
Mini transfer topics

CCC Webinar Series: 2025-2026

February 18, 2026

**UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA**

Agenda

- Introduction
- Advanced Placement Units
- Lower division credit maximum
- Former UC students
- Resources
- Q&A



Advanced Placement exams

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, several students are walking across a grassy area. They are wearing backpacks and casual clothing. In the background, there are large green trees and a tall, white, modern building with a grid-like facade. The sky is clear and blue. The text "Advanced Placement exams" is overlaid in a white box with a blue border.

Quick review: Minimum junior transfer admission requirements

Courses
7-course pattern

Units
60 semester/
90 quarter
UC-transferable
units

GPA
2.4 (CA residents)
2.8 (nonresidents)

Units

- UC-transferable units only
- Can include exam credits
- Need to reach 60 sem/90qtr by the spring term prior to transfer

Note: All courses must be reported on the UC application!

7-course pattern in detail

- **Two** transferable courses in English Composition (UC-E)
- **One** transferable course in mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning (UC-M)
- **Four** transferable college courses chosen from at least two of the following subject areas:
 - Arts and humanities (UC-H)
 - Social and behavioral sciences (UC-B)
 - Physical and biological sciences (UC-S)

Advanced Placement exams for UC admission

Advanced Placement (AP) exam credits may be used to help students meet junior-level transfer admission requirements.

Scores of 3 or higher.

Use of AP chart found online would support counselors and students.



Units

- Each exam yields a certain number of units
- Those units may be used to reach the 60 semester (90 quarter) minimum required for admission

7-course pattern

- Regardless of unit value, AP exams may be used to satisfy parts of the 7-course pattern required for eligibility
- Limits apply and not all exams have a UC area designation

AP exam credit chart

How to use the AP chart:

UC area designation is included in parenthesis

Example: **Economics (UC-B)**

Units per exam are displayed in semester and quarter units



| | |
|--|--|
| African American Studies (Available after May 2025) | 2.6 sem/4 qtr |
| Art and Design | 2-D Art and Design: 5.3 sem/8 qtr 3-D Art and Design: 5.3 sem/8 qtr Drawing: 5.3 sem/8 qtr (5.3 sem/8 qtr unit maximum for all three exams) |
| Art History (UC-H) | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Biology (UC-S) | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Chemistry (UC-S) | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Computer Science | Computer Science A: 5.3 sem/8 qtr Computer Science Principles: 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Economics (UC-B) | Microeconomics: 2.6 sem/4 qtr Macroeconomics: 2.6 sem/4 qtr |
| English* | Language and Composition (UC-E): 5.3 sem/8 qtr Literature and Composition (UC-E/H): 5.3 sem/8 qtr (5.3 sem/8 qtr maximum for both exams) |
| Environmental Science (UC-S) | 2.6 sem/4 qtr |
| Government and Politics (UC-B) | United States: 2.6 sem/4 qtr Comparative: 2.6 sem/4 qtr |
| History (UC-B/H) | United States History: 5.3 sem/8 qtr European History: 5.3 sem/8 qtr Modern World History: 5.3 sem/8 qtr |

AP exam credit and major preparation

Faculty at each UC campus designate how AP credit is articulated at their campus.

Major preparation is determined based on lower-division coursework. AP exams can articulate to those courses, but to verify, you'd need to refer to campus-specific AP charts.

ASSIST may also have this information.



Questions about AP exam use for major preparation must be referred to individual campuses.

AP exams sample #1

A student at your CCC has shared their AP exam report and they have credit for the following:

AP English Language – Score of 5

AP Statistics – Score of 3

AP Music Theory – Score of 2

| Exam name | Units and limits |
|--|------------------|
| English Language and Composition (UC-E)* | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| English Literature and Composition (UC-E/H)* | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Music Theory (UC-H) | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Statistics (UC-M) | 2.6 sem/4 qtr |

*Only one of the two English courses required for transfer admission may be satisfied with an AP exam score. Max 5.3 sem/8 qtr for both exams.

