AskUC: The $64,000 question…answered!
Common inquiries from the AskUC archives

September 2019
UC values the work that counselors do! We welcome your questions, as it allows us to provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date information for advising your students who are interested in UC.
Topics

- What is AskUC?
- Thematic topics from AskUC
  - Meeting Area F/VPA
  - Geometry/Math issues
  - AP Computer Science clarifications
  - LOTE requirement
  - Miscellaneous
AskUC information

AskUC@ucop.edu

- Email resource for counselors
- Service provided by UCOP
- Questions about admissions (general) and evaluation
- Responses within approximately 3 business days**

**Dependent on volume
Meeting the Area F/Visual & Performing Arts (VPA) requirement
Thematic topics: VPA

Question:

Does VPA have to be a full year class? For example, if my student took Drama Fall semester/Art Spring semester, will this satisfy the VPA requirement? Or does is it have to be two semesters of the same exact class?
Refer to the A-G Course List for the school and academic year where the courses were taken to see the discipline under which each course was approved.
Thematic topics: VPA

__Question:__

I have a student who is trying to meet the VPA requirement by taking three 1-unit UC transferable dance classes.

Example: DANCE 320 Ballet 1 Unit, Course Transferable to UC/CSU

Does this suffice or does it need to be one 3-unit class (as yearlong indicates)?
Any course meeting A-G, not just VPA courses, must be at least 3 semester or 4 quarter units minimum each time the course is taken.

TIP: Courses approved in ASSIST to meet Area 3A/Arts for IGETC are usually acceptable to meet the high school VPA requirement.
Thematic topics: VPA

Question:
I have a question about online VPA courses. My understanding was that online VPA courses were not UC approved. When I looked on Doorways for “XXX” Online School, all of their online VPA courses are UC approved.

Does UC now accept online VPA courses?
Answer:

As of 2017-18, UC began allowing online VPA courses to meet our A-G requirements. Courses must still be approved on a school’s A-G Course List as an online course.
Thematic topics: VPA

Question:
I have a transfer student who took Folk Guitar in 2016-2017 at “XXX” High School. It does not appear on the UC A-G approved list until the 2017-2018 school year. Is that course “grandfathered in” or do I need to have the student take another VPA before graduation?
A school could submit their own course for retroactive approval during the course submission period. Courses can be retroactively approved back to 3 years.
Thematic topics

Geometry and other Math issues
Thematic topics: Math issues

Question:

If a student takes Algebra 2 as a 9th grader, and hasn’t completed Geometry, can he take Geometry online, and only take the second semester? Or does the student have to take the whole year of Geometry online?
UC continues to allow advanced math courses to validate deficient grades (D/F) in Geometry; we do not allow advanced math courses to validate the omission of a full year of Geometry.
Thematic topics: Math issues

Question:

Thematic topics: Math issues

Answer:

Math 3 will validate the omission of Math 2. A student who completes both Math 1 and Math 3 will have had enough Geometry content to meet the Geometry requirement.

Please note: Math 3 does NOT validate a stand-alone Geometry course; Math 3 validates Math 2.
Thematic topics: Math issues

Question:

Suppose a student is able to bypass the first 2 levels of mathematics (ex., Algebra 1 and Geometry) and therefore only takes the remaining 2 math courses offered at the high school (ex., Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus). Will the student's application be deficient in the 3-year mathematics (C) requirement? Or will the student's advanced progress be recognized as fulfillment of the third year?
The thematic topic: Math issues

**Answer:**

UC requires all students to attempt Geometry. Our faculty do not allow the omission of Geometry to be validated by higher-level course work.

If you waive a student out of Geometry, that student will not meet minimum requirements for admission. No course – not even Calculus – will validate the omission of Geometry.
Thematic topics: Math issues

Question:

I have a student who has completed Math IA/IB, Math IIA/IIB, skipped IIIA/IIIB and then completed Honors Precalculus 1/2. All classes were passed with C or better grades. Has this student met the math requirement?
Thematic topics: Math issues

Answer:

UC loosely equates Math 1 with Algebra 1, Math 2 with Geometry, and Math 3 with Algebra 2. A student who completed Math 1 and Math 2 has met the Algebra 1 and Geometry requirement. Precalculus, which is an advanced math course, will validate the missing Math 3/Algebra 2 course.
Thematic topics: Math issues

Question:
If I have a student who took Algebra 1, Common Core Integrated Math 1 and Common Core Integrated Math 2, will that be enough to meet the C requirement completion for Algebra and Geometry? Does the student need to take Common Core Integrated Math 3 still?
Integrated Math I and II will meet the Algebra 1 and Geometry requirements, but students need Integrated Math 3 to complete the requirement. The requirement is not simply three years of math; it is three specific years of math including Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry (or their equivalents).
Thematic topics

Clarification: AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles
Thematic Topics: AP Computer Science

Question:

AP Computer Science is listed in Doorways under Area "C" fulfilling Mathematics. So students completing it would satisfy a year of math through the course, is that correct?
Thematic topics: AP Computer Science

Answer:

AP Computer Science A is approved under Area C, but students must still complete the minimum Math requirements (Elementary Algebra, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra). It is expected that students would use AP Computer Science A as an additional year of Math (i.e., 4th year), beyond the minimum 3-year requirement.
Thematic Topics: AP Computer Science

Question:

Now that AP Computer Science A is approved as a fourth year of math, will successful completion of AP Computer Science A validate a D or F grade in the second semester of Integrated Math III?
The discipline assigned to a course determines which, if any, courses it will validate. AP Computer Science A has been assigned a discipline of “computer science” which does not validate any of the traditional math disciplines.
Thematic Topics: AP Computer Science

Question:

On the CSU/UC Comparison of Min. Freshman Admission Requirements it states: "Approved courses in the applied science, computer science, and engineering disciplines may only be used for a 3rd year (or beyond) of the lab science requirement."

