

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

How do I complete the information for grade 9 on the UC application?

Students do not need to list the junior high school, just Da Vinci, because all the 9th grade classes are on our UC list. Another UC tip: only list the classes on the application that have a "P" on them, even if they are D/F grades.

Are all three classes of science, Biology, Chemistry, and Zoology & Botany considered lab science?

All three of these courses are lab sciences and they qualify for the "d" subject area of a-g approved courses.

Are college courses, not needed for graduation, given a "weighted" GPA in the college application process?

Students self-report all coursework including community college courses. UC and CSU admissions officials will calculate students' GPA for coursework taken outside of the school.

My daughter has been accepted to a UC but is considering taking a "gap" year. Will she have to re-apply to UC?

Yes, she will need to reapply. Be careful not to take college courses during the gap year, as UC would then not consider her for freshman admission. Students who take college courses after high school graduation are considered transfer students.

How do we select 7th and 8th grade classes on the college application?

The only classes acceptable to enter for 7th and 8th grade are World Language and math, starting with Algebra I. These courses are listed under the Da Vinci a-g approved courses.

What is the CSIS or SSID numbers for UC/CSU applications?

The California Student Identification System or CSIS is a student ID numbers that follows them to any school. It is a 10-digit number and is NOT the same as a Social Security Number. The number is posted in the top left hand corner of the transcript under State Student ID.

COLLEGE COURSES

May students take UCD courses?

Students may take a course at UCD. The full tuition rate is charged, which is why most of our students do not take classes at UCD. It is, however, difficult matching a class time at UCD with the Da Vinci schedule. Typically, the students who take UCD courses have completed all of our math offerings.

Can classes be taken at ANY community college for high school credit?

Yes, classes may be taken at any community college when students are entering junior year and have at least a 2.75 GPA. Remember that DJUSD has a 10-credit limit for non-DJUSD courses. One college course is worth 10 credits. Students may take as many non-DJUSD courses as they want for "enrichment." If it is a college course, the student lists it on the college applications and has a transcript sent from the college to the universities/colleges s/he is applying to.

Are all college courses the same as AP classes at the high school?

Advanced Placement classes are high school courses only. College courses are advanced courses and are given the extra grade point automatically when submitted for the high school transcript. Students do not need to take an AP exam in order to get the extra grade point for college courses.

ENGLISH

Till a non-honors English course hurt students' chances when applying to UCs and private east coast colleges?

Taking a non-honors English course does not hurt students' chances for a UC and most private colleges. Some highly competitive colleges expect that the student take the highest course level each year. Students need to research the admission requirements for each college they intend to apply to so they select the appropriate courses. Most colleges are interested in why the student selected the course (is it based on interest?)

FINE ARTS

What are the requirements for Studio Art AP?

Interested students must submit a portfolio of their work in early February for department approval. Subject areas for AP Art Studio are ceramics, drawing & painting, graphic art & design, and photography.

Does the ceramics yearlong course taken in 9th grade class count for the fine arts requirement?

Yes.

My 9th grade student completed the semester Drama class. Can he enroll in Advanced Drama?

Yes, he may sign up for Drama /Advanced.

Are Jazz Band and Symphonic Band separate auditions?

Yes, Jazz Band and Symphonic Band are separate auditions.

Does one year of band in 9th grade satisfy the fine arts requirement for DJUSD and UC/CSU?

Yes.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Can a student take a world language that is not offered at Da Vinci to meet the UC/CSU requirement?

Yes. Example: a student can take American Sign Language at a community college. It is best to discuss other world language choices with counselor.

How many classes of sign language should a student take at community college to meet the UC/CSU language requirement?

Colleges count one semester at community college as one year, so a student would need to take 2 semesters of American Sign Language to meet the UC/CSU system requirement of a minimum of 2-year world language. Private colleges and out of state colleges may have different requirements.

May a student be placed in Japanese 5 AP to satisfy the 2-year world language requirement for UC/CSU?

If the student takes and passes Japanese 5, it would be considered as 5 years of world language for UC/CSU.

If Spanish 1A was taken in 7th grade and Spanish 1B taken in 8th and Spanish 2 taken in 9th grade, does this fulfill the minimum world language requirement of 2 years?

Yes, this would count as two years of world language. Two years is sufficient to meet the minimum world language requirement for the CSUs and for the UCs. The more competitive schools prefer three years of world language.

Does Spanish 5 AP or Spanish 4 Honors receive the weighted grade when taken in 9th grade?

Students receive weighted grades for Spanish 5 AP and Spanish 4 Honors taken in the 9th grade for only the total GPA. They do not receive weighted grades for the college GPA or state GPA because these GPAs are only calculated from 10th grade on.

Is it better to take 3 years of a world language and fewer AP classes, or 2 years of a world language and more AP Classes?

They are not mutually exclusive. UC's recommend a 3rd year of world language. AP classes are optional.

HEALTH

Does the online Health class from Woodland Community College or Sacramento City College meet the high school health requirement?

