Let's talk "validation"!
What counselors need to know

UC High School Webinar Series: 2025–26

February 10, 2025

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- Validation overview
- Validation vs. repeats
- Language other than English (LOTE)
- Mathematics
- Resources
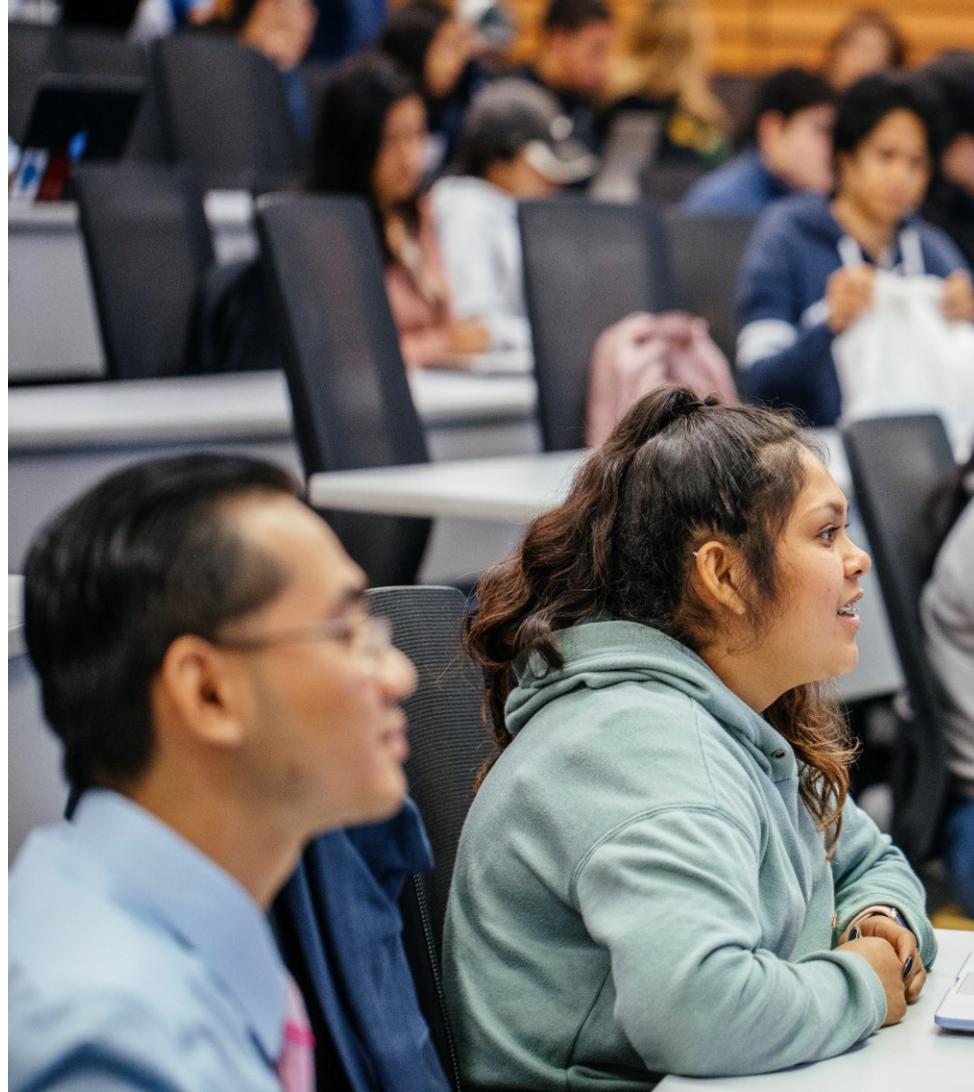
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Validation overview

Defining "validation"

- When a student has successfully completed advanced work in an area of sequential knowledge, the student is presumed to have completed the lower-level coursework.

- Validation **only** applies to Areas C (math) and E (LOTE)!

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Subject omission

Validation of a lower-level course even if the lower-level course was not actually completed
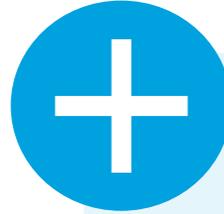
Grade deficiency

Validation of a D or F grade in a lower-level course after completing a higher-level course with a grade of C or better

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Validation only applies to mathematics (Area C) and languages other than English (Area E) as they are considered sequential subjects.

- Only CSU allows for validation in Chemistry, not UC.

- Only math and LOTE courses completed in 7th and 8th grade are acceptable for A-G because they are sequential subjects.

