
UC's COVID-19 Response: Frequently Asked Questions Explained

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April 16, 2020



HS Webinar Series 2019-20

**There is only one way to avoid criticism:
do nothing,
say nothing,
and be nothing.**

- Aristotle



We know that not everyone agrees with every UC policy - even temporary policies; but, we strive to do what is best for students while upholding UC standards.

We are in a very fluid and volatile time right now, and we won't always have the answers when you want or need them. We will, however, try our best to provide as much information as possible in as many ways possible to all of our constituents. That is the purpose of this webinar today.

UC's response to COVID-19

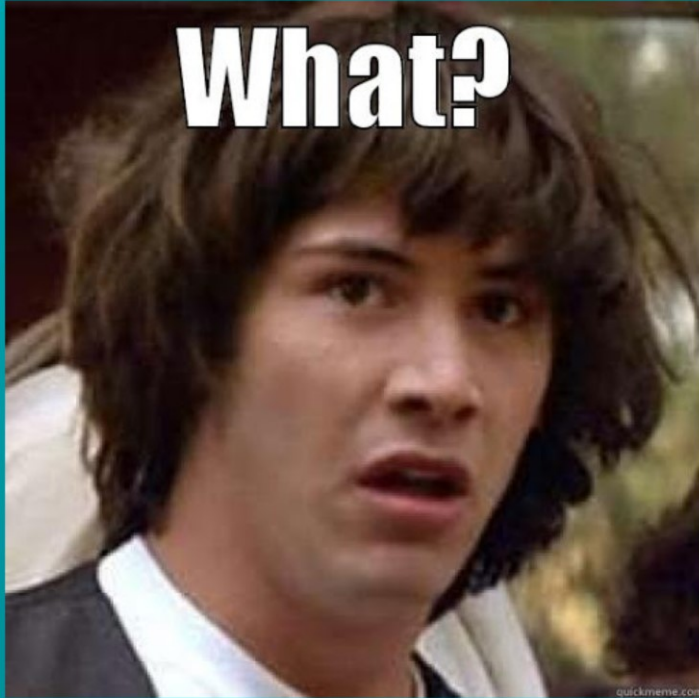
ON MARCH 31, THE UC REGENTS APPROVED:

- A temporary suspension of the letter grade requirement for A-G courses completed in winter/spring/summer 2020.
- A temporary suspension of the standardized test requirement for students applying for fall 2021 freshman admission.
- Student retention of admission status through the first day of class until official documents are received by campuses.

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What?



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Grades & GPA FAQs



FAQ: Letter grade requirement

WILL PASS (P) OR CREDIT (CR) GRADES MEET A-G REQUIREMENTS?

Yes, UC will accept P (CR) grades in A-G courses completed in spring/summer 2020 to meet A-G requirements.

This extends to all students enrolled in high school during the 2019-20 academic year, including current seniors.

CAN A HIGH SCHOOL AWARD P (CR) GRADES FOR SOME COURSES AND LETTER GRADES FOR OTHER COURSES?

UC does not prescribe how individual schools or districts should implement their grading policies. We will honor both P (CR) grades and letter grades in A-G courses completed in spring/summer 2020. Schools can choose to award only P/NP (CR/NC) grades, only letter grades, or a combination of both.

FAQ: Letter grade requirement

DOES SUSPENSION OF THE LETTER GRADE REQUIREMENT MEAN STUDENTS CAN EARN D AND F GRADES TO MEET A-G REQUIREMENTS?

NO! Suspension of the letter grade requirement means that students are not required to take A-G courses for letter grades in spring/summer 2020 (i.e., P or CR grades are allowed).

UC has not suspended the minimum grade required to meet A-G subject areas. If a school awards letter grades in spring/summer 2020, students are still required to earn at least a C- or higher grade in high school coursework (C or higher in college courses) to meet A-G requirements.



