
Catch the wave, avoid the wipeout

Navigating UC validation

September 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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CONFERENCE



Agenda

TODAY'S SURF REPORT



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1. PADDLE OUT

Validation Basics

What validation is and when it applies

2. CATCH THE WAVE

LOTE Validation

How validation works within a sequence

3. NAVIGATE THE SWELL

Math Validation

Rules, exceptions, and Fall 2026 changes

4. AVOID THE WIPEOUT

Test Your Knowledge

Apply the rules to student scenarios

5. BACK TO SHORE

Counselor Resources

Tools and guidance

Defining validation

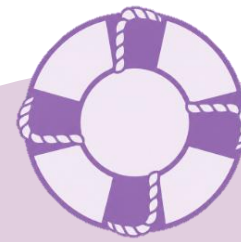
WHAT IS VALIDATION?

When a student has successfully completed advanced work (earning a C or better) in an area of sequential knowledge.

- Math (Area C)
- Language Other Than English (Area E)

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF VALIDATION?

- Validation of a subject omission
- Validation of a deficient grade



KEY TAKEAWAY

Higher-level success can validate what was missed or earned with a low grade



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Know the requirements

AREA E- LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

MINIMUM

- 2 years of the same language (or through the second level of high school instruction)

UC RECOMMENDS

- 3 years (or more)

AREA C- MATHEMATICS

MINIMUM

- 3 years of college-preparatory math
- Must include:
 - Algebra I + Geometry + Algebra II OR
 - Math I + Math II + Math III

UC RECOMMENDS

- 4 years of Math

KEY TAKEAWAY



Think of these as sequential requirements. It's the progression through the curriculum that matters.

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What happens if the student is missing ONE semester? LOTE



LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Missing 1st semester of LOTE course

2nd semester of the same
level (C or better)



VALIDATES

1st semester of
same level

What happens if the student is missing ONE semester? Math



GEOMETRY

Missing 1st semester
of Geometry

2nd semester Geometry
(C or better)

VALIDATES



1st semester Geometry



INTEGRATED MATH

Missing 1st semester
of Math II

2nd semester Math II
(C or better)

