

9 x 9

The current method by which the University determines freshman eligibility is called the 9x9. The top nine percent of students in each participating California high school (as measured by UC GPA in an established course pattern) and the top nine percent of students in the state (as measured by an index comprised of UC GPA and test scores) are guaranteed admission to the UC system, although not necessarily the campus the student chooses.

60:40 Ratio and the 2:1 Ratio

As part of its Master Plan obligation, UC agreed to maintain an undergraduate student body that is 60% upper-division and 40% lower-division, a guideline designed to ensure that UC admits and enrolls California Community College (CCC) students at the junior level. This metric was recently revised and stipulates that UC will enroll one new California resident CCC transfer student for every two new California freshmen ("2:1 ratio"), or 33% of each new California entering class. Over 90% of new transfer students at UC each year come from one of the state's 112 CCC's.

Admission: Minimum Eligibility

Admission policy is developed by BOARS and the Academic Senate. Minimum requirements are found in both Regental policy and Senate Regulations. The requirements below represent the academic standards all students must attain to be considered for admission to UC. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to a particular campus, term, or major.

Senate Regulations also define minimum eligibility for sophomore transfers and for transfer students who were eligible as freshmen. As a practical matter, these paths to UC are no longer used by campuses.

Freshman requirements include:

- Subject requirement: 15 college-preparatory ("a-g") courses
- GPA requirement: GPA of 3.0 (3.4 for nonresidents) or better, weighted by a maximum of eight semesters of honors points
- Exam requirement: ACT Plus Writing or SAT

Junior-level transfer requirements include:

- 60 units of UC-transferrable coursework
- 2.4 GPA in those courses
- General education: complete a 7-course pattern of transferrable courses

In 2012, the Academic Senate voted to allow students who completed an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T) degree eligible for a comprehensive review of their application (see below).

Admission: Freshman Eligibility Categories

Statewide Eligible

- Top 9 percent of students in the state
- Minimum 15 year-long "a-g" courses with 3.0 GPA and a minimum score on the eligibility index based on GPA & test scores (SAT or ACT)

- Guaranteed admission to the system

Eligible in the Local Context (ELC)

- Rank in the top 9 percent of high school class based on GPA in “a-g” courses
- Guaranteed admission to the system; “plus” factor in campus selection

Entitled to Review

- Additional students admitted by campuses up to 12.5% of high school graduates
- Minimum 15 year-long “a-g” courses with 3.0 GPA; no minimum test score
- Not guaranteed admission to the system

Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses and Exams

BOARS provides guidelines for the review and approval of AP/IB courses, just as they do with other “a-g” decisions. Specifically, BOARS oversees two elements of AP and IB courses and exams:

- **Courses:** As described above under “Honors Level Courses,” AP and IB courses confer a “bump” to the student’s Weighted-Capped and Weighted-Uncapped Grade Point Averages.
- **Exams:** Separate from the impact of taking an AP/IB course, students who earn minimum scores on AP/IB exams can earn college credit and satisfy “a-g” subject areas.
 - **Satisfying “a-g”:** Some students may decide to take AP or IB standardized *exams* without completing the *course*. In these cases, subject requirements can be fulfilled by scoring a 3 or higher for AP and 5 or higher on Higher Level IB exams.
 - **College credit:** The number of units conferred by earning a 3 or better on AP or a 5 or better on Higher Level IB exams is uniform systemwide.

applyUC

UC’s undergraduate admissions application is 100% electronic (there is no paper application). *applyUC* is the Web-based system for preparing and submitting an application for admission to any of UC’s nine undergraduate campuses. Prospective freshmen and transfer students use *applyUC* to submit a single application to all campuses to which they are applying. Students applying for fall admission may begin to fill out the application on August 1 and must submit it between Nov 1-30. *applyUC* is available at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

ASSIST

ASSIST is the official repository for transfer articulation in California. It is also a website (www.assist.org) that allows students to see exactly how each course will be treated in the transfer process. UC has over 111,000 general education and major articulation agreements in ASSIST going back over a decade. ASSIST is currently being redesigned and will soon provide a more modern and user-friendly interface, as well as added features for multi-campus comparisons.

Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT, or “SB 1440 Degrees”)

The State passed legislation (SB 1440) in 2010 that created an associate degree pathway for students

from the CCCs to the CSU. The legislation mandated three actions on the part of the CSU in order to create a true “2+2” model:

- Guarantee system admission to degree holders;
- Grant priority admission to degree holders; and
- Require no more than 60 semester units post-transfer to earn degree.

