This intro session is aimed at new counselors or those counselors who need a review. Minimum admissions requirements and selection criteria, as well as topics concerning course validation, admission by examination and more, will be covered.
AGENDA

1. Definition of a Freshman Applicant
2. Minimum Admission Requirements
3. Comprehensive Review
4. Resources
• A freshman applicant is a student who is currently in high school or has graduated from high school, but has not enrolled in a regular session at a college or university after high school graduation.
• A ‘regular’ session is fall, winter or spring
• Enrollment in college courses in the summer immediately following HS graduation is allowed
• Campuses may also, at their discretion, admit students as freshmen who graduate early in December and take a spring semester at a college.
Knowledge Check
A student graduated from high school and started their fall term at a university but withdrew from all of their classes. They want to apply to the UC schools again. Are they considered a freshman or transfer applicant?

Freshman because “W” grades are not considered completed coursework.

They are considered a freshman applicant as “W” grades are not considered completed coursework.
They must apply as freshmen and meet all freshman admission requirements. However, after matriculation when transfer credit is posted, they may have enough credits for sophomore or junior standing.
A student graduated high school in June 2018 and decided to take community college courses in March 2019. Are they considered a freshman or transfer applicant?

Transfer. They completed college courses during a regular term after their HS graduation.

They are a transfer applicant since they took college courses at an accredited institution during a regular term after HS graduation.
3 Minimum Admission Requirements

Subject Requirement

GPA Requirement

Exam Requirement
The subject requirements are often referred to as the A-G requirements and represent the minimum courses that students must complete.

Completing A-G requirements ensures that students enter UC with a solid college-preparatory foundation.

Students must complete 15 yearlong high school courses with a letter grade of C or better.

11 of the 15 A-G courses should be completed by the end of 11th grade.

We do not take Pass/Credit grades for A-G – not even in college courses; minimum of C grade or better (for high school courses, C- is treated as a C).

If student is planning to take college courses to satisfy A-G, C- would not satisfy, they would need a C grade or better.

Geometry
All applicants must complete a Geometry course
- UC allows students to self-report on the admission application high school level math and language other than English (LOTE) courses completed in grade 7 or 8 to meet part or all of the Area C and E requirement.
- We do not require the submission of a middle/junior high transcript**, nor are high schools required to list middle/junior high school courses on high school transcripts.
  - **If a student is randomly selected for systemwide verification during the application period, they may be required to provide proof of completing 7th/8th grade courses listed on application.
- The expectation is that students will continue with the next level of Math and LOTE in high school, which will validate the 7th/8th grade coursework.
• The replacement (repeat) course must have curriculum similar to the original course (the same content but not necessarily the same title).
• The new grade earned will be used in the GPA calculation. UC does not average the grades. Both grades, however, MUST be reported on the application.

• A regular college-prep course cannot be used as a repeat of a UC-approved honors-level course.
• A regular college-prep course may be used as a repeat of a non-UC-approved honors-level course.
• A UC-approved honors-level course may be used as a repeat of a college-prep course.
• College-level courses of high school content (remedial) may be used to repeat a college-prep course.
• College-level courses that are UC-transferable may be used to repeat approved school-created honors, AP and IB courses.
• All applicants are asked to provide detailed information concerning their coursework and grades in the Academic History section of the application.
• Students should not work from memory. Instead, they should use grade reports and academic records.
• The online application displays all courses from a CA school’s A-G course list. All other students must manually enter course/grade information.
• We don’t approve courses for schools outside of California, but out-of-state and international students can use any California high school’s A-G course list as a guide for the likely acceptance of their courses to meet UC’s freshman admission subject requirements.

Looking up college courses:
• Many UC applicants complete college courses while in high school – either through dual enrollment or by just directly enrolling in specific courses.
• Each of the CA community colleges has an A-G course list, but it was last updated in 2013-14.
• The lists may be outdated, but using them in conjunction with ASSIST.org can provide some good college course options for students.
• Typically one semester/quarter of a course meets one year of a high school requirement. College courses must be 3 sem/4 qtr units each.
Yes, that satisfies meeting the requirement but both grades will be used in the GPA calculation as a college-prep course is not a valid repeat of an AP course.
Yes, the “F” grade will be calculated into the GPA since the repeat course has not been completed yet. Senior year grades are not included in the UC GPA calculation, but the courses will meet A-G requirements if students earn a “C” or better grade in the coursework.

