



# Pathways to the University of California

You're on your way to the University of California. By exploring UC, you're taking the first steps on the path to a world-class college education. This brochure will outline what you need to do to qualify for admission to one or more of our nine undergraduate campuses.

We welcome students with diverse backgrounds, interests and goals who can thrive at UC and bring their talents to our campuses. We're interested in your strengths as a scholar, but we also want to know about your leadership qualities, passions and contributions to your community — all the aspects that make you unique. That means that in addition to coursework, grades and test scores, UC campuses look at other factors, including personal accomplishments, life experience and other special circumstances in making decisions about each applicant. We call this process *comprehensive review*.

## BEING QUALIFIED, BECOMING COMPETITIVE

UC has a set of minimum requirements to make sure students are prepared for college-level work. However, we encourage you to go beyond these minimum criteria. Pushing yourself to take rigorous courses and complete as many “a-g” requirements as possible are just a couple of ways you can be a competitive applicant and improve your chances of being admitted to the campus of your choice.

### How to make your application stand out:

- Take advanced courses, including community college and summer school offerings.
- Aim for a higher GPA by studying more, especially for AP and honors classes, which offer bonus GPA points.
- Improve your college entrance exam scores by taking them in 11th grade, so you have a second chance to take them in 12th grade if necessary.
- Participate deeply in academic enrichment and extracurricular activities that are meaningful to you and reflect your interests.
- Put together an application that reflects your talents. The application is your chance to tell us who you are and what's important to you, so make sure to complete the personal statement, personal history and achievements sections with as much detail as you can.
- Devote time and careful work to writing your personal statement: Make it clear, compelling and relevant to the rest of your application. Seek input on drafts from a few trusted readers before you complete the statement.
- Apply to a wide range of UC campuses, keeping an open mind about their suitability. You will use the same application for all nine undergraduate campuses.
- UC will waive application fees for up to four campuses for students who apply for a fee waiver within the online application. You'll be notified immediately as to whether you qualify for this waiver.
- Apply on time! Meet the Nov. 30 deadline. For the online application, see Online Resources on the back panel.

# 4 Steps to UC Admission

## Step 1: Coursework

To qualify for UC admission, you need to complete 15 “a–g” courses, 11 of them prior to senior year, all with a grade of C or better. These are minimum requirements — most students exceed the minimum.

*Here’s the specific 15-course pattern you will need:*

- a. 2 years of history/social studies
- b. 4 years of English
- c. 3 years of math
- d. 2 years of lab science
- e. 2 years of a language other than English
- f. 1 year of visual and performing arts
- g. 1 year of college preparatory elective from a.–f.

### ELIGIBILITY IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT (ELC)

ELC is a program by which UC recognizes the individual accomplishment of students in light of opportunities offered at their particular, participating high school. California students in the top 9 percent of their high school class may be eligible for an ELC designation, which adds value to their UC admission application.

ELC students must take a minimum of 15 courses (see the list, above). The following 11 courses must be completed before senior year:

- a. 1 year of history/social studies
- b. 2 years of English
- c. 2 years of math
- d. 1 year of lab science
- e. 1 year of a language other than English
- f. 4 years of any “a–g” courses

As with all applicants, qualifying students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better (weighted by a maximum of eight honors/AP bonus points in these courses, selected from among the “a–g” subject requirements). To learn more about ELC, see Online Resources on the back panel.

### SENIORS: DON’T LET UP!

Having a strong senior year program — as measured by the type and number of academic courses you have in progress or planned — is an important component of your application picture.

## Step 2: Entrance Exams

### ACT/SAT

Take the ACT With Writing OR SAT Reasoning Test by December of the senior year — the earlier, the better.

It’s best to take the exam in spring of your junior year or early fall of senior year. That way, you’ll have time to retake it if you need to improve your score.

### SAT SUBJECT TESTS

The university does not require the SAT Subject Test for admissions consideration, although strong test scores can enhance the positive impression made by your application overall. You are welcome to submit scores for any of the following reasons:

- To show your mastery of a particular subject
- To apply for a competitive major for which your preferred campus recommends certain Subject Tests
- To use Subject Tests to satisfy “a–g” subject requirements

### EXAM SCORES, GPA & THE ADMISSIONS INDEX

If you’re in the top 9 percent of California high school graduates and aren’t admitted to any of the UC campuses you apply to, you’ll be offered a spot at another campus if space is available. UC uses a formula — the admissions index — to determine if you fall within that group. We will convert your ACT or SAT scores to a UC score, which is matched to your GPA. If your UC score is equal to or greater than the score required for your GPA, then you’re in the top 9 percent of California high school graduates.

UC accepts students with  
widely diverse backgrounds,  
interests and goals.

