

A-G Requirements

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College Preparation Check Lists

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What are the "a-g" requirements?

The A-G courses are a series of 15 units that need to be taken in a specific order in high school to be eligible for admission to UCs and CSUs (a unit is equal to one academic year or two semesters of a class).

"A-G" Subjects that prepare you for college

Years required

A. History/Social Science:

U.S. History, U.S. Government, Civics, World History, Cultures and Geography

Two (2) years, 1 year U.S. History or 1/2 year of U.S. History and 1/2 year of U.S. Civics or American Government; and 1 year of World History, Culture, and Geography

B. English

Four (4) years of college-preparatory English composition and literature

C. Mathematics:

Algebra, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, or higher level mathematics

Three (3) years required

Four (4) years recommended

Algebra in the 8th grade recommended

D. Laboratory Science

Three (3) years required (two of the following:
Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or other approved college-
preparatory science)

E. Language other than English

Two (2) years required
Three (3) years recommended
(at least two years of the same language) (American
Sign Language is acceptable)

F. Visual and performing arts: Dance, Drama/Theater,
Music, Visual Art

1 year

G. College-Preparatory Electives

One (1) year of academic courses in addition to "a-f"
courses

Guaranteed UC Admission: Under the Eligibility in the
Local Context (ELC) pathway of the University of
California, the top four percent of students at each
participating California high school are designated UC-
eligible and guaranteed admission to one of UC's eight
general campuses. ([Click here to learn more](#))

Suggested academic plan:

7th and 8th Grades

- Enroll in Algebra I, if available.
- Maintain a GPA of at least 2.5 (C+)
- Complete an Academic Plan with a School Counselor.

9th Grade

- Take the PSAT or ACT-EXPLORE examinations.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA in UC Subject Matter ("a-g")
courses.

- Enroll in an EPC enrichment program such as EAOP, Upward Bound, COSMOS (click here to learn more about EPC programs).

Courses to take:

- Algebra I or Geometry or equivalent;
- English 9 or equivalent; and
- Two or more of the following:
 - Language other than English
 - Laboratory Science;
 - Social Science/ College Prep Elective,

10th Grade

- Take the PSAT or ACT-EXPLORE, and the SAT I and or ACT.
- Take the SAT II examination in at least one subject.
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA in UC Subject Matter ("a-g") courses.
- Participate in an EPC enrichment program

Courses to take:

- Geometry or Algebra II or equivalent;
- English 10 or equivalent;
- Laboratory Science
- Two or more courses in the following areas:
 - Language other than English;
 - Social Science/Social Studies,
 - Visual and Performing Arts, or College Prep Elective.
- Enroll in at least one honors course, AP or IB course, or community college course, if available.

11th Grade

- Take the SAT I /ACT; take the PSAT in October for the National Merit (NMQT) qualification; take the SAT II in at least three subjects.
- Take the SAT II examination in at least one subject.
- Attend college fairs and, if possible, visit colleges and universities
- Maintain a 3.5 GPA in UC Subject Matter ("a-g") courses.

- Participate in an EPC enrichment program

Courses to take:

- Laboratory Science
- Social Science US History
- Language other than English
- English 11 or equivalent.
- Suggestion Math 11
- Enroll in at least two honors courses, AP courses, or community college courses, if available.
- If you have taken an AP course, take and pass the corresponding AP exam with a 3 or better.

12th Grade

- If you are UC eligible, submit a UC application by mail or on line to at least four UC campuses by November 30
- Retake the SAT I /ACT or SAT II exams if necessary no later than December.

Courses to take:

- Pre-Calculus or Calculus, or equivalent
- English 12 or equivalent;
- Laboratory Science;
- Language other than English
- And at least one course in the following areas:
 - Social Science
 - Visual and Performing Arts, or College Prep Elective.
- Enroll in at least two honors course, AP or IB course, or community college course, if available.
- If you have taken an AP course, take and pass the corresponding AP exam with a 3 or better.