A student at your CCC has shared their AP exam report and they have credit for the following:

AP English Language – Score of 5

AP Statistics – Score of 3

AP Music Theory – Score of 2



After consulting our AP chart, we find that:

- AP English meets one year of UC-E and grants 5.3 sem/8qtr units
- AP Statistics meets UC-M and grants 2.6 sem/4qtr units

AP exams sample #2

A student at your CCC has shared their AP exam report and they have credit for the following:

AP Computer Science A – Score of 5

AP Art History – Score of 3

AP English Literature – Score of 3

| Exam name | Units and limits |
|--|------------------|
| Art History (UC-H) | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| Computer Science A | 5.3 sem/ 8 qtr |
| Computer Science Principles | 5.3 sem/ 8 qtr |
| English Language and Composition (UC-E)* | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |
| English Literature and Composition (UC-E/H)* | 5.3 sem/8 qtr |

*Only one of the two English courses required for transfer admission may be satisfied with an AP exam score. Max 5.3 sem/8 qtr for both exams.

A student at your CCC has shared their AP exam report and they have credit for the following:

AP Computer Science A – Score of 5

AP Art History – Score of 3

AP English Literature – Score of 3



After consulting our AP chart, we find that:

- AP Computer Science A grants 5.3 sem/8qtr units; no UC area designation
- AP Art History grants 5.3 sem/8qtr units and meets UC-H
- AP English meets one year of UC-E (or UC-H) and grants 5.3 sem/8qtr units

To recap: AP exams



- Can be used to meet unit requirement
- Can be used to meet portions of the 7-course pattern
- Limits between exams exist



- Exercise caution when using AP exams in lieu of **major preparation** coursework
 - Refer to campus AP exam charts
 - Questions should go to campuses

A close-up photograph of a worker in a blue shirt working on a bicycle in a factory. The worker is focused on the front wheel and handlebars. The background is a blurred industrial setting with yellow lighting. A white banner with blue text is overlaid on the image.

Lower division credit maximum limitation

Defining the lower division maximum credit limitation

Students will be granted up to 70 semester/105 quarter units of credit for lower-division coursework completed at any institution or any combination of institutions. For units beyond the maximum, subject credit for appropriate coursework taken will be granted and may be used to satisfy requirements.

Excluded from this limitation:

- Units earned through AP, IB and/or A level examinations.
- Units earned at **any UC campus** (Extension, summer, cross/concurrent and regular enrollment) are added to the maximum transfer credit allowed.

Step 1: Common UC subject limits

First, consider UC subject limits. Subject limits can impact the total number of UC-transferable units.

PE activity courses are limited to 4 semester/6 quarter units

PE theory courses are limited to 8 semester/ 12 quarter units

College algebra and pre-calculus combined are limited to one course or the other

Statistics is limited to one course

ESL is limited to 8 semester/12 quarter units

College counseling is limited to 3 semester/ 4.5 quarter units

Step 2: Overall unit limits

Second, units can be sorted into four buckets:

Lower division

Can come from CCCs,
OOS community colleges,
4-year universities

Upper division

4-year universities

UC units

Lower and upper division units;
Inclusive of Extension, summer,
and cross/concurrent
enrollment

Exam credits

Not included in the limitation;
no risk of excessive units



Why does this matter for admission?

It's possible a student may accumulate too many units which would limit a student's option for enrollment at UC.

- High unit junior standing: 80-89 semester (120-134.5 quarter) units
- Senior standing: 90 semester (135 quarter) units

HIGH-UNIT LIMITS AND ADMISSION POLICY BY CAMPUS

The chart below defines the number of units that causes a student to reach high-unit junior or senior standing for UC admission evaluation purposes. The intended purpose of this chart is not to advise a prospective student whether or not they can apply to UC; rather, it should alert students with a high number of UC-transferable units that there may be some difficulty in the ability of some campuses to offer them admission. Participating campuses may have different limitations for Transfer Admission Guarantee applicants. (See the [TAG matrix \(pdf\)](#) for specific information.)