*Does it matter in what grade the AP Computer Science Principles is taken?* We have some 9th graders taking it in the same year they are taking Biology, or the year before... As long as the student has also taken Biology and Chemistry, for example ("two of the three foundational subjects")?
Thematic topics: AP Computer Science

Answer:

Students can take AP Computer Science Principles in any year as long as they have two additional years of science from Area D that fall within the acceptable disciplines to meet the minimum requirement.
Meeting Area
E/Language other than English (LOTE) requirements
Thematic Topics: LOTE

Question:

Is a student who successfully completed French II in 9th grade (and who also completed successfully French 1 in 8th grade) considered to have met the UC requirement of 2 years?
Thematic topics: LOTE

Answer:

If French II is approved on your A-G Course List as LOTE Level 2, then completing it with a C or better will meet the Area E/LOTE requirement.

Note that UC does accept high school-level LOTE courses completed in 7th and 8th grade to meet part of the requirement.
Thematic Topics: LOTE

Question:

We have a student that had taken Span I Native Speakers during their 10th grade year. However, the student passed the first semester with a “C” but the 2nd semester they received an “F”.

He is thinking of going into our Spanish (NON NATIVE SPEAKER) II or III as a Senior. Is the student allowed to take the NON NATIVE SPEAKER class and meet a-g eligibility?
We use the discipline assigned to each course to determine the correct sequence of LOTE.
Note: at some high schools Spanish 1 for Spanish Speakers is listed as LOTE Level 2. It is important to check the A-G Course List to determine which level of LOTE the course fulfills.
Thematic Topics: LOTE

Question:

What level of LOTE is American Sign Language- ASL 110 at “XXX” Community College?

Hint: www.assist.org
Look for the course with the footnote indicating “Corresponds to two years of high school study.” This is the course that meets the minimum Area E/LOTE requirement. Each level beyond the minimum would be an additional year of high school study.

ASL 110 would be LOTE Level 3.
Thematic Topics: LOTE

Question:

I would like to confirm with you whether one is considered meeting the admission requirement for "E" courses, if he/she passes an SAT Chinese Subject test with a score of 520 or above but did not take any Chinese language courses during the high school years?
You’ll find this information, as well as other options for meet A-G subject requirements, in our *Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions 2019.*
Thematic Topics: LOTE

Question:

A student is taking Chinese through “XXX” Chinese School. The parent told me she has heard that this will clear her child’s LOTE requirement. This particular school is WASC accredited, but it is not on UC Doorways. How is LOTE cleared in this particular situation?
Note: UC faculty expect that principal certification follows a thorough review of the curriculum to determine that the courses are comparable to college-prep LOTE courses offered at your high school.
Thematic topics

Miscellaneous questions
Thematic Topics: Miscellaneous

Question:

How does UC determine which UC-approved honors courses to bump up if there are more than 8 semesters in 10th and 11th?
Thematic topics: Miscellaneous

Answer:

The GPA is calculated on all A-G courses, so it doesn’t matter which courses are “weighted” in the calculation. We simply add an extra point in the GPA for each semester of UC-approved honors coursework completed in 10th and 11th, up to a maximum of 8 semesters.
Thematic Topics: Miscellaneous

Question:

I have a student who took Biology A/B at “XXX” High School (2018/2019) and took Integrated Science 1 A/B at “YYY” High School (2016/2017). Both classes are on the A-G articulation; does the Integrated Science count for Physical Science or Biological Sciences?
Thematic topics: Miscellaneous

Answer:

Integrated Science is listed under the integrated science discipline on the A-G course list. UC does not specifically require one biological science and one physical science; we require two years of science from two different science disciplines.
Thematic Topics: Miscellaneous

Question:
I have a student who is taking community college classes during high school in hopes of earning an AA in computer science while also earning his high school diploma. Will he then apply to the UC and CSU as a transfer student or a freshman applicant? If he meets all a-g requirements in addition to earning his AA during high school, does he have the option to apply either way? If so, which option do you advise?
Thematic topics: Miscellaneous

Answer:

Students earning a HS diploma in the same year that they plan to enter UC must apply as freshman, regardless of how many college credits they have completed while in high school.
Resources

- **Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions 2019**
  [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/quick-reference.pdf](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/files/quick-reference.pdf)

- **Counselors’ website**
  [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/)

- **A-G Course Lists**
  [https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist](https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist)

- **A-G Policy Resource Guide**
  [https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/](https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/)

- **Counselors & Advisers Bulletin**
  [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/resources/counselors-advisers-bulletin/](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/resources/counselors-advisers-bulletin/)
THANK YOU