Aggie Advising Registration Support FAQ’s

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Placement Exams, AP/IB Scores, & Transfer Credits
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

ENROLLMENT

What do I do if I can’t register for a course?

If you can’t register for a course during Pass 1, check the availability of the course during open registration before Pass 2. If you are unable to get a seat during Pass 1, waitlist during Pass 2. Generally, it will be difficult to find an open seat after Pass 2 because waitlisted students will have priority. For other issues, please see https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/registration/schedule/restrictions.

All the classes I want are full. Will I be on track to graduate?

Yes! You can still be on track to graduate! Although we prefer that you get started on your science coursework right away, taking a couple of General Education courses your first quarter can be used to your advantage! Not only are you allowing yourself to explore interests outside of your major, but you are also building your academic confidence, which is just as important in the long run to be a successful UC Davis student.

Can I enroll in more than 15 Units?

A well balanced, first-quarter schedule will have anywhere between 12-16 units. Although we are confident in your academic abilities, successful UC Davis students allow themselves time to adjust to their new academic environment and make a smooth transition to their first quarter at
UCD. If you do exceptionally well your first quarter and you obtain stellar grades, there are at least 11 other quarters during which you can adjust your course load as needed!

I have a hold on my account. What should I do?

Registration holds are placed for various reasons: non-payment of fees, missing immunizations, and academic issues. The unit that placed the hold is the only one that can remove it. You can find information about your hold on the academic record tab on OASIS.ucdavis.edu. In the advising portal, you can also find instructions on how to remove your hold in order to register for classes. If the instructions are confusing, not to worry! You can always get in touch with the unit that placed the hold. For additional information, please visit: https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/registration/schedule/holds.

Can I take courses Pass/No Pass? How do I do this? Can I take major courses Pass/No Pass?

You can take up to 1/3 of your courses Pass/No Pass, however, no CBS major courses may be taken Pass/No Pass unless this is the only grade mode available. Be sure to discuss the pros and cons of Pass/No Pass with your major advisor.

To select Pass/No Pass for a course, go to Schedule Builder, click the edit button next to “Letter Grading,” click the drop-down menu, and opt-in for “Optional Pass/No Pass.”

Can I take Upper Division courses my first quarter?

If you are a first-year (not transfer) student, no, you should not take Upper Division courses (numbered above 99) during your first quarter at UC Davis. Please work with an advisor to discuss your academic interests and goals in this regard.

What are virtual/hybrid classes?

Virtual courses are completely online, and will have a “V” at the end of the course number. Hybrid courses are a mix of online and in-person, and will have a “Y” at the end. If you are on a student visa, you must take at least 9 units “on-ground” each quarter. The rest can be online.

PLACEMENT EXAMS, AP/IB SCORES, & TRANSFER CREDITS

What do I do if I have not taken the math or chem placement exam?

For some CBS majors, you do not need to take math the first quarter, and for some, you don’t even have to take Chemistry the first quarter. Do plan to take the placement exam, though. You can find all the information here:
The Math Placement Examination is only available online. There will be two testing sessions per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring), and a student may only take it once per testing session. For additional information, visit: https://www.math.ucdavis.edu/undergrad/math_placement/

The Chemistry Placement Exam is only available online. The exam may be taken twice per quarter, but only once per testing session. For more information, check: https://chemistry.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/general-chemistry-series/chemistry-placement-requirements

I have scores from AP/IB exams; where can I see what credit I get and if I can take the course at UC Davis?

AP Chart

IB Chart

I have AP or IB credit for MAT 17A/MAT 21A and/or CHE 2A can I skip these courses at UC Davis?

We strongly recommend not skipping these courses. Taking these courses will help you to have a stronger foundation for the next course in the series. Also, many health profession programs may not accept AP or IB credit to meet admission prerequisites for their programs. You can check with the Health Professions Advising (HPA) office for more information about admission prerequisites for health profession programs.

Can my AP/IB scores be used to fulfill my General Education (GE) requirements?

No, UC Davis policy does not allow AP or IB scores to fulfill GE requirements. However, Lower Division English Composition may be fulfilled with an AP or IB score.

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE), ENTRY LEVEL WRITING (ELWR), & ENGLISH COMPOSITION

How do I fulfill my GE requirements?

Please refer to GE requirements in Aggie 101. There are two points to keep in mind, however, as you register for your first quarter:

1. As a CBS student, your major courses will satisfy the Topical Breadth area of Science & Engineering, as well as the Core Literacies Oral Skill, Visual Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, and Scientific Literacy. We recommend for a balanced first-quarter schedule two major courses and two Arts & Humanities (AH) or Social Sciences (SS) courses.
2. If a GE course you are taking satisfies both a topical breadth and core literacies requirement, it can be counted towards one of each. However, overlap isn’t allowed within core literacies or topical breadth components.
Ex: If a course you are taking fulfills AH, SS, WE, and DD, you can choose one topical breadth and one core literacies requirement to fulfill. Therefore, you could get credit for AH and WE, AH and DD, SS and WE OR SS and DD.

If you are a transfer student and attended a California Community College (CC), chances are you have heard about IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum). If this is something you worked toward and completed at CC, GREAT! Your GE’s are 100% satisfied through your IGETC. We must just make sure that we have the IGETC on file for you before your graduate. With a partial IGETC, you will still need to complete one or two GE courses. Once your start classes this fall, make sure to connect with an academic advisor in BASC to go over recommendations to complete your IGETC.

I have an IGETC, can I take three major courses my first quarter at UC Davis?

We strongly recommend you take no more than two major courses your first quarter to UC Davis as you transition to the campus and the courses. We recommend taking a non-STEM elective and a one- or two-unit seminar/BioLaunch course with your major courses.

What do I do if I have not fulfilled my Entry Level Writing Requirement?

To satisfy your Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR), you must take and pass an ELWR-approved course. These courses include:

- UWP7
- UWP 7M (for multilingual students)
- UWP 1A (take while also enrolled in UWP 1)
- ENL 3A (take while also enrolled in ENL 3)
- NAS 5A (take while also enrolled in NAS 5)

Depending on your Writing Placement (https://elw.ucdavis.edu/writingplacement) results, you may be required to take UWP 21 and/or 22 before taking one of the ELWR-completing courses.

For more information, check https://elw.ucdavis.edu/elwr-at-davis

What classes can I take to fulfill the English Composition requirement?

To fulfill the lower-division English composition requirement for the college, you can take COM 1-4; ENL 3; UWP 1 (including 1V or 1Y), 18, 19; or NAS 5.
To fulfill the upper-division English composition requirement, you can take UWP 101, the 102 series or the 104 series. Or you can pass the English Composition Exam after completing 70 units.

There is no time period regarding when you need to fulfill this requirement, just by the time you graduate. Most students fulfill the lower-division part within first two years at UC Davis.

CHANGE OF MAJOR

How do I change my major within CBS? If I want to change my major, should I take courses for my current major or the major I want to switch into?

You may be eligible to change your major after your first quarter at UCD pending your intended major requirements for a change of major. All first year and transfer students must obtain a UC GPA before changing majors. It is recommended to discuss your change of major plans with your intended major advisor for further guidance.

Undeclared Life Science students who want to stay in CBS (not sure of major or exploring CBS majors) can take a combo of two major courses from MAT 17A, BIS 2B, CHE 2A, a GEs course, and a seminar.

GLOBAL LEARNING

Where can I find more information about study abroad?

To find more information, check out https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/pathways/academics/studyabroad. You can also stop by the Global Learning Hub to talk with a Peer Advisor or make an appointment with a staff advisor.