



BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)
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Statement on Mathematics (Area C) Admissions Requirements

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The University of California's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) in fall 2023 convened a faculty [Workgroup on Mathematics \(Area C\) Preparation](#) to consider UC math admissions requirements in two stages: Stage 1 focuses on the types of math courses that qualify as “advanced mathematics” for UC preparation; Stage 2 focuses on UC's definition of foundational mathematics for college preparation. The [Area C Workgroup's Stage 1 report](#) was submitted to and unanimously endorsed by BOARS.

Based on the report, BOARS' policy guidance on Area C is as follows:

1. **The core math requirement is not changing.** UC's Area C math admissions requirement remains the same: three years of college-preparatory mathematics is required; four years are strongly recommended. The foundational three years of math coursework must include or integrate topics covered in elementary algebra, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and advanced algebra. This aligns with either the traditional 3-course series of Algebra I-Geometry-Algebra II or the integrated 3-course series of Math I-II-III.
2. **There are two types of higher math courses.** UC's definition of “advanced mathematics” is now updated to reflect two types of higher math courses that extend beyond the foundational 3-course series. One category of higher math courses may validate (substitute for) lower-level math courses if they have as prerequisites all the lower-level coursework (including Algebra II/Math III) and rely on the content of the foundational 3-course series (e.g., Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus). A second category of higher math courses are considered suitable for the recommended 4th year of high school study but will not validate lower-level math courses because they do not require *all* of the lower-level content (e.g., AP Statistics). More information about math courses approved in Area C will be provided by UC Undergraduate Admissions in forthcoming [High School Articulation](#) and [Counselors & Advisers](#) bulletins.
3. **The recommended 4th year math course will advance students' learning.** A broad range of courses may be suitable for the recommended 4th year of college-prep mathematics, provided that they are courses of a level of mathematical challenge appropriate for 11th and 12th grade students already familiar with the lower-level required math coursework. UC encourages the future development of innovative 4th year courses, including data science, that will advance students' knowledge and skills in mathematics.

There are various ways to address the college-ready standards outlined in California's Common Core Mathematics Standards and to meet UC's Area C course criteria. UC continues to urge schools to update and adapt mathematics instruction in ways that support every student's success. The ultimate goal is for UC to align with the state's standards in mathematics to ensure math course options that allow California students the opportunity to choose the most relevant learning path for their educational aspirations at UC or elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Knowlton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Knowlton
BOARS Chair