

# Course Registration FAQs

We have prepared the following list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about course registration to help with your planning. You can also find a glossary on page 4 that has explanations of words that are confusing or unique to UC Davis.

## **Where can I see what courses are offered at UC Davis?**

You can see the courses by [visiting the Course Catalog](#). This is a list of all the classes that can be offered at Davis. Check to see if the class you want is actually being offered this quarter and how many seats are available using the [Course Search Tool](#) or [Schedule Builder](#).

## **I don't see my major in the Course Catalog. What should I do?**

Perhaps your major is called by a different name at UC Davis. Review each department carefully to see if there is a close match in coursework. For example, UC Davis does not offer a business major. It does, however, reach courses in Economics and Agricultural and Resource Economics, which are often similar to Business courses.

Some majors may not be offered at UC Davis. Students who are majoring in Physical Education, Law, Hotel Management, and Home Economics, for example, will need to explore other departments at Davis.

## **Will I be able to take courses in my major at UC Davis?**

GSP students have taken courses in over 90% of UC Davis departments. Most likely you will be able to take major-related coursework. Due to some classes being full, the GSP cannot guarantee that students will be able to take certain courses, even if they are required for a student's graduation.

Please remember to be very flexible when planning your courses. UC Davis is an interdisciplinary campus, so many subjects may be taught in different departments. For example, business majors often take courses in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department.

## **Are any subjects or major very popular?**

The following subjects are very popular and often have full classrooms: Art, Design, Communications, Food Science, and Computer Science. If you are majoring in these subjects, please carefully consider your schedule and consult with a Global Study Program advisor in order to see if you will be able to take these types of courses.

Certain other courses may be very popular as well. If you are not able to take the class you wanted, we will work with you to identify other options.

## **Will I need to take any special exams?**

In order to take courses in certain departments, students will need to complete an advanced writing examination, called the Subject A Exam, upon arrival. Students must pass this exam in order to take courses in Communications (CMN), English (ENL) and a few other departments. The specific courses will list "Subject A Exam" or "Completion of Entry Level Writing" as prerequisites. You will have an opportunity to take this exam upon arrival. Very few students are able to pass the exam. A unique GSP course that fulfills the Subject A Requirement may be offered. We will notify you of this via email.

## Course Registration FAQs

There are also Math and Chemistry exams that must be taken for certain classes within those departments (CHE002A, MAT012, 16A, 17A, and 21A). Please note that some music classes also require an audition.

In order to enroll in any language course at UC Davis, you must first take a placement exam to determine your level of skill when you arrive in Davis. The only exception is a 001 class which is designed for students who have never taken the language before (FRE001 for example). If you wish to enroll in a class before you arrive it is possible, but you will be dropped if you do not take the exam and place into the appropriate level. The language departments will not permit you to take language classes that are either too easy or too difficult for you. This is why the placement exam is mandatory.

### **Can I register for Graduate-level courses?**

Graduate classes are typically restricted to students who are pursuing a graduate degree at Davis. GSP students are able to take graduate courses IF they receive the permission of the professor teaching the course and permission from the Global Study Program Director. Please remember that coursework in general at UC Davis is very difficult; about 50% of GSP students believe it is more difficult than they are used to at their home university. Graduate level courses are particularly challenging.

### **How many classes will I take?**

Most students take approximately 3 or 4 courses for a total of 12 or 13 units. However, the number of units does vary depending on your English level (TOEFL or IELTS score) when you were admitted to the Global Study Program.

### **Is there any way I can see what a course will be like before registering?**

Past GSP students have sent in their syllabi for new students to look at. If you are interested in a course and would like to know what will be covered you can view old syllabi here: <https://sites.google.com/site/gspsyllabus/>. Please remember that the syllabus will change if the professor changes, and sometimes the same professor will revise it between quarters. These syllabi are just to give you a general idea of a course. If you cannot find the syllabus you are looking for, you can try searching for it on Google by entering the name of the class + "UC Davis" + "Syllabus".

Major guides are now available for students studying Communications, English Literature, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Business, Chemical Engineering & Material Science, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, and Psychology. If you would like more information on how your major is taught at Davis, what courses you can take, or what the general prerequisites are, please request your major's guide from the GSP staff.

