

# FRESHMAN ADMISSION

## Principal certification

Principal certification is a process by which a student's current high school can review coursework completed through a U.S. institution, organization or program without an A-G course list. Such courses might be acceptable for meeting A-G subject requirements and could include courses from:

- Non-accredited high schools
- Online course publishers
- Accredited high schools in California that have not yet established an A-G course list
- University extension/continuing education programs
- Language schools
- Foreign exchange programs

In order for a course completed at any of the above types of institutions, organizations or programs to be accepted by UC, the principal of the student's current/home high school must certify that the course is comparable to other college-preparatory courses offered at the high school. Further, UC faculty expects that such "certification" follows a careful review of the course curriculum and/or testing of ability level by the principal, department chair, district curriculum director or other qualified school/district personnel. The principal designates certification by granting permission for the course to be listed on the student's official transcript, along with credits granted and letter grades earned.

## Pass-along credit

UC will accept completion of non-California U.S. domestic high school-level academic courses to meet any/all of the A-G subject requirements for students who subsequently enroll in and graduate from a California high school. This process is called pass-along credit and is an extension of the principal certification process.

- UC expects that the California high school administrators/faculty will review the content of non-California U.S. high school courses to determine comparability.
- The courses must be recorded on the California high school transcript with course titles, letter (or percentage) grades and unit values.
- The California high school has the choice of recording the non-California U.S. domestic high school courses as they appear on the out-of-state transcript or reporting the courses as approved courses on the current/home high school's UC A-G course list.
- Students who accept an offer of admission to a UC campus are not required to submit an official transcript from the non-California U.S. domestic high school if the courses appear on the official transcript of the California high school from which the student will graduate.

- Pass-along credit is not allowed for **California** high school courses that have not been A-G approved.
- Pass-along credit is not allowed for international coursework.

## Seventh and eighth-grade courses

Courses in mathematics and languages other than English completed in the seventh and eighth grades with grades of C or better may be counted toward the subject requirements. Typically, middle school coursework is validated by higher-level coursework completed in high school.

## Honors-level high school courses

To encourage students to undertake more challenging work at the advanced secondary level, we assign extra weight to grades received in honors-level high school courses. We use a very specific and narrow definition of honors-level work (see A-G Policy Resource Guide: [hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/update-your-a-g-list/writing-a-g-courses/](https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide/update-your-a-g-list/writing-a-g-courses/)). Designated AP and IB courses and transferable college courses are considered honors. In addition, California and online high school courses on A-G course lists that meet the honors criteria can also receive honors approval. UC does not approve ninth-grade courses or courses from non-California secondary/high schools as honors.

## College courses

High school students may choose to complete courses with a letter grade of C or better offered by U.S. regionally accredited colleges/universities. Each course must be at least 3 semester/4 quarter units in value. Courses may be completed in person or online.

In general, one semester of a college-level course equates to one year of high school instruction. In the UC freshman admission GPA calculation, however, one college course = one grade = one honors point (within the maximum honors point limitation).

For languages other than English, in most cases, one semester of a college-level course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction although there are some exceptions. To see a California community college course's equivalency to a high school course, check ASSIST ([assist.org](https://assist.org)):

- Under "Search below for transferable courses," select a college then "UC Transferable Courses."
- Select the department, identify the course number and look for the footnote indicating the course is equivalent to two years of high school instruction.

## Sheltered/SDAIE courses

Sheltered/SDAIE (Specially Designated Academic Instruction in English) courses may be used to meet A-G requirements; these phrases simply refer to particular instructional methodologies used throughout the course. Acceptable sheltered/SDAIE courses must be equivalent in content and skills development to comparable courses taught in the same subject area. For example,