- Rules are dictated by the course *discipline* as reflected in the A-G course list, not the course title.

- Can apply with a single semester of coursework.

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Validation vs. repeats

Validation

- Can be used to meet a requirement in which a D or F was originally received or if a lower-level course was not completed.

- Only applies to Areas C and E.

- Requirement is met by successfully completing a *higher-level course*.

- Does **not** replace the original D or F grade in the UC GPA calculation.

Repeat

- Can be used to meet a requirement in which a D or F was originally received.

- Applies to any A-G subject area.

- Requirement is met by successfully completing the *same course*, or a course with a similar curriculum.

- Will replace the original D or F grade in the UC GPA calculation if completed by summer of 11th grade.

Reminder: Students need to report all course attempts in the UC application, even if a course was later repeated or validated.

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Language other than English (LOTE)

Two years, or equivalent to the **second level** of high school instruction, of the same language other than English are required. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture.

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Validation of LOTE

2nd sem – LOTE Level **4+**

↓

1st sem – LOTE Level **4+**

↓

2nd sem – LOTE Level **3**

↓

1st sem – LOTE Level **3**

↓

2nd sem – LOTE Level **2**

↓

1st sem – LOTE Level **2**

↓

2nd sem – LOTE Level **1**

↓

1st sem – LOTE Level **1**

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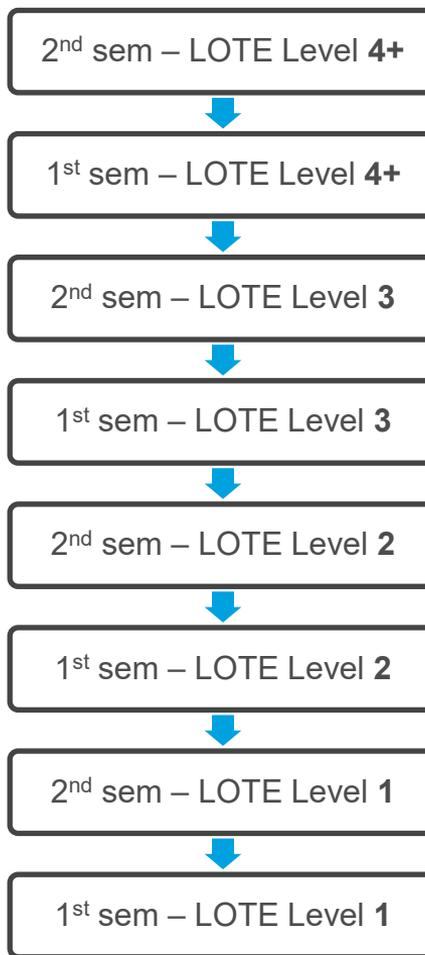
One of your students is a native speaker and was able to jump into AP Spanish Language and Culture (LOTE Level 4+) but has not taken any other LOTE coursework. They received the following grades.

Have they met the Area E LOTE requirement?

AP Spanish Language & Culture (10th grade)

- Semester 1 = B+
- Semester 2 = A

Yes! By passing AP Spanish Language & Culture, this student has met the Area E LOTE requirement.

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One of your students received the following grades in their French courses. Have they met the Area E LOTE requirement?

9th grade – French 1

- Semester 1 = A
- Semester 2 = A-

10th grade – French 2

- Semester 1 = C+
- Semester 2 = D

11th grade – French 3

- Semester 1 = B-
- Semester 2 = B

BONUS: Will the D grade from French 2 be calculated in the UC GPA? **Yes**

Yes! By passing French 3, they have validated the deficient grade in second semester French 2.

Mathematics

Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in **elementary and advanced algebra** and **two- and three-dimensional geometry**; a **fourth year of math is strongly recommended**. A geometry course or an integrated math course with a sufficient amount of geometry content must be completed. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement.

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To meet Area C, students need:

Algebra I + Geometry + Algebra II

OR

Math I + Math II* + Math III

*Math II is considered to contain sufficient geometry content and meets the geometry requirement for Area C.

!

Additional considerations…

A geometry course – or appropriate integrated math course – must be completed.

A fourth year of math beyond the foundational math requirement is recommended.

7th and 8th grade math coursework is acceptable to meet part or all of the Area C minimum requirement. 6th grade coursework is not accepted.

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The Area C math requirement is not changing.

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Changes to validation rules are taking effect beginning in fall 2026 *(previously planned for fall 2025)*

- Statistics courses will no longer validate Algebra II/Math III.

