
Survey Says?

Addressing the most common UC admission myths and misconceptions

September 2024





Question 1

The sooner a student submits their UC application, the sooner they will receive an admissions decision.

- Depends on the UC campus
- True
- False

Answer 1

The sooner a student submits their UC application, the sooner they will receive an admissions decision.

- **False**

Although we recommend students submit their application earlier in the filing period for their own peace of mind, students who submit their application on October 1st versus November 30th (or December 2nd for fall 2025 applicants only) will find out at the same time from each campus they apply to.



Question 2

Which A-G requirements can be completed in middle school?

- Mathematics and Language other than English (LOTE)
- English and History
- English and LOTE
- Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) only
- Mathematics only

Answer 2

Which A-G requirements can be completed in middle school?

- **Mathematics and Language other than English (LOTE)**

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 16)

- Math and LOTE are what UC considers to be 'sequential subjects.'
- This means that each level of a course builds on the knowledge gained from the previous level.
- The expectation is that students would continue on with the next level of math or LOTE in high school, which would essentially 'validate' the middle school coursework.



Question 3

Your high school offers multiple curriculum options/tracks. Is there one that would increase their chances of admission?

- Traditional high school track
- 4 x 4 course schedule (Block)
- International Baccalaureate
- Dual-Enrollment with your local California Community College
- All are equally competitive

Answer 3

Your high school / district offers multiple curriculum options/tracks. Is there one that would increase students' chances of admission?

- All are equally competitive

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 25)
- "Quality of the academic performance relative to the educational opportunities available in the student's high school"
- Students should provide details about why they chose their specific academic track in Additional Comments or PIQ sections of the application



- As part of Comprehensive Review, campuses take into consideration a number of factors, including what type of curricular options were available to the student.
- Students are encouraged to challenge themselves within the context of their opportunities, but there is no preference for one type of curriculum over another.



Question 4

What of the following meets the E requirement (Language other than English)?

- AP Chinese Language and Culture exam score of 3
- Spanish for Native Speakers III
- American Sign Language II
- One semester of AP German Language and Culture
- All of the above

Answer 4

What of the following meets the E requirement (Language other than English)?

- All of the above

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 12)

- Note that the Area E/LOTE requirement is 2 years or through the second level of high school study.
- This means that a student can meet the requirement without completing two full years of the language, as long as the level they complete is at or beyond the second level.



Question 5

True or False: UC requires one year of physical and one year of biological science to meet the area D requirement.

- True
- False

Answer 5

True or False: UC requires one year of physical and one year of biological science to meet the area D requirement.

- **False: UC requires two years of science coursework from two of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry or physics. One year of approved interdisciplinary or earth and space sciences coursework can meet one year of the requirement.**

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 11)

- There is often a misconception that students must complete one physical and one biological science to meet the area D requirement for UC.
- In fact, a student could meet the requirement with one year of chemistry and one year of physics. Or one year of biology and one year of AP Environmental Science.
- The CSU requirement for area D is slightly different than UC's requirement, and they may require one physical and one biological science. Just keep in mind that while both of our systems follow the A-G requirements, there are some variations on how we ask students to meet those requirements.



Question 6

Which of the following courses does **not get the GPA bump?**

- AP English Literature and Composition
- ANTH 102 (Introduction to Physical Anthropology) taken at San Diego Mesa College
- Honors Spanish III
- Honors English 9
- IB History of the Americas

Answer 6

Which of the following courses does not get the GPA bump?

- Honors English 9

Where can you find the answer to this?

- The school's individual UC A-G course list and the A-G Policy Resource Guide

- UC doesn't not allow courses intended for 9th grade students to be UC-approved honors.
- Additionally, courses completed in the 9th grade are not factored into the GPA calculation, so even if the course were an approved honors, it would not receive a bump if taken in 9th grade.



Question 7

Scenario: Your student realizes they are not UC eligible because the Ceramics I (VPA) class they took in 10th grade was only a semester long. Which option can they choose to fulfill the requirement?

- Ceramics II (one semester)
- Guitar (full year)
- ART 300 at their local community college (one semester)
- All of the above

Answer 7

Which option can they choose to fulfill the requirement?

- All of the above

Where can you find the answer to this?

- The subject requirement (A-G) page on the UC Admissions website
- If a student completed one semester of a specific discipline, the student should take another semester course in the same discipline to meet the full VPA requirement.
- The disciplines are: dance, music, theater, visual arts or interdisciplinary arts

Note: Assuming Guitar is A-G approved at the high school and ART 300 is a transferable college course, both options would also fulfill the Area F requirement on their own. Any of these pathways would allow the student to meet Area F, but the most appropriate choice would depend on their individual circumstances and preferences.



Question 8

Scenario: A student moved to your school from Mexico and they completed a year of Mexican history. Which subject requirement (A-G) will this class fulfill?

- Area G: College-prep elective
- Area A: World History
- The course cannot be used to meet any subject requirement.

Answer 8

Which subject requirement will this class fulfill?

- **Area A: World History – For courses completed outside the U.S., UC will accept history of the home country to meet the World History requirement.**

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (pages 14-15)

Note: if this student completed World History and U.S. History in the U.S., the history of the home country could be used as an elective, just as any extra years in any of the A-F subject areas can be used to meet Area G.



Question 9

True or False: The UC campuses make admissions decisions together as a system. If a student is admitted to LA, they are less likely to be admitted to Berkeley.

- True
- False

Answer 9

True or False: The UC campuses make admissions decisions together as a system. If a student is admitted to LA, they are less likely to be admitted to Berkeley.

- **False**

Each campus does their own independent review of applications received and selects students based on their own campus needs and spaces available in programs students are applying for.

It's also important to remember that while all campuses utilize Comprehensive Review, how they implement it and which factors they consider can vary by campus.



Question 10

How many college units must a college course be worth to meet an A-G requirement?

- 2 semester units or 3 quarter units
- 3 semester units or 4 quarter units
- No unit requirement
- Depends on the course subject area

Answer 10

How many college units must a college course be worth to meet an A-G requirement?

- 3 semester or 4 quarter units

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 16)

- Anything less than 3 semester or 4 quarter units is not considered a full course and cannot be used toward A-G requirements.
- Also, UC does not allow students to combine low-unit courses to equal a full course; courses must be 3 semester/4 quarter units each to meet a requirement.

Question 11

Scenario: A student received a D grade in the first semester of Honors Chemistry, a UC-approved honors course, and a C grade in the second semester of Honors Chemistry. How can the student remediate the D grade?

- Repeat the first semester of Honors Chemistry
- Complete the first semester of regular Chemistry to ensure they get a passing grade
- Take a different physical science course, but only the first semester
- The student doesn't need to remediate the grade because the second semester validates the first semester

Answer 11

How can the student remediate the D grade?

- Repeat the first semester of Honors Chemistry

Where can you find the answer to this?

- Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions (page 18)

- If the course is a UC-approved honors, it can only be repeated by an equivalent UC-honors course. (Ex. Student got a D grade in AP US History, student could replace grade with AP US History or a UC-honors approved US History course).
- Additionally, UC does not allow validation for science coursework. Validation is allowed only for math and LOTE.

Thank you!

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