These “SB 1440” degrees include 18 units of lower-division major preparation requirements (e.g., AA-T in Sociology) and 36-39 units of general education requirements (either IGETC or CSU Breadth). The benefits above are conferred only to students transferring into a related major at the CSU.

The CSU and CCC have jointly developed statewide templates for these degrees by major (called Transfer Model Curricula, or TMCs), which individual community colleges use to build their own ADTs. For example, there is a single TMC in Mathematics, but Diablo Valley College can create its own ADT in Mathematics based on its unique course offerings as long as it is consistent with the TMC.

To date, the CSU and CCC’s have developed TMCs in 25 disciplines. With this structure in place, individual community colleges have developed 1,000 ADT degrees that align with the TMC statewide templates. While UC does not guarantee admission to holders of Associate degrees for transfer, BOARS has determined that such degrees should be a positive factor in the transfer admission process.

Comprehensive Review

Each year, more applicants meet minimum eligibility standards than UC campuses can accommodate. As a result, BOARS has identified criteria that campuses use to select applicants. BOARS identified 14 academic and non-academic factors that all campuses consider when reviewing freshman applications and eight criteria for transfer applications. Guided by these criteria, campuses make independent decisions on whom to admit.

English Proficiency Requirement

If some or all of an applicant’s high school/secondary school was completed in a school where English was not the language of instruction, he or she may be required to demonstrate English proficiency. This applies to freshman and transfer applicants. Freshman applicants can demonstrate proficiency by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and earning the minimum required score. Transfer students can demonstrate proficiency by completing the two UC-transferable English composition courses required for junior transfer admission.

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) & Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE)

The English Language Writing Requirement (ELWR) is not an admissions criterion, but is a requirement that must be fulfilled by all new freshmen at UC. ELWR can be satisfied by applicants with minimum scores on the SAT, ACT, AP, and IB exams. Students who do not satisfy ELWR with one of these exams must take the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) developed by UC faculty. The AWPE is administered each May at test sites across the state. Scores on the exam will not change the admission decision. Students who have not satisfied the ELWR at the time they enroll in their classes must take a writing course designated by their campus.

Grade Point Average (Freshman)

UC has three types of GPAs that are used during the review of freshman applications. Campuses may use any or all of these GPAs in their review processes, however the Weighted Capped GPA is the “official” GPA used for all UC eligibility calculations.

Unweighted GPA uses:

- Grades earned from “a-g” courses taken in 10th and 11th grades
- 4 point scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)

Weighted-Capped GPA uses:

- Grades earned from “a-g” courses taken in 10th and 11th grades
- 4 point scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- An additional grade point is given for each honors-level course (UC-approved honors, Advanced Placement, Higher Level International Baccalaureate, and college-level courses) completed with a grade of C or better
- Maximum of 8 honors points (1 per semester for each honors-level course with a C or better)
- This is the “official” GPA used for all UC eligibility calculations.

Weighted-Uncapped GPA (aka, Fully Weighted GPA) uses:

- Grades earned from “a-g” courses taken in 10th and 11th grades
- 4 point scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- An additional grade point is given for each honors-level course (UC-approved honors, Advanced Placement, higher level International Baccalaureate, and college-level courses) completed with a grade of C or better
- No limit on honors points (1 per semester for each honors-level course with a C or better)
- This is the GPA used for ELC determination

Grade Point Average (Transfer)

California resident transfer students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.4 GPA in all transferable California community college coursework to be eligible for admission. (Nonresident transfers must earn a 2.8 GPA.). Calculation of the transfer GPA is straightforward, averaging grades in all transferrable college-level coursework without “honors bumps” or other adjustments.

High School Articulation (“a-g”)

UCOP annually reviews California high school courses using criteria provided by BOARS to determine which satisfy “a-g” subject requirements for freshman admissions to both UC and the CSU systems. The results of this review are recorded and stored on the new A-G Course Management Portal (CMP) website that will be launched in February 2015 (previously the site was known as Doorways: www.ucop.edu/doorways/). For the 2014-15 academic year alone, UC reviewed over 32,000 high school courses for “a-g” purposes. UC’s “a g” course lists, which include over 178,000 approved courses from 2,300 high schools, are widely used nationally and internationally as exemplars of rigorous college-preparatory curriculum; UC’s A-G Guide website (www.ucop.edu/agguide/) is the primary resource for all “a-g” policy and course submission/review information.