- "Additional Math" is a new discipline option and will not validate Algebra II/Math III.

- Validation of geometry grade deficiency by a higher-level course no longer allowed.

The applicable math validation rules are based on **when a student completes the higher-level course**, not their intended application or entry term to UC.

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A yearlong geometry course – or appropriate integrated math course (Math II) – is required.

- Validation of Geometry* *omission* is not allowed.

- Validation of Geometry* *grade deficiency* has been allowed but will no longer be accepted beginning in fall 2026.

*Single-subject Geometry

Additional geometry considerations…

The second semester of a Geometry course **will** validate the omission or deficient grade in the first semester of Geometry.

Challenge exams are accepted for students who have not met the geometry course requirement.

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Validation…

- Does not include any Computer Science coursework approved under Area C.

- Can apply at the semester level (i.e., semester 2 validates semester 1 of a course).

- Is distinct for single-subject vs. integrated math curriculums.

- Rules are dictated by the **course discipline** as reflected in the A-G course list, not the course title.

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Course discipline on A-G course list

C Mathematics	3 years required, 4 years recommended ❓	
⌄ AP Calculus AB	Calculus	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ AP Calculus BC	Calculus	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ AP Computer Science A	Computer Science	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Data Science and Statistics 1: A Modeling Approach	Statistics	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Integrated Math III P	Mathematics III	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Math 1 P	Mathematics I	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Math I Enrichment H	Mathematics I	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Math II Enrichment H	Mathematics II	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Math II P	Mathematics II	🏫 Classroom-based
⌄ Pre-Calculus H	Pre-Calculus	🏫 Classroom-based

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Why this matters? Financial Algebra example

Financial Algebra
Mathematics III [C] Mathematics
Grade ❓ 11 12

Full Year, 🏫 Classroom-based

Algebra-Financial
Additional Math [C] Mathematics
Grade ❓ 12

Full Year, 🏫 Classroom-based

Financial Algebra
Algebra II [C] Mathematics
Grade ❓ 11 12

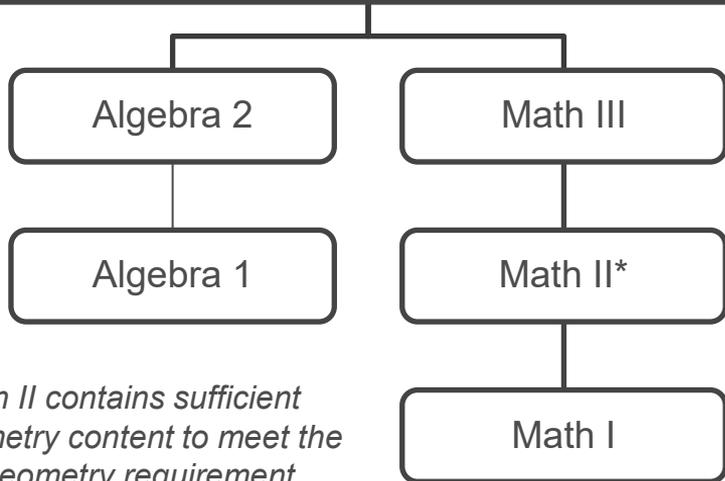Full Year, 🏫 Classroom-based

Financial Algebra
Algebra I [C] Mathematics
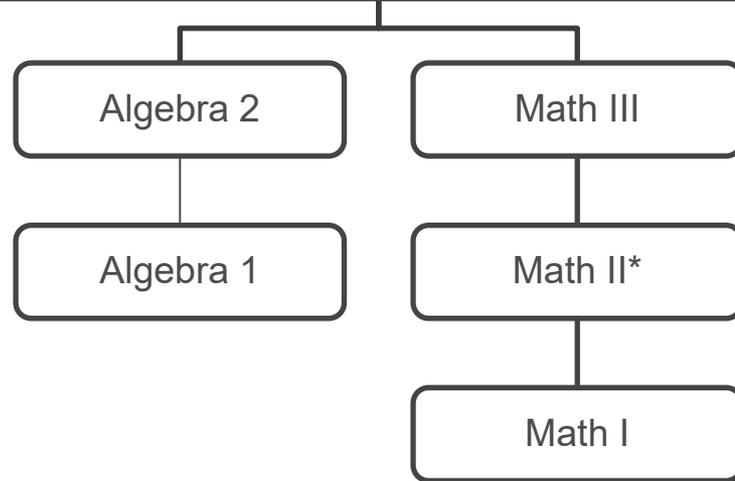Grade ❓ 9 10