VALIDATES

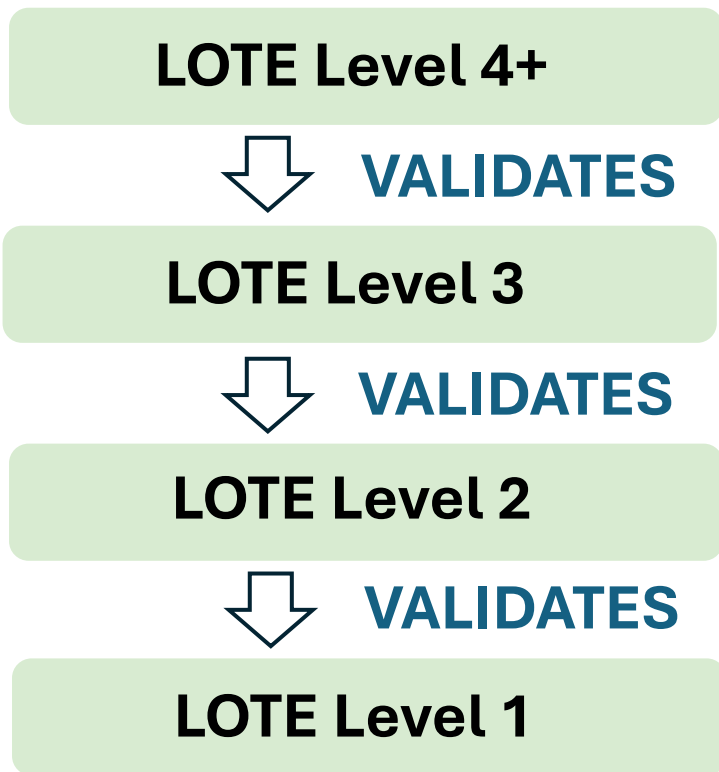


1st semester Math II

Validation rules: The big picture

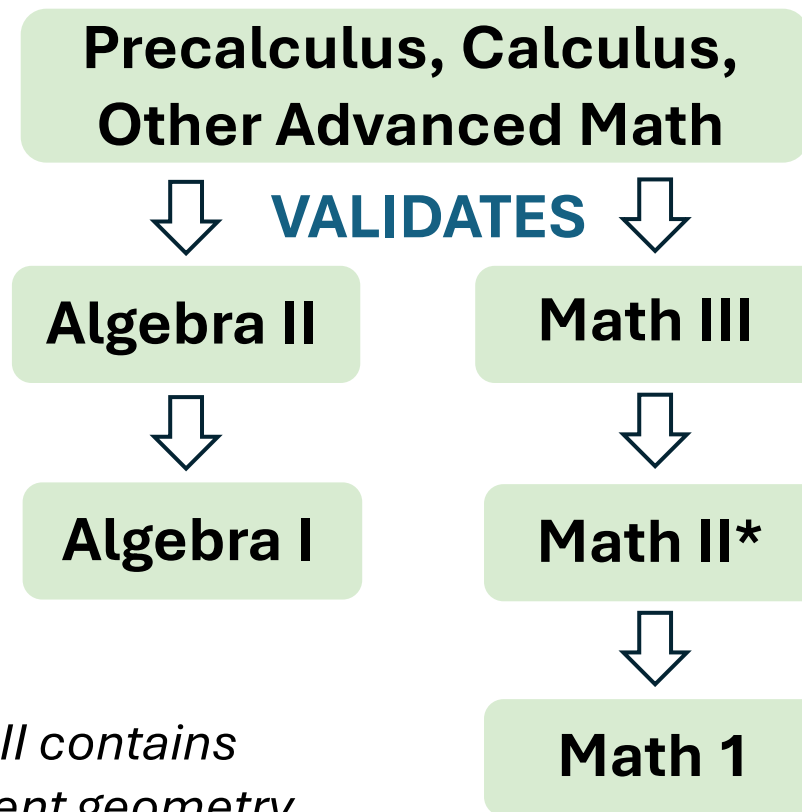
LOTE

Quick
Reference
Pg. 25



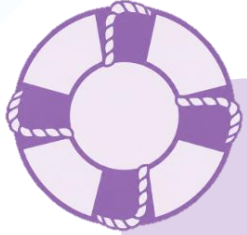
MATH

Quick
Reference
Pg. 24



**Math II contains sufficient geometry content to meet the UC geometry requirement*

What happens if the student is missing the entire course? LOTE



KEY TAKEAWAY

Validation can satisfy lower-level requirements, but only completed coursework counts toward A–G totals and UC GPA (if applicable).



LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Entire LOTE II & LOTE I courses missing

**LOTE III, SEMESTER 1
(C or better)**

↓ **VALIDATES**

LOTE II (both semesters)

↓ **VALIDATES**

LOTE I (both semesters)

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What happens if the student is missing the entire course? Math



GEOMETRY

Geometry
missing or deficient



**CANNOT BE VALIDATED BY ANY
HIGHER-LEVEL COURSEWORK**



INTEGRATED MATH

Math II missing or deficient

Math I



Math III*



VALIDATES

omission of Math II

**C or
better*

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Math III with a C or better can validate a missing year of Math II, provided Math I, which includes some geometry content, has been completed.

What changes when into effect this fall?

GEOMETRY GRADE DEFICIENCY

A Geometry omission or deficient grade can no longer be validated by higher-level coursework

STATISTICS & ADDITIONAL MATH

Statistics and Additional Math can no longer validate Algebra II, Math III, or other lower-level math coursework

These courses remain in Area C and can be used as a fourth year of math.

KEY TAKEAWAY



Validation rules are based on when the higher-level coursework was completed, not when a student graduates.

