

"a-g" Courses

A HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

Two units (equivalent to two one-year courses or four semesters) are required. Course work must include:

- World History, Cultures, and Geography—One year, which can be met by a single integrated course or by two one-semester courses; and
- U.S. History/American Government (Civics)—One year of U.S. History, or one-half year of U.S. History combined with one-half year of American government (civics)

B ENGLISH

Four units (equivalent to four one-year courses or eight semesters) of college preparatory composition and literature are required. Both reading and writing components must be included in the courses.

- Reading—Acceptable courses must require extensive reading of a variety of literary genres, including classical and/ or contemporary works. Reading assignments must include full-length works. Excerpts from anthologies, articles, etc., can be supplemental but cannot constitute the main component of reading assignments.
- Writing—Courses must also require substantial, recurrent practice in writing extensive, structured papers. Student must demonstrate understanding of rhetorical, grammatical, and syntactical patterns, forms, and structures through responding to texts of varying lengths in unassisted writing assignments.

C MATHEMATICS

Three units (equivalent to three one-year courses) of college preparatory mathematics are required. Four units are strongly recommended.

- Elementary Algebra
- Geometry—Courses must include topics in two- and three-dimensional geometry.
- Advanced Algebra

D LABORATORY SCIENCE

Two units (equivalent to two one-year courses) of laboratory science are required (three units are strongly recommended) by a course that either:

- covers the core concepts in one of the fundamental disciplines of biology, chemistry, or physics; or
- has as a prerequisite of biology, chemistry, or physics, and builds upon that knowledge. Such a course may include elements of another scientific discipline.

E LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Two units (equivalent to two one-year courses) of course work in a single language. Three units are recommended.

Minimum Performance Objectives—Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, and composition. At this level, emphasis should not be on the ability to describe grammatical features of the language. The minimum performance objectives after two years of high school study should be the following:

- The ability to sustain a brief conversation on simple everyday topics demonstrating good use of the whole sound system (good pronunciation), and the basic structural patterns in the present, past, and future tenses, the subjunctive, and commands.

- Summarize orally and in writing, the main points of a relatively simple reading passage not involving specialized vocabulary.

Classical languages (Latin, Greek) and American Sign Language (ASL) are acceptable to fulfill the (e) requirement.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (VPA)

One year-long approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.

- Intent—To provide a meaningful experience and breadth of knowledge of the arts. Approved VPA courses must be directed at acquiring concepts, knowledge, and skills in the arts disciplines.
- Prerequisites—Acceptable courses need NOT have any prerequisite courses.
- Co-Curricular Work—Work outside class must be required: for example, portfolio/performance preparation, reading, writing, research projects, and/or critical listening/viewing.
- Course Standards—Courses should provide students with an experience that implements the intent of the California State Board of Education approved Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Content Standards. Each VPA course shall sufficiently address the state content standards under all five component strands:
 1. Artistic Perception
 2. Creative Expression
 3. Historical and Cultural Context
 4. Aesthetic Valuing
 5. Connection, Relations, and Application

COLLEGE PREPARATORY ELECTIVE COURSES

One unit (equivalent to two semester courses) is required. Course(s) can be taken in grades 9–12 but must fall within the following subject areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory-level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science, and language other than English.

- Intent—To encourage prospective UC students to fill out their high school programs with courses that will meet one or more of a number of objectives:
 - To strengthen general study skills, particularly analytical reading, expository writing, and oral communications;
 - To provide an opportunity to begin work that could lead directly into a major at the university; and
 - To experience new areas of academic disciplines that might form the basis for future major or minor studies at the university.
- Quality—All courses are expected to meet standards of quality similar to those required for the “a–f” requirements.
- Alternatives—Courses such as political science, economics, geography, humanities, psychology, sociology, anthropology, journalism, speech or debate, computer science, computer programming, and others may also qualify. In addition, courses that are interdisciplinary, drawing knowledge from two or more of these fields, are also acceptable. Approved alternative courses must provide academically challenging study at the same level as advanced courses in the “a–f” subject matter fields. These elective courses must be at the eleventh or twelfth grade level, have appropriate prerequisites, and present material at a sufficient depth to allow students to achieve mastery of fundamental knowledge that prepares them for university work or a future career path.

Courses Satisfying the 'g' Requirement

History: Courses should enable students to establish a breadth of understanding of history and should provide an understanding of the human past, including its relation to the present. Courses should develop a student's ability to think critically, to evaluate historical data, and to analyze and synthesize evidence. All history courses should require extensive reading and writing.

Social Science: Courses should be in one of the social sciences: anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, or sociology. Courses could also be interdisciplinary in nature, drawing knowledge from two or more of these fields. Course objectives should include as many of the following as are applicable to the field: (1) an understanding of the development and basic features of major societies and cultures, (2) an examination of the historic and contemporary ideas that have shaped our world, (3) an understanding of the fundamentals of how differing political and economic systems function, (4) an examination of the nature and principles of individual and group behavior, and (5) a study of social science methodologies. A social science course must include a body of basic knowledge, extensive reading, and written and oral exposition. Courses that are designed to meet state-mandated social studies graduation requirements are acceptable provided that they meet the above criteria. Courses with applied, service, or career-related content are acceptable only if those components are used to augment the strong academic content of the course.

English: Courses should require substantial reading with frequent and extensive practice in writing that is carefully evaluated and criticized, as noted in the "b" English requirement (above). Courses in journalism, speech, debate, creative writing, or advanced-level ESL are acceptable electives if they meet the general requirements in reading and writing stated above.

Advanced Mathematics: Courses with second-year algebra as a prerequisite such as trigonometry, linear algebra, pre-calculus (analytic geometry and mathematical analysis), calculus, probability, and statistics are acceptable. A computer science course is acceptable if it fulfills the following objectives: (1) enables students to express algorithms in a standard language; (2) requires students to complete substantial programming projects; and (3) involves the study and mastery of various aspects of computer science (e.g., how computers deal with data and instructions, the internal components of a computer, and the underlying computer logic).

Laboratory Science: Acceptable courses should cover topics from the biological or physical sciences and include laboratory activities. A terminal course designed only to meet graduation requirements is not acceptable.

Language Other Than English: Elective courses in the same language used to satisfy the "e" requirement must have at least two years of the language as a prerequisite. In order for a second language other than English to qualify as an elective, at least two years of this language must be completed.

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA): Advanced courses in the Visual and Performing Arts can meet the "g - Elective" requirement, but must still address the five components of the state VPA standards. Advanced courses should enable students to understand and appreciate artistic expression and, where appropriate, to talk and write with discrimination about the artistic material studied. Courses devoted to artistic performance and developing creative artistic ability, should have prerequisites (either one year of introductory course work or experience approved by the instructor) and should assume proficiency beyond the introductory level. Courses must require on the average the equivalent of a five-period class per week. Work outside of the class must be required (e.g., portfolio/performance preparation, reading, writing, research projects, and critical listening/viewing). Courses that are primarily craft-based (such as mechanical drafting, webpage development, yearbook photography, among others) will not satisfy this requirement.