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Take-away: UC is not lowering its standards. We still require students to meet the minimum 3.0 GPA (3.4 for non-residents) for admission purposes, and we are not allowing letter grades of D or F to meet any of our requirements.

Current seniors who have been offered admission to a UC campus for fall 2020 are expected to meet their conditions/provisions of admission, including earning C or better grades (or P/CR grades) in their spring coursework.

FAQ: Pass (Credit) equivalent grades

MUST A PASS (P) OR CREDIT (CR) GRADE BE EQUIVALENT TO A SPECIFIC LETTER GRADE?

Because this is a temporary policy covering only spring/summer 2020, UC expects *and assumes* that P (CR) grades in high school coursework represent achievement at the C- or higher level.

College grades of P (CR) must be equivalent to at least a C (2.0) or higher grade to meet A-G requirements.



We are not asking for high schools to specify on their transcript what the P (CR) grade signifies.

FAQ: GPA calculation

WILL PASS (CREDIT) GRADES BE USED IN THE GPA CALCULATION?

A GPA requires grades points. The Pass and Credit grades have no grade points associated with them, so they cannot be included in the GPA calculation.

WILL UC-APPROVED HONORS, AP, AND IB COURSES EARN THE GPA BUMP WITH P (CR) GRADES?

UC cannot award an extra point in the GPA for Pass or Credit grades because those grades are not included in the GPA calculation. Only the semester of the course that has a letter grade will receive the bump – for grades of C- or better.

UC will, however, continue to count honors/AP/IB courses in the honors tallies if the student earns a P (CR) grade for the semester. This ensures that students are still recognized for completing advanced coursework even if the grade is not part of the GPA.



Typical GPA grade points:

A = 4 grade points

B = 3 grade points

C = 2 grade points

D = 1 grade point

F = 0 grade points

Number of A-G courses and number of honors/AP/IB courses is one of the academic factors considered under Comprehensive Review.

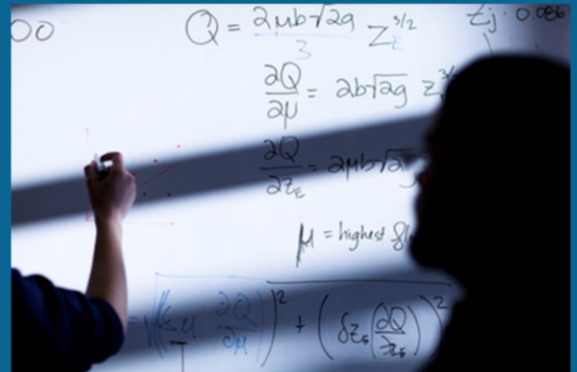
FAQ: Validation

WILL P (CR) GRADES IN SPRING 2020 VALIDATE SUBJECT DEFICIENCIES OR SUBJECT OMISSIONS?

UC only allows validation for Math and Language other than English (LOTE).

Because UC assumes a P (CR) grade is equivalent to a C- or better, a P (CR) grade in a higher-level math or LOTE course earned in spring/summer 2020 will validate D/F grades in lower-level math (including Geometry) or LOTE courses.

The P (CR) grade will also validate the omission of lower-levels of math (**excluding** Geometry) or LOTE.



FAQ: P/NP vs. letter grades for selection

WILL STUDENTS WHOSE HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS P/NP (CR/NC) GRADES IN SPRING 2020 BE AT A DISADVANTAGE IN THE ADMISSION SELECTION PROCESS COMPARED TO STUDENTS AT A SCHOOL THAT ASSIGNS LETTER GRADES?

Comprehensive Review allows campuses to review students within the context of the opportunities – including grading opportunities – that were available to them. Students from one high school are not compared to students from another high school because the educational opportunities could be (and often are) vastly different.

Testing FAQs



FAQ: SAT/ACT requirement

IS UC ELIMINATING THE SAT/ACT REQUIREMENT?

UC has *temporarily* suspended the standardized test requirement for current juniors planning to apply for admission to fall 2021.

