Making sense of online coursework

UC High School Webinar Series: 2025–26

March 24, 2026

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Agenda

- Policy overview
- Online high schools
- Extended learning programs (ELPs)
- Online publishers
- Resources and Q&A

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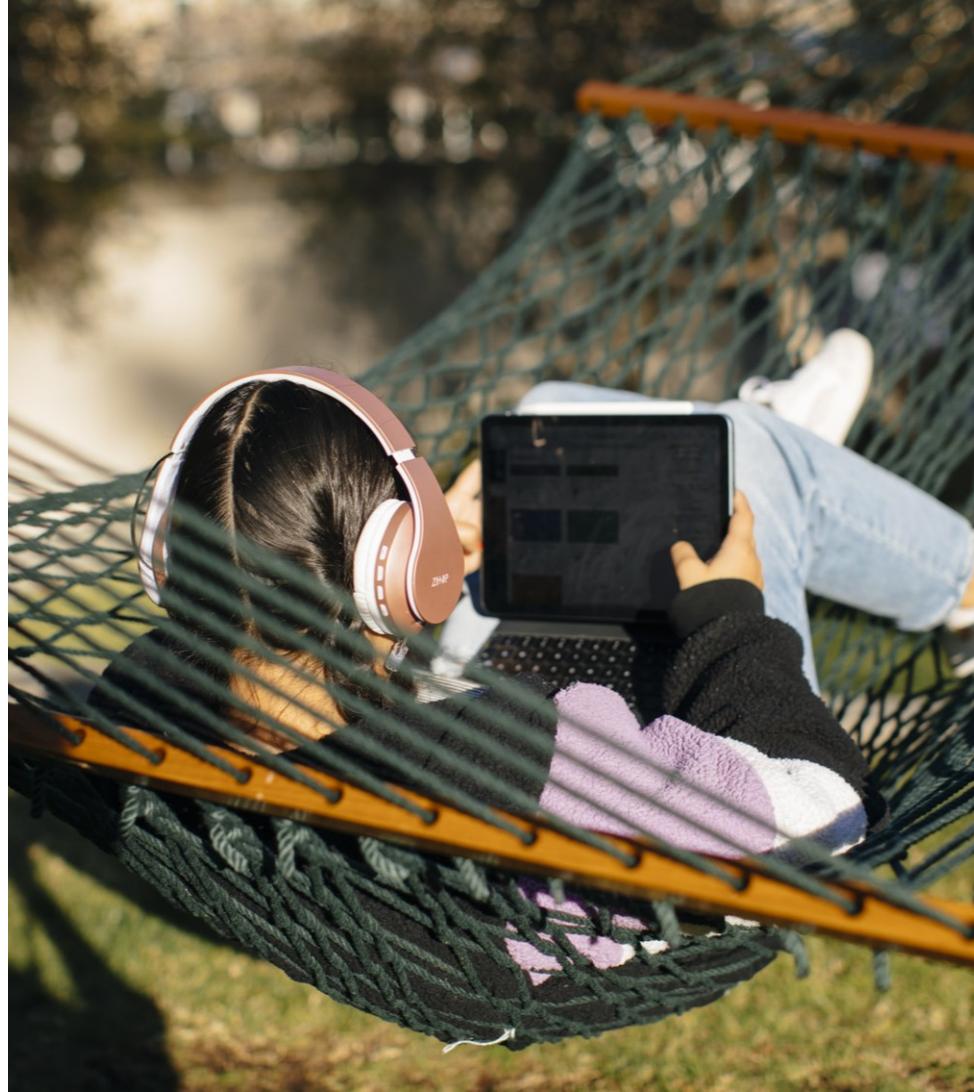
Policy overview

For high school courses, students may:

Take an online course through an online high school that has an A-G course list registered with UC.

Enroll in an online course offered by their California high school, whether developed at the high school or purchased/licensed from a UC-registered online course publisher.

Independently enroll in an online course taught by a UC-registered online publisher that is accredited as a supplementary education center/program by the Western Assoc. of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

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Are online courses viewed less favorably in the admission review?

No, UC does not consider the method of delivery (classroom-based versus online) as long as the course has A-G approval or has been appropriately certified by the home high school.

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Types of online coursework

Online high school: Accredited credit- and diploma-granting institution that offers the majority of its courses through internet-based methods. Offers a full curricula of high school courses.

Online publisher: Develops curriculum and sells or licenses its online courses. Publishers typically do not issue credit toward a diploma.

Extended Learning Programs (ELPs): Affiliated with UC and/or CSU, these programs offer courses to help students fulfill A-G requirements but do not grant diplomas (e.g., UC Scout).

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Online high schools

Online high school: Accredited credit- and diploma-granting institution that offers the majority of its courses through internet-based methods. Offers a full curricula of high school courses.

Online high schools may have an A-G course list!

- If so, courses must appear on the list to meet A-G.

