



**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)**

**Barbara Knowlton, Chair**

[knowlton@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:knowlton@psych.ucla.edu)

Assembly of the Academic Senate

1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Phone: (510) 987-9466

August 15, 2024

**HAN MI YOON-WU, ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST &  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

**RE: ADVANCED PLACEMENT PRE-CALCULUS EXAM**

Dear Han Mi,

During our meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>, BOARS voted to allow a score of four or five on the Advanced Placement (AP) Pre-Calculus exam to substitute for or validate Algebra II/Math III and/or Precalculus. The committee took into account that a student who does not take the AP Pre-Calculus exam but earns a good grade on the course can already satisfy Area C as a fourth year of math and that AP Pre-Calculus can also validate algebra II.

Members questioned whether taking an exam is sufficient proof that students have mastered the material and expressed concerns about the lack of data given that the AP Pre-Calculus course and exam are relatively new. With the understanding that the score on the AP Pre-Calculus exam would make a student eligible to apply to UC and have their application reviewed, the committee agreed to set a cut score of four and above on the AP Pre-Calculus exam to satisfy Area C and fix deficient grades on algebra II and pre-calculus. BOARS will review this decision in three years when data is available.

I would also like to note that the committee is aware of the University Committee on Educational Policy's (UCEP) thoughtful consideration of the AP Pre-Calculus exam and a policy on conferring unit credit for external exams more broadly. BOARS supports UCEP's recommendation against conferring systemwide unit credit for the AP Pre-Calculus exam and proposing that the individual campuses should determine whether to accept the AP Pre-Calculus exam for course credit.

The committee appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this matter. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Barbara Knowlton, Chair  
BOARS



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
Melanie Cocco, Chair  
mcocco@uci.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9466

February 8, 2024

**HAN MI YOON-WU, ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST AND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

**RE: UCEP RECOMMENDATION ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT PRE-CALCULUS EXAM**

Dear Han Mi,

UCEP discussed the option of designating Systemwide credit for the Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus exam at our February 5, 2024 meeting. The committee voted unanimously against conferring Systemwide credit but would like the Divisions to know that this is an option on their campus if they choose.

Pre-Calculus is an unusual exam since it includes some material that many campuses offer in their introductory Math courses, but also includes some material considered remedial. Consequently, the exam is not a direct replacement for introductory Math.

In addition, the issue that is most complicating in considering course credit is the requirement on many UC campuses that students must take a Math placement exam and, based on their score, could be required to take introductory Math regardless of their Pre-Calculus exam score. In the case of a student who had a passing score on their Pre-Calculus exam, but the UC placement exam score required them to take introductory Math, they would be getting course credit twice for very similar material.

Having the Divisions and specific majors make the decision on whether to accept the Pre-Calculus exam for course credit is a better option than a Systemwide policy.

UCEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melanie Cocco'.

Melanie Cocco, Chair  
UCEP

cc: Director Fischerhall  
Executive Director Lin