This is not an admissions policy shift but simply a temporary accommodation driven by current extraordinary circumstances.

WILL SAT/ACT SCORES BE CONSIDERED IF STUDENTS SUBMIT THEM?

Campuses will review and consider every piece of information shared via the UC application. Under our Comprehensive Review policy, test scores do not form the basis of an admission decision, but test scores can be considered as an additional piece of value-added information.

Test scores can be used to determine statewide UC eligibility, application for certain scholarships, and may help fulfill some University graduation requirements after enrollment at UC.

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This temporary measure only pertains to students graduating from high school in 2021. Students who are graduating in 2020 and planning to take a gap year are still expected to have completed the SAT/ACT testing requirement before graduating from high school.

The Board of Regents is expected to vote on the use of standardized tests in admission at their May meeting. For reference, the Standardized Testing Task Force recommended that UC continue using SAT/ACT scores in admissions.

FAQ: AP, IB, A-level exams

HOW WILL UC AWARD CREDIT FOR AP EXAMS AND IB AND A-LEVEL SUBJECTS?

UC will continue to award credit consistent with previous years for 2020 AP exams completed with score of 3, 4, or 5.

UC will also continue to award credit for designated IB subjects passed with score of 5, 6, or 7, as well as extra units for the IB Diploma completed with 30 points or more.

Finally, UC will continue to award credit for designated GCE A-level subjects passed with grades of A, B, or C.



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- The College Board has modified the AP exams for 2020; exams will be online, will be 45 minutes in length, and will cover only content that most schools likely would have covered through early March.
- IBO has cancelled all spring 2020 IB exams around the world, but they are implementing external assessment measures to award scores consistent with the scores typically awarded for their exams.
- GCE A-levels are completed by students following a British system of education. Since all GCE A-level exams have been cancelled for spring 2020, the various examination authorities are implementing various assessment procedures to award grades comparable to those awarded for their exams.
- Note: UC does not award credit for the Pearson International A-level exams (IALs).

FAQ: English proficiency

ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STILL REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IF THE TOEFL EXAM IS CANCELLED?

Any student who will complete 3 or fewer years in a U.S. high school is expected to demonstrate English proficiency. This can be done in multiple ways:

- Earning minimum scores on specific sections of the SAT or ACT exams;
- Earning passing scores on AP or IB English exams
- Earning minimum scores on the IELTS or TOEFL exams

The TOEFL iBT Special Home Edition test was created in response to COVID-19 test cancellations. UC will monitor availability of this test and provide additional guidance for prospective students if there is a lack of testing opportunities.



Score 24 or higher for the ACT combined English/Writing or English Language Arts (ELA)

Score 31 or higher on Writing and Language in the SAT

Score 3, 4 or 5 on the AP examination in English Language and Composition, or English Literature and Composition

Score 6 or 7 on the IB Standard Level examination in English: Literature, or Language and Literature

Score 5, 6 or 7 on the IB Higher Level examination in English: Literature, or Language and Literature