High-unit transfer unit counts:

- High-unit junior standing: 80–89 semester (120–133.5 quarter) UC-transferable units
- Senior standing: 90 semester (135 quarter) or more UC-transferable units

High-unit limits and admission policy by campus: After applying the UC lower-division maximum transfer credit limitation policy, all upper-division and all UC units are added to the total unit count. Use the resulting unit count in reference to column two in the chart below.

| Campus | Number of units that place an applicant in high-unit junior or senior standing | Admits high-unit juniors and/or seniors? | |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| Berkeley | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Some | Seniors: Some |
| Davis | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required | High-unit juniors: Some | Seniors: Some |
| Irvine | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Some | Seniors: Some |
| Los Angeles | 86.5 semester/130 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: No | Seniors: No |
| Merced | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required | High-unit juniors: Some | Seniors: Some (<i>Students must submit an appeal to be considered for admission at the senior level.</i>) |
| Riverside | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Some | Seniors: Some |
| San Diego | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Yes | Seniors: No |
| Santa Barbara | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Yes | Seniors: No |
| Santa Cruz | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | High-unit juniors: Yes | Seniors: Some |

High unit limits and admission policy by campus

| Campus | Number of units that place an applicant in high-unit junior or senior standing | Admits high-unit juniors? | Admits seniors? |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Berkeley | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more | Some | Some |
| Davis | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required | Some | Some |
| Irvine | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | Some | Some |
| Los Angeles | 86.5 semester/130 quarter units or more | No | No |
| Merced | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more; dean's review required | Some | Some, appeal required |
| Riverside | 80 semester/120 quarter units or more | Some | Some |
| San Diego | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | Yes | No |
| Santa Barbara | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | Yes | No |
| Santa Cruz | 90 semester/135 quarter units or more | Yes | Some |

Considerations when trying to determine unit count

UC is looking at information provided on the UC application.
In the application we would see:

- **Completed units** : Through the summer the student is applying
- **In progress units**: Application is submitted in fall, updated in the winter (TAU)
- **Planned units**: Winter and/or spring terms prior to transfer



It is important to consider all units in your unit calculations.

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Santa Barbara City College | 30 semester units |
| City College of San Francisco | 34 semester units |
| College of San Mateo | 10 semester units |

Total: 74 semester units



Is the student at risk of excessive units?

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units.

Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Santa Barbara City College | 30 semester units |
| City College of San Francisco | 34 semester units |
| College of San Mateo | 10 semester units |

Total: 74 semester units



No risk of excessive units!

While the student has 74 units, we will cap that at 70 units.

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| UC Berkeley | 15 semester units |
| Golden West College | 62 semester units |

Total: 77 semester units



Is the student at risk of excessive units?

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| UC Berkeley | 15 semester units |
| Golden West College | 62 semester units |

Total: 77 semester units



No risk of excessive units!

CCC units + all UC units =
77 units since we do not
limit UC units.

High-unit junior begins at
about 80 sem units.

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| UC Merced | 33 semester units |
| San Diego Mesa College | 50 semester units |

Total: 83 semester units



Is the student at risk of excessive units?

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| UC Merced | 33 semester units |
| San Diego Mesa College | 50 semester units |

Total: 83 semester units



Potentially!

CCC units + all UC units =
83 units

Review high unit junior
and senior chart to
determine options

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units. Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|-----------------------|--|
| University of Arizona | 66 semester UC-transferable units <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60 units are lower-div• 6 units are upper-div |
| East LA College | 28 semester units |

Total: Not given in this sample



Is the student at risk of excessive units?

You're helping a student get ready to apply to UC. You want to determine if there is risk of excessive units.

Your student has:

| College attended | Units to consider |
|-----------------------|--|
| University of Arizona | 66 semester UC-transferable units <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60 units are lower-div• 6 units are upper-div |
| East LA College | 28 semester units |



1. Add all lower-div units
 $60 + 28 = 88$
2. Apply lower-div limit
 $88 - 18 = 70$
3. Add upper-div units
 $70 + 6 = 76$

No risk of excessive units!

To recap: Two considerations for limits on transfer credit

APPLICATION REVIEW

Determines **eligibility**.

