Freshman

- Applying for fall 2012?
- California residents
  - Statewide path
    - Subject requirement
      - Examination requirement
      - Scholarship requirement
  - Local path
  - Examination path
  - Admission by exception
- All other applicants
- How applications are reviewed
- Additional requirements
- Freshman admission profiles

The subject requirement

To satisfy the subject requirement, you must complete 15 yearlong high school courses with a grade of C or better — and at least seven of them must be taken in your last two years of high school.

Keep in mind that taking approved high school ("a-g") courses isn't the only way to satisfy these requirements. You also may meet them by completing college courses or earning certain scores on SAT, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams.

A) History/social science

UC-approved high school courses

Two years of history/social science, including:

- one year of world history, cultures and geography (may be a single yearlong course or two one-semester courses), and
- one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government

SAT Subject Examination

U.S. History: Score of 550 satisfies one year.

World History: Score of 540 satisfies one year.

AP or IB Examination

U.S. History: score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP U.S. History exam;
score of 5, 6 or 7 on the IB History of the Americas HL exam

U.S. Government: Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Exam satisfies a half year.

World History/Cultures/Geography: score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP exam in European History, World History or Human Geography; score of 5, 6 or 7 on the IB History HL or Geography HL exam

College courses

U.S. History/Civics/American Government: grade of C or better in a transferable course of 3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units in U.S. history, civics or American government

World History/Cultures/Geography: grade of C or better in a transferable course of 3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units in world history, cultures and geography

B) English

UC-approved high school courses

Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent writing, from brainstorming to final paper, as well as reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.

SAT Subject Examination

Literature: Score of 560 satisfies first three years.

Writing: Score of 680 satisfies entire four-year requirement.

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition Exam; score of 5, 6 or 7 on the IB Language A1 English HL exam

College courses

For each year required through the 11th grade, a grade of C or better in a course of 3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units in English composition, literature (American or English) or foreign literature in translation. Courses used to satisfy the fourth year of the requirement must be transferable. For lower-division transfer, all courses must be transferable. Literature courses must include substantial work in composition.

C) Mathematics

UC-approved high school courses

Three years (four years recommended) of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades if the high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

SAT Subject Examination

Mathematics 1C: Score of 570 satisfies entire requirement.

Mathematics Level 2: Score of 480 satisfies entire requirement.

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Statistics Exam satisfies elementary and intermediate algebra.

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB or Calculus BC Exam satisfies three years.

Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the IB Mathematics HL exam

College courses

Grade of C or better in a transferable mathematics course that has intermediate algebra as a prerequisite satisfies the entire requirement. Freshman applicants cannot satisfy this requirement with statistics.

Three semester (4 quarter) units of non-transferable courses in elementary algebra, geometry, intermediate algebra or trigonometry, with a grade of C or better, satisfy one year of the math requirement.

D) Laboratory science

UC-approved high school courses

Two years (three years recommended) of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics. The final two years of an approved three-year integrated science program that provides rigorous coverage of at least two of the three foundational subjects may be used to fulfill this requirement.

SAT Subject Examination

Each test clears one year:

- Biology: Score of 540
- Chemistry: Score of 530
- Physics: Score of 530

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on any two AP Exams in Biology, Chemistry, Physics B or Physics C, and Environmental Science; score of 5, 6 or 7 on any two IB HL exams in Biology, Chemistry or Physics

College courses

For each year of the requirement, a grade of C or better in a transferable course in a natural (physical or biological) science with at least 30 hours of laboratory (not "demonstration")

E) Language other than English

UC-approved high school courses

Two years (three years recommended) of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable.

SAT Subject Examination

The following scores satisfy the entire requirement:

- Chinese With Listening: 620
- French/French With Listening: 540
- German/German With Listening: 510
- Modern Hebrew: 470
- Italian: 520
- Japanese With Listening: 510
- Korean With Listeninig: 500
- Latin: 530
- Spanish/Spanish With Listening: 520

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Language or Literature Exam in French, German, Spanish or Latin (Chinese, Italian and Japanese are pending faculty approval);
score of 5, 6 or 7 on an IB Language A2 HL exam

College courses

Grade of C or better in any transferable course(s) (excluding conversation) held by the college to be equivalent to two years of high school language. Many colleges list the prerequisites for their second course in language as "Language 1 at this college or two years of high school language." In this case, Language 1 clears both years of the requirement.

F) Visual and performing arts

UC-approved high school courses

One yearlong course of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP History of Art; Studio Art or Music Theory Exam;
score of 5, 6 or 7 on any one IB HL exam in Dance, Film, Music, Theatre Arts or Visual Arts

College courses

Grade of C or better in any transferable course of 3 semester (4 quarter) units that clearly falls within one of four visual/performing arts disciplines: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art

G) College-preparatory elective

UC-approved high school courses

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory-level courses); history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "e" requirement or two years of another language)

SAT Subject Examination

U.S. History: Score of 550

World History: Score of 540

Writing/English Compositions or Literature: Score of 560

Mathematics Level 2: Score of 520

Science (other than taken for "d" requirement): Same tests and scores as listed above under "d"

Language Other Than English, third year

- Chinese With Listening: 570
- French/French With Listening: 590
- German/German With Listening: 570
- Modern Hebrew: 500
- Italian: 570
- Japanese With Listening: 570
- Korean With Listening: 550
- Latin: 580
- Spanish/Spanish With Listening: 570

A second Language Other Than English: Same tests and scores as listed under "e"

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on any one AP Exam in Computer Science A, Computer Science AB, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Human Geography, Psychology, U.S. Government or Comparative Government; score of 5, 6 or 7 on any one IB HL exam in Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, or Computer Science

College courses

Grade of C or better in one transferable course beyond those listed above as clearing any of the "a-f" requirements; or a transferable course having as a prerequisite the equivalent of two high school years in a second language; or a transferable course equivalent to those that clear the "c," "d" or "e" requirement; or a transferable course of 3 or more semester (4 or more quarter) units in history, social science, or visual or performing arts

Good to know

If you're applying for admission for fall 2012 or beyond, you must complete 11 of the 15 "a-g" courses prior to your senior year.

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For California students

The courses you take to fulfill the subject requirement must be certified by UC as meeting the requirement and must be included on your school's UC-certified course list.

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