Students hoping to repair a GPA by repeating D or F grades should make sure the repeated courses are completed no later than summer following 11th grade.
GPA = Grade Point Average
UCs look at weighted GPA’s which we will talk about in the next few slides.

* Pluses and minuses are not factored into GPA
Only 8 approved UC Honors/AP/IB and/or transferable college courses are weighted in the official UC GPA.
Maximum of 4 honors points awarded in the 10th grade.
School-created honors courses from outside of CA do not receive the extra honors weights; only AP, IB, and transferable college courses will be weighted.

The UC A-G Course List is a good place to see which courses are UC Honors/AP/IB approved at your school. All courses (up to the maximum allowed) with the “UC Honors” notation can be given extra weight when calculating the student’s GPA.
Per the UC website, 10\textsuperscript{th} and 11\textsuperscript{th} grade coursework includes all courses completed during the summer after 9\textsuperscript{th} grade through the summer after 11\textsuperscript{th} grade, and everything in between.
Answer: A) 3.0

B+ is the same as a B grade
The B grade earns 3 points and the C grade earns 2 points, for a total of 5 points.
The Spanish 4 course gets an extra point because it is a UC-approved honors, so the student has a total of 6 points (5 + 1)
Divide 6 points by 2 courses, and the GPA = 3.0
• All freshman applicants must present scores from either the SAT with Essay or the ACT with Writing
• We are no longer accepting the old SAT (SAT Reasoning Test), unless the student graduated in 2019 or before.
• Exam must be taken no later than December of student’s senior year/last year prior to high school graduation
• Students must report ACT and/or SAT scores on the application, then request that an official copy of the scores be sent to UC from the testing agency
• We will use the highest scores from one single sitting (i.e., no superscoring)
• We encourage students to report all scores, regardless of the result, since some scores may be used to fulfill A-G or UC graduation requirements
• SAT Subject tests are not required for admission but may be recommended for competitive majors on some campuses to demonstrate subject proficiency (ex: engineering majors may recommend a student take the Math II SAT subject exam)
• ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject scores may be sent to just one UC campus -- UC will ensure all campuses to which a student applied will receive them

• UC Source: https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/
Kicking It Up a Notch
You can only validate Math and Language Other Than English (LOTE) courses since these are considered areas of sequential knowledge. Validation can occur with just a semester of higher-level coursework.
**Validation of subject omission** - If a student takes an advanced-level course in mathematics or language other than English without completing the lower-level course, earning a C or better in the advanced course will validate the missing lower-level course and it will not be considered a subject omission. Exception: UC does not allow advanced-level math to validate the omission of Geometry; all students must attempt a Geometry course.

**Validation of deficient grades** - In Math and LOTE, completion of a higher-level course with a C or better validates an earlier grade of D or F in a lower-level course. (Please note that validation is not the same as repeating a course to replace a D or F grade in the GPA calculation. If a student uses a higher-level course to validate a lower-level course, both grades are used in calculating the GPA.)

When a student successfully completes advanced work (earning a grade C or better) in an area of sequential knowledge (only Math and LOTE), the student is presumed to have completed the lower-level coursework.

Validation can occur with just a semester of higher-level coursework.

Validation applies only to courses in mathematics and language other than English since these are both areas of sequential knowledge.

**LOTE: Language Other Than English**
Validation of subject omission - This student did not take the 1st level of Spanish, but did take the second level of Spanish and earned a grade of a C. In this scenario, the second level Spanish course will validate the omission of the first level of Spanish. Assuming the student completed their second semester of Spanish 2, the student fulfilled 2 years of their LOTE with validation.

Validation of deficient grade - Although the student failed Algebra 1, the Algebra 2 course with a passing grade will validate the grade deficiency earned in Algebra 1. This student has completed 2 years of math with validation. Both the F from Algebra 1 and the B from Algebra 2 will be included in the GPA calculation (assuming both courses were completed in 10th and 11th grades).
The answer is yes. Although the student did not take the first semester of French 2, they passed second semester of French 2 with a passing grade, which will validate the subject deficiency earned in French 1 as well as the subject omission (first semester French 2). Remember, validation can occur with just one semester of higher-level coursework. The student has also met the Area E requirement.
The answer is no. The second semester Chemistry course does not validate the first. For UC purposes, validation rules do not apply to Science courses, but only to Math and LOTE.
UC allows students to self-report on the admission application a geometry course or a sequence of integrated-style math courses completed in 7th or 8th grade to meet this requirement.

