

Fall 2025

This guide is an abbreviated list of required and recommended major preparation courses. Required courses must be completed by the end of spring before you transfer and will affect your chances of admission. Recommended courses are strongly recommended before transferring. Taking all of the recommended courses before you transfer will prepare you to begin upper-division coursework at UCSB and make timely progress towards your degree.

This is not a comprehensive list of all major preparation courses recommended for each major. California community college (CCC) students should refer to the major articulation agreements on [assist.org](https://www.assist.org) for a complete listing of CCC courses that will satisfy these requirements and recommendations. If you are not attending a CCC, refer to [assist.org](https://www.assist.org) or the [UCSB General Catalog](#) for further details about preparing for your major. When requirements are stated as a full-year sequence, students should complete the entire course series at one institution before transferring, if possible. The topics covered in a particular term of the sequence at a college/university may not be the same as at a UC campus and could result in missing or duplicative coursework.

Key:

- ◆ Required before transfer with no individual grade below "C"
- Required before transfer with no individual grade below "C" and a cumulative 2.7 major preparation GPA or better
- Required before transfer with no individual grade below "C" and a cumulative 2.75 major preparation GPA or better
- Required before transfer with no individual grade below "C" and a cumulative 3.4 major preparation GPA or better
- ▲ Required before transfer with no individual grade below "C" and a cumulative 2.85 major preparation GPA or better
- Recommended before transfer for timely degree progress

College of Letters & Science

Anthropology, B.A.

- Cultural anthropology
- Archaeology
- Biological anthropology

Art, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Introductory art courses (such as drawing, oil painting, sculpture, printmaking or photography)

Biochemistry, B.S.

- ▲ 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- ▲ 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- ▲ Physics series w/ labs (for fall 2026 admission, the physics series must be physics for science and engineering majors)
- ▲ 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- ▲ Multivariable calculus
- Linear algebra
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs

Biological Sciences

Aquatic Biology, B.S.

Biological Sciences, B.A./B.S.

Ecology & Evolution, B.S.

Physiology, B.S.

Zoology, B.S.

Molecular & Cellular Biology, B.S.

– Microbiology Emphasis

– Pharmacology Emphasis

– Cell & Developmental Biology Emphasis

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
- 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus
- General physics series w/ labs
- Statistics **OR** linear algebra
- Biochemistry-Molecular Biology Emphasis
 - 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
 - Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
 - 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- General physics series w/ labs
- Linear algebra
- Multivariable calculus

Biopsychology, B.S.

- Introduction to psychology*
- Statistics*
- 2 semesters calculus*
- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs*
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
- 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- General physics series w/ labs

*Highly recommended before transfer

Chemistry, B.A./B.S.

- ▲ 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- ▲ 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- ▲ Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs
- ▲ 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- ▲ Multivariable calculus

- ▲ Differential equations (not required for B.A.)
- Linear algebra

Classics, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- 1st semester world history **OR** Western civilization
 - Ancient Greek Philosophy Emphasis:
 - 1 year Greek or Latin*
 - History of ancient philosophy
 - Classical Archaeology Emphasis:
 - Archaeology
 - 1st semester Western art history
 - Classical Language & Literature Emphasis:
 - 1 year Greek or Latin*
 - Greek & Roman Culture Emphasis:
 - 1st semester Western art history

*Placement exams available after UCSB enrollment, if needed

Communication, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Statistics
- Communication courses

Comparative Literature, B.A.

- 2 years Language Other Than English (LOTE)
- 1st and 2nd semester world history **OR** Western civilization **OR** Western art history

Cultural & Gender Studies

Asian American Studies, B.A.

Asian Studies, B.A.

Black Studies, B.A.

Chicano/a Studies, B.A.

Feminist Studies, B.A.

Latin American & Iberian Studies, B.A.

Middle East Studies, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- *Asian Studies, B.A.***

- 2 years Chinese or Japanese or Korean **OR** equivalent language proficiency

- *Latin American & Iberian Studies, B.A.***

- 2 years Spanish or Portuguese **OR** equivalent language proficiency

- *Middle East Studies, B.A.***

- 2 years Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish **OR** equivalent language proficiency

Dance, B.A./B.F.A.

Audition required

- General Education or IGETC
- History & appreciation of dance
- Ballet series
- Choreography
- Improvisation
- Modern dance series
- Dance lighting design
- Stagecraft **OR** lighting **OR** costume
- Music appreciation
- Introduction to acting (for B.F.A.)

