

DATE January 5, 2023

To: High School Counselors and Advisers

From: Enrollment Services – University of California Office of the President

Subject: Policy and guidance for schools using competency-based assessments

UC's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), a faculty subcommittee of the systemwide Academic Senate, recently issued guidance regarding the use of competency-based assessments such as non-traditional, narrative or 'mastery' transcripts.

Despite the small but growing number of schools in California and across the country adopting such alternative transcripts, BOARS reconfirmed that students who are unable to support their A-G coursework with a GPA-based transcript can only be considered for [Admission by Exception](#).

Under UC's [Comprehensive Review](#) policy, all applicants will be considered for admission within the context of the opportunities available to them. However, campuses are limited in the number of students who may be admitted by exception. Admission by exception is at the sole discretion of each individual campus admissions office.

As a reminder, California resident students must earn a 3.0 GPA in A-G coursework to meet minimum admission requirements; non-resident students must earn a 3.4 minimum GPA. California students, who can demonstrate the minimum 3.0 GPA with a GPA-based transcript, may also qualify for the statewide or local context guarantee.

All high schools with UC-bound students are strongly encouraged to continue issuing GPA-based transcripts to give their students the broadest options for admission.