

University of Southern California General Education Requirements
Effective Period: Fall 2025 – Summer 2026

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Intermediate algebra (non-transferable college course), unless you took advanced algebra in high school.
- Lower division writing requirement (course equivalent to WRIT-130).
- There is no minimum number of transfer units you must complete. However, if you have fewer than 30 units, the Office of Admission will focus primarily on your high school record and SAT results.

REMINDERS:

Students still in high school: College courses taken *before high school graduation* can fulfill GE requirements, but not the lower-division writing requirement, or the foreign language requirement, nor can they earn USC course equivalence. Courses must be taught on the college campus by college faculty and not used toward high school graduation to earn credit; courses taught in a high school setting or exclusively to a high school student population, even if they are transcribed by a college or university, do not earn credit at USC.

USC students: Once you have enrolled at USC, *you cannot take transfer courses to fulfill GE Core Literacy Requirements or the lower-division writing requirement.* You may take transfer courses in the summer only to fulfill GE Global Perspectives or foreign language credit, obtain equivalence to a USC course, or earn elective units. Students should submit a Summer Pre-Approval request online in OASIS prior to registering for summer coursework outside of USC.

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE LITERACY REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to take 8 courses from 6 GE Core Literacy areas. Students may fulfill any GE Core Literacy Requirement with transfer coursework taken before starting USC, but are required to take at least two GE Core Literacy courses from the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences after starting at USC. The transfer institution department name and appropriate course number or numbers are listed.

Students who began college prior to fall 2015, [click here](#) for relevant GE course information.

CATEGORY A: The Arts (1 course required)

Courses	Course Code
ART HISTORY	101; 101H; 102; 102H; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 111; 112; 113; 115; 116; 118; 119; 120; 121; 125; 199
DANCE	100; 102
ENGLISH	117
FILM TV AND MEDIA	100; 101; 102; 103; 104; 106; 107; 108
HUMANITIES	117
MUSIC	120; 120H; 121; 122; 125; 126; 127
THEATER ARTS	101; 102; 107

A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Art History exam satisfies this requirement.

CATEGORY B: Humanistic Inquiry (2 courses required)

Courses	Course Code
ENGLISH	105; 106; 109; 110; 111; 122; 123; 125; 127; 130
HISTORY	101; 102; 102H; 103; 106; 113; 117; 118; 118H; 119; 120; 121; 131; 133; 133H; 170; 180
HUMANITIES	105; 105H; 106; 110; 111; 115; 125; 145
PHILOSOPHY	101; 101H; 115; 116; 119; 120; 121; 130
POLITICAL SCIENCE	104
SPANISH	124H

CATEGORY C: Social Analysis (2 courses required)

Courses	Course Code
ANTHROPOLOGY	102; 102H; 103; 104; 105; 114; 150
ECONOMICS	111
ETHNIC STUDIES	110; 120; 121; 123; 125; 132; 164
GEOGRAPHY	102; 103; 106; 110
HISTORY	104; 105; 111; 111H; 115; 116; 122; 136; 152
POLITICAL SCIENCE	101; 103; 108; 111; 115
PSYCHOLOGY	113
SOCIAL SCIENCE	130
SOCIOLOGY	101; 101H; 102; 103; 104; 108

NOTE: This agreement may be updated during the effective period listed above if additional courses are granted credit. Therefore, it is advised to check the agreement on the USC website for the most current and accurate information. The agreement can be found [here](#). 12/2025

CATEGORY D: Life Sciences (1 course required)

Courses	Course Code
ANTHROPOLOGY	101
BIOLOGY	101; 115; 121; 122; 125 with 126; 125H with 126; 140; 141
PSYCHOLOGY	103 with 203

A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Biology exam satisfies this requirement.

GCC offers science courses in a variety of modalities, including online/hybrid. Effective Fall 2022, courses with online lab portions will not satisfy the Category D requirement or earn course equivalence. Hybrid courses where the lecture is online and the lab is fully in person will be accepted.

Highlighted courses are those that USC has identified as courses whose labs have been—or may continue to be—offered online. If these courses or any courses that are not highlighted have a lab that is offered online, they will not satisfy the Category D requirement or earn course equivalence. Proof of section enrollment showing the dates and locations where lecture and lab sessions met may be requested upon transfer.

CATEGORY E: Physical Sciences (1 course required)

Courses	Course Code
CHEMISTRY	101; 120
GEOGRAPHY	101 with 111
GEOLOGY	101 with 111; 101H with 111; 102 with 112; 105 with 115
OCEANOGRAPHY	115 with 116
PHYSICS	101; 101H; 105

A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics 2, Physics C—Electricity/Magnetism, or Physics C—Mechanics exam satisfies this requirement.

GCC offers science courses in a variety of modalities, including online/hybrid. Effective Fall 2022, courses with online lab portions will not satisfy the Category E requirement or earn course equivalence. Hybrid courses where the lecture is online and the lab is fully in person will be accepted.

Highlighted courses are those that USC has identified as courses whose labs have been—or may continue to be—offered online. If these courses or any courses that are not highlighted have a lab that is offered online, they will not satisfy the Category E requirement or earn course equivalence. Proof of section enrollment showing the dates and locations where lecture and lab sessions met may be requested upon transfer.