Honors-level Courses

To encourage students to undertake more challenging work at the advanced secondary level, UC assigns extra weight to grades received in honors-level courses using a very specific definition of honors-level

work: designated AP and IB courses and transferable college courses are considered honors. In addition, some other California high school courses and some online courses are certified as honors. UC does not certify ninth-grade courses as honors.

IGETC

IGETC, or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, is a pattern of courses totaling 36-39 semester units that most UC and CSU campuses or departments will treat as satisfying local general education/breadth requirements. It is generally not a requirement for admission.

A new “IGETC for STEM Majors” pattern has been approved in concept by all three California public higher education segments. IGETC for STEM Majors allows students the flexibility to complete more of their general education at the receiving institution post-transfer, affording additional time to complete lower-division major preparation required in their fields.

Referral Pool(s)

The “referral pool” allows freshman and transfer students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements but are not admitted to a campus to which they have applied to receive an admission offer to at least one campus. Since 2010, UC Merced has been the only campus offering the opportunity to receive admission to prospective freshmen in the referral pool. Last year, UC Merced and UC Riverside participated in the transfer student referral pool.

Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs)

Six UC campuses offer Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs). TAGs provide a specific set of criteria (courses and GPAs) that guarantee a spot at the campus and, in some cases, major of choice. Students may apply for a TAG to a single UC campus the fall of their sophomore year— just a few months before the November application cycle begins.

The majority of students admitted do not have a TAG. Campuses set a higher bar with TAG agreements and many competitive students are admitted without having first secured a TAG. The psychological impact of “guaranteed” admission, however, is very powerful for prospective UC transfer applicants.

It is important to note that campuses without TAGs also serve large numbers of transfer students. Berkeley and UCLA do not participate because they are extremely competitive, but they continue to be leaders in the system in terms of the proportion of their incoming classes who come via transfer. It is also worth noting that TAGs were initially conceived as a way to serve historically underrepresented students. However, well-resourced students have understandably flocked to TAGs as well and the TAG pool is actually less diverse than the applicant pool overall.

Transfer Articulation Agreements

Articulation describes course equivalencies between postsecondary institutions rather than admissions requirements and transfer admission agreements.

Articulation agreements serve as the foundation for both, providing students with information about how courses they complete at a community college will be treated by UC for degree purposes. UC

provides two levels of transfer articulation:

- **Systemwide UC Transferable Course Agreements (UC-TCA)** that identify CCC courses that are eligible for elective credit, IGETC applicability, and the 7-course pattern needed to establish eligibility for admission. UC evaluated over 5,400 CCC courses during the 2013-14 academic year.
- Campus **general education and major articulation** that specifies how each course will be treated in completing a student's degree.

All courses on the UC-TCA list confer the same number of transfer credits at all UC campuses. What varies, however, is the way in which each campus treats a particular course towards its degree requirements. For example, all UC campuses grant three units of credit for a business calculus course, but the physics department on one or more UC campuses may not use it to satisfy a general calculus admissions/degree requirement.

All nine UC undergraduate campuses have articulation agreements with all 112 California Community Colleges. UC campuses have major-specific agreements for at least the top 20 majors for transfer students and most provide articulation in all or nearly all the possible majors. UC has over 110,000 general education and major-specific articulation agreements. The official repository for articulation information in California is www.assist.org.

Transfer Preparation Paths

Transfer Preparation Paths provide high-level guidance to students who may know which major they are interested in, but not the UC campus at which they want to enroll. Each path highlights the systemwide and campus similarities and differences in major preparation. As students narrow their focus, however, they are redirected to ASSIST. Additional information on UC's major preparation paths can be found at: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/preparation-paths/index.html>.

UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP)

The UC Transfer Admission Planner (UC TAP) allows students – from the first day they attend a community college – to record their courses and track their progress toward UC eligibility (minimum units, GPA). Eventually, UC TAP will be able to help students track their completion of major preparation and IGETC. The demographic and academic information that students enter can then be used to pre-populate the UC application for admission. UC TAP gives UC and community college counselors a tool to manage a counseling relationship with students. They can push messages to students, review their progress, and approve their TAGs. <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/transfer/transfer-admission-planner/index.html> UC TAP also serves as a front-end resource for students to submit a TAG.