## Step 3: Academic Enrichment & Community Service

Part of planning for college admission is building a strong set of academic and leadership activities outside of high school. In addition to improving tests scores and class performance, these academic pursuits will demonstrate that you are motivated to become a competitive applicant. And you can explore your special interests with classes and internships before declaring a college major. A history of community service illustrates your capacity for leadership and shows other facets of your interests and values beyond academic performance.

*These activities can include:*

- Summer session courses at a college
- Concurrent enrollment at a community college
- Summer internships

For more information on academic enrichment, see Online Resources on the back panel.

## Step 4: College Knowledge

Part of your path to UC is becoming familiar with the various campuses. Each UC campus shares the university's high academic standards, with distinguished faculties and excellent research facilities, yet each has its own distinctive characteristics. Researching the campuses that best suit your needs and academic strengths should begin early. Your high school counselor can help you decide which UC locations are the best fit.

*Activities to deepen your college knowledge include:*

- Researching colleges online
- Visiting UC campuses in person
- Attending financial aid and college application workshops

For links to UC campuses, see Online Resources on the back panel.

### COURSEWORK: CHOOSE WELL AND DO WELL — TWO CASE STUDIES

Below are examples of two students' high school coursework. Student A took 15 courses by the end of his senior year, the minimum number to qualify for admission. Student B took 23 courses, including one community college course. Taking into account only the academic records below, Student B is more likely to be accepted to the university and selected by her top-choice campuses. By taking honors and Advanced Placement courses and going well beyond the minimum requirement, this student shows that she can do well in college.

#### STUDENT A

| "a–g" SUBJECT CATEGORY                           | 9TH GRADE | 10TH GRADE    | 11TH GRADE   | 12TH GRADE |
|--|-----------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| a. History                                       |           | World History | U.S. History | Government |
| b. English                                       | English 1 | English 2     | English 3    | English 4  |
| c. Math  | Algebra 1 | Geometry      | Algebra 2    |            |
| d. Lab Science                                   |           | Biology       | Chemistry    |            |
| e. Language Other Than English                   |           | Spanish 1     | Spanish 2    |            |
| f. Visual and Performing Arts                    |           | Band 1        |              |            |
| g. College Preparatory Electives (AP) from a.–f. |           |               |              | Economics  |

#### STUDENT B

| "a–g" SUBJECT CATEGORY                           | 9TH GRADE        | 10TH GRADE    | 11TH GRADE          | 12TH GRADE            |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. History                                       |                  | World History | AP U.S. History     | Government            |
| b. English                                       | English 1        | English 2     | Honors English 3    | AP English Literature |
| c. Math  | Geometry         | Algebra 2     | Honors Pre-Calculus | AP Calculus           |
| d. Lab Science                                   |                  | Biology       | AP Chemistry        | AP Physics            |
| e. Language Other Than English                   | Spanish 1        | Spanish 2     | Spanish 3           | AP Spanish            |
| f. Visual and Performing Arts                    | Theater 1        | Theater 2     | Adv. Acting 1 & 2*  |                       |
| g. College Preparatory Electives (AP) from a.–f. | Physical Science |               | Psychology          | Economics             |

\*concurrent enrollment community college

## Paying for College

Don't let your fears about the cost of college keep you from applying to UC. UC remains affordable, with many grants and scholarships available to middle- and low-income students. Even the application fees for up to four UC campuses are waived for eligible students. See Online Resources for more information.

### **BLUE+GOLD OPPORTUNITY PLAN**

UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan ensures that you won't have to pay UC's systemwide tuition and fees out of your own pocket if you are a California resident whose total family income is less than \$80,000 a year.

Blue and Gold students with sufficient financial need can qualify for even more grant aid to help reduce the cost of attending, such as room and board, books, required supplies and transportation. See Online Resources for more information.

Make your final decision about where to attend college after you review all acceptance letters and weigh all choices. For more information about paying for college, see Online Resources, below.

## Online Resources

Getting started with UC: <http://start.universityofcalifornia.edu>

### **Academic Enrichment**

For information on academic enrichment programs, go to: [www.eaop.org/resources](http://www.eaop.org/resources)

### **Admissions**

For more detailed information about all aspects of UC admissions, including how to select the right college, campus descriptions, campus admissions profiles and statistics, and more, go to: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>

To learn more about Eligibility in the Local Context, go to:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/california-residents/local-path>

For information about the Application Fee Waiver, go to:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/application-fees>

### **Financial Aid**

Learn more about paying for college at: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/paying.html)

For details about UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan go to:

<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/paying-for-uc/glossary/blue-and-gold/index.html>

### **Online Application**

You can apply online at: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)

### **UC Campuses**

Links to the various campuses, with information about their specific policies, requirements and admissions statistics can be found at: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/campuses/index.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/campuses/index.html)