integrated Math 1AB	09	80	80
Chemistry AB	09	80	90
Biology AB	09	80	90
Algebra 1AB	10	90	90



### Grades 9 and 10 in Mexico as reported on the UC application

This student attended grades 9 and 10 in Mexico. We know that in Mexico, the lower secondary education system (grade 7-9) covers a broad range of subjects to prepare students for Upper Secondary. This includes subjects such as Spanish, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, English, Arts, Physical Education, and Technology. Similarly, upper secondary studies cover a broad curriculum to prepare students for university education. In this example, the student reported very few classes from grades 9 and 10 on their UC application. It is not clear if this is how their California high school added to their transcript, or if the student did not know how to report those classes.

What are your thoughts on this case study and how do you think you would have helped this student?

## Example 2

COURSE	NUMBER	GRADE YEAR	G1	G2	G3
ELD Practical 1		09	10	10	10
Introduction to Business Technology		09	10	10	10
Math		09	10	10	10
Art beginning		09	10	10	10
Physical Ed I		09	10	10	10
Spanish 1		09	10	10	10
Physical Science		09	10	10	10

ESPAÑOL III	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
MATEMÁTICAS III	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
SEGUNDA LENGUA: INGLÉS III	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
CIENCIAS III (ENFASIS EN QUÍMICA)	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
HISTORIA II	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
FORMACIÓN CÍVICA Y ÉTICA II	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
TECNOLOGÍA	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
EDUCACIÓN FÍSICA	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
ARTES MÚSICA	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0



Grade 9 in Mexico as reported on UC application in comparison to official transcript

In Mexico schools may use a 1-100 like we saw in the first example to 1-10 grading scale like we see here - with or without decimals.

We ask students to report their subjects and grades exactly as their original documents show.

This example is closer to how we want students to complete the application. The student completed through grade 9 (*Secundaria*) in Mexico

On the left is their UC application and on the right their record from Mexico.

- Grades are entered as earned BUT
- Course titles are those interpreted to their CA high school transcript

How do you think your school would have placed this student and what do you think you could do to advocate for them?

### Example 3 grade 9 application

COURSE	GRADE YEAR	G1	G2	G3
English (as a foreign lang)	08			
English (as a foreign lang.)	08			
Artísticas	09	09	07	10
Sengunda Lengua	09	08	07	09
Matemáticas	09	10	10	08
Química	09	09	08	09
Formacion Civica y Etica	09	09	10	09
Teatro	09	08	07	09
Robotica	09	08	09	09
Historia	09	09	10	09
Lengua Materna	09	08	09	07

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Finally, this is an example of how a student with a mixed educational history can best present themselves on the UC application.

This student completed through grade 10 in Mexico. This is their grade 9 which is the final year of “*Secundaria*” in Mexico

They entered their courses as they appear on their records from Mexico – including the original class titles and grades earned. An even through not every class exactly aligns to a UC A-G subject area, we can see their entire academic history which provides us an accurate context when reviewing their application.



**Example 3 grade 10 application**

<b>Actividades artisticas y culturales 1/2</b>	10	10	09
<b>Matematicas 1/2</b>	10	09	08
<b>Ingles 1/2</b>	10	10	09
<b>Quimica 1/2</b>	10	09	09
<b>Taller de lectura y redaccion 1/2</b>	10	08	08
<b>Etica 1/2</b>	10	10	10



This is grade 10 or year 1 of “Preparatoria”

### Example 3

#### 2019-2020 Grade 09 Term 1

M400 ALGEGRA I	A	1.0000	5
B010 ART	B	1.0000	5
E014 ENGLISH 1C	B	1.0000	5
G842 LOTE-Spanish	B	1.0000	5
P001 PE	A	1.0000	5
R025 SCIENCE	B	1.0000	5
S243 WORLD HISTORY	A	1.0000	5

**Credit: 35.000 GPA: 3.429 U/W GPA: 3.429**

#### 2019-2020 Grade 09 Term 2

M405 ALGEBRA I	A	1.0000	5
B011 ART	B	1.0000	5
E015 ENGLISH 2C	B	1.0000	5
G843 LOTE-Spanish	B	1.0000	5
P001 PE	A	1.0000	5
R026 SCIENCE	B	1.0000	5
S244 WORLD HISTORY	A	1.0000	5

