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Fall 2012 admission requirements

UC's freshman admission requirements are changing, starting with students applying for fall 2012 admission.

Policy highlights

All California high school seniors who fulfill the following three requirements will be entitled to a comprehensive review of their applications at each UC campus to which they apply. They must:

- Complete 15 UC-required college-preparatory ("a-g") courses, with 11 of those done prior to the start of 12th grade
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (weighted by honors/AP bonus points) in these courses
- Take the ACT With Writing or SAT Reasoning Test

Students' qualifications will be assessed using campus-based review processes, which emphasize academic achievement but also account for a wide range of personal accomplishments and educational contexts.

Who receives guaranteed admission

Within this pool of applicants, two categories of students will be guaranteed admission somewhere in the UC system:

- those who fall in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates statewide
- those who rank in the top 9 percent of their own high school graduating class

Because selectivity varies by campus due to the size and academic quality of applicant pools, a student's chance for admission will also vary by campus. For this reason, it is important for students to review all of their options and choose both carefully and broadly.

Differences between the current & 2012 policies

Fundamentally, the new policy will not change the way students prepare for UC. Students will still need to complete the same number of "a-g" courses and earn the same minimum GPA.

1. 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 and IB scores. The Subject Tests may also be recommended for certain majors.

2. All applicants will need to complete 11 of the 15 required "a-g" courses by the end of their junior year (courses taken in summer school after junior year will be considered). Currently, this is required only of students who are designated eligible in the local context by ranking in the top 4 percent of their high school class.

3. Students will no longer have to meet an eligibility index to be considered for admission. The application of every student who has completed 11 of the 15 "a-g" courses with a 3.0 GPA by the end of junior year and has take the ACT with Writing or the SAT Reasoning Test will receive a comprehensive review.

4. The share of students who are guaranteed admission based on their rank in their own high school class will grow (9 percent vs. the current 4 percent).

5. Fewer students overall will receive an admission guarantee (10 percent of high school graduates vs. 12.5 percent now), but nearly all students who would have received this guarantee under current policy will be entitled to a full review by their campuses of choice under the new policy.

6. Under the new policy, students who become eligible by examination will not be guaranteed admission. They will, however, be entitled to a full review of their application. Students who take this path must complete two SAT Subject Tests in two different subject areas.

Good to know

All qualified students — whether they receive the admission guarantee or not — will have their applications reviewed comprehensively by the UC campuses to which they apply and will compete with everyone else for available seats.

2012 up close

- Academic requirements
- Guaranteed admission
- Comprehensive review