

CSU-UC Comparison of Minimum Freshman Admission Requirements

	California State University (CSU)	University of California (UC)
SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS		
	15 year-long/30 semester college preparatory A-G courses are required with letter grades of C or better:	
		11 UC-required college-preparatory courses must be completed prior to senior year (including summer courses)
A History/Social Science	2 years/4 semesters of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history OR one semester of U.S. history and one 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, or historical geography (including European History) from the A subject area.
B English	4 years/8 semesters of college preparatory English composition/literature (including no more than 1 year of Advanced ESL/ELD):	
		The ESL/ELD cannot be completed during the senior year
C Mathematics	3 years/6 semesters of mathematics (including or integrating topics covered in algebra I and II, geometry)* (Integrated math sequences may be used to satisfy the C Mathematics requirement.)	
		Students applying to UC must complete a geometry course (or integrated math courses with geometry content).
D Laboratory Science	2 years/4 semesters of laboratory science	
	At least 1 year of physical science and 1 year of biological science, one year must be from the D subject area and the second year may be from the D or G area** Integrated/Interdisciplinary courses may be used to fulfill either physical or biological science.	Must include at least two of the three foundational subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics (including Biology/Earth & Space Sciences, Chemistry/ Earth & Space Sciences, and Physics/Earth & Space Sciences as part of the Next Generation Science Standards [NGSS] models); or two years of a three-year NGSS integrated science model; or one year of biology, chemistry or physics and one year of an approved lab science chosen from the earth & space sciences or interdisciplinary sciences disciplines. <i>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.¹⁶</i> Courses must be from the D subject area.
E Language Other Than English	2 years/4 semesters (or equivalent to the 2 nd level of high school instruction) of a language other than English* (Courses must be in the same language, American Sign Language allowed)	
F Visual and Performing Arts	1 year/2 semesters (or two one-semester courses in the same discipline) required, chosen from the following disciplines: Dance, Interdisciplinary Arts, Music, Theater, or Visual Arts	
G College Preparatory Elective	1 year/2 semesters of elective course work chosen from any area on approved A-G course list	
REPEATED COURSES		
	California State University (CSU) CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C- = C.	University of California (UC)
	Required A-G courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Any course may be repeated with the exact same course. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated.	Required A-G courses must be completed with a letter grade of C or better. Courses with D/F grades may be repeated. There is no limitation on the number of times a course can be repeated. Repeated courses can have the same or similarly named course titles (e.g. English 9 or English 1). The first instance of a letter grade C or better will be used in the GPA calculation.

* High school-level coursework completed in 7th and/or 8th grade can be used to meet the area C and/or E requirements.

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

† Requirement updated as of February 2019.

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VALIDATION OF SUBJECT OMISSION BY OTHER COURSES		
Mathematics	A letter grade of C or better in the second semester of Geometry will validate the first semester. A letter grade of C or better in the first semester of Algebra II validates both semesters of Algebra I. A letter grade of C or better in Statistics will validate Algebra I and Algebra II, but will not validate Geometry.	
	Integrated style Math 2 will be accepted in lieu of a Geometry course.	
	A letter grade of C or better in the second semester of an area C course with a discipline of Advanced Mathematics on the A-G website validates the entire high school college preparatory requirement.	The omission of a full year of geometry cannot be validated by any higher-level coursework. A letter grade of C or better in Integrated style Math 3 which includes geometry content validates the omission of Integrated style Math 2. Refer to UC’s Validation Matrix in Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions .
Language Other than English (LOTE)	A letter grade of C or better in a 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 high school LOTE courses. The level of validation depends on the college course prerequisite and description. For courses offered at a California Community College refer to ASSIST and look for the footnote indicating the course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.	
Chemistry	A grade of C or better in the second semester of Chemistry <u>will</u> validate the first semester.	UC does not allow 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, including D/F grades in Geometry. For UC, refer to the Validation Matrices in Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions . CSU also allows the validation of D/F grades in Chemistry.	
VALIDATION OF SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS BY TEST SCORES		
	Required A-G courses may be satisfied with appropriate test scores on SAT, SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement exams, and designated International Baccalaureate exams. A list of acceptable tests and scores is available on the CSU website; for UC, refer to Quick Reference Guide to UC Admissions . For UC, the omission of a course in Geometry 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. CSU and UC do not use plus/minus grades in the GPA calculation; for example, a C- = C.	
	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.	Repeated courses are calculated once using the first instance of a letter grade of C, B, or A. UC does not average grades. However, when completing the UC admission application, all A-G courses and grades must be reported.
HONORS POINTS		
	Maximum of 8 extra grade points (honors points) from four year-long courses (8 semesters) awarded for UC-approved high school created honors, all AP, some IB courses and transferable college courses. No more than two year-long courses (4 semesters) completed in 10 th grade can be used in the honors points calculation.	
TEST SCORES – ACT/SAT		
ACT or SAT	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.	The ACT with Writing or the SAT with Essay is required for all UC applicants and must be completed no later than December of the senior year. UC uses the highest composite score from the ACT with Writing or highest total score from the SAT with Essay from the same test date. Some campuses may recommend SAT Subject Tests for specific majors .