Full Year, 🏫 Classroom-based

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

- Algebra 2
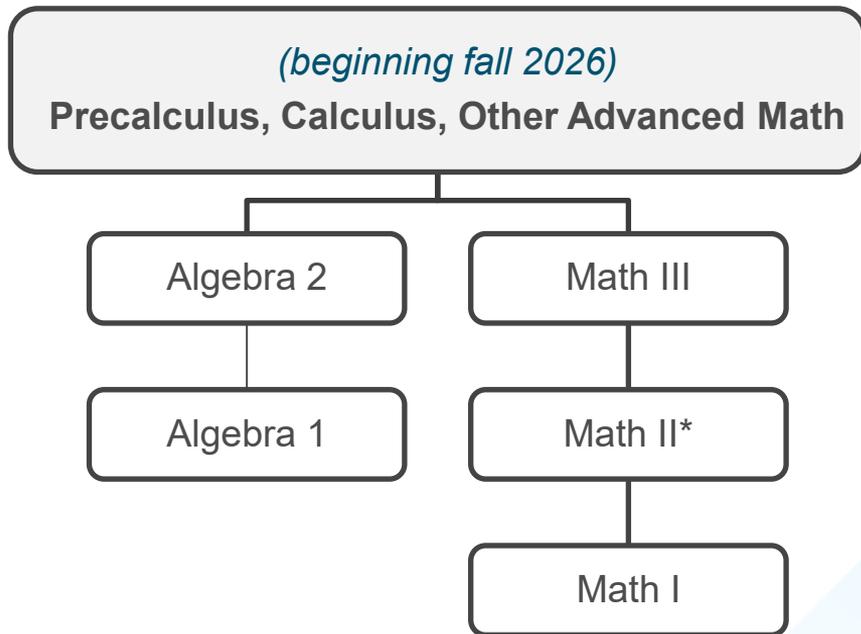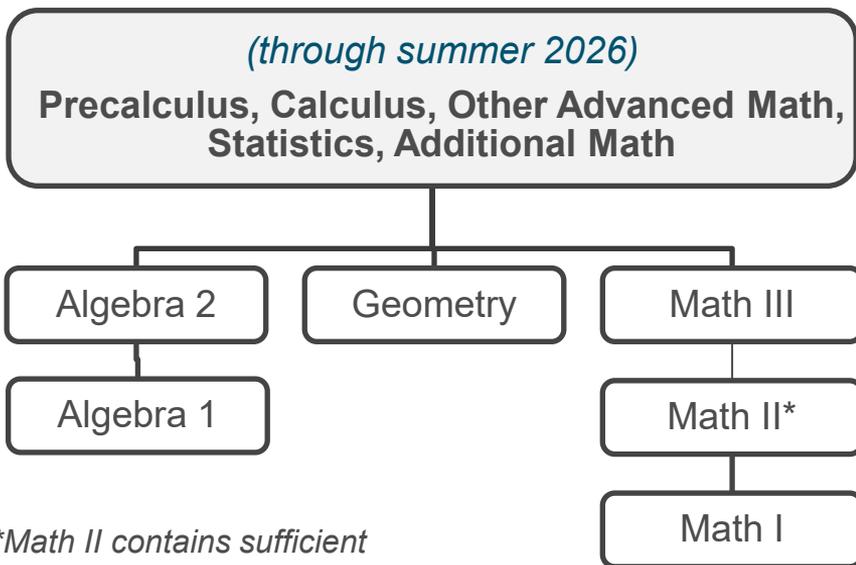 - Algebra 1
- Math III
  - Math II*
    - Math I

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

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

- Algebra 2
  - Algebra 1
- Math III
 - Math II*
    - Math I

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Statistics and Additional Math courses taken in fall 2026 or beyond are viable options for an additional year of math but will not validate lower-level coursework.

Validation charts for math grade deficiency

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

- Algebra 2
  - Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Math III
  - Math II*
    - Math I

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

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

- Algebra 2
  - Algebra 1
- Math III
  - Math II*
    - Math I

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Statistics and Additional Math courses taken in fall 2026 or beyond are viable options for an additional year of math but will not validate lower-level coursework. A higher-level math course will no longer validate a deficient grade in geometry.

