

Doorways a-g Course List Accuracy/Adjustment Plan: A Summary

Updated: April 2008

“Doorways” is a very large database that houses district, school and course information for every high school in California. As can be expected in any database with almost two million records, improving accuracy is a continuous process. We take this process very seriously and have undertaken a number of initiatives over the past few years that have had a great impact on accuracy. Some changes are based on clarifications or changes of policy; others are a result of review and data entry mistakes over the years. A detailed plan is in place to continue to make necessary adjustments.

Information about changes that might affect students’ application to the University have been communicated through the Counselor Conferences, the annual November letter requesting schools to update their a-g course lists, UC Notes newsletter, UC-hosted workshops and presentations, and other communication channels. Below is a summary of both completed and planned enhancements and corrections.

ALREADY COMPLETED	DATE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED	DATE PROJECTED
Courses Approved to Meet the a-g Subject Area Requirements			
A – History / Social Science. The course length/unit value of all government and economics courses has been changed to semester. Economics courses should be submitted in the “g” category, not the “a” category.	July 2003		
B – English. Years ago, the UC faculty clarified that journalism, creative writing, speech & debate, drama and play production courses should not be included in the “b” English area, but rather in the “g” elective or “f” VPA areas, as appropriate. These changes have been completed.	2002-03 cycle		
B – English. UC policy states that approved ESL, ELD, SDAIE and Sheltered English courses should be at the advanced level (CELDT level 4 or 5). Lower level ELD courses that were approved in the past were removed from course lists.	June 2005		
C – Mathematics. A couple of years ago, schools were informed that honors status would be removed from any Algebra II and/or Trigonometry course that had been previously been granted the extra grade point. This shift was made to align with faculty clarification that these courses are not “college level”, a requirement for honors status. These adjustments have been completed.	2002-03 cycle		
D – Laboratory Science. Based on recent UC faculty clarification, earth science, physical science, integrated science 1 and (non-AP) environmental science courses should fall in the “g” elective area rather than the “d” lab science area. This shift was implemented over time so students are not disadvantaged, and completed in August 2005.	August 2005		
E – Language Other than English (LOTE). Policy indicates that only second year (or higher level) LOTE courses can be used to meet the “g” elective requirement. As with lower level math and VPA courses, first year LOTE courses now carry a blue diamond, indicating that they cannot be used as an elective.	June 2003		

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<p>F – Visual & Performing Arts (VPA). UC has implemented a full range of policies and clarifications related to the new VPA requirement, including the addition of the “f – VPA” area on a-g course lists for all California high schools. Thousands of beginning level VPA courses have been approved and added to course lists. Advanced VPA courses previously in the elective area have been moved to the “f” VPA area.</p> <p>Visual & Performing Arts (VPA). The implementation timeline for the new VPA requirement indicates that students entering UC in 2006 are required to take a single full-year course in one discipline of VPA. As such, all semester VPA courses will be removed from the “f – VPA” area, as they do not fulfill the requirement, once fully implemented. Introductory level semester VPA courses will be removed entirely from the a-g course list. Advanced level semester VPA courses will be moved to the “g – elective” area.</p>	<p>January 2003</p> <p>June 2006</p>	F –	
<p>F – Visual & Performing Arts (VPA). A blue diamond was added to all beginning level VPA courses, indicating that these courses cannot be used to meet the “g” elective requirement.</p>	July 2003		
Honors Courses			
<p>Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors. In 2001, UC faculty clarified the UC honors policy. Based on these clarifications, honors status was removed from Algebra II and Trigonometry courses.</p>	2002-03 cycle	<p>AP and IB Course Titles. Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) course titles should reflect those designated by The College Board and the Int’l Baccalaureate Organization, respectively. Schools will be asked to make these title changes.</p>	Ongoing
<p>IB Honors Policy. In June 2003, UC faculty clarified the honors status of IB courses. The IB “program” course list on the Doorways course list web site has been adjusted to reflect these clarifications.</p>	August 2003		
<p>Allowable Honors Courses. UC policy restricts the number of honors courses listed on a school’s a-g course list to no more than one non-AP/IB honors course in each subject (areas a, b, and c) or discipline (areas d, e, and f). If schools’ course lists exceeded the allowable number, they were asked to voluntarily remove excess honors courses in 2004, then, in 2005, UC made remaining adjustments and notified schools.</p>	August 2005		
Course Titles, Transcript Abbreviations and Categories			
		<p>Multiple Course Titles. Prior to recent Doorways enhancements, UC asked schools to list multiple titles of identical courses so that variations would be recognized by application evaluators. With the new “transcript abbreviation” field in Doorways, UC now prefers courses to be listed only once, with multiple transcript abbreviations to reflect varied titles. For example, US History should only be listed once, potentially with several transcript abbreviations for SDAIE, Sheltered, or academy versions. Schools are asked to make these changes.</p>	Ongoing

<p>Categories. UC established "categories" for ELC implementation to further define the a-g requirement satisfied by each a-g approved course. They will also help students more easily determine their UC/CSU eligibility. These categories indicate whether, for example, a history/social science course meets the world history or US history / government requirement. These categories are now listed for each course on every school's a-g course list.</p>	<p>November 2004</p>		
ALREADY COMPLETED	DATE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED	DATE PROJECTED
<p>Categories. UC staff has assigned each a-g approved course a category to the best of its ability. However, there may be corrections that schools would like to request. Examples include: Are VPA courses introductory or advanced? Are SDAIE/Sheltered English courses correctly listed in the English category (rather than English ESL/ELD) if they exactly follow the regular English curriculum? Is a Spanish for Spanish-Speakers class equivalent to Spanish 1 (LOTE 1 category) or Spanish 2 (LOTE 2)?</p>	<p>May 2005</p>		
<p>Other Adjustments. Other necessary adjustments continue to be identified. For example, recently we found several lower level AVID courses (i.e. not the acceptable Senior Seminar) that were listed on course lists. When adjustments are made, schools are informed.</p>	<p>Completed, but ongoing</p>		
WASC Accreditation			
<p>Provisional Course Lists. In December 2002, the UC faculty approved a policy that requires high schools to be WASC-accredited or a candidate in order to establish an "a-g" course list. Associated changes have been completed, including making a-g lists of non-accredited schools "provisional".</p>	<p>February 2003</p>	<p>Non-WASC-Accredited Schools. Remove from the Doorways database any course list for schools that do not become WASC-accredited or a candidate by June 2006.</p>	<p>June 2006</p>