Earth Science, B.A./B.S.

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- General physics series w/ labs **OR** physics for science and engineering majors

series w/ labs (required for Geophysics Emphasis)

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations
- Physical geology w/ lab

Economics, B.A.

Economics & Accounting, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- 1st & 2nd semester calculus – *Economics & Accounting, B.A.*:
 - 1 or 2 semesters financial accounting

English, B.A.

2 English courses chosen from:

- Introduction to Shakespeare
- Introduction to literary study
- Introduction to ethnic literatures

Environmental Studies, B.A.

- Statistics
- 1 or 2 semesters calculus
- 1st course general chemistry w/ lab
- Macroeconomics **OR** microeconomics
- Physical geography **OR** physical geology **OR** oceanography **OR** weather and climate
- American government **OR** comparative politics **OR** international relations

Environmental Studies, B.S.

- Statistics
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- Physics series w/ labs
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
- Macroeconomics **OR** microeconomics
- Physical geography **OR** physical geology **OR** oceanography **OR** weather and climate

Film & Media Studies, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC

- 1 literature course (such as *Asian American literature, African American literature, comparative literature, Greek mythology*)
- 1 history or cultural studies course (such as *Asian American studies, Black studies, Chicana/o studies, 2nd semester world* **OR** *western civilization* **OR** *U.S. history, philosophy, religious studies*)
- 1 arts course (such as *modern/contemporary art history, dance history/ appreciation, music appreciation, history of jazz*)

Geography, B.A.

Including GIS Emphasis

- Statistics
- Physical geography
- Human geography
- Weather and climate
- Lab science (such as *biology, chemistry, geology or physics*)
- Social science (such as *anthropology, economics, psychology or sociology*)

Geography, Physical, B.S.

Including Ocean Science Emphasis

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- Physics series w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Statistics
- Physical geography
- Human geography
- Weather and climate

Global Studies, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- 2 or 3 history courses from 1 region (World **OR** Europe **OR** Africa **OR** Americas **OR** Asia & Middle East)
- 2 years modern foreign language

History, B.A.

History of Public Policy & Law, B.A.

- 1st and 2nd semester Western civilization **OR** world history **OR** U.S. history
- 1 history course focused outside the U.S. and Europe

History of Art & Architecture, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- 1 year Western art history

Hydrologic Sciences & Policy, B.S.

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- Physics series w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Statistics
- Microeconomics or macroeconomics
- Physical geography
- Physical geology
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations

Languages

Chinese, B.A.

French, B.A.

German, B.A.

Italian Studies, B.A.

Japanese, B.A.

Portuguese, B.A.

Russian & East European Studies, B.A.

Spanish, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- 2 years language instruction **OR** equivalent language proficiency

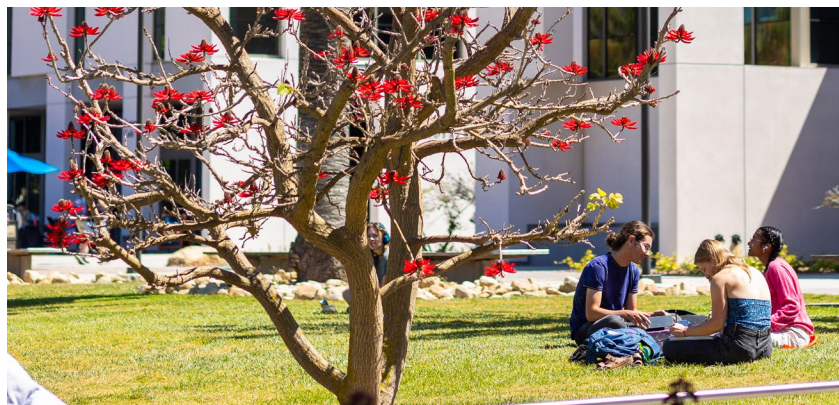
Language, Culture & Society, B.A.

- 1 year Language Other Than English (LOTE)
- Cultural anthropology
- Introduction to sociology
- Introduction to linguistics

Linguistics, B.A.

- 2 years Language Other Than English (LOTE) in one language
- 1 year Language Other than English (LOTE) in a 2nd language (encouraged to take one language outside of the Indo-European family)
- Introduction to linguistics

**Note: Additional major preparation courses



Mathematics, B.A./B.S.