**Credit: 35.000 GPA: 3.429 U/W GPA: 3.429**

#### 2020-2021 Grade 10 Term 1

R281 CHEMISTRY	B	1.0000	5
Y580 COMPUTERS	B	1.0000	5
E024 ENGLISH 3C	A	1.0000	5
S850 ETHICS	A	1.0000	5
M420 GEOMETRY	A	1.0000	5
G844 LOTE-Spanish	B	1.0000	5
P001 PE	A	1.0000	5

**Credit: 35.000 GPA: 3.571 U/W GPA: 3.571**

#### 2020-2021 Grade 10 Term 2

R282 CHEMISTRY	A	1.0000	5
Y581 COMPUTERS	A	1.0000	5
E025 ENGLISH 4C	A	1.0000	5
M425 GEOMETRY	B	1.0000	5
S003 INTRO TO SOCIAL STUDIES	C	1.0000	5
G845 LOTE-Spanish	B	1.0000	5
P001 PE	A	1.0000	5

**Credit: 35.000 GPA: 3.571 U/W GPA: 3.429**



Classes as interpreted to California high school transcript

This is the student's California high school transcript, reflecting how the school or district translated their courses and grades into the district's records. As we observed in the previous two slides, the student fully reported all coursework completed in Mexico on their UC application.

As I present the student's records from Mexico in the next two slides, consider why showing their prior studies as earned, rather than simply applied to their California diploma, better represents their academic history and helps the UC application reader better understand context, content and rigor .

**Example 3 grade 9**

ASIGNATURAS/ÁREAS	PERIODOS DE EVALUACIÓN			PROMEDIO FINAL
	1 <sup>o</sup>	2 <sup>o</sup>	3 <sup>o</sup>	
ESPAÑOL III	8.0	9.0	7.0	8.0
MATEMÁTICAS II	10.0	10.0	8.0	9.3
SEGUNDA LENGUA INGLÉS III	8.0	7.0	9.0	8.0
Ciencias III (ÉNFASIS EN QUÍMICA) *	9.0	8.0	9.0	8.6
HISTORIA II	9.0	10.0	9.0	9.3
FORMACIÓN CÍVICA Y ÉTICA II *	9.0	10.0	9.0	9.3
TECNOLOGÍA	8.0	9.0	9.0	8.6
EDUCACIÓN FÍSICA	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
ARTES ARTES VISUALES *	9.0	7.0	10.0	8.6

**Official grade 9 record**



These are the student's official transcripts from their final year of Secundaria (grade 9)

**Example 3 grade 10**

CLAVE	ASIGNATURA	CAL.
<b>PRIMER SEMESTRE</b>		
001	MATEMATICAS I	8.9
002	QUIMICA I	8.9
007	TALL. LEC. Y RED. I	8.3
030	MET. DE LA INVESTIGACION	7.5
2072	INGLES I	9.7
A47	ETICA I	10.0
W42	INFORMATICA I	8.3
Z108	ORIENTACION EDUCATIVA I	9.7
ZAC1	ACTIVIDADES ARTISTICAS Y CULTURALES I	9.8
ZFD1	ACTIVIDADES FISICO DEPORTIVAS I	10.0
<b>SEGUNDO SEMESTRE</b>		
005	INT. A LAS CIENCIAS SOCIALES	7.6
008	MATEMATICAS II	8.2
009	QUIMICA II	9.4
014	TALLER DE LEC. Y RED II	8.0
2073	INGLES II	9.3
A48	ETICA II	10.0
W43	INFORMATICA II	10.0
Z109	ORIENTACION EDUCATIVA II	10.0
ZAC2	ACTIVIDADES ARTISTICAS Y CULTURALES II	9.3
ZFD2	ACTIVIDADES FISICO DEPORTIVAS II	10.0



**Grade 10 official record**

and year 1 of Preparatoria (grade 10)

**First-year applicants who have completed some high school or secondary school in a country where English was not the language of instruction may also be required to demonstrate English proficiency.**



Having a strong understanding of the English language is important for success at UC. That's why we want to make sure students can demonstrate English proficiency before they attend one of our campuses. Students who have completed all or some high school or secondary school in a country and school where English was **not** the language of instruction, will be required to demonstrate English proficiency if they have had **less than 3 years** of instruction in English. The requirement to demonstrate English language proficiency is not based on citizenship or residency, but more accurately the student's academic history.

