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# First-year admissions 101: Admissions basics

September 2024

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# Agenda

## Introductions

- Definition of a first-year student
- A-G requirements
- UC GPA
- Comprehensive Review
- UC application timeline
- Resources

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## Definition of first-year student

### Who IS a first-year applicant?

- A first-year applicant is a student who has graduated from (or is still in) high school and not enrolled in a regular (non-summer) term at any college or university following graduation.
- A student who attends a college or university the summer term immediately after high school graduation is a first-year applicant.
- A student who completes college/university courses while in high school (ex. dual enrollment or online college courses) is a first-year applicant.

### Who is NOT a first-year applicant?

- A student who graduates high school and enrolls in a regular term (fall or spring) in a college or university.

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# A-G requirements

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## A-G requirements

	Subject	Required	Notes
<b>A</b>	History	2 years	One year of world history and one year of U.S. history
<b>B</b>	English	4 years	College-prep English composition and literature
<b>C</b>	Mathematics*	3 years (4 years recommended)	A geometry course or an integrated math course with sufficient geometry content <b>MUST</b> be completed. *7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade HS level courses can be used to meet this area.
<b>D</b>	Science	2 years (3 years recommended)	At least one from biology, chemistry, or physics, the second year can be earth science or interdisciplinary.

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## A-G requirements continued

	Subject	Required	Notes
<b>E</b>	Language other than English*	2 years	Two years of the same language, or course work equivalent to the 2nd level of HS instruction. *7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade HS level courses can be used to meet this area.
<b>F</b>	Visual and Performing Arts	1 year	One yearlong course or 2 one-semester courses from the same discipline.
<b>G</b>	College Prep Elective	1 year	Can be courses beyond A-F subjects

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## Additional ways to meet A-G

### AP or IB Examinations

- 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



## Repeat A-G courses

### When can grades be repeated?

- Students can repeat each A-G course in which a D or F grade was earned. A repeat can be taking multiple times until a passing grade is earned. The repeat course must have a similar curriculum to the original course.
- The passing grade will replace the original grade in the GPA, if the repeat is completed by the summer following 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Grades are not averaged.
- Non-honors courses cannot be used to repeat UC-approved honors, AP, or IB courses.
- College-level courses that are UC transferable can be used to repeat UC-approved honors, AP and IB courses.



## Validation

### What is validation?

- Students successfully completes advance work in a sequential area of knowledge, demonstrating competency of lower-level coursework. Math (Area C) and LOTE (Area E) are the only areas where validation is allowed.

### Two types of validation:

- Validation of a **subject** omission validates a lower-level course even if the lower-level course was not 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 C grade or better.

## Subject omission validation

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### Subject omission

- Validation of a **subject omission** validates a lower-level course even if the lower-level course was not completed.

### Example:

Spanish II is completed with a C or better; Spanish II validates Spanish I.

Algebra II is completed with a C or better; Algebra II validates Algebra I

\*The omission of a yearlong geometry course cannot be validated by advanced-level math courses. For more details on math, attend the **“Validate that! Upcoming changes to Area C (math) validation”** session!

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## Grade deficiency validation

Validation of **deficient grades** in math or LOTE is allowed when a higher-level course is completed with a C or better.

### Example:

- First semester Spanish I (D grade). Second semester Spanish I (C grade). The second semester validates the first semester. The student is given credit for 1 year of Spanish.
- First semester Algebra II (D grade). Second semester Algebra II (C grade). The second semester of Algebra II validates the first semester. The subject of Algebra II is validated.

**Validation does not replace grades. The original D grades remain in the GPA if received in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade.**

# UC A-G course list

**A-G COURSE LIST**

Brought to you by

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA** **CSU** The California State University

What can we help you find?

Institutions  Courses

School Name or College Board Code

Filters >

**★** Biology Honors

Biology / Life Sciences

**🏠** Classroom-based

A gold star indicates the course is UC Honors approved

Course discipline

Learning environment the course is offered in.

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# UC GPA

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## UC GPA requirement

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**3.0** GPA

For California residents

**3.4** GPA

For nonresidents

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.

## Unweighted vs weighted UC GPA

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### Unweighted GPA

- GPA based on all A-G course work completed with letter grades in 10th and 11th grade, including summer terms following 9th, 10th and 11th.

### Weighted capped GPA

- GPA includes a maximum of 8 semester points, based on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grades in UC-approved honors\*, AP, IB, or UC transferable CL courses.

### Weighted uncapped GPA

- GPA includes all UC-approved honors, AP, IB, or UC Transferable CL courses, and is not capped at 8 semester points.

\*UC recognizes honors coursework approved by UC in CA high schools only. Out of state honors classes are not given an extra grade point. Students outside of CA can mark coursework HL to demonstrate rigor, but it will not be given an extra grade point in the UC GPA.

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## Calculating the UC GPA

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### 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 but they are used in college courses if the university awards them.