You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 8th grade – Algebra I – A, A grades

- 9th grade (AY2324) – Geometry – B, B grades

- 10th grade (AY2425) – Algebra II – C, D grades

- 11th grade (AY 2526) – Statistics – A, B grades

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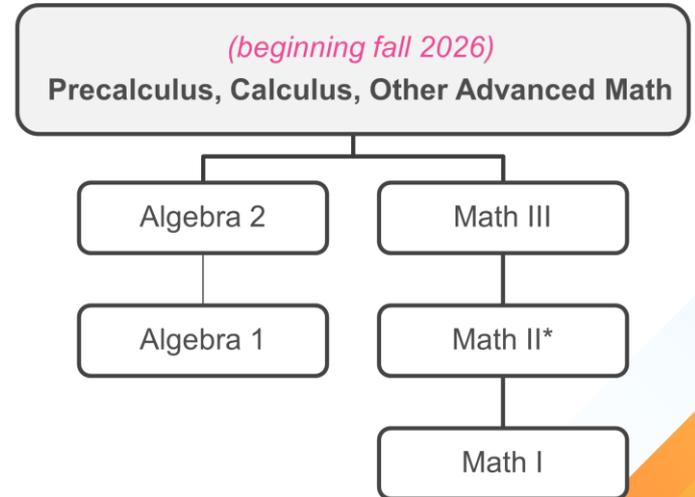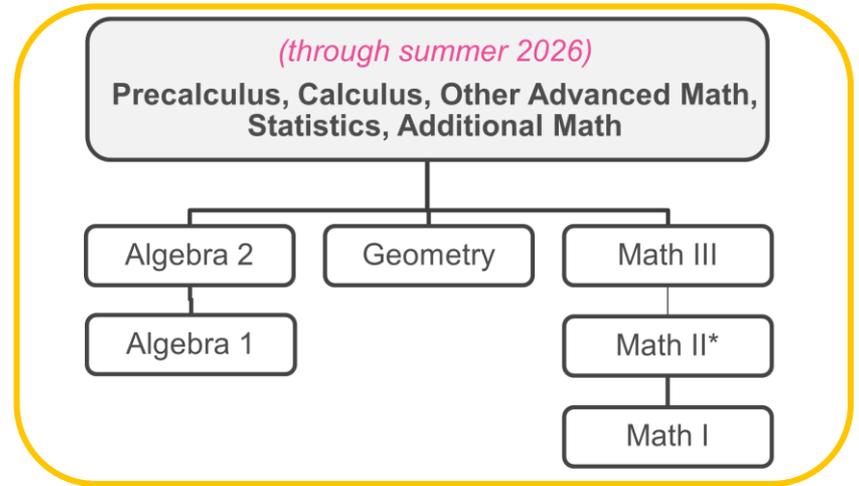
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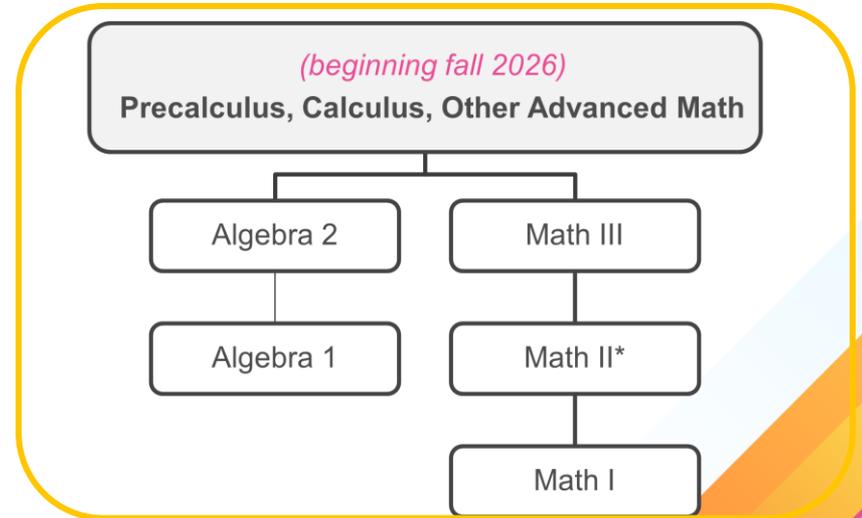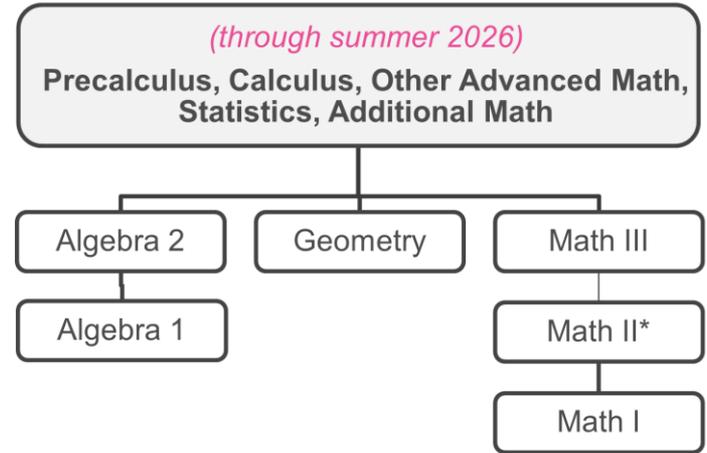
- 11th grade (AY 2526) – Statistics – A, B grades

