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

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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.
What?
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.
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.

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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.
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.
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).
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
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.
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.
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.
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

UCOP Counselors' website
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/

Counselors & Advisers Bulletin
https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/resources/counselors-advisers-bulletin/

AskUC@ucop.edu
THANK YOU