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

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## How to calculate the UC GPA unweighted & weighted

### 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

81/24 (total grade points divided by number of grades). **Unweighted GPA: 3.37**

### Example:

If the student takes 4 semesters of honors and 4 semesters of AP, they will receive 8 weighted GPA points.

$$81 \text{ grade points} + 8 \text{ honors} = 89$$

$$89/24 = \textbf{\underline{Weighted Capped GPA: 3.70}}$$

# Comprehensive review

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## What is Comprehensive Review...Context is key

### Academics

- GPA
- Rigor of curriculum (including senior year)
- ELC Status
- AP/IB exam credit

### Activities & accomplishments

- Awards & honors
- Leadership ability
- Intellectual curiosity
- Consistent and sustained involvement in EC & community service
- Special program participation (EOP, MESA, Upward Bound, etc.)

### Context

- Consideration of family income, education level, and socio-economic
- School environment, including availability of academic opportunities and resources

## 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

**No SAT/ACT  
required!**

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## Non-academic factors

- Achievements in special projects
- Special talents, achievements, and awards
- Participation in educational preparation programs
- Academic accomplishment within life experiences
- Geographic location

### **Related sections in the UC application....**

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

## Consistent for all UC campuses



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.

## ELC and 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.

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# First-year admissions timeline

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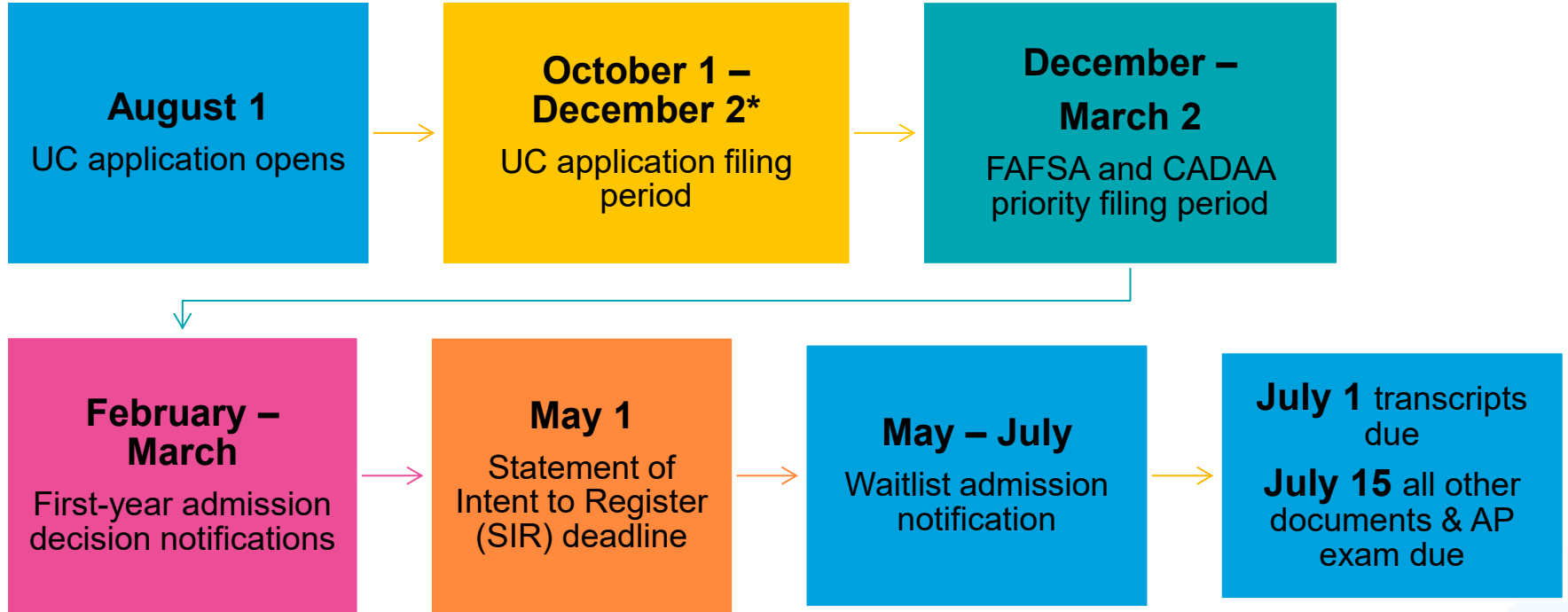
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### **One application. Nine UC campuses**

- Apply to multiple UC campuses
- \$80 application fee per campus (\$95 for international applicants)
- Application fee waiver for up to 4 campuses available
- No letters of recommendation
- No interviews
- No transcripts submissions when applying, submit transcripts after admitted

## First-year timeline



# Resources

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## Counselor resources

UC Counselors website



A-G course list



Counselors and Advisers  
Bulletin (CAB)



Campuses and majors



2024 Quick Reference  
Guide



UC Info Center



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# Thank you

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