Yes! A Statistics course completed in academic year 2025-26 can validate the grade deficiency in Algebra II.

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You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 8th grade – Algebra I – A, A grades

- 9th grade (AY2425) – Geometry – B, B grades

- 10th grade (AY2526) – Algebra II – C, D grades

- 11th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – A, B grades

You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 8th grade – Algebra I – A, A grades

- 9th grade (AY2425) – Geometry – B, B grades

- 10th grade (AY2526) – Algebra II – C, D grades
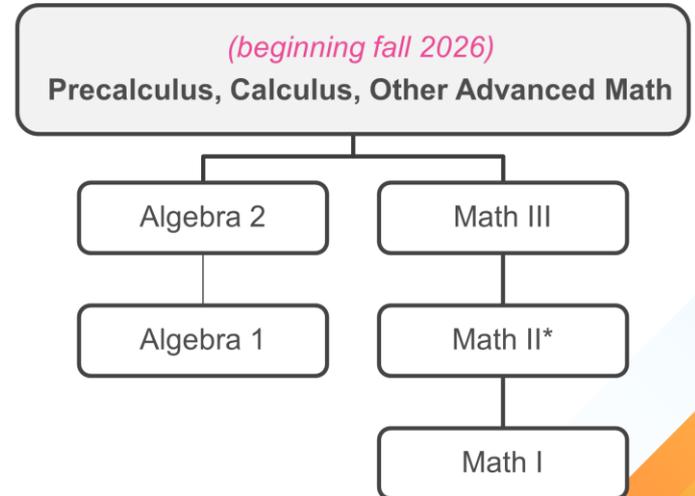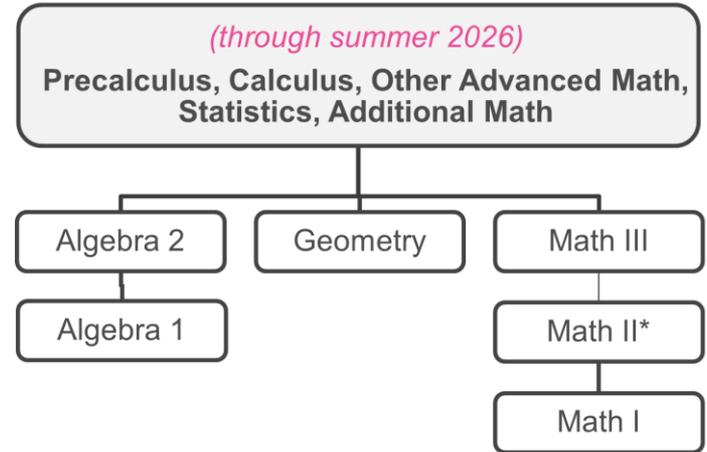
- 11th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – A, B grades

No! A Statistics course completed in academic year 2026-27 can no longer validate a grade deficiency in Algebra II.

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You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 9th grade (AY2324) – Math I – B, B grades

- 10th grade (AY2425) – Math II – D, F grades

- 11th grade (AY2526) – Math III – C, B grades

- 12th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – In Progress

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You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 9th grade (AY2324) – Math I – B, B grades

