

First-time Freshmen

Admissions and Records
Lassen Hall Lobby

The following section outlines the requirements for admission to CSUS and other CSU campuses. A high school or community college counselor or the admissions office at California State University, Sacramento should be contacted for further questions.

A prospective student will qualify for regular admission as a first-time freshman if he or she:

- is a high school graduate,
- has a qualifying eligibility index (See Eligibility Index Table below), and
- has completed, with grades of “C” or better, each of the courses in the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory subject requirements (See Subject Requirements below).

Eligibility Index

The Eligibility Index is the combination of a student’s high school grade point average and score on either the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Board (SAT I) or the American College Test (ACT). Grade point averages are based on grades earned during the final three years of high school (excluding physical education and military science) and bonus points for approved honors courses (see Honors Courses). Beginning with admission for Fall 2004, the high school grade point average will be based solely on courses taken in the final three years of high school that satisfy the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory subject requirements.

The Eligibility Index can be calculated by multiplying the grade point average by 800 and adding the total score on the SAT I. If ACT was taken, multiply the grade point average by 200 and add ten times the ACT composite score. California high school graduates (or residents of California for tuition purposes) need a minimum index of 2900 using the SAT I or 694 using the ACT. The Eligibility Index Table illustrates several combinations of required test scores and averages.

Applicants who did not graduate from a California high school or who are not residents of California for tuition purposes need a minimum index of 3502 (SAT I) or 842 (ACT). Graduates of secondary schools in foreign countries must be judged to have academic preparation and abilities equivalent to applicants eligible under this section.

Honors Courses

Up to eight semesters of approved honors courses taken in the last two years of high school including up to two approved courses taken in the tenth grade, can be accepted. Each unit (one year) of grade “A” in an honors course will receive 5 points; grade “B”, 4 points; and grade “C”, 3 points.

Test Requirements

Freshman applicants with grade point averages below 3.00 (3.61 for nonresidents) must submit scores from either the SAT I or the ACT. Applicants with grade point averages of 3.00 or above (3.61 for nonresidents) are not required to submit test scores. However, applicants are urged to take one of the two tests because these test results are used for advising and placement purposes and may be required for admission to impacted majors or programs.

Eligibility Index Table for California High School Graduates or Residents of California					
GPA	ACT Score	SAT I Score	GPA	ACT Score	SAT I Score
3.00 and above			2.67	16	770
qualifies with			2.66	17	780
any score			2.65	17	780
			2.64	17	790
2.99	10	510	2.63	17	800
2.98	10	520	2.62	17	810
2.97	10	530	2.61	18	820
2.96	11	540	2.60	18	820
2.95	11	540	2.59	18	830
2.94	11	550	2.58	18	840
2.93	11	560	2.57	18	850
2.92	11	570	2.56	19	860
2.91	12	580	2.55	19	860
2.90	12	580	2.54	19	870
2.89	12	590	2.53	19	880
2.88	12	600	2.52	19	890
2.87	12	610	2.51	20	900
2.86	13	620	2.50	20	900
2.85	13	620	2.49	20	910
2.84	13	630	2.48	20	920
2.83	13	640	2.47	20	930
2.82	13	650	2.46	21	940
2.81	14	660	2.45	21	940
2.80	14	660	2.44	21	950
2.79	14	670	2.43	21	960
2.78	14	680	2.42	21	970
2.77	14	690	2.41	22	980
2.76	15	700	2.40	22	980
2.75	15	700	2.39	22	990
2.74	15	710	2.38	22	1000
2.73	15	720	2.37	22	1010
2.72	15	730	2.36	23	1020
2.71	16	740	2.35	23	1020
2.70	16	740	2.34	23	1030
2.69	16	750	2.33	23	1040
2.68	16	760	2.32	23	1050
					Below 2.0 does not qualify for regular admission

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Registration forms and the dates for either test may be obtained from school or college counselors or from a campus Testing Office. Testing information is also available at the CSUS web site, www.csus.edu or by writing to:

College Board (SAT I)
Registration Unit, Box 6200
Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6200
(609) 771-7600
www.collegeboard.org

American College Testing Program (ACT)
Registration Unit, P.O. Box 414
Iowa City, Iowa 52243
(319) 337-1270
www.act.org

Applicants will qualify for regular admission when the university verifies graduation from high school, a qualifying eligibility index, a completion of the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory subjects (see below), and, if applying to an impacted campus or program, have met all supplemental criteria.*

Graduates of secondary schools in foreign countries will be judged to have academic preparation and abilities equivalent to applicants eligible under this section.

*Refer to Application to CSUS/Undergraduate/Impacted Programs, page 57.

Subject Requirements

Through Spring 2003 the California State University requires that first-time freshman applicants complete, with grades of “C” or better, a comprehensive pattern of college preparatory courses totaling 15 units. A “unit” is one year of study in high school:

- English, 4 years
- Mathematics, 3 years: algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra
- U.S. History or U.S. History and Government, 1 year
- Science, 1 year with laboratory: biology, chemistry, physics, or other acceptable laboratory science
- Foreign Language, 2 years in the same language (subject to waiver for applicants demonstrating equivalent competence)
- Visual and Performing Arts, 1 year: art, dance, drama/theater or music
- Electives, 3 years: selected from English, advanced mathematics, social science, history, laboratory science, foreign language, visual and performing arts, or agriculture

Applicants seeking admission as first-time freshmen for the Fall 2003 or later will have the same preparatory course requirements for admission to either the California State University or the University of California. The preparatory course admission requirements will be the completion of the following courses with a grade of “C” or better:

- four years of English
- three years of mathematics (algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra)

- two years of social science including one year of U.S. History
- two years of laboratory science (must include one year of life science and one physical science)
- two years of foreign language
- one year of visual or performing arts and
- one year of electives chosen from one of the areas above.

Subject Requirements: Alternative Admission/Flex Unit

An adjustment to first-time freshman admission standards has been approved through the 2002-2003 academic year. The adjustment accommodates applicants who lack up to one unit (one year) of visual and performing arts or foreign language (or one semester of each), as long as they have completed 15 or more college preparatory units. This means applicants must complete an extra unit in another area to offset the missing unit of visual and performing arts or foreign language.

If admitted with up to one unit (one year) of visual and performing arts or foreign language missing, students will be required to complete the missing course by the end of their first year of CSU enrollment. They may complete the subject area deficiency at high school during the summer prior to CSU enrollment or at a community college, CSU, or other four-year college or university during the first year of enrollment. If not completed by the end of the first year, further enrollment at CSU will be limited to completing the one missing course.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

CSU Sacramento recognizes completion of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program as satisfying the college preparatory subject requirements for admission.* The applicant’s high school GPA and score on the ACT or SAT I will also be used in determining eligibility for admission.

*See Academic Policies/Credit by Examination/CSUS Equivalencies for IB Exams, page 109.

Foreign Language Subject Requirement

The foreign language subject requirement may be satisfied by applicants who demonstrate competence in a language other than English equivalent to or higher than expected of students who complete two years of foreign language study. Consult with a school counselor or any CSU admissions office for information.

Subject Requirement Substitution for Students with Disabilities

Applicants with disabilities are strongly encouraged to complete college preparatory course requirements if at all possible. If an applicant is judged unable to fulfill a specific course requirement because of his or her disability, alternate college preparatory courses may be substituted for specific subject requirements.

Substitutions may be authorized on an individual basis after review and recommendation by the applicant’s academic advisor

or guidance counselor in consultation with the director of a CSU disabled student services program. Although the distribution may be slightly different from the course pattern required of other students, students qualifying for substitutions will still be held for 15 units of college preparatory study.

Students should be aware that course substitutions might limit later enrollment in certain majors, particularly those involving mathematics. For further information and substitution forms, please call the director of disabled student services at the nearest CSU campus.