Applied Mathematics, B.S.

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- At least one course from:
 - Linear algebra
 - Differential equations
 - Multivariable calculus



Medieval Studies, B.A.

- 2 semesters Western civilization OR world history

Music Studies, B.A.

- 1 or 2 years private lessons and/or ensembles
- 1 year music theory
- 1 year musicianship
- 1 year survey of Western music history
- World music (not required for Western Art Music emphasis)

Music, B.M.

Audition required

- 2 years private lessons
- 2 years large ensembles
- 2 years music theory
- 2 years musicianship
- 1 year survey of Western music history
- Piano proficiency required
- **Piano Emphasis:**
 - 1 year Italian, French OR German
- **Voice Emphasis:**
 - 1 year Italian
 - 1 year French OR German

Philosophy, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Critical thinking/logic
- **Core Philosophy Concentration:**
 - History of philosophy series
- **Ethics & Public Policy Concentration:**
 - Ethics

Physics, B.A./B.S.

- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Multivariable calculus
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations
- 1 year general chemistry

Political Science, B.A.

- Political philosophy
- Comparative politics
- International relations
- American government
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics

Psychological & Brain Sciences, B.S.

- Introduction to psychology*
- 1 semester calculus*
- Statistics *
- 1 year general chemistry*
- Biology for biology majors sequence

*Highly recommended before transfer

Religious Studies, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- 1 or 2 religious studies courses

Sociology, B.A.

- Introduction to sociology
- Statistics
- Research Methods
- Two courses from:**
 - 2nd semester world history
 - 2nd semester Western civilization
 - Latin American history
 - U.S. history

Statistics & Applied Probability

Actuarial Science, B.S.

Financial Mathematics & Statistics, B.S.

Statistics & Data Science, B.A./B.S.

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations
- Multivariable calculus
- Intro programming
- **Financial Mathematics & Statistics, B.S.:****
 - Macroeconomics
 - Microeconomics

Theater, B.A./B.F.A.

Audition required for B.F.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Introduction to acting
- Stagecraft
- Lighting
- Costume

College of Creative Studies

Supplemental application required

Art, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC

Biology, B.A.

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- General physics series w/ labs
- Biology for biology majors sequence w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors

Chemistry/Biochemistry, B.A./B.S.

- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Linear algebra

Computing, B.S.

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Multivariable calculus
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations
- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs
- Programming in C or C++
- Data structures
- Discrete math/discrete structures
- Computer organization w/ logic design

Mathematics, B.A./B.S.

- General Education or IGETC
- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Multivariable calculus
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations

Music Composition, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC
- Musicianship and music theory

Physics, B.A./B.S.

See Physics, B.A./B.S. under Letters & Science

Writing & Literature, B.A.

- General Education or IGETC

College of Engineering

Required for all College of Engineering majors:

- 2 semesters calculus for science and math majors
- Linear algebra
- Differential equations

Chemical Engineering, B.S.

Three requirements PLUS:

- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs (equivalent to UCSB Physics 7A-B-C-L)
- 1 year general chemistry w/ labs
- MATLAB
- 1 year organic chemistry w/ labs
- Multivariable calculus

Computer Engineering, B.S.

Three requirements PLUS:

- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs (equivalent to UCSB Physics 7A-B-C-L)
- Programming in C or C++
- Data structures in C++
- Discrete math
- Advanced C++ programming
- Multivariable calculus
- Digital logic
- Physics equivalent to UCSB Physics 7D

Computer Science, B.S.

Three requirements PLUS:

- Programming in C or C++
- Data structures in C++
- Discrete math
- Advanced C++ programming
- Multivariable calculus
- Computer organization w/ logic design
- 8 semester units (or 12 quarter units) science electives (e.g. physics series w/ lab, general chemistry w/ lab)

Electrical Engineering, B.S.

Three requirements PLUS:

- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs (equivalent to UCSB Physics 7A-B-C-L)
- Programming in C, C++, or intermediate Python
- Multivariable calculus
- 1st course in general chemistry w/ lab
- Digital logic
- Physics equivalent to UCSB Physics 7D

Mechanical Engineering, B.S.

