

TRANSFER ESSENTIALS:

MINIMUM UC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENTS

**Prepared for
University of California
Ensuring Transfer Success, Spring 2004**

The University of California's minimum admission requirements for transfer students are designed to provide them with the academic preparation they will need to be successful at UC. The requirements emphasize preparation in English composition and mathematics, and help students pursue a coherent course pattern in anticipation of the upper division work they will encounter at the University.

THE BASICS

Most students from California community colleges make themselves eligible for UC by completing the transfer requirements described below. For additional information on minimum eligibility requirements and for information on students who are UC eligible out of high school, consult the 2004-2005 *Answers for Transfers*, page 5.

Most transfer students must:

- A. Complete 60 semester or 90 quarter units of transferable college coursework with a grade point average of at least 2.40, **and**
- B. Complete a course pattern requirement (with at least a "C" grade in each course) to include:
 1. Two transferable college courses (3 semester or 4-5 quarter units each) in English composition; **and**
 2. One transferable college course (3 semester or 4-5 quarter units) in Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning; **and**
 3. Four transferable college courses (3 semester or 4-5 quarter units each) chosen from **at least two** of the following subject areas: Arts and Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; or Physical and Biological Sciences.

Q&A

1. *If a student completes the courses above, will he or she be able to attend any UC campus?*

Unfortunately, no. Some campuses and/or majors receive applications from many more students than can be accommodated. *This means that the most competitive students are selected for admission among those that have applied.* Students make themselves more competitive by completing courses and earning grades in excess of the minimum requirements listed above, such as specific pre-major preparation courses suggested by the campus and/or the major.

2. *But what about the University's commitment to accommodate all students who meet minimum UC-eligibility requirements?*

Mindful of its mission as a public institution, the University has had an historic commitment to finding a place within the University for all UC-eligible applicants who apply on time (during the November filing period) and are California residents. But given that there are not enough places for all applicants at some campuses and in some majors, many students cannot be accommodated at their first choice campus or major. Given the severity of recent state budget cuts—and the lack of state funding for enrollment growth in 2004-2005—the University may no longer be able to promise admission to all UC-eligible applicants who may not have been selected for admission at the UC campus(es) to which they applied.

3. *Where can I find information about which community college courses transfer to the University of California and satisfy UC transfer course requirements for admission?*

Information is available at <http://www.ASSIST.org>.

- The UC Transferable Course Agreements (TCAs) for 1996-97 and thereafter identify community college courses that transfer to the University of California and contain a column that specifies how a community college's courses apply to the UC transfer requirement areas. Courses that will satisfy one or more requirements are marked as follows: "UC-E" for the English Composition requirement; "UC-M" for the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement; "UC-H" for Arts & Humanities; "UC-B" for Behavioral and Social Sciences; and "UC-S" for Biological and Physical Sciences.
- Students may also use appropriate, transferable courses on a community college's IGETC list to satisfy UC transfer requirement areas. For example, courses listed in IGETC Area 1A and 1B may be used to satisfy the English Composition requirement; IGETC Area 2 courses can be used to satisfy the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement; IGETC Area 3 may be used for Arts and Humanities; IGETC Area 4 for Social and Behavioral Sciences; and IGETC Area 5 for Physical and Biological Sciences. This information can also be found on a community college's TCA. Note that a community college's IGETC list may not include all possible courses available to satisfy UC admission requirements; check the UC TCA for a complete listing.

4. *What type of English courses will satisfy the English Composition requirement? May courses in "critical thinking" be used? May courses in "oral communication" be used?*

This requirement is concerned with strengthening the writing skills of students; thus, courses in English **composition** are required. Two transferable college courses are required and students must complete each course with at least a "C" grade. ***UC faculty intends that courses used to satisfy this requirement include substantial instruction and practice in writing.***

Courses in "critical thinking" are acceptable only if they are listed on a community college's IGETC course list under "English Communication: Group B (Critical Thinking)." These courses have been reviewed by UC faculty and were determined to have sufficient practice in writing to satisfy this requirement. These courses will also carry the "UC-E" designation on the UC Transfer Course Agreement. No courses in "oral communication" are acceptable to meet this requirement (whether listed on a college's IGETC list or not).

5. Do engineering applicants have to complete two transferable English composition courses to establish minimum UC eligibility?

Yes. All transfer applicants, including applicants to engineering majors, must complete two transferable English courses if they were not eligible for admission to the University when they graduated from high school because they did not meet the Scholarship Requirement. Each English composition course must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

6. What type of math courses will satisfy the “Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning” requirement?

The requirement calls for completion of one transferable college course with a grade of “C” or better. The course must have as a prerequisite, and employ the topics of intermediate algebra, as found in courses such as finite mathematics, college algebra, pre-calculus, and higher level mathematics.

7. Can a statistics course be used to satisfy the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement?

Transferable statistics courses may satisfy this requirement provided the course has intermediate algebra as a prerequisite and includes a description and analysis of data using mathematical techniques, primarily algebraic methods. Topics covered should include population distribution, probability, and tests of hypotheses, significance, and correlation. The primary focus of such courses should be the acquisition and understanding of statistical concepts, with some provision for the application of such concepts.