- 10th grade (AY2425) – Math II – D, F grades

- 11th grade (AY2526) – Math III – C, B grades

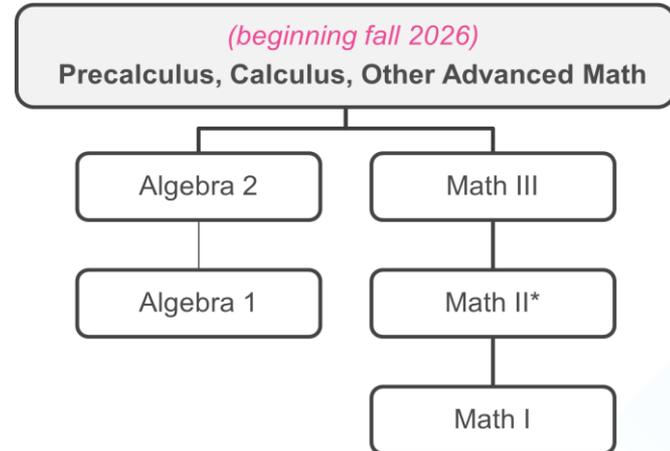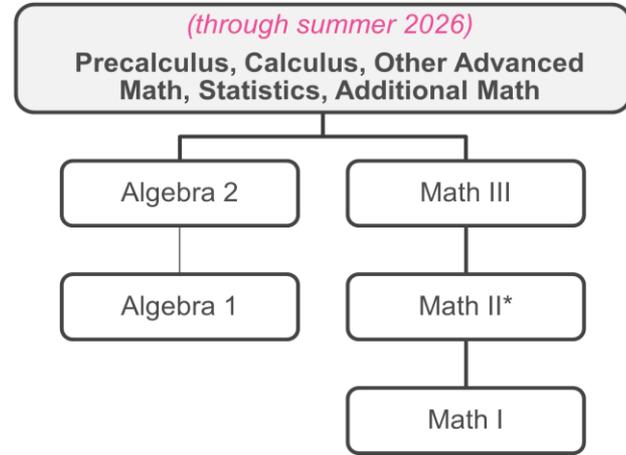- 12th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – In Progress

Yes! The student validated the grade deficiency in Math II by passing Math III and has therefore met the Area C minimum requirement.

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You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 9th grade (AY2324) – Algebra 2 – A, A grades

- 10th grade (AY2425) – Precalculus – A, B grades

- 11th grade (AY2526) – Calculus – B, A grades

- 12th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – In Progress

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

Algebra 2	Math III
Algebra 1	Math II*
	Math I

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

Algebra 2	Math III
Algebra 1	Math II*
	Math I

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You're talking with a student with the following coursework. Do they meet the Area C requirement?

- 9th grade (AY2324) – Algebra 2 – A, A grades

- 10th grade (AY2425) – Precalculus – A, B grades

- 11th grade (AY2526) – Calculus – B, A grades

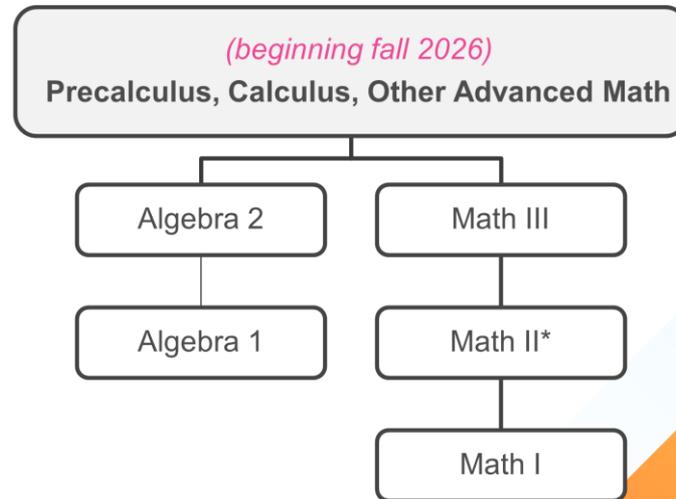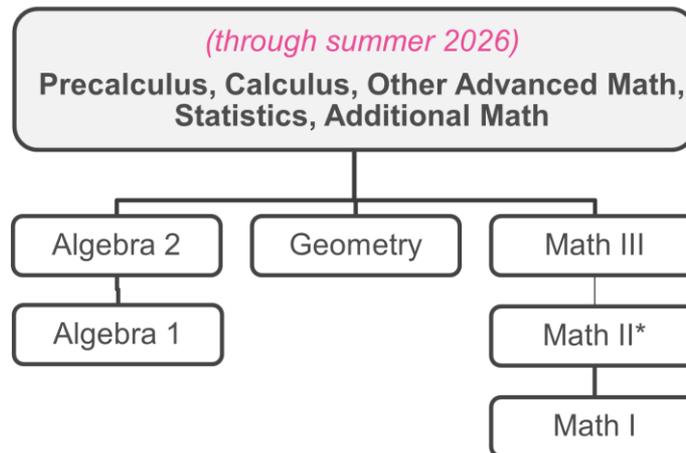- 12th grade (AY2627) – Statistics – In Progress

No. Unless the student completed geometry in 7th or 8th grade, this student has not met the geometry requirement for Area C. The omission of geometry cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework.

