

CSU–UC COMPARISON OF MINIMUM FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

TOTAL COURSES

15 year-long college preparatory courses (equivalent to 30 semesters) are required with grade of C or better.

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11 UC-required college-preparatory courses must be completed prior to senior year (including summer courses).

**“a”
History/
Social Science**

2 years of history/social science, including 1 year of U.S. history OR 1 semester of U.S. history and 1 semester of American government, **AND**

2 years of history/social science, including 1 year of U.S. history OR 1 semester of U.S. history and 1 semester of American government, **AND**

1 year of history/social science from either the “a” or “g” subject area

1 year of world history, cultures, and geography from the “a” subject area

**“b”
English**

4 years of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD)

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The ESL/ELD cannot be completed during the senior year.

**“c”
Mathematics**

3 years of mathematics (Algebra I and II, geometry); 4 years recommended* (Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy this requirement.)

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Students applying to UC must complete a geometry course (or a series of integrated math courses with geometry content).

**“d”
Laboratory Science**

2 years of laboratory science

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At least 1 year of physical science and 1 year of biological science, one from the “d” subject area and the other from the “d” or “g” area**

Must include at least two of the three foundational subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics; both courses must be from the “d” subject area; 3 years recommended. Only one interdisciplinary science course can be used to meet this requirement.

**“e”
Language Other
Than English**

2 years (or equivalent to the 2nd-level high school course) of language other than English (must be the same language, American Sign Language accepted)*

2 years (or equivalent to the 2nd-level high school course) of language other than English (must be the same language, American Sign Language accepted)*

3 years recommended

**“f”
Visual and
Performing Arts**

1 year (or 2 one-semester courses in the same discipline) required, chosen from the following disciplines: Dance, Music, Theater, or Visual Arts (e.g., painting, web/graphic design, film/video, inter/multimedia arts)

**“g”
College Preparatory
Elective**

1 year of an elective chosen from any area on approved “a–g” course list

*Coursework completed in 7th or 8th grade can be used to satisfy “c” and “e” requirements.

**It is best to prepare for both UC and the CSU by completing two laboratory courses from the “d” subject area.

Note: Numerous Career Technical courses are approved for fulfillment of “a–g” requirements. Information is accurate as of September 2016.

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Repeated Courses

Required “a–g” courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Any course may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated.

Required “a–g” courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. The first instance of grade C or better will be used in the GPA calculation.

Validation of Subject Omission By Other Courses

Mathematics: A grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I. A grade of C or better in Trigonometry or Pre-calculus validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement. Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a geometry course.

Mathematics: A grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I. A grade of C or better in Trigonometry or Pre-calculus validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement. Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a geometry course.

The omission of a geometry course (or a series of integrated math courses containing geometry content) cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework. However, the omission of the first semester of geometry can be validated by successful completion of the second semester. Refer to UC’s Validation Matrix in the Quick Reference for Counselors guide.

Language Other Than English (LOTE): A grade of C or better in a second semester of a higher-level course validates a lower-level course. A higher-level LOTE course can validate the appropriate number of years based on the level. A college course can validate a high school LOTE course. The level of validation depends on the college course prerequisite and description. For courses offered at a California Community College refer to the college’s “a–g” course list on the “a–g” website and review the “Category” column.

Chemistry: A grade of C or better in the second semester of Chemistry will validate the first semester.

Chemistry: UC does not allow the validation of Chemistry.

Validation of Deficient (D/F) Grades in Required Courses

Courses in which grades of D/F are earned may be validated in the areas of Math and Language Other Than English (LOTE) by successful completion of higher-level coursework. CSU also allows the validation of the D/F grades in Chemistry. For UC, refer to the Validation Matrix in the Quick Reference for Counselors guide.

Validation of Subject Requirements by Test Scores

Required “a–g” courses may be satisfied with appropriate test scores on SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement exams, and designated International Baccalaureate exams. A list of acceptable tests and scores is available on UC and CSU websites. For UC, the omission of a geometry course cannot be validated by any examination score.

High School GPA

Calculate GPA using all “a–g” approved courses completed during the summer after the 9th grade through summer after the 11th grade—excluding deficient grades which have been repeated.

Repeated courses are calculated once using the highest grade earned. When completing the online admission application, the repeated course is also only reported once using the highest grade earned.

Calculate GPA using all “a–g” approved courses completed during the summer after the 9th grade through summer after the 11th grade—excluding deficient grades which have been repeated.

Repeated courses are calculated once using the first instance of a grade of C, B, or A. However, when completing the UC admission application, all “a–g” courses and grades must be reported.

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Honors Points	Maximum of 8 extra grade points from 4 year-long courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, AP, or IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than 2 year-long courses (4 semesters) completed in 10th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.	
Test Scores—ACT/SAT	<p>Test required for CSU applicants to impacted campuses and programs. Test required for CSU applicants to non-impacted campuses, who have earned an “a–g” GPA of less than 3.0. The CSU combines the highest SAT score from like tests (taken before March 2016 OR after March 2016); may combine best subscores from multiple ACT tests to calculate a best composite. It is highly recommended that students take the ACT/SAT assessment test in their junior year of high school.</p>	<p>The ACT Plus Writing or the SAT is required for all UC applicants. UC uses the highest composite score from the ACT Plus Writing or highest total score from the SAT from the same test date. Some campuses may recommend SAT Subject Tests for specific majors.</p>

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