

3. Degree Requirements

University Requirements

- American History and Institutions
- University of California Entry-Level Writing Requirement: English Composition
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- Completion of 180 Credits
- General Education Requirements
- Enrolling in General Education Courses
- Major Requirements
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- Bachelor's Degree Work Sheet

University Requirements

American History and Institutions

Undergraduates are expected to demonstrate a knowledge of American history and institutions. Foreign students with F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas are exempt from this requirement. When ready for announcement of candidacy for graduation, students may verify their exemptions by bringing their passports to the Office of International Education, 205 Classroom Unit. Call 459-3550 or e-mail visa@ucsc.edu for more information.

Alternatives for satisfying the American History and Institutions requirement vary among University of California campuses. If you are planning to transfer to another UC campus, consult the general catalog of that campus for information.

At UCSC you may fulfill this requirement in one of the following ways:

- by achieving a score of 550 or higher on the SAT Subject Test in U.S. History;
- by achieving a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in U.S. History;
- by satisfactorily completing a college-level course in American history and institutions (see the following list and [Credit from Another Institution](#), page 72);
- by certification of completion on the transcript of an accredited California institution of higher education;
- by completing an acceptable high school American history or government course that satisfies the requirements for admission to the university;
- by achieving a score of 5 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in History of the Americas.

The following courses at UCSC satisfy the American History and Institutions requirement:

- American Studies 1, 2, 104A-B
- Education 164
- History 10A, 10B, 115A, 115B, 110A, 110B, 127, 128
- Legal Studies 120A, 120B, 120C
- Politics 20, 104A-B, 120A, 120B, 120C
- Sociology 170, 175

There are no substitutions for this requirement.

University of California Entry-Level Writing Requirement: English Composition

Undergraduates are expected to demonstrate an acceptable level of ability in English composition. UC systemwide regulations require that students satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement by their fourth quarter of enrollment.

Students who do not pass the statewide test administered to high school seniors in May can fulfill the requirement in one of the following ways before entrance to UCSC:

- by achieving a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in English;
- by receiving a grade of C (2.0) or better in an acceptable English composition course taken at another institution; the course must be a transferable college-level course of at least 4 quarter credits or the equivalent (see also [Credit from Another Institution](#), page 72);
- by achieving a score of 5 or higher on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A1);
- by achieving a score of 680 or higher on the SAT Reasoning Test in Writing;
- by achieving a score of 30 or higher on the ACT test in English and writing.

These options do not apply if you are already enrolled at UCSC and have not yet satisfied the Entry-Level Writing Requirement.

Students who have not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement upon entrance should take the Analytical Writing Placement Examination administered during their first orientation period at UCSC. Students who took the exam in May at their high school and did not pass must wait to take the Analytical Writing Placement Examination in November. Once you have enrolled at UCSC, you can satisfy the requirement only by passing the exam or by portfolio assessment in Writing 20 or 21 courses.

If you are a first-year student entering in the fall and do not do well enough on the Analytical Writing Placement Examination to satisfy the University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement, you will be placed in a section of your college core course designed to give you extra help with your writing. If you do not satisfy the requirement then, you should enroll in Writing 20.

If you cannot pass the exam by your fourth quarter, you will be barred from enrolling. If you wish to return to UCSC, you must reapply following normal readmission procedures (see [Readmission](#), page 90).

Students entering in winter who have not satisfied the University of California Entry Level Writing

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Requirement and do not demonstrate writing proficiency on the placement exam must enroll in Writing 20. For more information about the Entry Level Writing Requirement, contact the Writing Program at 459-2431.

Academic Senate regulation 10.5.2 contains the general policy on the requirement.

College Requirements

Your college may expect you to complete certain requirements of its own in addition to the other requirements of the campus. All colleges require first-year students to complete their college's core course. Some colleges have multiple-quarter core courses. Contact your college office for further information.

Completion of 180 Credits

You are expected to satisfy all your requirements for a degree by completing 180 quarter credits within 12 quarters. Some students may require more quarters of enrollment in order to satisfy all requirements for their program of study. It is necessary for you to obtain permission from your college to continue your enrollment at UCSC if you have completed 180 or more credits and have also been enrolled for 13 or more regular quarters, excluding summer sessions at UCSC or elsewhere. Students who take and pass extra credits in no more than 12 quarters will not be penalized. However, you must pass a minimum of 180 credits within 15 quarters (nine UCSC quarters for junior transfer students). For information regarding extending quarters, see [Extension of Enrollment](#), page 57.

