

Admission to the University of California—Class of 2012 and Beyond

Information for Academic Preparation Personnel

Comparison of the Three Paths to UC Freshman Admission – At a Glance

	Statewide Context Path	Local Context (ELC) Path	General Application Review Path
<p>What it means</p> <p><i>All campuses to which the student applies will thoroughly review the application using multiple measures of achievement.</i></p>	<p>Student is in the top 9% of all high school graduates in California, according to the UC admissions index.</p> <p>Guaranteed a space at UC, but not necessarily the campus of choice.</p>	<p>At his/her high school, student is in the top 9% of the class.</p> <p>Guaranteed a space at UC, but not necessarily the campus of choice.</p>	<p>All campuses to which the student applies will thoroughly review the application using multiple measures of achievement, such as academic and personal accomplishments.</p> <p>Applicant is not guaranteed a space at UC.</p>
<p>What's conceptually different</p> <p><i>There will no longer be a path for admission by test scores alone.</i></p> <p><i>Applicants who meet the minimal requirements under the current eligibility by examination pathway will be entitled to a thorough review of their application.</i></p>	<p>Change from top 12.5% to top 9% of students in the state.</p> <p>Campuses will first review applications and select for admission. Then applicants who are not selected by a campus will be reviewed for minimum requirements and meeting the admissions index.</p>	<p>Change from top 4% to top 9% of students in each high school class.</p> <p>Schools will be asked to submit names of top 15% of rising seniors during summer after junior year. These students will receive a welcome letter in the fall encouraging them to apply to UC.</p> <p>ELC will be determined after the UC application is submitted, rather than during summer between the 11th and 12th grades.</p>	<p>Intended to encourage more high-achieving students to apply.</p> <p>Students who have not yet completed all “a-g” subject requirements at the time of application but who otherwise demonstrate a high level of academic achievement may be admitted to the University.</p>
<p>“a-g” Subject Requirement</p> <p><i>For all paths, includes courses completed during the summer after 11th grade.</i></p> <p><i>Courses must be completed with a grade of C or better to count toward “a-g” completion.</i></p> <p><i>The 11 courses are the minimum required to be considered for admission. Students should be encouraged to go beyond the minimum to be optimally prepared for college and competitive.</i></p>	<p>Complete <u>any</u> 11 UC-approved courses prior to senior year.</p> <p>Students must complete the specific 15-course pattern by the end of the senior year.</p>	<p>Complete <u>a specific pattern</u> of 11 UC-approved courses prior to senior year.</p> <p>1 year of history/social studies 2 years of English 2 years of math 1 year of lab science 1 year of a language other than English 4 years of any “a-g” courses</p> <p>Students must complete the 15-course pattern by the end of the senior year.</p>	<p>Complete <u>any</u> 11 UC-approved courses prior to senior year.</p> <p>Students should strive to complete the 15-course pattern by the end of the senior year.</p>
<p>Scholarship Requirement</p> <p><i>GPA is based on UC-approved courses taken in 10th and 11th grades, including the summer following the junior year.</i></p>	<p>Minimum 3.0 GPA</p> <p>(weighted by a maximum of 8 semesters of honors grade points)</p>	<p>Minimum 3.0 GPA</p> <p>(fully weighted, uncapped)</p>	<p>Minimum 3.0 GPA</p> <p>(weighted by a maximum of 8 semesters of honors grade points)</p>
<p>Exam Requirement</p> <p><i>Some campuses may recommend SAT Subject exams for certain majors.</i></p>	<p>Take ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test by December of the senior year.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests not required.</p>	<p>Take ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test by December of the senior year.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests not required.</p>	<p>Take ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test by December of the senior year.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests not required.</p>
<p>Parent authorization form</p>	N/A	Submit parent authorization form to the high school by the deadline.	N/A
<p>Application</p>	Submit the UC application by the November 30 deadline.	Submit the UC application by the November 30 deadline.	Submit the UC application by the November 30 deadline.
<p>Comprehensive review</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<p>Referral process</p>	To be determined	To be determined	No

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why were the admissions requirements changed?

A. The goal of the University is to enroll a student body that demonstrates high academic achievement and exceptional personal talent.

The new policy provides an opportunity for a larger and more diverse pool of students to be fully reviewed for admission than are currently eligible.

The new policy addresses the fact that some outstanding students with high GPAs and ACT/SAT scores are currently excluded from consideration by UC because of a minor gap in their coursework or a missing test—chiefly the SAT Subject Tests—which are not required by any other public university system in the country.

Q. How should I explain comprehensive review?

A. Campuses look at the full range of the applicant’s achievements in context of opportunities available to each student. For example, campuses know the number of honors courses available at each school, and the average exam scores for each school.

While academic achievement continues to be important, campuses go beyond grades and test scores when selecting students. With comprehensive review, students are evaluated for admission and selection using multiple measures of achievement and promise—including academic and personal accomplishments, and special circumstances—to make better decisions about each applicant. UC considers the capacity each student demonstrates to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus.

UC has been using this approach to applicant review since 2002.

Q. What advice should I give students who have high grade point averages but low test scores?

A. Test scores are among many factors considered in the evaluation. Students should give evaluators a broad picture of themselves and their ability to contribute to the intellectual life of UC by using other areas of the application to highlight their strengths: awards and honors, employment, extracurricular activities and leadership experiences, and the personal statement.

Q. Do students need a minimum test score to apply or be admitted to the University?

A. No. Test scores will be considered by each campus as part of the comprehensive review of the student’s application. Test scores will also be used to assess meeting the admissions index.

Q. Under what circumstances should students take the SAT Subject Tests?

A. No students will be denied admission solely because they did not take a Subject Test. However, some competitive majors may recommend SAT Subject Tests. In addition, students may want to take the Subject Tests to showcase mastery of a specific subject area, or to fulfill an “a-g” requirement.

Q. Will there be a referral process?

A. Depending on state funding and enrollment capacity, effective for the fall 2012 admissions cycle, the University may not be able to guarantee admission to UC for all eligible applicants. Due to these issues, a referral process for the class of 2012 will be determined later. UCOP will send information to staff when it is available.

Q. Will students still receive a letter between the junior and senior year letting them know they are eligible in the local context (ELC)?

A. ELC determination will no longer be conducted in the summer between the junior and senior year. Student records will be evaluated for ELC as part of the application process.

However, high schools will still send UC the names of their top high school students in the summer after the 11th grade. These students will receive a letter in the early fall saying that they have been identified as among the top students in the high school and encouraging them to apply to UC.

Q. What are the key messages that UC admissions would like us to convey to parents and students about the new policy?

A. Prepare for college by earning good grades in challenging coursework.

Apply!

Q. Where can I go for additional information?

A. www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/