



Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

**SUCCESS!** Learning Center

*presents*

# THE SPOT

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## **UC Admissions Changes**

### *Students Entering Fall of 2012*

The University of California Board of Regents has adopted a new policy to change freshman admissions requirements to give more high-achieving students the chance to apply to UC and receive a full review of their applications. The new rules will take effect for the fall 2012 entering class.

These changes address concerns that the current policy prevented UC from considering thousands of outstanding students with high GPAs and test scores just because of a technical flaw in their record or a missing test—chiefly, the SAT Subject Tests, which are not required by any other public university in the country.

### ***Policy Highlights***

Under the new policy, all California high school seniors who meet the following criteria will be invited to apply and **will be entitled to a full and comprehensive review** of their applications at each UC campus to which they apply:

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## **Start College Planning**

### **In Middle School**

### *Study Skills and College Prep*

It may seem really early to start learning about admission requirements for the California State University and other colleges, but Middle School is the time to learn some of the basics. Students prepared for University of California and California State University are generally well-prepared for any good college or university anywhere in the United States.

Admission requirements for the California State University are easy to understand. There are three basic admission requirements:

- ❖ Specific high school courses
- ❖ Grades and test scores
- ❖ Graduation from high school

Getting good grades in the right classes is really important. It is important to work hard to earn as many “As” and “Bs” as possible. The UC and CSU will calculate a grade point average from the grades students earn in the required high school subjects.

Students will have the best chance for admission to a good college by working hard in middle school to earn good grades and taking classes that prepare them for the required college preparatory classes in high school.

Working hard to earn good grades in middle school and high school also prepares students for one of the required admission tests, usually either the SAT or ACT, taken in the junior year

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## **Success! Learning Center**

*a non-profit educational and tutoring center*

**Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 3-12**

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- 1) complete 15 UC-required college-preparatory (“a-g”) courses (as they must now), with an additional requirement that 11 of those courses be completed by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade,
- 2) maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better (weighted by honors/AP bonus points) in these courses, and
- 3) take the ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test



Within this “entitled to review pool,” two groups of applicants **will be guaranteed admission somewhere within the UC system:**

- 1) those who fall in the top 9% of all high school graduates statewide, based on the ACT/SAT test scores and GPA in UC-approved courses; and
- 2) those who rank in the top 9% of their own high school graduating class, based on their GPA in UC-approved courses.

Together, these students will make up about 10% of the state’s high school graduates. If not admitted to any campus to which they applied, these students will be referred, as eligible students are currently, to a campus with remaining space and offered admission there. The remaining admissions needed to make up the full 12.5% pool of top students will be drawn from the broader “entitled to review” pool.

All qualified students, whether receiving the referral guarantee or not, will have their applications reviewed comprehensively by all UC campuses to which they apply and will compete for those seats. Their qualifications will be assessed using the same campus-based

review processes already in place—ones that emphasize academic achievement, but that also account for a wide range of personal accomplishments and educational contexts.

Completion of at least the full 15 year-long college-preparatory courses currently required by UC will be expected of all students by the end of their senior year.

**When will the new rules take effect?**

They will take effect for the fall 2012 entering class, meaning the class applying in November 2011 for admission the following year. These students will graduate from high school in 2012.

**How does the new policy differ from eligibility requirements today?**

There are two major differences:

First, today there is no “entitled to review” category. Students either meet the requirements that define UC eligibility and thereby are guaranteed a seat somewhere in the UC system, or they are deemed ineligible. Students currently become eligible if they (a) complete the 15 UC-required college-prep courses, (b) take the ACT with Writing or SAT Reasoning Test, and two SAT Subject Tests, and (c) either meet a GPA/test score index that places them in the top 12.5% of graduating seniors statewide, or rank in the top 4% of their school’s graduating class.

Second, SAT Subject Tests will no longer be required, eliminating a barrier that has made otherwise high-performing students invisible to UC. However, the tests will still be considered as part of the application for any student who chooses to submit such scores, just as AP tests are considered (but not required) now. SAT Subject Tests can also be recommended for applicants to particular majors.

More Information: [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/eligibilitychanges/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/eligibilitychanges/)

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of high school. The scores on one of these tests will be used with the high school grade point average to calculate an Eligibility Index. The Eligibility Index is a simple way for CSU campuses to see if a student has the grades and test scores required for admission. (Follow the URL below for more information on how to calculate your own CSU Eligibility Index.)

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade suggested Courses and Activities**

- ❖ Take pre-algebra or Algebra I and begin study of a language other than English
- ❖ Work towards grades of *A* or *B* in all classes. Doing well in coursework will improve students' chances of getting into the college of their choice.
- ❖ Stay focused on classes and on homework. Keeping up with homework



helps students master the study skills they need to be successful in high school and college.

- ❖ Ask the counselor about taking Explore, an online assessment testing program offered by American College Testing (ACT). See [www.act.org/explore](http://www.act.org/explore) for more information.
- ❖ Visit college campuses. Talk to neighbors, relatives, or friends with students in college to learn about their experiences.

*More information:*

[www.csumentor.edu/planning](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning)

*UC required courses:*

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad\\_adm/paths\\_to\\_adm/freshman/subject\\_reqs.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman/subject_reqs.html)

*CSU required courses:*

[www.csumentor.edu/planning/middle\\_school/subjects.asp](http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/middle_school/subjects.asp)

## LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Cliveden Chew Haas, M.A., the Learning Center Director, is credentialed to teach academic high school subjects. Originally studying science as a pre-med major, she completed degrees in English Literature, with additional training in English as a Second Language and learning disabilities. Cliveden brings extensive experience in various areas of education and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.

Mark Gaare is a credentialed elementary teacher with experience in language arts, math, social studies, science, and other topics. Students enjoy his active and supportive teaching style. He runs the SLC Elementary Room with creativity and lots of energy.

Our teaching aides are extremely successful college and high school students who are also skilled instructors. They enjoy sharing their talents and their knowledge. Daily TAs include:

Maiya Marshall, elementary T.A., holds a B.A. from Brandeis University in sociology. She has also completed a certificate course to teach English as a Second Language.

Siyuan Lu, middle school/high school T.A., is a sophomore at San Jose State University. He is majoring in software engineering with a minor in math.