UCSC students may complete the last 5 credits toward graduation by means of the Concurrent Enrollment Program through UC Extension. This option is not available if you need more than 5 credits unless the 5-credit course also has a required lab for credit.

There is no waiver of the 180-credit requirement. Academic Senate regulations 10.1.1 and 6.2.4 contain the general policies on completion of 180 credits.

General Education Requirements

Designed to expose students to diverse subject areas, the general education requirements also stress a variety of approaches to acquiring knowledge. A description of the general education requirements and a complete list of current courses that satisfy general education requirements are included in this handbook.

Most current students follow the general education requirements at UCSC, which fall into nine areas and are described below.

Each area has a general education code associated with it, and only those courses carrying that code satisfy the requirement. The codes appear in the course descriptions in the *General Catalog* and in the "Gen Eds" column in each *Schedule of Classes*. Some courses satisfy more than one requirement, so the total number of required courses may be as few as 10 or as many as 15. Courses from the Arts Division of 1, 2, or 3 credits may be combined to satisfy the arts general education requirement if they have the appropriate code and total at least 5 credits.

Transfer credits may satisfy some of the general education requirements. The Admissions Office will evaluate your transfer course work and determine which general education requirements you have satisfied. This information is available online through the [Student Portal](#).

Students who have not decided on a major should take general education courses that will allow them to begin exploring possible majors. Students pursuing certain majors, particularly in the sciences, may need to schedule general education courses around major prerequisites. The writing-intensive course (W code), arts course (A code), and U.S. ethnic minorities/non-Western society course (E code) can be satisfied with many upper- as well as lower-division courses.

If you have consulted with your academic adviser and feel you have an unusually strong case for an exception to a general education requirement, you may obtain a Substitution or Waiver of General Education Requirement form at your college. *Don't wait until the quarter you expect to graduate.* These petitions are carefully screened by the Academic Senate Committee on Educational Policy; specific and rigorous criteria are used. If the petition is approved, your academic record will be changed to reflect the exception. If you have taken a course through UNM, UNH, EAP, or UCDC, or as an ICV, and you think it will satisfy a general education requirement other than the T or W, you may initiate review of the course by completing a Review of Transfer Credit form at the Admissions Office.

Enrolling in General Education Courses

The section of the class you enroll in will satisfy a general education requirement only if the appropriate general education code(s) appears in the "Gen Eds" column of the *Schedule of Classes*. Different sections of the same course may have different codes.

Major Requirements

You are required to complete a major program as described in the *UCSC General Catalog* and as approved by a major adviser. Courses used to satisfy major or minor requirements must be passed with a grade of

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Pass, C, or better. In some majors, courses graded Pass may not be used to satisfy major requirements. As part of your major program, you will be required to complete the senior comprehensive requirement (such as a comprehensive examination, senior thesis, senior seminar[s], or orals) prescribed by your department. See *Declaring Majors and Minors* (page 52) for more information. Contact the sponsoring department for an exception to a major or minor requirement. Minors are optional at UCSC.

Certain majors and programs have specific course series requirements in calculus, physics, and chemistry where series may not be substituted. Refer to the *UCSC General Catalog*, or seek the advice of the appropriate department adviser to understand your options.

Senior Residence Requirement

This requirement is separate from the California residence requirement related to in-state tuition. Every candidate for a bachelor's degree must be registered at UCSC for a minimum of three terms. (A term is a fall, winter, or spring quarter in which a student completes six or more credits. Each UCSC Summer Session in which you complete at least two credits is the equivalent of half a term's residence.) In addition, of the final 45 quarter credits, 35 must be regular courses of instruction that you have taken as a registered student at UCSC. No more than 18 of the 35 credits may be completed in Summer Session. Courses taken through University Extension or the Intercampus Visitor Program do not constitute regular courses and therefore do not satisfy residence requirements.

The credit requirement for residence is applied differently to students participating in the Education Abroad Program (EAP) and the University of California in Washington, D.C. (UCDC) Program. Students may satisfy the requirement in either of two ways. The first way is for students to complete 35 of their final 45 credits before leaving the Santa Cruz campus to participate in EAP or UCDC. In this scenario, students do not have to return to Santa Cruz for any additional course work after they have finished EAP or UCDC. The second way to fulfill the residence requirement is for students to complete 35 of their last 90 credits at the Santa Cruz campus with a minimum of 12 credits completed at UCSC after their return from EAP or UCDC.

Academic Senate regulation 10.1.3 contains the general policy on residency requirements.