8. If a math course meets IGETC Area 2A, does it also have to be listed on the Transferable Course Agreement (TCA) as “UC-M?”

No; as noted in Question 3 a course approved for IGETC Area 2A may also be used to satisfy a “UC-M” requirement. Most courses that meet IGETC Area 2A will also be listed as UC-M. Unfortunately, a few IGETC Area 2A courses are currently listed as only satisfying Area 2A. A project is underway to resolve this discrepancy on the UC Transfer Course Agreements, but be assured that these courses still meet the subject requirement in Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning.

9. Can non-transferable math courses be used to satisfy the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement?

No. Non-transferable math courses, such as trigonometry, may not be used to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

10. Must courses used for UC’s 7-course minimum admission requirement pattern appear on IGETC or campus breadth/GE lists?

Courses do not have to be on a community college’s IGETC list or a UC campus’ breadth/GE list in order to satisfy UC minimum admission requirements for transfer students. Nevertheless, there will be a degree of overlap between acceptable courses for the transfer requirements and IGETC. UC faculty have agreed to accept all courses on a community college’s IGETC list as appropriate for the course pattern under these transfer requirements. This means, for example,

that courses listed under IGETC “Arts and Humanities” (IGETC Area 3) will apply toward “Arts and Humanities” under the transfer requirements, and so on.

11. Can courses used to satisfy IGETC requirements also be used to satisfy the UC course pattern for transfer admission?

Yes, if the course is used in the correct category. As indicated above, there will be some overlap between courses used to satisfy IGETC and the course pattern for the transfer requirements. Thus, a student could use courses to satisfy both requirements. It is important to remember, however, that IGETC *is not* an admissions requirement. A student does not have to complete IGETC in order to be eligible to attend the University.

12. What minimum grade must a student earn to satisfy the English composition requirement and the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement? What grade must the student earn for the four-course pattern?

All courses taken to satisfy these transfer requirements must be completed with at least a “C” grade. Note: Students must earn at least a 2.40 overall GPA to be **minimally eligible** to transfer to the University. Moreover, a much higher GPA is often required to enter more selective campuses or majors.

13. Can Advanced Placement (AP) credit be used to satisfy portions of the UC transfer requirements?

AP credit may be used by students to satisfy portions of the minimum UC admission requirements. One AP examination (with a score of 3, 4, or 5) may be used to satisfy **one** course requirement. For example, a score of 3 or better on one or both of the AP mathematics examinations will satisfy the Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning requirement. A score of 3 or better on one or both of the AP English exams will satisfy only one of the two courses needed for the English Composition requirement.

Students should be aware that UC limitations apply and students who elect to enroll in courses for which they have already received AP credit will not receive unit or grade credit. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations will receive credit toward graduation or credit toward general education or breadth requirements at UC. For additional information, consult the 2004-2005 *Quick Reference for Counselors*, page 40.

14. If students met the Scholarship and Examination Requirements but did not satisfy the Subject Requirement based on their high school record, can they become UC eligible by completing the basic minimum admission requirement and 60 semester (90 quarter) units with a 2.40 GPA?

Students may become eligible by completing the UC’s 7-course minimum admission requirements with at least a “C” grade in each course and 60 semester or 90 quarter transferable units with a 2.40 GPA in all transferable course work **regardless of the high school record**.

15. When must a transfer applicant complete the English and math requirements if they are planning to enroll in the fall?

Regardless of campus-specific deadlines for completion of the English and math requirements, students should be encouraged to complete English and math as early as possible in their college

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careers, given the importance of these courses in shaping a student's overall academic performance both at community college and the University.

All campuses (except one) **require** that students complete English composition and math by the end of the spring term prior to their planned enrollment in the fall. The one exception, UC Riverside, allows these courses to be completed in the summer prior to a student's enrollment in the fall, but prefers that students complete them by the end of the spring term.

Requiring students to complete the English and math requirements in spring helps avoid a situation in which a student's admission is canceled because a course was not completed during the summer. In previous years, when some campuses allowed students to complete these courses in the summer, the University was forced to cancel offers of admission for a number of students because appropriate courses were not offered in the summer or the student did not earn the necessary grades. The University wishes to minimize such action whenever possible.

Refer to the ETS *Transfer Q&A* for a quick-reference chart outlining when a student must complete the math and English courses required to be eligible for admission to the University.

16. What resources are available to provide more in-depth information about UC admissions and campus selection guidelines?

There are many resources available to provide you with more in-depth information. The University provides a comprehensive information center at their Web site www.universityofcalifornia.edu. As well <http://www.assist.org> and campus-specific Web sites are excellent sources of information. UC publications include *Answers for Transfers*, *Quick Reference for Counselors*, *Application for Undergraduate Admission and Scholarships*, *Introducing the University* and *UC Notes*. Campus-specific publications and catalogs are also excellent resources.