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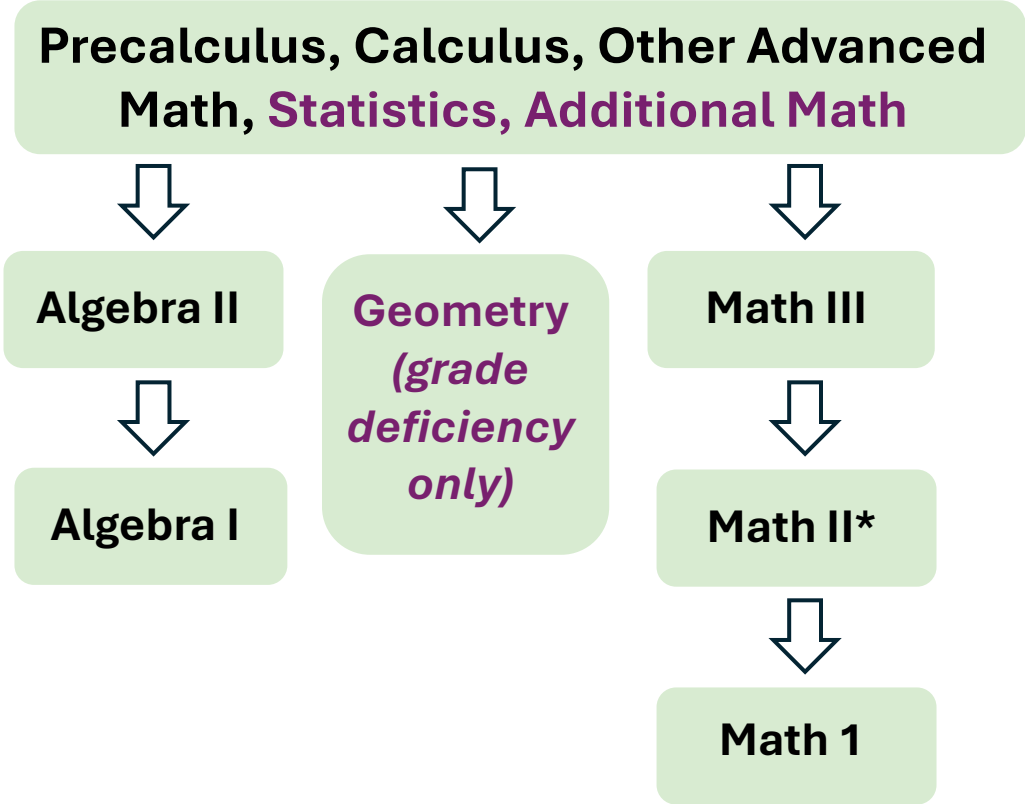
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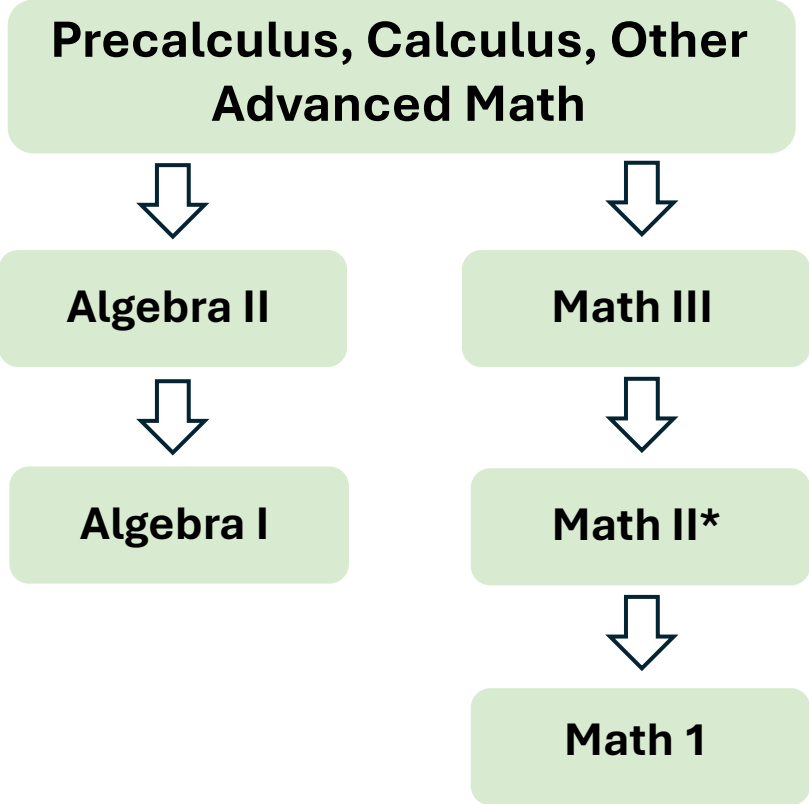
Math validation rules