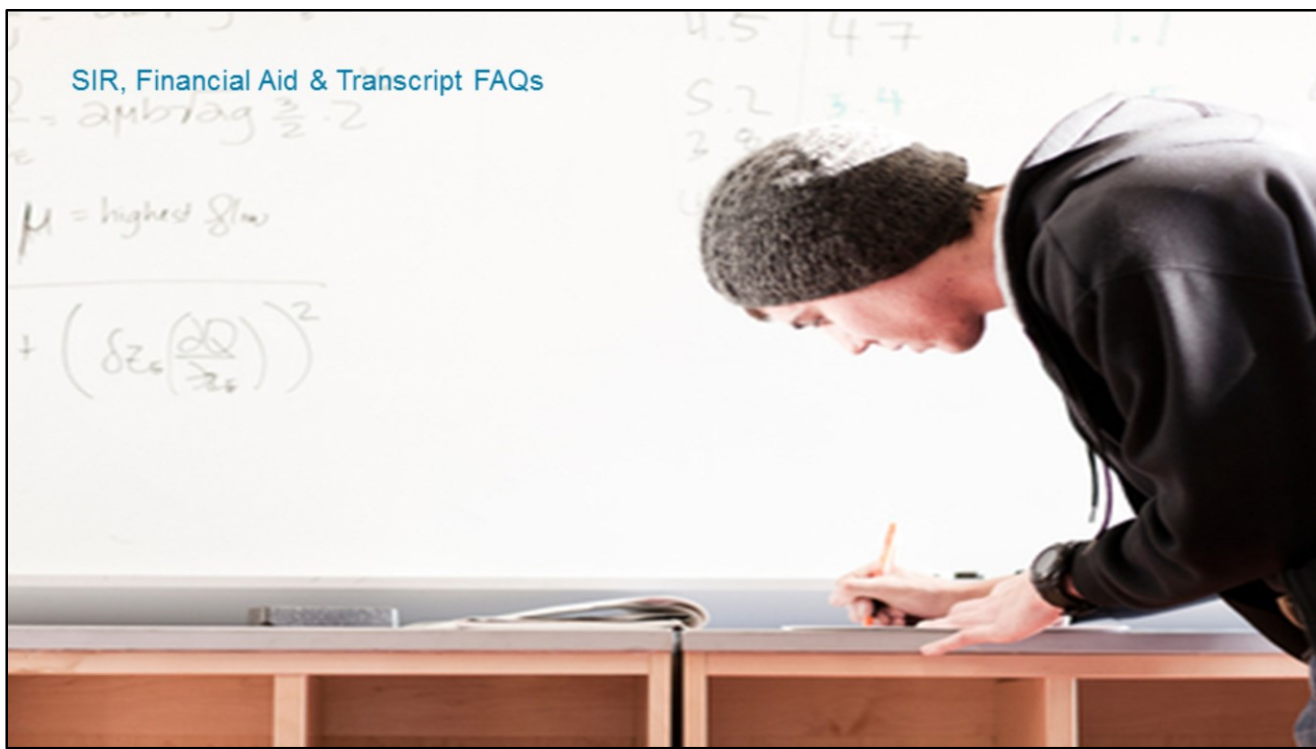
Score 6.5 or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination:

Internet-based test (iBT): Minimum score of 80 or better

Paper-delivered test: Minimum score of 60 or better

SIR, Financial Aid & Transcript FAQs



FAQ: Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) & deposits

WILL UC EXTEND THE MAY 1 SIR DEADLINE?

The May 1 SIR deadline has not been extended.

Students who need additional time must contact the campus directly. Requests for extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis providing maximum flexibility to students.

WILL UC WAIVE THE SIR DEPOSIT?

All students who received an application fee waiver will automatically have their deposit deferred until the fall.

Students who did not qualify for an application fee waiver but who now need a deferral of their deposit must make the request directly to the campus. Each campus will exercise maximum flexibility when considering such requests.

All deposits are applied toward fall tuition.

FAQ: Financial aid

CAN A STUDENT WHOSE FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS CHANGED HAVE THEIR FINANCIAL AID AWARD RE-EVALUATED?

If the financial situation has changed since the student submitted the FAFSA, the student may qualify for additional assistance.

Students are encouraged to visit the campus financial aid office website, which usually has a financial aid calculator that can help a student determine whether recent changes to income could increase a financial aid package.

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Net Price Calculator

Welcome to the NetPrice Calculator!

The NetPrice Calculator provides an estimated Financial Aid Award Letter for prospective students. The estimated values produced by this tool are **not** the actual amounts that will be offered in your final Financial Aid Award Letter. All estimated values are **subject to the availability of funding**. To begin the actual Financial Aid application process, complete a [FAFSA](#) or the [Dream Application](#) (requires [AB 540](#) eligibility).

