

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

The California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) have aligned their course requirements. Both systems require 15 courses. These courses are referred to as the “a-g requirements.” Selective campuses and impacted majors may expect additional college preparatory course work (such as four years of science and math if students plan to major in engineering or science). Enhancing course selections with honors and advanced placement courses is also recommended.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number of years</u>	<u>Description</u>
a. History	2	1 year World History 1 year U.S. History or a semester of U.S. Government and a semester of U.S. History
b. English	4	Reading of classical and modern literature and extensive writing should be stressed
c. Mathematics	3	Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or IMP 1, 2, 3 (4 yrs. recommended)
d. Science	2	College prep sciences that provide knowledge in at least two of these three areas: biology, chemistry, and physics (3 yrs. recommended). Note: Earth Science may only be used for the “g” requirement for UC.
e. Foreign Language	2	Language other than English (3 yrs. recommended). Coursework must be in the same language.
f. Visual/Performing Arts	1	Some courses (such as fashions and drafting) meet the high school graduation requirement, but not the university requirement.
g. College Prep Elective	1	Minimum of one year (two semesters) in addition to the required “a-f” courses that go beyond the minimum requirement may be used (for example, a third year of a foreign language, or fourth year of math, or third year of college preparatory science. Courses marked with an asterisk may not be used to meet the “g” requirement. See page 7 for additional courses that may be used.
Total a-g courses	15	

Courses in mathematics and languages other than English completed in the 7th and 8th grades with grades of C or better may be counted toward the subject requirements. Students are encouraged to take a rigorous course curriculum, and a solid senior year course load. Selective colleges and universities tend to admit the top few percent from the graduating class. Students are responsible for planning their course selections.

College Grade Point Average

A student’s college GPA is the average of grades earned in the required “a-g” subjects completed in grades 10-12, with extra points for up to eight semesters of certified honors or advanced placement course work (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3). D’s and F’s are not weighted. Note: Lincoln High School assigns extra weight to AP classes, Spanish 3 Honors, and Analysis Honors, only. Courses used to satisfy the “a-g” requirements in which the student earns D or F grades must be repeated with grades of C or higher. A course may be repeated once only. A certain GPA does not guarantee admission to college. Usually a low GPA requires higher SAT/ACT scores.

D’s and F’s earned in the first semester of mathematics and foreign language may be cleared if a grade of C or higher is earned in the second semester of the same course. However, both grades will be used when calculating one’s GPA. D or F grades in courses that are taken beyond the minimum required to satisfy the “a-g” requirements are typically not used in calculating the scholarship requirement. Students should consult university catalogs or web sites for specific requirements, especially if applying to impacted campuses or programs.

For more UC/CSU information, go to the university web sites. For CSU: <http://www.csumentor.edu>. For UC: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu>.

College Entrance Examinations

Students are encouraged to complete entrance exams (SAT Reasoning or ACT) by the end of their junior year. Students may also take these exams in the fall of their senior year. All UCs recommend that students complete testing by December of their senior year. Applications and information for entrance examinations are available in the Educational Planning Center.

CSU will combine a student’s highest verbal score and highest math score on the SAT Reasoning Test. SAT Subject Tests are not required for CSU. UC uses a student’s highest total SAT Reasoning score (they do not combine the highest verbal score from one test and highest math score from another test). Students who take the ACT must request the test with composition. In addition to one SAT Reasoning Test or one ACT, UC requires two SAT Subject Tests. Students must choose subjects in two different academic areas; for example, English Literature and American History (but not World History and American History). If students choose Math for a subject test, they must take the Level 2 math test. UC will not accept Level 1.

For more information, go to the testing web sites: ACT: <http://www.act.org> or SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com>.