



A Parents Guide To...



The A-G / College Entrance Requirements

The A-G / College Entrance Requirements are a sequence of high school courses that students must complete (*with a grade of C or better*) to be minimally eligible for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). They represent the basic level of academic preparation that high school students should achieve to undertake university work.

The following chart summarizes the A-G / College Entrance Requirements:

	Subject	Years	Details
(A)	History/Social Science	2	Two years, including one year of world history, cultures, and historical geography <i>and</i> one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.
(B)	English	4	Four years of college preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. Only one year of English Language Development (ELD) 4 counts toward this requirement.
(C)	Mathematics	3	Three years of college preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra, and two- and three-dimensional geometry.
(D)	Laboratory Science	2	Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of these three disciplines: biology, chemistry, and physics.
(E)	Language Other than English	2	Two years of the same language other than English.
(F)	Visual & Performing Arts	1	One year, including dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
(G)	College Preparatory Elective	1	One year (two semesters), chosen from additional "A-F" courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements above, or courses that have been approved solely for use as "G" electives.

Additional Information on the A-G / College Entrance Requirements:

The purposes of the A-G / College Entrance Requirements are to ensure that entering students:

- Can participate fully in the first year program at UC and CSU in a broad variety of fields of study;
- Have attained the necessary preparation for courses, majors, and programs offered at UC and CSU;
- Have attained a body of knowledge that will provide breadth and perspective to new, more advanced studies; and
- Have attained essential critical thinking and study skills.

For further information, please visit the following online resources:

- A-G Course Lists (search by high school) – <https://doorways.ucop.edu/list/>
- California Colleges – <http://www.californiacolleges.edu/>
- University of California A-G Guide – <http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/>

2019-2020 Common App Essay Prompts

By Jen Davis

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The Common Application has announced that the 2019-2020 essay prompts will remain the same as the 2018-2019 essay prompts. Based on extensive counselor feedback, the existing essay prompts provide great flexibility for applicants to tell their unique stories in their own voice. Retaining the essay prompts provides the added benefit of consistency for students, counselors, parents, and members during the admissions process. Plus, with essay prompts remaining the same, students rolling over their existing Common App accounts have more time to plan and prepare their applications prior to the final year of high school.

Counselors looking to get a head start with application workshops this year can take advantage of Common App Ready, a suite of on-demand resources, training videos, and infosheets, details everything students, counselors, and families need to know about using the Common App. This resource includes details on application creation, detailed descriptions of each section, and submission requirements. The tool also includes Spanish language resources.

2019-20 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

During the 2018-2019 application year, the most popular topic of choice was: "Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design." (24.1%). The next most popular topics were: "Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others." (23.7%), followed by "The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?" (21.1%).

"The prompts as they exist today offer a broad range of approaches, accommodating students with a diverse set of experiences and ideas about the world to respond in a thoughtful and illuminating manner," said Ian Watson, Associate Director of College Counseling at The Rivers School (Weston, MA).

UC admits all-time highest number of transfer students for 2018-19 academic year

The UC released admission data for the 2018–19 admissions cycle, reflecting all-time record numbers of transfer and California resident admissions.

Of the 137,000 students offered a spot at the nine undergraduate UC campuses, 28,750 were transfer applicants — an overwhelming majority of whom were from California community colleges. As per the UC's goal of enrolling one transfer student per two freshmen, transfer student admission increased by 8 percent this year.

“After reviewing yet another record-breaking number of applications, our campuses have offered admission to an exceptionally talented group of students for the upcoming academic year,” said UC President Janet Napolitano in a press release.

This year, 89,616 students applied for freshman admission to UC Berkeley — another record high — of whom 13,561 were offered seats for the 2018–19 academic year, according to a campus press release. Twenty-three percent of the 19,215 transfer applicants were offered admission to UC Berkeley.

Although admission numbers increased systemwide over the past year, UC Berkeley's number of admits decreased by approximately 1,000. According to a UC press release, several other campuses also did not increase admission offers in order to “effectively manage growth.”

For the UC as a whole, 71,086 freshman admits were California residents. Twenty-nine percent of freshmen and 50 percent of transfers admitted to UC Berkeley were first-generation students, while 30 percent of freshmen and 56 percent of transfers came from low-income households.

The number of underrepresented minority applicants admitted remained at 38 percent systemwide, although the percentage increased from 23 percent in 2016 to 26 percent in 2018 for UC Berkeley-specific admits.

Within that category, Black students constituted 4 percent of UC Berkeley's admits, while Latinx students made up 22 percent of campus's admits. Native American and Pacific Islander students each constituted less than 1 percent of the total number of admits at UC Berkeley.

UC Berkeley's number of out-of-state admits decreased this year, although international admits saw a slight increase. The numbers reflect the UC's cap on nonresident enrollment.

According to a campus press release, freshman admits range in age from 13 to 25 years old, while transfer admits range from 15 to 63 years old. The average admitted GPA of freshman applicants was 4.45, and the average ACT score was 31.

“With the benefit of a UC education, these accomplished young people from different backgrounds, with diverse beliefs and aspirations, will make California and the world a better place,” Napolitano said in the press release. “We look forward to having them at the university.”

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Google the following ‘Community college transfer percentages to’ Any school you want to find out. Stanford takes transfers too 😊)

Transfer Percentages to UCLA from community colleges in California

http://www.admission.ucla.edu/Prospect/Adm_tr/Tr_Prof18_CAcc.htm