Yes, the Health courses offered online with SCC and Woodland Community College meets our health course requirement, as does Health at the Davis Adult School. A student would receive 10 credits for a non-DJUSD course to meet a graduation requirement. No additional non-DJUSD courses would be placed on the transcript.

Does 9th grade Health fulfill the requirement or will she have to take it again in High School?

Yes, Health in 9th grade fulfills the high school graduation requirement.

Where can I get more information about online Health classes?

Each on-line school has a listing of courses they offer. For community colleges, go to the individual site.

HISTORY**May Psychology substitute as the Geography requirement?**

Yes, students may take any of the following classes as a substitute for geography: Psychology A and Psychology B or Human Geography AP and International Relations. Students would need to complete the full year because both are offered as yearlong classes.

MATH**If you take Calculus BC AP, will this prepare you for both the Calculus AB and BC AP exams?**

Yes, the BC test includes both AB and BC content.

If Algebra 2/Trig is completed in the 9th grade, are additional math courses needed to fulfill the high school graduation requirement or CSU/UC requirements?

Two years of math taken in high school (9th – 12th grade) are required, so the student would need one more year of math for the high school graduation requirement. Colleges require 3 years of math but recommend 4 years of math.

ONLINE**Are online PE courses accepted and how many credits do you receive?**

We accept credits from any accredited high school. Each course needs to be 5 credits. The limit is 10 credits from a non-DJUSD school. Non-DJUSD courses must be completed by the end of fall semester of the senior year.

Are Physical Education classes offered by BYU Independent Study accepted by Da Vinci?

Yes, PE classes offered by BYU are accepted by Da Vinci.

FINAL EXAM FOR ONLINE COURSES: Da Vinci staff does not proctor final exams. DJUSD Adult Education proctors finals for a fee (757-5380).

PE

What is online PE and how do you sign up for it?

Online PE is a course offered through online high schools. You contact the school directly to sign up. Send DSHS an official copy of the transcript when completed with credits and grades. We do not recommend any online schools since we offer PE during the school year for free.

Are college PE courses accepted?

No, because most college PE courses offered at colleges are 1 unit, which will not equate to 5 credits (1semester) of high school PE. A 3-unit college course equals 5 high school credits.

SCHEDULE PICK-UP - AUGUST

What do we do if we need to change a class in our 9th grade student's schedule if they already selected course requests?

We ask that students take the necessary time to appropriately select courses. Please read the catalog, attend parent night, and attend Open House. Consider course selection choices as permanent. Yearlong courses will only be changed at spring semester for extenuating circumstances. Changes after the course planner has been submitted will only be made for the following reasons: student received a D or F grade and needs to repeat the class, student needs a high school graduation requirement, student is in the incorrect course level, or student is accepted into summer school.

What does schedule pick-up prior to school starting include and can it all be done on the first day of school?

Schedule pick-up includes turning in the emergency form, paying fees for the student body card, taking class picture and ID picture, and picking up the schedule of classes, which lists the room numbers and teacher names. Students who cannot attend schedule pick-up may complete this process the first day of school starting at 7:00 am.

Do seniors get preference in electives?

Seniors get first preference and juniors get second preference.

SCIENCE

Does a student have to take science in 10th grade?

Science is not required, but is encouraged. If a student completed Biology in 9th grade and plans to take science in 11th or 12th grade, s/he will still meet the minimum UC/CSU requirements. If she takes science in 11th and 12th grade, she will meet the recommended UC/CSU requirements.

If a student is taking Biology in 9th grade, does he have to take Chemistry in 10th grade?

Biology is the traditional science path leading to chemistry, but students may take another life science prior to taking Chemistry.

Does the biology class taken in 9th grade fulfill the life science requirement?

Yes.

TESTING

Please explain the Early Assessment Placement (EAP) for CSUs.

This test is for Juniors only. It is the writing portion of the assessment. If you take the EAP then you must take the STAR. There are a few questions tied to the STAR that are connected with the EAP. Both of those scores together create the assessment score. If you pass the EAP, then you may not need to take certain placement tests when entering the CSU system. There is no fee to take this test. Just let the testing coordinator know you want to take the test.

Is a student penalized if both the SAT and ACT are sent to colleges?

There is no penalty. Colleges will accept either test. They use the highest score from either test in eligibility determination.

Now that the University of California no longer considers National Merit finalist status as an asset, is it still worthwhile for juniors to take the PSAT?

Several private colleges are still giving financial rewards to National Merit Scholars. It is worthwhile for juniors to take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) if they want practice in preparing for the SAT. It provides the students with an opportunity to experience what the SAT is like (hopefully relieving some anxiety about the test). Students receive a printout in December of their scores indicating their areas of strengths and weaknesses.

Should sophomores take the PSAT and when is it?

The PSAT is given to juniors in October once a year. The juniors are given first priority to take the PSAT. If there are left over tests, sophomores may sign-up for the PSAT. We have always been able to accommodate the sophomores who want to take the PSAT.