Omission of geometry cannot be validated with advanced level math courses (e.g. Algebra II/Trigonometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Precalculus, or Calculus). However, higher-level math can validate a grade deficiency (D/F) earned in a Geometry course. (see matrix in Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions)
However, there are validation rules for Geometry in these 3 scenarios.
1. The omission of the first semester of geometry can be validated by successful completion of the second semester of geometry with a letter grade of C or better.
2. The omission of the first semester of an integrated course with sufficient geometry content (e.g. Math II) can be validated by successful completion of the second semester of an integrated course with sufficient geometry content with a letter grade of C or better.
3. The omission of a yearlong integrated course with sufficient geometry content (e.g. Math II) can be validated by a higher-level integrated course (e.g. Math III) with a letter grade of C or better, provided that the higher-level course shows clear evidence of geometry content.
This was a trick question. All freshman applicants must complete a Geometry course. No higher level courses can be used to validate an omission of Geometry. A student can, however, validate a grade deficiency (D/F grade) in Geometry by successful completion of a higher level course, such as Pre-Calculus.

Note: Geometry cannot be validated by test scores, either.
Students who don’t meet all of our subject or GPA requirements may be considered for admission on the strength of their test scores. This is designed for students who have been unable to meet the regular subject requirements and/or earn a high school diploma because of unique circumstances (e.g. non-traditional education or long-term illness.)

**Examination:** Student must earn a minimum UC Score total of 410 (425 for nonresidents) & they must achieve a minimum UC score of 63 on each exam component (Score conversion chart at University of California website)
- The student may not use an SAT Subject Test to meet requirements if they completed and passed a transferable college course in that subject
- Students who qualify by examination are not guaranteed admission. They are, however, entitled to a full review of their application.

**Exception:** Each UC campus can offer admission to a few students who do not meet all UC admission requirements. Students may use the personal insight questions or additional comments section of the admission application to explain their unique story.
Knowledge Check

Can a student be admitted to a UC if they have not completed all A-G courses? How?

Yes, via Admission by Examination or Exception.

Technically yes, by Admission by Examination or Admission by Exception
Knowledge Check

How many exams must an applicant have completed to be considered for admission by examination?

Three: ACT with Writing OR the SAT with Essay & 2 SAT Subject Tests.

Three: ACT with Writing OR the SAT with Essay, as well as TWO SAT Subject Tests
Freshman Selection: An Overview
While all UC campuses use the same 14 factors to evaluate applications, they often apply these factors differently. Be sure to review the selection process of each campus.

All campuses draw from the same 14 faculty-approved Comprehensive Review factors, but *how* they use those factors varies by campus. In making admissions decisions, campuses do not consider where the student has applied or their admission status to other campuses. All campuses consider a student’s application simultaneously, yet independently of all other campuses applied to.

Because the pool of students who apply to the UC is different every year, the level of academic performance necessary for admission to a particular campus or major is different, too. Acceptance rates depend on the number of applicants, their academic qualifications and the spaces we have available.
Admissions Timeline

August 1
UC application opens

November 1-30
Application filing period

December
Last chance to take SAT/ACT

March 2
Deadline to submit FAFSA/Cal Grant Verification Form

March
Notification of admission decisions

May 1
Deadline to submit Statement of Intent to Register (SIR)

July 1
Postmark deadline for official transcripts

July 15
Postmark deadline for AP/IB exam results
Knowledge Check

Which of the following are criteria for the UC comprehensive review process? Select all that apply.

a) Improvements in Academic Performance
b) Middle School Activities
c) Letters of Recommendation
d) Geographic Location
e) Legacy

Answer: A & D
Improvement in academic performance and geographic location are specifically mentioned as factors in comprehensive review.
Resources

**A-G Course List** (Up-to-date lists of approved "A-G" courses at California high schools & community colleges.)
https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourse-list

**Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions** (Your go-to guide on system-wide admission requirements, policies, & practices)

**Counselors and Advisers Bulletin** (Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter)
https://universityofcalifornia.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=85dd67450c3165234698f75b7&id=3bf06f5f5
Resources

Undergraduate Admissions Application Guide (Your user guide to see the changes we made on improved usability, accessibility, and overall user experience of the UC application for Fall 2020 freshman applicants.)


New URL for Fall 2020 Applicants (New website link for the re-designed UC application.)

https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login
Questions?