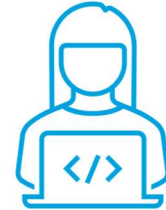
# Online courses



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### Online courses offered by a California high school

- Must be listed in the high school's A-G course list
- Courses can be either developed by the high school, or purchased/licensed from a UC-registered online publisher
- Courses will be reported in the application the same way as all other high school courses
- Acceptable courses can also come from UC Scout, California community colleges, UC Online\*
  - \*UC Online is targeted more towards current UC students but is a good way to see acceptable online courses.



## How to view online vs. classroom-based courses

A History / Social Science 2 years required ?		
▼ Acellus US Government	Civics / American Government	Online
▼ Acellus US History I	U.S. History	Online
▼ Acellus World History I	World History / Cultures / Historical Geography	Online
▼ American Government	Civics / American Government	Online Classroom-based



On

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**UC distinguishes between online *schools* and online *publishers*...**

### Online schools

- Accredited by one of the formerly regional accrediting agencies
- Offer most of their courses in an online method with time/distance separating student and teacher
- If school is in CA, **must** have approved UC A-G course list



### Online publishers

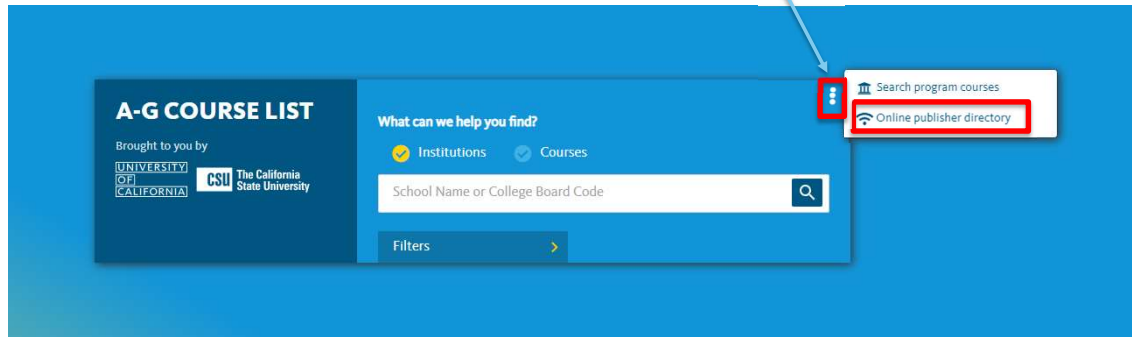
- Develop curriculum and sell/license their online courses
- Publishers typically do not issue credit toward a diploma for students who complete their courses online
- Credit must be issued by the student's (CA) high school via principal certification and the course must appear on official transcripts
- It is the school's responsibility to review the course and if determined, offer principal certification



Even if the online publisher is accredited as a supplementary learning center, we still will not accept their courses except via principal certification.

## How to find the online publisher directory

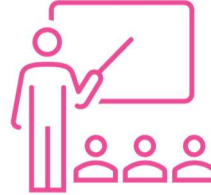
Select the three dots in upper right-hand corner



Note: just because a publisher is listed in the online directory does not mean they have an approved course list. Publishers can no longer have an A-G list.

## Credit recovery

- If a student received a D or F grade, an online course may be used as credit recovery.
  - The online course must be similar in curriculum and level
  - A non-honors course cannot replace an honors course
  - College-level courses may replace UC-approved honors courses, AP, and IB



Note that online courses are not the only way to earn credit recovery. Students can also repeat the courses at their own high school or another high school.

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# Thank you!



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