### **What is a "prerequisite" course? I keep seeing this word in the general catalog.**

A prerequisite course is a course you are required to take before taking another course. For example, if you want to take the course "Spanish 2" at UC Davis, you must have taken "Spanish 1" first. Spanish 1 is beginning, basic Spanish, and if you have not learned this material you would not be able to do very well in Spanish 2.

## Course Registration FAQs

These prerequisite courses DO NOT need to have been taken at UC Davis. If you completed the prerequisite material in a course at your home university (even if the class had a different name), then you are qualified to register for this class. The purpose of a prerequisite is to make sure you know enough to succeed in the class. If you are unsure of whether or not you have covered the necessary topics, contact the GSP staff.

Usually, a prerequisite class has to be taken and finished before you can take a certain class. In some cases, the class description may say that “concurrent” enrollment is ok. Concurrent means at the same time, so you would be able to take the class and its prerequisite together.

Here is an example of what prerequisites look like in the course catalog underneath a course description:

100. Intermediate Micro Theory (4)

Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. **Prerequisite: course 1A, 1B; Mathematics 16A-16B or 21A-21B with grade of C- or better in each.** Price and distribution theory under conditions of perfect and imperfect competition. General equilibrium and welfare economics. Not open for credit to students who have completed Agricultural and Resource Economics 100A or 100B.—I, II, III. (I, II, III.)

Remember, you must pay close attention to the prerequisites for courses. When you choose your courses, you will be asked to show how you have satisfied the prerequisites for the courses you would like to take. If you do not, then your class will not be approved.

### Why do Global Study Program students register for courses last at UC Davis?

The University of California, Davis as a comprehensive research university has a public mandate to provide education to students in California. Consequently, degree-seeking students, or students who will receive their degree from UC Davis, take priority in the registration process.

As a public university, the University of California, Davis receives money from the state government to subsidize in-state students' education. This money comes from residents of California, who pay taxes which help support the University of California. If a student comes from out of state, they will pay the university the amount of the in-state tuition and taxes. The University of California, Davis, in addition to helping students from UC Davis get their degrees, also makes a lot of money from these students tuition.

Global Study Program students register last for their courses because of their status as non-degree seeking students, and the amount of money they pay for tuition compared to other students on the campus.

# Course Registration FAQs

## Glossary

**CPF:** CPF stands for “course preference form”. The course preference form is the sheet that students fill out and send to the GSP staff to register for courses.

**CRN:** CRN stands for “course registration number”. The course registration number is a 5 digit number that is unique to each offered course. In the above example of Economics 100, the CRN is 70373.

**Lower Division:** Courses numbered from 1-99 are lower division courses. These courses generally are meant as introductory courses to their subject. For example, Economics 1A is a lower division course.

**Prerequisites:** Courses will often list prerequisite courses. In the above example of Economics 100, the prerequisite courses are: Economics 1A, 1B, and Math 16A and 16B. This means that students need to have either taken these courses at UC Davis **or similar courses at their home university**. The knowledge from the prerequisite courses will be used, so students need to have completed the prerequisites in order to be registered for classes.

**R:** Thursday, in the course catalog courses are often listed as being “T/R”. R stands for Thursday, so this means the class will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Section:** In courses with lots of students, every student attends the same lecture. However, there will often be multiple “sections” offered. In these sections the course is broken up into multiple smaller groups of students. During each section students will meet with a teaching assistant to discuss and review the course material. Each section has a different course registration number. If there are multiple sections, then they will be offered at different times. Students are only required to register for one section.

**Staff:** When registering for courses, sometimes the professor will be listed as “staff.” This means that a professor has not yet been chosen to teach the course, but that a professor will be chosen by the start of the quarter.

**TBA:** TBA stands for “to be announced.” Sometimes a course’s location will be listed as TBA. This means that a location for the course has not yet been chosen, but that a location will be announced before the course begins.

**Teaching Assistant:** Also called the “TA”, a teaching assistant is a graduate student at UC Davis that helps a professor run a course. Teaching Assistants generally run the discussion sections and grade exams and papers.

**Units and Credits:** Units and credits are the same thing. The terms are used interchangeably.

**Upper Division:** Courses numbered from 100-199 are upper division courses. These courses are more advanced and will have prerequisite courses. Upper division courses are more work than lower division courses. For example, Economics 100 is an upper division course.