CATEGORY F: Quantitative Reasoning (1 course required)

Courses	Course Code
ECONOMICS	101; 102; 102H; 127
MATHEMATICS	100; 101E; 103E; 103E+; 103EH; 104E; 104EH; 105; 105H; 110; 110A; 111; 112; 112+; 133; 134; 135; 136; 136+; 136H

A score of 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Precalculus, or Statistics exam satisfies this requirement.

GENERAL EDUCATION GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:

Students may fulfill GE Global Perspectives with transfer courses taken before entering USC, or in summer terms after starting at USC. For those students taking courses before starting at USC, courses in the Global Perspectives categories can be used to satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspective and one Core Literacy requirement. The transfer institution department name and appropriate course number or numbers are listed.

CATEGORY G: Citizenship in a Global Era

Courses	Course Code
ETHNIC STUDIES	120; 132; 164
GEOGRAPHY	171
HISTORY	104; 105; 136
POLITICAL SCIENCE	103; 111; 171
SOCIAL SCIENCE	130
SOCIOLOGY	171

CATEGORY H: Traditions and Historical Foundations

Courses	Course Code
ART HISTORY	101; 101H; 102; 102H; 103; 104; 105; 106; 108; 112; 115; 116; 120; 121
HISTORY	101; 102; 102H; 103; 106; 117; 118; 118H; 119; 120; 121; 131; 132; 170; 180
HUMANITIES	115
MUSIC	125; 126
PHILOSOPHY	115; 119; 120
POLITICAL SCIENCE	104
THEATER ARTS	102

A score of 4 or 5 on the AP African American Studies, European History, US History, or World History exam satisfies this requirement.

NOTE: This agreement may be updated during the effective period listed above if additional courses are granted credit. Therefore, it is advised to check the agreement on the USC website for the most current and accurate information. The agreement can be found [here](#).

LOWER DIVISION WRITING REQUIREMENT:

Any course below (or two courses, if indicated by “with”) fulfills the lower division writing requirement *if completed after graduating from high school and before starting at USC*. Students must complete the course with a C- or better, and must take the course for a letter grade. Courses taken on a Pass/No Pass or Credit/No Credit basis will not satisfy the writing requirement.

Courses	Course Code
ENGLISH	102; 102H; 104

COURSES THAT FULFILL FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEVELS:

Many majors require a third-semester foreign language course or equivalent. (The International Relations major requires the equivalent of a fourth semester.) Courses that fulfill foreign language levels if completed after graduating from high school are listed below.

Students who do not finish their language requirement before transferring to USC must take USC’s placement examination. Students may be advised to repeat, without additional credit, a semester or semesters of instruction if their skills are judged insufficient at the time of testing. Therefore, if your major requires a foreign language and if you have already started taking a foreign language, you are advised to continue studying that language through the third-semester level if possible before transferring to USC.

International students whose native language is not English are exempt from the foreign language requirement.

Level 1 Courses		Level 2 Courses		Level 3 Courses		Level 4 Courses	
ARMENIAN	101	ARMENIAN	102				
CHINESE	101	CHINESE	102				
FILIPINO	101	FILIPINO	102				
FRENCH	101	FRENCH	102	FRENCH	103	FRENCH	104
ITALIAN	101	ITALIAN	102	ITALIAN	103	ITALIAN	104
JAPANESE	101	JAPANESE	102	JAPANESE	103	JAPANESE	104
SPANISH	101	SPANISH	102	SPANISH	103	SPANISH	104

GCC offers language courses in a variety of modalities, including online/hybrid. Effective Fall 2022, foreign language courses taught online or hybrid will not satisfy the foreign language requirements or earn course equivalence. **Highlighted courses** are those that USC has identified as courses that have been—or may continue to be—offered online/hybrid. If these courses or any courses that are not highlighted are offered online/hybrid, they will not satisfy the foreign language requirements or earn course equivalence. Proof of section enrollment showing the dates and locations where lecture sessions met may be requested upon transfer.

Scores of 4 or 5 on the following exams taken in spring 2007 or later will satisfy the third level foreign language requirement, but do not earn USC course equivalence. (Students wishing to take a fourth-level foreign language course must take a placement exam.)

- Chinese Language and Culture
- French Language
- French Literature
- German Language
- Italian Language and Culture
- Japanese Language and Culture
- Spanish Language
- Spanish Literature

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Courses must receive at least a grade of C- (or pass or credit) to transfer.
- No more than 4 units of GE (one course) can be taken pass/no pass. The lower division writing course cannot be taken pass/no pass. No more than 24 units total can be taken pass/no pass (including courses taken at USC). (“Pass/no pass” means a course that is available for a letter grade but allows the student to choose pass/no pass as an alternate grade choice. If a course is only offered credit/no credit, it is not included in the limit.)
- Most students may transfer in a maximum of 64 semester units. (Architecture majors and Engineering “3-2” students have different limits).
- If two or more courses equivalent to each other are taken, only the first course passed will be granted credit (although all attempts are calculated in the transfer GPA).
- A prerequisite course within the same discipline taken after the higher level course has been passed will not get credit (e.g., you can’t get credit for French 2 taken after French 3).