Three requirements PLUS:

- Physics for science and engineering majors series w/ labs (equivalent to UCSB Physics 7A-B-C-L)
- 1st course in general chemistry w/ lab
- Statics
- MATLAB
- Dynamics (highly recommended)
- Multivariable calculus
- 2nd course in general chemistry w/ lab
- Electronic circuits
- Engineering graphics
- Strength of materials
- Physics equivalent to UCSB Physics 7D

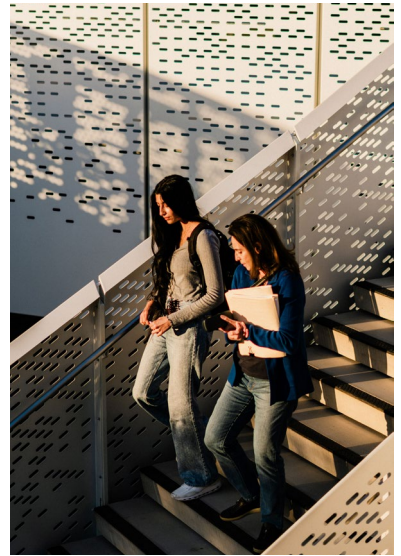
**Note: Additional major preparation courses

Junior Transfer Admission

UCSB admits junior-level transfer applicants for fall quarter only. The UC application for fall admission opens August 1 at apply.universityofcalifornia.edu and is due between October 1 through November 30 the year prior to transfer. Priority consideration for transfer admission is given to students transferring directly from a California community college, but applicants from all colleges and universities are welcome to apply.

Transfer Eligibility Requirements

All students, regardless of the institution they are transferring from, are held to the same requirements listed below. Students have until the end of the spring term prior to transfer to meet the following requirements.



- 1 A **seven-course pattern requirement**, earning a grade of C or better in each course:
 - a. Two courses in English composition (UC-E)
 - b. One course in mathematics beyond intermediate algebra, such as college algebra, precalculus, or statistics (UC-M)
 - c. Four courses from at least two of the following areas:
 - ▶ Arts and humanities (UC-H)
 - ▶ Behavioral and social sciences (UC-B)
 - ▶ Biological and physical sciences (UC-S)
- 2 Complete at least **60 semester or 90 quarter units** of UC-transferable college credit with a grade point average of at least 2.4 for California residents and at least 2.8 for nonresidents (no more than 14 semester or 21 quarter units may be taken Pass/No Pass). A selective GPA for most majors is a 3.5 or above.
- 3 **Major Preparation:** All transfer applicants should plan to complete as much major preparation coursework before transferring as possible. This document provides detailed information on required and/or recommended courses by major.

UCSB Transfer Selection

Admitted transfer students typically meet and exceed the UC minimum requirements for admission listed above. All applicants are encouraged to complete preparation courses in their intended major, and some majors require preparation courses for admission. Meeting the eligibility requirements listed above with a strong GPA will make you competitive in UCSB's admission process. See the tips on becoming a selective applicant on our website at admissions.ucsb.edu/transfer-eligibility-selection.

Transfer Admission Guarantee

TAG is a guaranteed transfer admission program for California community college students if specific course, unit, and GPA criteria are met. In addition to submitting the UC application by the deadline, a separate TAG application is due in September through the UC Transfer Admission Planner. Learn more at admissions.ucsb.edu/tag.

UCSB TAG criteria are set above minimum requirements. To be eligible, students must have:

- a. A cumulative UC-transferable GPA of 3.4 by the end of fall 2024.
- b. The first UC-English composition requirement completed by the end of fall 2024, with a letter grade no lower than C. The second UC-English composition requirement must be completed by the end of the spring 2025 term, with a letter grade no lower than C.
- c. UC-Mathematics requirement completed by the end of fall 2024, with a letter grade no lower than C.
 - ▶ *Required major preparation coursework still applies to selective majors in the College of Letters and Science (biological sciences, chemistry and biochemistry, economics, mathematics, and physics).*
 - ▶ **Not available for:** *College of Engineering, College of Creative Studies, or performing arts majors in the College of Letters and Science.*

Guide to Course Transferability

UCSB does not have articulation agreements with colleges outside of the California community college (CCC) system. Admissions counselors are not able to pre-evaluate coursework from other institutions, but the downloadable Guide to Course Transferability PDF explains in detail what UC looks for in transferable courses at admissions.ucsb.edu/transfer-eligibility-selection.