

Advising Students With International Records

Many applicants to the University of California present records from schools in both the United States and other countries. These “mixed” educational histories can be the most challenging to evaluate for admission and possible transfer credit. Each UC campus has international admission specialists who are knowledgeable about the different grading systems and methods of recording coursework from other countries. The international admission specialists are able to provide general information to prospective students; however, they cannot provide formal evaluations for students before they apply. Once a student has been admitted to a campus and has accepted the offer of admission, the campus will complete the formal evaluation.

Counselors with questions about interpreting foreign academic records or advising students about the application should contact a campus international admission specialist or admissions office.

Academic Records

The University requires applicants to submit all college and university records for evaluation, regardless of the length of attendance, whether courses or degrees were completed, or whether the record may affect their chances of admission to the University.

The Academic History section of the application should be completed to reflect academic and performance information as reported on the applicant’s original record. This information should include:

- Names of all schools attended from the ninth grade on, including high school of graduation and all colleges or universities attended;
- All courses completed, in progress and planned; marks or grades received; and credits, units or hours per course;
- An explanation of any gaps in education.

For more information, refer to the instructions in the application and the information on international records at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/educators/counselors/intl.

Applicants also may be asked to submit photocopies of academic records to the campus international admission specialists in addition to completing the Academic History section of the application.

Official records or transcripts will be required if an applicant is admitted. Because of the substantial amount of time it may take to obtain these records, applicants should request them in writing from their previous institutions in advance of a request by the University to provide them.

Certified translations are required for college and university records issued in languages other than English. Translators with knowledge of educational records and terminology should be used. (See “Resources for Evaluating Academic Records From Other Countries,” below.) Secondary-school records generally do not need to be translated unless they are in a language with an alphabet other than the Roman alphabet.

Course descriptions are required in order to determine transfer credit and satisfaction of admission and degree requirements.

Helping Applicants With International Records Prepare for UC

The following are questions that counselors should ask regarding students with international records in order to help clarify their academic history:

Beginning with high school, what is the student’s complete academic history?

What credential(s) does the student hold? How old was he/she when the credential was obtained?

What was the language of instruction, beginning with ninth grade?

What did student study and for how long?

Does student hold a degree or partial university or postsecondary credential from abroad?

What does the student really want to do?

English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants whose native language is not English, and whose high school or college/university education was in a country where the language of instruction was not English, must provide evidence of English proficiency to be successful in university studies.

Various examinations may be used to demonstrate proficiency in English. The minimum accepted score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) varies by campus, ranging from 79 to 83 on the Internet-based test, from 213 to 220 on the computer-based test and 550 on the paper-based test. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination is accepted with a 7 or better band score (academic modules). Specific Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exam scores, as well as writing exam scores from the SAT, are also accepted for English proficiency. (See table and notes below.)

Minimum TOEFL and English Composition Requirements for Demonstrating English Proficiency

| UC Campus | TOEFL Score C=computer-based test P=paper-based test I=Internet-based test | Proficiency test waived with transferable English composition courses (not ESL) in a U.S. college |
|---------------|---|--|
| Berkeley | C: 220; P: 550; I: 83 | 2 courses required with grades of C or higher |
| Davis | C: 213; P: 550; I: 80 | 2 courses required with grades of C or higher |
| Irvine | C: 213; P: 550; I: 80 | 2 courses required with grades of C or higher |
| Los Angeles | C: 220; P: 550; I: 83 | 2 courses required with grades of B or higher |
| Merced | C: 220; P: 550; I: 83 | 2 courses required with grades of B or higher |
| Riverside | C: 213; P: 550; I: 79 | 1 course required with grade of C or higher |
| San Diego | C: 220; P: 550; I: 83 | 2 courses required with grades of B or higher |
| San Francisco | C: 213; P: 550; I: 80 | Visit saawww.ucsf.edu/graduate/prospect.htm#interapp for requirements. |
| Santa Barbara | C: 213; P: 550; I: 79 | 2 courses required with grades of C or higher |
| Santa Cruz | C: 220; P: 550; I: 83 | 2 courses required with grades of B or higher |

Applicants may also demonstrate English proficiency in any of the following ways:

- Score 3, 4 or 5 on the AP examination in English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition;
- Score 5, 6 or 7 on the IB Higher Level Examination in English (Language A);
- Score 6 or higher on the IB Standard Level Examination in English (Language A);

- Score 7 or higher on the IELTS examination (academic modules);
- Score 560 or higher on the SAT Reasoning Test, Writing section.

Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara may require additional English proficiency testing for applicants admitted to their campuses.

Language Proficiency/Language Other Than English

Bilingual freshman applicants with international records can satisfy this requirement by earning a satisfactory test score on the SAT Subject Test, Advanced Placement exam, International Baccalaureate Higher Level exam or University proficiency test. Applicants may also present an official school transcript for the sixth grade or higher, showing completion of two years of formal schooling with grades of C or better in an institution where the language of instruction is other than English, (See the section on Language Other Than English at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/educators/counselors/agr.)

Use of Non-U.S. Coursework for UC Major Preparation

Transfer coursework completed outside the United States will be reviewed by campus departments for satisfaction of prerequisites and major-preparation requirements. Course descriptions are required for the review.

Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)

Coursework completed outside the United States may not be used to satisfy IGETC requirements, with the exception of the Language Other Than English requirement.

The Language Other Than English requirement may be satisfied without further evaluation of courses and grades if secondary/high school was completed in another country where the native language and language of instruction were not English. Students must present appropriate documentation of attendance at non-U.S. secondary/high schools. Applicants may also satisfy the requirement by presenting an official school transcript for the sixth grade or higher, showing completion of two years of that language with grades of C or better, from a school where the language of instruction is other than English.

Applicants with a substantial amount of coursework from another country that may be transferable to the University should consult with a counselor. It may be best for such students to complete campus-specific general education or breadth requirements rather than IGETC.

Language Credit in the Native Language

Applicants whose native language is not English, and who have completed at least nine years of education in that language, will NOT receive lower-division language or literature credit for college or university courses in that language taken in the United States (including AP or IB Higher Level exam credit).

Visas and Finances

Nonimmigrant applicants holding F-1 Student or J-1 Exchange Visitor visas must present verification of financial support for their studies at the University. Costs include nonresident tuition, registration and educational fees, living expenses and health insurance. In general, financial assistance from the University is not available. (See information for international applicants at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/international_app.html.) Information about the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is available on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website at: www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm.

Resources for Evaluating Records From Other Countries

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 520 Tel.: (202) 293-9161
Washington, D.C. 20036 Publications tel.: (301) 490-7651
www.aacrao.org Fax: (202) 872-8857
E-mail: info@aacrao.org
Publications e-mail: pubs@aacrao.org

AACRAO provides reference materials on educational systems of countries and regions (the World Education Series, PIER series, Country Guide series) and workshops and conferences at the regional and national level. The Office of International Education Services provides the Foreign Education Credential Service for the evaluation of academic records.

International Association of Universities—World Higher Education Database

www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases

Arranged alphabetically by country, this website has information for 180 countries. It presents each country's educational system, including levels of education, age of student at each level, name of each credential from elementary through higher education, grading system and contact information for education authorities.

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

1307 New York Avenue, NW, 8th Floor Tel.: (202) 737-3699
Washington, D.C. 20005-4701 Publications tel.: (866) 538-1927
www.nafsa.org Fax: (202) 737-3657
E-mail: inbox@nafsa.org

NAFSA provides reference materials on educational systems (including *A Guide to Educational Systems Around the World and the NAFSA Adviser's Manual of Federal Regulations Affecting Foreign Students and Scholars*) and workshops and conferences at the regional and national level. A bibliography of useful resources is available on the NAFSA website.

Translation Services

Translators with knowledge of educational records and terminology should be used. Resources include the American Translators Association (www.atanet.org) and the Northern California Translators Association (www.ncta.org).

Evaluation Agencies

Evaluation agencies provide an advisory opinion about what an individual's foreign educational background represents in U.S. terms, for purposes such as employment, immigration, professional licensure and further education. Some agencies specialize in evaluations related to employment, while others specialize in academic evaluations.

UC campuses perform their own evaluations and do not accept those performed by evaluation agencies.

Students who want to transfer to other colleges and universities should check with the receiving institutions to find out whether those institutions would accept such an evaluation. The National Association of Credential Evaluations Services (NACES) is a membership organization for credential evaluation services. The NACES website (www.naces.org) lists member evaluation services.

UC Information for Prospective Students From Other Countries

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/international_app.html

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

www.ice.gov/sevis/index.htm