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A student took geometry in 10th grade (AY2324) but did not pass. They then passed Algebra II in their junior year (AY2425).

Have they met the Area C requirement?

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

Algebra 2 | Geometry | Math III

Algebra 1

Math II*

Math I

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

Algebra 2 | Math III

Algebra 1

Math II*

Math I

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A student took geometry in 10th grade (AY2324) but did not pass. They then passed Algebra II in their junior year (AY2425).
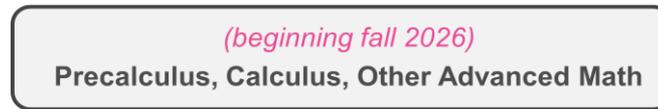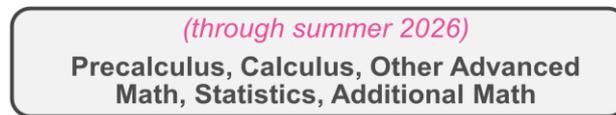
Have they met the Area C requirement?

No; Algebra II does not validate a grade deficiency in geometry regardless of when the course was taken. A more advanced course (ex. Precalculus, Calculus) could validate that deficiency, but only if completed prior to fall 2026.

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A student took the following coursework.

Do they meet Area C requirements?

- 9th grade – Math II – First semester only – A

- 10th grade – Math III – A, A

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

Algebra 2 — Math III

Algebra 1 — Math II*

Math I

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

Algebra 2 — Math III

Algebra 1 — Math II*

Math I

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A student took the following coursework.

Do they meet Area C requirements?

- 9th grade – Math II – First semester only – A
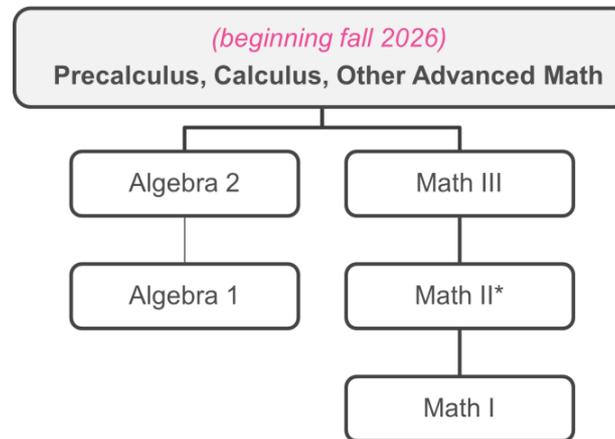
- 10th grade – Math III – A, A

Yes! Math III will validate the omission of that second semester of Math II.

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What if that same student transferred high schools after 9th grade and instead took the following coursework.

Do they meet Area C requirements?

- 9th grade – Math II – First semester only – A
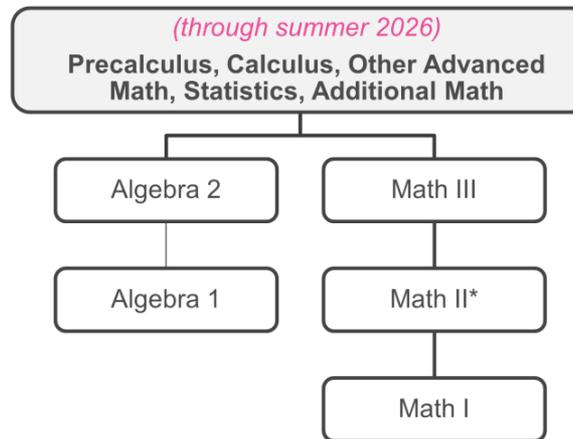
- 10th grade – Algebra II – A, A

(through summer 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math, Statistics, Additional Math

Algebra 2   Math III

Algebra 1   Math II*

Math I

(beginning fall 2026)
Precalculus, Calculus, Other Advanced Math

Algebra 2   Math III

Algebra 1   Math II*

Math I

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What if that same student transferred high schools after 9th grade and instead took the following coursework.

Do they meet Area C requirements?

- 9th grade – Math II – First semester only – A

- 10th grade – Algebra II – A, A

No! Must reference validation rules for Algebra II.

Algebra II cannot validate geometry (or Math II). Therefore, this student is missing a semester in geometry.

Resources

Important resources for counselors

Quick Reference Guide to UC Admission (validation charts!)

UC Counselors website & Resource Library

A-G course lists

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

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Thank you

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