

From: **Ryan King** <Ryan.King@ucop.edu>
Date: Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 5:21 PM
Subject: RE: EdSource question regarding BOARS
To: Michael Burke <mburke@edsources.org>
Cc: Media <media@ucop.edu>

Hi, Michael

The University of California admissions requirement for mathematics requires potential applicants to complete a three-course series (Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II). Last Friday's BOARS meeting reflects a continued dialogue, one that has been happening over the course of the last year, over what existing courses may also be deemed by the University system to fulfill the Algebra II requirement. There are some advanced mathematics courses, such as Precalculus or Calculus, that are more generally accepted to fulfill advanced mathematics curriculum. However, in other areas of advanced mathematics, such as data science and additional statistics-based disciplines, some faculty have concerns whether the subject-matter meets the requirement.

On Friday, BOARS established a working group to examine the criteria that determines whether a course is considered advanced math. This working group will include faculty subject-matter experts who will help further refine the criteria that determines whether a course validates the Algebra II requirement. The discussion will be ongoing, and we do not have a set timeline nor planned conclusion date to provide you at this time. In the interim, however, no changes have been made to existing UC admissions requirements nor will this impact admissions for the upcoming class of applicants for undergraduate admission to the system. Thus, to reiterate, no changes were made to the mathematics admissions requirement, or to what the University deems to meet that requirement for undergraduate admission to the system at this time. It is important to note that the Area C requirements for admissions to the University in mathematics can be fulfilled in several ways. Courses approved in advanced math disciplines in subject area C provide students the opportunity to fulfill the third or fourth year of the area C requirement in a few ways that may suit their academic interests or future career goals. So, a student is free to take another course option in lieu of Algebra II to fulfill the area C mathematics requirement, just as they would be to take another approved course in other academic disciplines to fulfill a requirement in that subject area.

Our area C mathematics requirement remains the same, "three years of college-preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry" (as outlined [here](#)). In October 2020, the University provided additional clarification on BOARS' decision, which is "[c]ourses intended for 11th and/or 12th grade levels may satisfy the required third or recommended fourth year of the subject

requirement if approved as an advanced math course.” This allowance is reflected in the University’s Academic Senate Regulation [428](#). The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) memo issued in 2020 shared expanded and clarified guidance on various ways that students may meet UC’s [existing area C requirements](#). The University admissions policy is described [here](#) and includes the October 2020 BOARS decision to clarify what types of high school mathematics courses we will accept to fulfill the area C subject requirement for freshman admissions.

The University is grateful to BOARS and the working group for their continued intentional deliberation on this important topic.