Does DSHS offer SAT prep class during school year or summer?

SAT prep classes are offered through Davis Adult School and there are SAT prep books available for loan in the local public Library. You may contact Davis Adult School for information about prep classes (757-5380).

What is AP?

AP stands for Advanced Placement. It is a program of the College Board.

Do students have to report the results of AP exams to colleges?

AP scores are not automatically sent to colleges nor are they sent with SAT scores. Students may select one college to have AP scores sent at no additional charge once they are accepted. They are not required to report AP scores to colleges. Colleges have individual policies regarding giving college credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams.

Should we send test scores to private colleges? Kids wrote their scores on the Common App, and sending scores can be pricey.

Students must have official scores sent by either College Board and/or ACT to colleges they are applying to. The first 4 score reports are free and should be requested when they register for testing. Colleges need official score reports, and yes, it can get pricey.

TRANSCRIPT**Can we get an explanation of what the "total GPA", the "state GPA", and the "college GPA"?**

State GPA is unweighted and based on courses from grades 10-12 excluding P.E. (State GPA is used for Cal Grant determination. DSHS sends Seniors' state GPA's to FAFSA by January of senior year.)

Total GPA is based on all subjects taken in grades 9-12 and is weighted.

College GPA is calculated on a-g approved courses in grades 10-12 and is weighted. (These courses have a "P" notation on the transcript).

The GPA for the college application is only as of the end of a student's junior year, correct?

Yes, the "College GPA" used by UC/CSU is from college prep coursework taken in grades 10 and 11.

When colleges talk about average GPA of their freshman class, what is that GPA?

UC/CU's are talking about grades earned in 10th and 11th grades. UC's use 8 semesters of AP/honors classes in calculating a weighted GPA. Out of state and private schools calculate differently, based on their own course requirements for admission and whether or not they look at weighted or unweighted grades. Private colleges typically use 9th-11th grades courses and request a mid-year transcript for the fall grades of senior year to determine eligibility.

Does Da Vinci use GPAs for anything?

Students need a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for sports. Cheerleaders and dance team members need a 2.0 GPA in order to participate. We also have range of scholarships from our community. Some do not require a GPA; others range from 2.0 GPA on up.

Does the "P" listed after some classes mean that it is a college prep class?

Yes. These are the courses that have been a UC/CSU a-g approved.

May a student repeat an AP class they took in 9th grade, so that it will show up on their high school transcript?

The student should only repeat the class if he/she received a D or F grade. If the class is repeated when C or above grades were earned, the grades for the first time would be calculated in GPA, not the repeated grades. Student would not receive credits for taking a class twice.

How do we know which courses are weighted?

Weighted courses are AP or Honors.

Please explain: "*Maximum of 8 extra points allowed for approved honors courses. A maximum of 2 of these units can be completed in 10th grade.*"

These points are for minimum eligibility for admission to a CSU/UC. Different campuses use different grade point averages to determine admission. This includes AP and honors courses (English 10 Honors does not earn an extra grade point because it is a sophomore level class). This does not limit the number of AP/honors courses that may be taken. A unit equals a yearlong course or 2 semester courses.

Should transcripts for college classes be sent directly from Sac City to various colleges?

When students apply to private colleges, we recommend having transcripts sent directly from Sac City to each college. Students should not send any transcripts to CSU or UC campuses unless the transcripts are specifically requested. Students should enter all college classes on their CSU or UC applications.

Is it true we don't send high school transcripts to any UCs or CSUs?

Yes, because students self-report their courses/grades on the application. Sometimes, a CSU requests a copy of the transcript. The student sends a transcript only if it is requested by the CSU.

When will final transcripts be sent to colleges?

The final transcript is sent to the college the student will be attending by July 1.

GENERAL**What is the minimum number of classes a student must take?**

Sophomores must take 6 district classes and Juniors/Seniors 5 district classes.

What does CSF stands for?

CSF stands for the California Scholarship Federation. CSF requires that each member rejoins every semester based on the grades received the previous semester. To be a life member you must have 4 semesters of membership, one of which must be based on grades received in the senior year. All of these semesters must be semester grades received at the high school.

Does Da Vinci participate in the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)?

Yes. Juniors and parents sign a form giving Da Vinci permission to release grades to UC. UC analyzes the grades, determines eligibility, and notifies students directly if they are designated as ELC. Two groups are guaranteed admission to a UC campus: (1) those who rank in the top 9 percent of all high school graduates statewide or (2) those who rank in the top 9 percent of their own high school graduating class at the end of the 11th grade.

Do college visits occur each year to provide information about their programs? Are the informational sessions only available to junior and seniors?

College visits occur during the fall. Seniors, juniors and sophomores may attend. Students sign-up for the college visit through Naviance.

Are absences for out of town, college visits excused absences?

Yes, only if permission is requested prior to the visit. The parent needs to email the counselor with the dates the student will be gone and listing the colleges the student will visit. The counselor forwards the request to the Vice Principal for approval.