- An evaluator will review courses and apply any credit limits
- Would need to see at least 60 sem (90 qtr) units
- Total number will cap at 70 sem (105 qtr) for all lower division units; all units used in GPA calculation
- Upper division units and any UC units added to max lower division unit count
 - Would determine if student is at risk of high junior or senior standing

ENROLLMENT

Determines **credit to the degree**.

- Campus staff will review final, official transcripts; must match UC application
- Campus will apply units to the degree using campus guidelines
- Total number of lower division units cap at 70 sem (105 qtr); subject credit for remaining units
- All UC units granted, transferable upper-division 4-year units also granted
 - Few campuses will admit and therefore enroll senior standing students



Former UC students

Eligible as a first-year

May be admitted to the University provided the applicant has maintained a grade-point average of at least 2.0 in all transferable college course work.

First-year applicant but missing A-G requirements

May be admitted to the University provided a 2.0 or higher GPA has been maintained and has remediated missing requirements by completing an appropriate course for each subject.

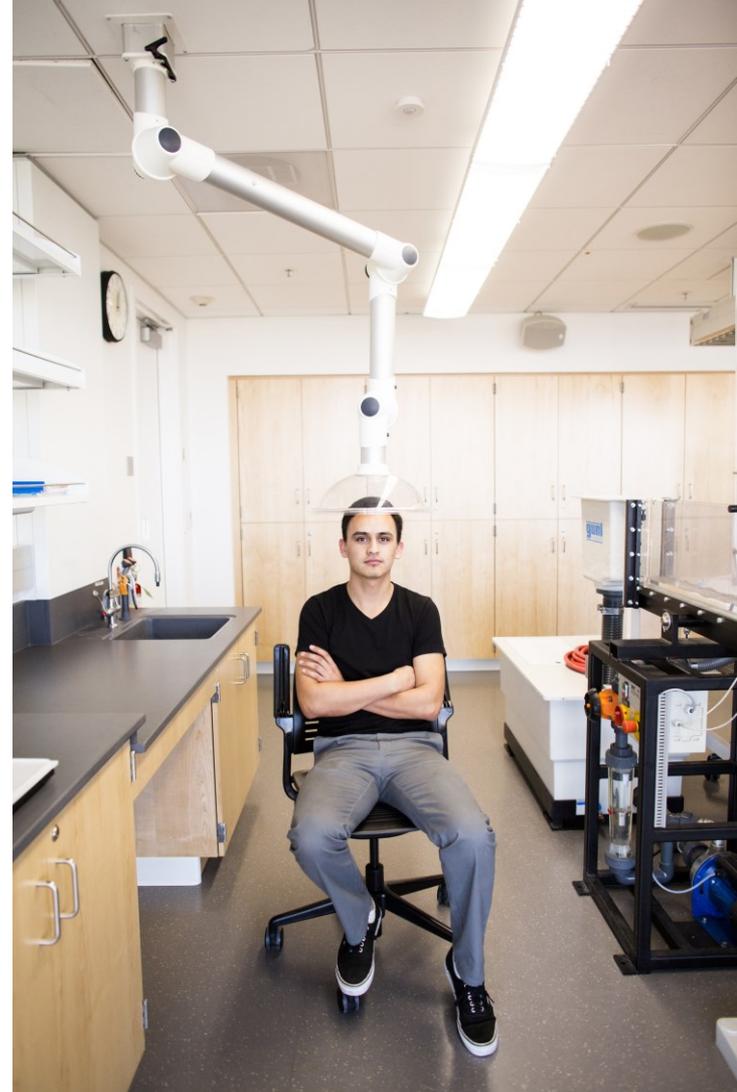
Upper 12.5% of graduating class but missing A-G requirements

Must have maintained a 3.0 in A-G courses completed. May apply simultaneously for admission to a CCC and for conditional admission to a campus of the University.

The most common path: Junior-level transfers

Junior transfer

- 60 semester (90 quarter) units of transferable college coursework
- A GPA set by the campus in transferable course work
- 7-course pattern
- Completed all transferable courses with a grade of C or higher



While former UC students are considered “eligible” it is still very important to remember that being eligible does not necessarily mean being selective.

