

# *in focus* CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

*guidance for the 21st century*

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The California State University (CSU) system consists of 23 campuses. The CSU system selects applicants from the upper one-third of California's high school graduates. To qualify for regular admission as a first-time freshman, you must:

- Be a high school graduate, and
- Have completed the college preparatory subject requirements with semester grades of "C" or better, and
- Have a qualifying **Eligibility Index** score (see reverse to compute score)

## Subject Requirements

### TOTAL REQUIRED SUBJECT UNITS: 15

**Social Studies:** Two (2) years - one year of World History plus one year of U.S. History (*or* one semester of U.S. History and one semester of U.S. Government). A year of any UC approved Social Studies elective may be used to replace the year of World History.

**English:** Four (4) years

**Math:** Three (3) years (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or Algebra II/Trigonometry)

**Foreign Language:** Two (2) years of the same language \*

**Lab Science:** Two (2) years - One year must be a biological science, and one year must be a physical science.

**Visual or Performing Arts:** One (1) year - art, drama, dance, music or film study

**College Approved Electives:** One (1) additional college preparatory class from any of the subject areas listed above.

\* Students who can demonstrate competency in a language other than English may qualify for a waiver.

All required courses must be completed with first and second semester grades of "C" or better. A "D" grade does not meet the subject requirement. You may repeat any course and replace any grade with a better grade.

## GPA Requirements

- GPA of 3.0 or higher = eligible for admission to the CSU system, regardless of test scores. Taking the ACT or SAT is strongly recommended as test scores are used for placement purposes at **all** campuses, and are **required** for admission to impacted campuses, majors and departments. The ACT without the optional Writing test is acceptable. If the SAT is submitted, CSU will use only the Critical Reading and Mathematics scores.
- GPA 2.9 to 2.0 = Check the **Eligibility Index** (see reverse to compute score)
- GPA below 2.0 = ineligible
- GPA includes UC approved college preparatory courses taken in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Meeting the eligibility requirements for the CSU system does not guarantee admission to all CSU campuses. Impacted campuses, and many impacted departments and majors, require SAT or ACT test scores, regardless of your GPA.

## CALCULATE YOUR CSU ELIGIBILITY GPA

Use **ALL** semester grades in 10th, 11th and 12th grade courses that appear on your high school's University of California approved course list. Include summer school course grades starting with the summer following 9th grade. For *repeated* courses, use the highest grade earned. Approved Honors or Advanced Placement courses taken in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade will receive an additional point, if the grade earned was a "C" or better; there is a maximum of 8 semesters of Honors/AP extra points. There are no points for "F" grades or for Pass/No Pass or Credit/No Credit classes.

Semester Grades	Total # of Grades	Grade Points per Grade	Total Grade Points
A		x 4 =	
B		x 3 =	
C		x 2 =	
D		x 1 =	
F		x 0 =	
P / NP		x 0 =	
Honors/AP		add 1 pt. for each H/AP	
TOTALS		divided into	

Carry the GPA to two decimal places  
= GPA     .        

## ELIGIBILITY INDEX

The Eligibility Index is a combination of your high school GPA and your test scores, either the SAT or ACT. You may mix and match sub-scores from different test dates (for example, the Critical Reading score from the May SAT, and the Math score from the October SAT). Use the following formulas to calculate your eligibility index score.

**If you took the SAT:**

$$\text{GPA } \underline{\quad} \times 800 + (\text{SAT CR} + \text{M}) \text{ Total} = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ Index}$$

*California residents must have a minimum index of 2900 using SAT I scores; impacted campuses will require a higher index total.*

**If you took the ACT:**

$$\text{GPA } \underline{\quad} \times 200 + (10 \times \text{ACT Composite}) = \underline{\quad\quad} \text{ Index}$$

*California residents must have a minimum index of 694 using ACT scores*

## IMPACTED CAMPUSES / MAJORS

Campuses and majors are considered "impacted" if they have more eligible applicants than spaces available. These campuses and majors may ask for supplemental information and require SAT or ACT scores. Meeting the minimum eligibility index does not guarantee admission to an impacted campus or major. All majors are impacted at Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo.

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