Quick
Reference
Pg. 24

THROUGH SUMMER 2026



BEGINNING FALL 2026



**Math II contains sufficient geometry content to meet the UC geometry requirement*

Two outcomes

Course	Grade
Algebra I	B, B
Geometry	D, D
Algebra II	B, B
Statistics	A



**APPLY
VALIDATION
RULES BASED
ON WHEN
STATS WAS
TAKEN**



THROUGH SUMMER 2026 **Meets Area C**

Why?

- Grade deficiency in geometry can be validated by higher-level coursework
- Statistics may validate lower-level coursework

Remember, the D grades in geometry will be included in the UC GPA calculation!



BEGINNING FALL 2026 **Does Not Meet Area C**

Why?

- Grade deficiency in geometry cannot be validated by higher-level coursework
- Statistics no longer validates lower-level coursework.
- Student must resolve the geometry deficiency another way

Rogue Wave!



Example 1

LOTE
ARE THEY MEETING AREA E?

Course	Grade Level	Semester Grades
Spanish III	9	C, NO

Example 1: Answer



YES!



FIRST SEMESTER LOTE LEVEL 3
validates lower levels



A higher-level course validates all
levels of lower-level courses



Meets Area E

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Example 2

MATH

ARE THEY MEETING AREA C?

Course	Grade Level	Semester Grades
Integrated Mathematics I	9	A, A
Honors Integrated Mathematics III	11	B, B
Precalculus & Trigonometry (College Course)	12	IP

Example 2: Answer



YES!



IM III validates IM II



Geometry requirement satisfied



Meets Area C

Example 3

MATH

WILL THEY MEET AREA C BY GRADUATION?

Course	Grade Level	Semester Grades
Algebra II	9	A, A
Precalculus	10	A, B
AP Calculus	11	Planned
Statistics	12	Planned

Example 3: Answer

IT'S A WIPEOUT!



No!

This student does **NOT** meet Area C



Unless this student has completed geometry in 7th or 8th grade, they have not met the geometry requirement.



The omission of geometry cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework.

Example 4

MATH

ARE THEY MEETING AREA C?

Course	Grade Level	Semester Grades
Geometry	9	A, A
Precalculus	10	A, B
AP Calculus	11	Planned
Statistics	12	Planned

Example 4: Answer



YES!



Geometry requirement has been met



Algebra II (and Algebra I) validated by successful completion of Precalculus



Meets Area C

To recap:



See the results: How UC evaluates validated coursework



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Students are still expected to complete:

- Three years of math (recommended four)
- Two years of a language other than English (recommended three)
- 15 A-G courses (11 by the end of junior year)
- Minimum GPA requirements



HOLISTIC REVIEW

- A-G courses and GPA are just one part of comprehensive review
- More advanced courses used for validation can also demonstrate course rigor

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What validation does and doesn't do



WHAT IT DOES

- Allows students flexibility in meeting A-G requirements without repeating the course



WHAT IT DOESN'T DO

- Apply to courses outside Math/LOTE
- Remove GPA impact
- Apply to Computer Science courses approved for Area C



Fin-tastic resources for counselors



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

View pages 23-25 for
specifics on validation



HIGH SCHOOL COURSE LISTS

Identifies the A-G-approved
courses available at a
specific high school.



UC COUNSELOR WEBSITE

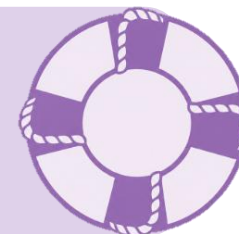
General counselor and advising
resources for working with first-
years and transfer applicants

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Tough waters? Reach out to
AskUC@ucop.edu for help!



Thank you!

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