This calculator only produces **estimated values** based on the information you provide. If you provide incorrect information, the resulting estimated values may differ significantly from your final Financial Aid award letter. Furthermore, your final Financial Aid award letter can be affected by a number of factors:

- The **number of units** you complete during an academic quarter
- **Private scholarships** from external agencies
- **Specific requirements** to each type of aid

This tool is only intended for **full-time, undergraduate students**. Graduate students should contact the Financial Aid office or their department directly for more information.

Please choose either the **Dependent** or **Independent** calculator to continue:

Dependent Calculator

I am **less** than 24 years old

Independent Calculator

I am **at least** 24 years old

Students who are less than 24 years old may still qualify for Independent status. For more information, [view the Dependency Status criteria](#).

FAQ: Transcript deadline

HAS THE JULY 1 TRANSCRIPT DEADLINE BEEN EXTENDED?

While the July 1 transcript deadline has not been extended, high schools may request an extension if their transcripts will not be available by the deadline.

To request an extension, please send an email to AskUC@ucop.edu with the following information: school name, CEEB code, date when transcripts will be available.

Students will retain their admission status through the first day of class until official documents are received.

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FAQ: Transcripts

WHAT IS THE PREFERRED METHOD FOR SUBMITTING OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS TO THE CAMPUSES?

All campuses except UC Davis accept – and prefer – electronic transcripts sent by an approved e-transcript provider.

UC is currently discussing alternative methods of submitting transcripts for those high schools who cannot submit e-transcripts, as well as for transcripts that must be sent to UC Davis.

We hope to provide additional guidance in the coming weeks.

Miscellaneous FAQs



FAQ: Admission decisions

CAN AN ADMITTED STUDENT DEFER THEIR ADMISSION FOR REASONS RELATED TO COVID-19?

Each campus has its own procedure for considering and approval deferral requests. Students should contact the campus admissions office for further information and instructions. Campuses will consider each request on a case-by-case basis, exercising as much flexibility as possible.

IN LIGHT OF THE TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS TO ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, WILL CAMPUSES RECONSIDER APPLICANTS WHO WERE NOT OFFERED ADMISSION?

Current changes to UC admission criteria do not alter fall 2020 freshman admission decisions. Most campuses completed their admission reviews in February or early March, considering information presented in the application as of November 2019.

FAQ: Articulation

OUR SCHOOL HAS TRANSITIONED TO ONLINE INSTRUCTION. WILL OUR A-G COURSES STILL BE UC-APPROVED IN THIS FORMAT?

If your school has transitioned to online instruction as a temporary measure due to public health precautions related to COVID-19, this situation DOES NOT require you to re-submit your A-G course descriptions. No action is needed, and in no way does this affect the status of your A-G approved courses.



FAQ: Homeschool & Admission by Exam

IS THERE A WAY FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS TO MEET ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT TEST SCORES?

The temporary adjustments to admission requirements are valid for homeschool students who are working with their local high school to complete an approved curriculum and earn a high school diploma. This means the student can meet requirements with P (CR) grades in spring and without SAT/ACT exams (if applying for fall 2021 admission).

Students not homeschooling through the local high school typically gain admission to UC via Admission by Exam or Admission by Exception. These will continue to be the paths to admission for this population of students, but campuses will take into consideration the various test cancellations which may have impacted a student's ability to qualify for Admission by Exam.

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This is also true for any other student who had planned to meet requirements via Admission by Exam. It's important to remember, however, that students who qualify for Admission by Exam are not guaranteed a spot at UC. We encourage these students, including the homeschool students, to utilize the Additional Comments sections of the application to explain why they were unable to meet minimum requirements.

Resources

UC's COVID-19 response & FAQs website

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html>

UCOP Counselors' website

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/>

Counselors & Advisers Bulletin

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/resources/counselors-advisers-bulletin/>

AskUC@ucop.edu

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