

# University of California

## Freshman Admission Requirements for Fall 2012

UC's admission requirements are changing, effective with the class entering in fall 2012. If you will be applying for admission to that term or beyond, you will need to meet three minimum requirements:

- Complete 15 college-preparatory courses ("a-g" courses), with at least 11 finished by the end of your junior year. At a minimum, you must take:

a. History/social science	2 years
b. English	4 years
c. Mathematics	3 years
d. Laboratory science	2 years
e. Language other than English	2 years
f. Visual and performing arts	1 year
g. College-preparatory elective (chosen from the subjects listed above or another course approved by the university)	1 year
- Earn a GPA of 3.0 or better (3.4 if you're a nonresident) in those courses, with no grade lower than a C
- Take the ACT with Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test by December of your senior year

### ***SAT Subject Tests***

We won't require SAT Subject Tests for fall 2012 admission, but you may submit scores on these if you want to show your mastery of a particular subject. Some campuses may recommend certain Subject Tests for some competitive majors. Also, you may use them to satisfy ["a-g" requirements](#) listed above.

### ***Guaranteed Admission***

If you're a California resident, you will be guaranteed admission to UC if you are:

- Eligible in the statewide context, meaning you rank in the top 9 percent of California high school students, according to our [admissions index](#), or
- Eligible in the local context (ELC), ranking in the top 9 percent of your class

If you are in one of these groups and are not admitted to any campus you apply to, you will be offered admission to a UC campus that has space.

If your school participates in the ELC program, we will evaluate your transcript in the summer after your junior year and notify you in the fall if you qualify. To be considered for ELC, you must complete the following

specific 11 courses by the end of grade 11: one year of history/social science, two years of English, two years of mathematics, one year of laboratory science, one year of language other than English and four courses selected from among the "a-g" subject requirements.

Even if you aren't guaranteed a spot, we encourage you to apply. We will thoroughly review your application as long as you've met the minimum requirements.

### ***How We Review Applications***

Every year, we seek to enroll applicants who will bring an array of strengths, talents and interests to our campuses, learners who will benefit from a diverse education, students who will be prepared to participate in every segment of society when they graduate.

To help us select those applicants, we use a process called comprehensive review, which has been in place since 2002. Campuses review all qualified applicants in the context of the opportunities and challenges each has experienced, using a broad range of 14 academic and personal [factors](#).

Campuses place the highest importance on academic achievement, but accomplishments in the classroom alone do not guarantee admission to a particular campus. Competition at some campuses is intense, and those campuses are unable to offer a place to every well-qualified applicant who applies.

Because selectivity varies by campus, your chances of admission will also vary by campus. As you think about which UC campuses to apply to, look at our [freshman profiles](#) to get an idea of the academic achievements of last year's admitted class. Carefully review your options and apply broadly to increase your chances of being admitted to a campus you want to attend.

## **A Closer Look:**

### **UC Regents Adopt Changes to Freshman Eligibility**

The UC Board of Regents in February 2009 adopted a proposal to change freshman admission to give more high-achieving students the chance to apply to UC and receive a full review of their applications. The new rules will take effect for the fall 2012 entering class.

The Academic Senate proposed the changes to address concerns that current policy prevents UC from considering thousands of outstanding students with high GPAs and test scores just because of a technical flaw in their record or a missing test – chiefly, the SAT Subject Tests, which are not required by any other public university in the country.

#### ***Policy highlights***

Under the new policy, all California high school seniors who...

- complete the 15 UC-required college-preparatory ("a-g") courses, with 11 of those done by the end of 11th grade,
- maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (weighted by honors/AP bonus points) in these courses, and
- take the ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test

...will be invited to apply and will be entitled to a comprehensive review of their applications at each UC campus to which they apply.

Within this "entitled to review" pool, two categories of applicants will be guaranteed admission somewhere within the UC system:

- those who fall in the top 9% of all high school graduates statewide, and
- those who rank in the top 9% of their own high school graduating class.

Together, these students are expected to make up about 10% of the state's high school graduates. If these students are not admitted to one of the campuses they applied to, they will be referred to a campus with remaining space (currently UC Riverside or UC Merced) and offered admission there, as eligible students are now. The remaining admissions needed to make up the full 12.5% pool of top students will be drawn from the broader "entitled to review" pool.

**All qualified students, whether receiving the referral guarantee or not, will have their applications reviewed comprehensively by all UC campuses to which they apply and will compete for those seats.** Their qualifications will be assessed using the same campus-based review processes currently in place – ones that emphasize academic achievement, but that also account for a wide range of personal accomplishments and educational contexts. More information about the comprehensive review process is available at [How UC Reviews Applicants](#).

### ***Differences from current policy***

The new policy requires the same number of "a-g" courses and the same GPA as current policy. What is different is:

- **Two SAT Subject Tests will no longer be required for admission.** However, students can still choose to submit their scores for consideration as part of their application, just as they do now with AP scores. The Subject Tests also may be recommended for certain majors.
- **All applicants will need to complete 11 of the 15 "a-g" courses by the end of their junior year.** Currently, this is required only of students who are designated eligible by ranking in the top 4% of their high school class.
- **The share of students who are guaranteed admission based on their rank in their own high school class will grow** (9% vs. the current 4%).
- **Fewer students overall will receive an admission guarantee** (10% of high school graduates statewide vs. 12.5% now), but nearly all students who would have received this guarantee under current policy will still be entitled to a full review by their campuses of choice under the new proposal.

For your information from the College Center, A10 – Regina Ignon and Tammy Koch

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