

**UC's A-G & COMMON CORE | Mathematics Course Sequence Options**  
**High School Articulation, Department of Student Affairs-Undergraduate Admissions**  
**UC Office of the President**

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PDF version available at: <http://www.ucop.edu/agguide/getting-started/announcements/index.html>

The High School Articulation staff in Undergraduate Admissions at the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) reviews high school course descriptions against “a-g” course criteria determined by UC faculty. Those criteria and the goals of the [“a-g” subject requirements](#) for freshman admission to UC are consistent with the goals underlying [California’s Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\)](#).

**Will UC’s mathematics (“c”) subject requirement remain the same under Common Core?**

Yes. To be better academically prepared to attend the University, students must minimally complete the 15 “a-g” course pattern, which includes three foundational years of [mathematics \(“c”\)](#) that address or integrate topics covered in elementary algebra (Algebra I), geometry, and intermediate/advanced algebra (Algebra II).

**What specific transitional mathematics course sequence does UC recommend for students?**

It really depends on the student. If your school/district is planning to transition from the traditional math pathway to an integrated one (or if both options will be offered), students should be directed into the level-appropriate mathematics course that will allow them to master the course content and gain quantitative reasoning skills. Students must still complete a full year of [geometry](#) (or a sequence of courses covering the equivalent of a full year of geometry concepts), and intermediate/advanced algebra or its equivalent (intermediate/advanced algebra will validate elementary algebra – see UC’s [Math Validation Matrix](#) for details).

**Are students required to complete four years of mathematics to gain admission to UC?**

No. UC does not prescribe math coursework beyond elementary algebra, geometry, and intermediate/advanced algebra because the completion of courses covering these single-discipline or integrated topics will satisfy UC’s minimum mathematics (“c”) requirement for admission. Using a comprehensive review process, admissions evaluators look beyond grades and test scores to assess applicants’ academic achievements based on the opportunities available to them and the demonstrated capacity of each student to contribute to the intellectual life of the campus.

UC faculty advise students preparing for college-level studies to continue challenging themselves academically throughout their high school careers. This may translate into students taking advanced math coursework that aligns with the student’s personal interests and intended college major. To be competitive for admission to highly selective programs, such as Engineering, students are encouraged to complete mathematics coursework well beyond advanced algebra. And, while Statistics is excellent preparation for a broad variety of majors, it is not optimal preparation for prospective engineering majors.

### **What mathematics course sequences will UC accept as satisfying the mathematics (“c”) subject requirement?**

With Common Core being implemented statewide starting in the 2014-15 school year, UC recognizes the significant curriculum changes that must be made as high schools develop mathematics transition pathways to meet school- and district-based needs.<sup>1</sup> UC will accept variations in math transition pathways, including, but not limited to, the course sequences described below. These combinations of the traditional pathway and the integrated pathway are not an exhaustive list, but are examples of how students may fully meet the [mathematics \(“c”\)](#) subject requirement for UC admissions:

Algebra I → Geometry → Mathematics III

Algebra I → Mathematics I → Mathematics II → Mathematics III

Mathematics I → Mathematics II → Mathematics III

Mathematics I → Geometry → Algebra II

Mathematics I → Geometry → Mathematics III

Mathematics I → Mathematics II → Algebra II

Geometry → Mathematics II → Mathematics III

Mathematics I → Mathematics II → Advanced Mathematics

Geometry → Mathematics III

Mathematics II → Mathematics III

### **Will schools/districts see an advantage or disadvantage in preparing students for UC admissions based on the mathematics course sequence they implement?**

Students in each school will be evaluated for UC admissions within their local context and based on their completion of all the “a-g” subject requirements. In terms of how students fulfill the mathematics (“c”) requirement specifically, the most important focus is on preparing students to enter college with a strong quantitative reasoning foundation and to demonstrate quality learning in the math courses they complete.

#### ***Learn more from UC about “a-g”:***

As California high schools and UC work together in the transition to Common Core, UCOP High School Articulation will continue communicating upcoming [changes and progress](#) being made with respect to key improvements to the overall “a-g” course review process.

**Articulation questions?** Email [HSUPDATE@ucop.edu](mailto:HSUPDATE@ucop.edu) or refer to the [A-G Guide](#).

**Admissions policy/evaluation questions?** Email [askUC@ucop.edu](mailto:askUC@ucop.edu) or refer to the [University of California Admissions website](#).

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<sup>1</sup>See UC’s Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools’ (BOARS) [Statement on High School Mathematics Curriculum Development under the Common Core State Standards](#).