- If not, courses are considered in the same way as out-of-state coursework as long as the online high school is properly accredited to grant diplomas.

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If students have online high school coursework to report:

- Add the online high school in the UC application as another high school attended with dates of attendance.

- Report all coursework completed at the online high school in the corresponding term(s).

Note: If a student has *only* summer coursework to report, they should be sure to check the summer coursework box in the correct academic year when adding the online high school. They can then acknowledge there is no coursework to report in the academic year when the application prompts them. Report courses in summer term only.

A-G course lists

- Coursework from an online high school should **not** be added to your high school's A-G course list.

Transcripts

- UC does not require that courses taken at an online high school be added to the home high school transcript.

- Upon enrollment at UC, students will submit official transcripts from the online high school.

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Extended Learning Programs

Extended Learning Programs (ELPs)

> **Extended Learning Program:** Affiliated with UC and/or CSU, these programs offer courses to help students fulfill A-G requirements but do not grant diplomas (e.g., UC Scout).

- Only A-G Course Management Portal (CMP) approved programs are accepted.

- Must have an A-G course list and courses must appear on that list.

Extended Learning Program 054149

Scout from University of California

Santa Clara, CA

[Course List] [Website]

Course List Manager
Kelly Ewing
(408) 450-4962
klewing@ucsc.edu

Note: Students may directly enroll in these courses. This UC/CSU Extended Learning Program is responsible for issuing the transcripts for its courses.

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If students have ELP coursework to report:

- Add the ELP in the UC application as another high school attended with dates of attendance.

- Report all coursework completed at the ELP in the corresponding term(s).

Students should follow the same process for reporting ELP coursework as they would for reporting online high school coursework.

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A-G course lists

- Coursework from an ELP should **not** be added to your high school's A-G course list.

Transcripts

- UC does not require that courses taken at an ELP be added to the home high school transcript.

- Upon enrollment at UC, students will submit official transcripts from the ELP.

Exception: If your high school is choosing to offer ELP courses such as UC Scout course offerings, then the course(s) should be added to the school's A-G list and will need to be included on your official transcripts.

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Online publishers

Online publisher: Develops curriculum and sells or licenses its online courses. Publishers typically do not issue credit toward a diploma.

- Students may enroll in online publisher coursework independently and/or high schools may purchase online publisher coursework to offer to their students.

- UC maintains a list of registered online publishers, but not individual online publisher A-G course lists.

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What the directory means:

- Listed online publishers are recognized by UC and meet specific criteria.

- Courses from these online publishers may be added using the "self-report" feature to your school's A-G course list.

What the directory does not mean:

- All of the coursework from a listed online publisher is automatically accepted to meet A-G requirements.

- Only publishers on this list can be accepted by UC, whether students enroll independently or high schools choose to adopt their coursework.

⚠️ **UC is not responsible for misinformation or misrepresentation about UC-approved courses on an online publisher's website**

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If your high school wants to purchase coursework from an online publisher and offer it to your students:

- Your course list manager should add these publisher courses to your A-G course list as they would for any other course your high school offers to students.

- These courses will then be reported on the official high school transcript as normal.

- **Online publisher courses should only be added to your course list after careful review of the course, including ensuring the course aligns to the A-G criteria!**

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If a student independently completes online publisher coursework:

- They can only be accepted to meet A-G requirements if your high school provides **principal certification**.

    - UC expects that certification follows a careful review of the course and determines it comparable to courses offered at the high school.

    - Certification is granted by posting the course on the student's official transcript, along with credits granted and letter grades earned.

    - Principal certification is entirely at the discretion of the high school.

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If a student completed online publisher coursework:

- They should report their coursework in the UC application along with all other coursework at the high school as it appears on the official transcript.

- If principal certification was granted, may need to add the course manually if not posted on the transcript under an existing course title at your high school.
  - Should make note in Additional Comments that principal certification has been granted.

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In summary, if a…

Student attends an online high school:
- Student should add the online high school and coursework in the UC application (whether they have A-G course list or not).
- Home high school not required to add courses to A-G course list or official transcript.

Student takes ELP coursework:
- Student should add the Extended Learning Program and coursework in the UC application (must have A-G course list).
- Home high school not required to add courses to A-G course list or official transcript unless adopting their course(s).

School offers online publisher courses:
- Home high school should carefully review and add courses to both A-G course list and the official transcript.
- Students should report coursework along with all other coursework from the high school.

Student independently takes online publisher courses:
- Only accepted if high school provides principal certification and posts course to transcript with credits and letter grade earned.
- Students then report coursework along with all other coursework from the high school.

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Resources

Important resources for counselors

Quick Reference Guide to UC Admission

Online publisher directory

A-G course list guidance: Online courses

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For questions about A-G subject requirements, systemwide admission policy or the UC application, contact:

AskUC@ucop.edu

For questions about the A-G Course Management Portal (CMP) and adding online courses:

HSArticulation@ucop.edu

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Thank you

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