

freshmen

sacramento state admission

First-time Freshmen

Admissions and Records
Lassen Hall Lobby

The following section outlines the requirements for admission to Sacramento State 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.

Generally, first-time freshman applicants will qualify for regular admission if they:

1. graduated high school,
2. have a qualifiable minimum eligibility index (see section on Eligibility Index), and
3. have completed with grades of “C” or better each of the courses in the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory subject requirements (see “Subject Requirements”).

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 and submit scores from 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.

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 Requirements

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

- 2 years of social science, including 1 year of U.S. history, or U.S. history and government
- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math (algebra, geometry and intermediate algebra)
- 2 years of laboratory science (1 biological and 1 physical, both with labs)

- 2 years in the same language foreign language (subject to waiver for applicants demonstrating equivalent competence)
- 1 year of visual and performing arts: art, dance, drama/theater, or music
- 1 year of electives: selected from English, advanced mathematics, social science, history, laboratory science, foreign language, and visual and performing arts.

Note: All admission requirements (i.e., grade point average, test scores and subjects) must be completed prior to the summer semester for a fall enrollment and the fall semester for a spring enrollment.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Sacramento State 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/Sacramento State Equivalencies for IB Exams, page 106.

Eligibility Index

The eligibility index is the combination of a high school grade point average and a score on either the ACT or the SAT. Beginning with admission for fall 2004, a grade point average is based on grades earned in courses taken during the final three years of high school that all college preparatory “a-g” subject requirements, and bonus points for approved honors courses (excluding physical education and military science).

Up to eight semesters of 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 of “A” in an honors course will receive a total of 5 points; “B”, 4 points; and “C”, 3 points.

A CSU Eligibility Index (EI) can be calculated by multiplying a grade point average by 800 and adding a total score on the SAT I. Students who took the ACT 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.

Persons who neither graduated from a California high school or are 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.

When the grade point average is 3.00 or above (3.61 for nonresidents), applicants are not required to submit test scores. However, all applicants for admission are urged to take the SAT I or ACT because campuses use these test results for advising and placement purposes and may require them for admission to impacted majors or programs. Impacted CSU campuses usually require SAT I or ACT scores of all applicants for freshman admissions.

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 Sacramento State 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 that they have graduated from high school, have a qualifying minimum eligibility index, have completed the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory “a-g” subjects, and, if applying to an impacted program, have met all supplementary 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 Sacramento State/Undergraduate/Impacted Programs, page 53.

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

Sacramento State may provisionally admit first-time freshman 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 so admitted complete their senior year of studies satisfactorily, including the required college preparatory subjects, and graduate from high school. Students are required to submit an official transcript after graduation to certify that all course work has been satisfactorily completed. A campus may rescind admission decisions for students who are found not to be eligible after the final transcript has been evaluated.

ACT GPA	SAT I Score	SAT I Score	ACT GPA	SAT I Score	SAT I Score	ACT GPA	SAT I Score	SAT I Score
3.00 and above			2.67	16	770	2.31	24	1060
qualifies with			2.66	17	780	2.30	24	1060
any score			2.65	17	780	2.29	24	1070
			2.64	17	790	2.28	24	1080
2.99	10	510	2.63	17	800	2.27	24	1090
2.98	10	520	2.62	17	810	2.26	25	1100
2.97	10	530	2.61	18	820	2.25	25	1100
2.96	11	540	2.60	18	820	2.24	25	1110
2.95	11	540	2.59	18	830	2.23	25	1120
2.94	11	550	2.58	18	840	2.22	25	1130
2.93	11	560	2.57	18	850	2.21	26	1140
2.92	11	570	2.56	19	860	2.20	26	1140
2.91	12	580	2.55	19	860	2.19	26	1150
2.90	12	580	2.54	19	870	2.18	26	1160
2.89	12	590	2.53	19	880	2.17	26	1170
2.88	12	600	2.52	19	890	2.16	27	1180
2.87	12	610	2.51	20	900	2.15	27	1180
2.86	13	620	2.50	20	900	2.14	27	1190
2.85	13	620	2.49	20	910	2.13	27	1200
2.84	13	630	2.48	20	920	2.12	27	1210
2.83	13	640	2.47	20	930	2.11	28	1220
2.82	13	650	2.46	21	940	2.10	28	1220
2.81	14	660	2.45	21	940	2.09	28	1230
2.80	14	660	2.44	21	950	2.08	28	1240
2.79	14	670	2.43	21	960	2.07	28	1250
2.78	14	680	2.42	21	970	2.06	29	1260
2.77	14	690	2.41	22	980	2.05	29	1260
2.76	15	700	2.40	22	980	2.04	29	1270
2.75	15	700	2.39	22	990	2.03	29	1280
2.74	15	710	2.38	22	1000	2.02	29	1290
2.73	15	720	2.37	22	1010	2.01	30	1300
2.72	15	730	2.36	23	1020	2.00	30	1300
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

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 Sacramento State/ International Students/TOEFL Requirement, page 54.

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.

*See also Campus Life/Campus Services/Services for Reentry Students, page 34.

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 47.

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 Sacramento State/CSU Impacted Programs/Supplemental Criteria, page 53.

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 Sacramento State 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.

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 specific program and does not constitute the 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 Sacramento State 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 Sacramento State.

Advanced Standing Credit and Advanced Placement Exams

www.csus.edu/admr/evaltce.html

Sacramento State 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.