Although the 7-course pattern is not mandatory for former UC students, completing it is strongly encouraged, as it may be considered a factor in the selection process by other UC campuses

Eligibility GPA is 2.0 but selection GPA varies by campus

Former UC students: Returning to home UC campus or applying to a different UC

Returning to previous UC

- The student should contact the Registrar's Office and follow specific re-enrollment procedures.
- The process may be called "readmission", "re-enrollment" or "reinstatement."
- The student should not submit a UC application. Instead, they must file paperwork for readmission with the former campus.
- Academic guidance around readmission should be referred to academic advising in the school/college where the student was enrolled.

Transferring to a different UC

- Former UC students are automatically UC-eligible.
- The student must be in good academic standing at the prior UC.
- All units earned at a UC campus are transferable to another campus.
- GPA follows the student from one UC to another.

Things to consider when helping a former UC student

GPA: Last term and/or cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above

Units: UC units are not limited; they all transfer! Can put students at risk of excessive units.

Intended major: Impacts time to transfer, especially if major prep courses are required. While UC courses transfer, faculty determine what is appropriate for their degree program

Situational walk-through: Advising a former UC student

You're meeting with a student that was formerly enrolled at UC. They are now interested in transferring to another UC closer to home.

They share the following:

- Completed one semester
- Earned 15 units
- 3.0 GPA
- Was pursuing biology as a major, still interested in biology

GPA: Above a 2.0, no concerns

Units: All UC units transfer

Major: Review major prep coursework, contact UC campuses for guidance

Situational walk-through #2: Advising a former UC student

You're meeting with a student that was formerly enrolled at UC. They are now interested in transferring to another UC.

They share the following:

- Completed one year at UC
- Earned 45 quarter units
- Overall 3.0 GPA, last term 1.8 GPA
- Had not determined major at first UC, now interested in English

GPA: Cumulative GPA is okay, but the last term was <2.0 . Student would need to contact former UC to remediate GPA

Units: All UC units transfer; remember to convert to semester units if necessary. Careful planning to not run into unit issues

Major: Undeclared but review UC courses for major prep

Situational walk-through #3: Advising a former UC student

You're meeting with a student that was formerly enrolled at UC. They are now interested in transferring to another UC via the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program.

They share the following:

- Completed one quarter at UC
- Earned 12 quarter units
- 3.5 GPA
- Undeclared at previous UC



Can this student participate in the TAG program?

Yes!

Former UC students are eligible for TAG!

- ✓ Must have left UC in good standing
- ✓ Can only TAG to a different UC campus
- ✓ Must meet all TAG shared criteria
- ✓ Must meet campus-specific TAG requirements



7-course pattern is required for TAG. In this case, former UC students would be held to the 7-course pattern.

University requirements for former UC students

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

- ELWR may be satisfied with specific exams, such as AP or IB, or by a qualifying college course.
- Regular transfer students meet ELWR by completing the required UC-E courses.

General education: IGETC or Cal-GETC

- IGETC or Cal-GETC is acceptable when transferring to a new UC if the college/major allows IGETC or Cal-GETC.
- Students returning to previous UC may not use IGETC or Cal-GETC.

General education: Letter of Reciprocity

- If a student has completed the general education pattern at one UC, they can request a Letter of Reciprocity which will satisfy GE requirements of the new UC.

To recap: Supporting former UC students

- Units and GPA; Junior transfer applicants in good standing at former UC
- 7-course pattern may still be recommended as it can help students meet GE requirements at their new UC
- Letter of reciprocity for Breadth/General Education or IGETC/Cal-GETC
- Must meet ELWR
- UC courses are transferable. We do not limit these units
- Course equivalencies are determined by the new UC campus

Resources



Important resources for counselors

[UC Counselors website & Resource Library](#)



[Quick Reference Guide to UC Admission](#)



[UC TAP for Counselors](#)



When in doubt, ask! Email the Undergraduate Admissions team with any systemwide questions at AskUC@ucop.edu.

Thank you