Provisional Admission

CSU Sacramento may provisionally admit first-time freshmen applicants based on their academic preparation through the junior year of high school and planned for the senior year. The campus will monitor the senior year of study to ensure that those students complete their senior year of studies satisfactorily, including the required college preparatory subjects, and graduate from high school.

International Students

The CSU must assess the academic preparation of foreign students. For this purpose, “foreign students” include those who hold U.S. visas as students, exchange visitors, or in other nonimmigrant classifications. Foreign visa students graduating from U.S. high schools after three years of attendance will be admitted as freshmen under the same requirements as graduates of California high schools by use of the eligibility index.

Those graduating from foreign high schools (or from California high schools after less than three years of attendance) may be admitted if their achievement is equivalent to that of eligible California high school graduates. They also may need to complete the TOEFL requirement.*

*Refer to Application to CSUS/ International Students/ TOEFL Requirement, page 59.

Special Categories

Adult Students

As an alternate to regular admission criteria, an applicant who is 25 years of age or older may be considered for admission as an adult student if he/she meets all of the following conditions:

1. possesses a high school diploma (or has established equivalence through either the Tests of General Educational Development or the California High School Proficiency Examination);
2. has not been enrolled in college as a full-time student for more than one term during the past five years; and
3. has earned a “C” average or better in all college work attempted, if there has been any college attendance in the last five years.

Consideration will be based upon a judgment as to whether the applicant is as likely to succeed as a regularly admitted freshman and will include an assessment of basic skills in the English language and mathematical computation.

Educational Opportunity Program

EOP, a special admission and support program for students who possess the potential and motivation to succeed, is designed to improve access and retention of low-income and educationally disadvantaged students among California residents who wish to pursue a college education.*

*See Centers for Academic Support/EOP, page 52.

Veterans

Veterans of United States active duty military service with honorable discharges applying for admission within four years of their date of discharge who are also California residents may be admitted as first-time freshmen, even though such applicants are not otherwise eligible. Veterans who wish to be admitted under this provision should contact an admission counselor.*

*See also Application to CSUS/CSU Impacted Programs/ Supplemental Criteria, page 58.

High School Non-Graduates

Applicants over 18 years of age who have not graduated from high school are considered for admission only when their preparation in all other ways is such that CSUS believes their promise of academic success is equivalent to that of eligible California high school graduates. These applicants may be required to submit scores of the ACT or SAT I. Applicants should consult with an admissions counselor concerning eligibility for admission.

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High School Students

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Students still enrolled in high school will be considered for enrollment in certain special programs if recommended by their principal and the appropriate campus department chair and if their preparation is equivalent to that required of eligible California high school graduates. Such admission is only for a given program and does not imply a right to continued enrollment.

These programs include:

1. Accelerated College Entrance (ACE) for talented students who can benefit from accelerated academic studies, (916) 278-7032;
2. Capitol Center MESA for underrepresented students in CSU mathematics, engineering and science programs, (916) 278-6699.

Students accepted into these programs qualify for reduced fees (total of \$5 per semester).

High school students other than those accepted into the above programs may also enroll concurrently in college courses without fee reduction upon approval of parents, high school principal and appropriate CSUS academic department chairs.

Applicants Not Regularly Eligible

Applicants not admissible under one of the above provisions should enroll at a community college or another appropriate institution in preparatory courses to meet eligibility requirements. Only under the most unusual circumstances and only by special action will such applicants be admitted to CSU Sacramento.

Advanced Standing Credit and Advanced Placement Exams

www.csus.edu/admr/evaltce.html

CSUS grants advanced standing credit for system-approved, college-level examinations or courses taken by students while in high school.

- Students may be granted up to 6 units for each Advanced Placement (AP) examination for which a score of 3, 4, or 5 is earned.
- Transferable college courses completed as a high school student will be evaluated for possible college credit upon receipt of an official college transcript.