



*Kum-Kum Bhavnani*  
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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

March 27, 2020

**JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Temporary Modification of Existing Admission Requirements Due to COVID-19**

Dear Janet,

The Academic Council has endorsed unanimously the three attached letters from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) recommending additional flexibility in freshman and transfer admissions requirements due to the COVID-19 health emergency. Council recognizes that these measures are required as an ethical imperative, given the uncertainty, anxiety, and health risks facing students and their families, as well as a practical matter, given the cancellation or postponement of some requirements.

**1. Temporary Waiver of Certain Undergraduate Admission Requirements Due to COVID-19**

The letter covers Senate regulations to be temporarily suspended to ensure that, in this period of emergency, the University is sensitive to the anxieties and risks facing prospective UC students as well as their reduced opportunities to fulfill such requirements.

**2. Temporary Flexibility in UC Transfer Requirements due to COVID-19**

The letter encourages temporary flexibility from campus admission officers regarding transfer admission requirements, in sensitive concern to the anxieties and risks facing prospective UC students as well as their reduced opportunities to fulfill such requirements.

**3. Advanced Placement Exam Credit during COVID-19 Crisis**

The letter notes that in the context of this year's AP examinations, which will be completed as take-home exams with reduced content, UC should continue to award credit, consistent with past years, for scores of 3, 4, or 5.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani".

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair  
Academic Council

cc: Academic Council  
Provost Brown  
Vice Provost Gullatt  
Director Yoon-Wu  
Chief of Staff to the President Kao  
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe  
Chief of Staff to the Provost Peterson  
BOARS Chair Comeaux  
Senate Directors  
Executive Director Baxter



**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)**

**Eddie Comeaux, Chair**

[eddie.comeaux@ucr.edu](mailto:eddie.comeaux@ucr.edu)

Assembly of the Academic Senate

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March 24, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: TEMPORARY WAIVER OF CERTAIN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS DUE TO  
COVID-19**

Dear Kum-Kum,

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) has endorsed the temporary waiver of certain admission requirements to UC due to the on-going COVID-19 health crisis. As the enclosed memo from Student Affairs explains in detail, it may not be possible to provide certain admission requirements given the postponement or cancellation of test administration, both domestically and abroad. Further, California residents may not be able to supply proof of A-G completion with a GPA due to decisions made by their school districts, and others may suffer personal tragedy and require deferral or dismissal of application requirements. This process is similar to that enacted to support victims of wildfires in the recent past.

Again, we thank our colleagues in Student Affairs for their hard work and mindful approach during this time of crisis.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Eddie Comeaux  
BOARS Chair

Encl.

cc: Members of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)  
Executive Director Baxter  
Yvette Gullatt, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs  
Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director of Undergraduate Admissions



OFFICE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

March 20, 2020

RE: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SENATE REGULATIONS RELATED TO  
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Dear Chair Comeaux,

As systemwide Director of Undergraduate Admissions, it is my charge to advise on matters affecting the admissions process. As such, I am seeking temporary exemption to Academic Senate regulations for undergraduate admissions in the context of systemwide COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Efforts to contain the spread across the globe and in California have caused an unprecedented and growing number of school closures. Institutions have been forced to switch from in-person instruction to alternative modes of delivery in efforts to sustain student learning and academic progress. The abrupt, and likely sustained, move to remote instruction has created many challenges for educators, students and their families. With such grave disruption in the education system, administrators are seeking flexibility where possible under these untenable conditions. The logistical challenges to teaching and learning have resulted in educators seeking federal and local suspension and waivers to assessment and accountability measures. Standardized tests in K-12 as well as college entrance exams have been cancelled and as such, concern is mounting over student academic progress and how the situation will affect college admissions.

Given the current, unprecedented public health crisis, and resulting actions being taken across communities, the following Academic Senate Regulations may be too prescriptive for students seeking to enroll at the university for fall 2020 and subsequent terms.

***SR 419:** (En 17 June 2009) {SR 419 as set forth below, is to be valid for freshmen entering the University beginning in fall 2012}*

*Each Applicant for freshman admission must submit official scores on an approved test of Mathematics, Language Arts, and Writing on or before the date established by the Office of Admissions.*

*Approval of tests shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools with the concurrence of the Academic Council and the Assembly of the Academic Senate.*

***SR 424.B.1.:** All courses used to satisfy the specific requirements [A-G] of Paragraph A.3 of this Regulation must be completed with a grade of C or better. (Am 17 June 2009) (Am June 2013)*

**SR 450:** *Students applying for freshman admission on the basis of transcript of record from an accredited secondary school outside of California must complete a four-year course of study that includes at least 15 college-preparatory courses as specified in SR 424, the required examinations specified in SR 419 and must meet scholarship requirements with a minimum grade point average as shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools with the concurrence of the Academic Council and the Assembly of the Academic Senate. (Am 17 June 2009) (Am June 2013)*

**SR 464:** *(En 17 June 2009) (Am June 2013)*

*Notwithstanding the requirements for freshman admission specified in SR 419, 424, 440 [Admission by Exam], and 450, applicants who do not satisfy the University's minimum requirements may be admitted provided that the proportion of the enrolled freshman class admitted to a campus in this manner does not exceed six (6) percent.*

**SR 476:** *(re: students with advanced standing) An applicant who did not meet the requirements specified in Paragraphs A or B of this Regulation may be admitted to the University provided the applicant has completed 60 semester(90 quarter) units of transferable college course work, has maintained a grade-point average set by the campus in transferable college course work, has completed all transferable courses with a grade of C or higher, and has completed one of the following pathways: UC major preparation coursework, SB1440 Associate Degree for Transfer, or the 7 course requirement*

As high schools and community colleges in California and throughout the U.S. look for solutions to hold their students harmless throughout this period of uncertainty, many are considering alternate grading methods, such as Pass/Not Pass, Pass/Fail, or Credit/No Credit. This adjustment has the potential to affect not only the incoming freshman class, but students throughout the 9-12 pipeline because current Academic Senate regulations do not allow courses in which a P or CR grade are earned to fulfill A-G requirements.

While California students remain our priority, the university would be remiss to ignore the many students overseas – both international students and U.S. citizens – who may be unable to earn the credentials typically required for admission. Already, the United Kingdom has cancelled all GCSE and A-level exams, and Pakistan has “postponed” the exams indefinitely; these are the two secondary school credentials UC currently requires for any student educated under the British educational system. Without a clear end in sight, I anticipate disruptions to the French, German, and Italian secondary school exit exams, as well as to students following the IB Diploma Programme – also credentials the university requires as equivalent to a high school diploma.

This period of uncertainty predicated by the COVID-19 situation greatly impacts our previously assured pipeline of students to UC, which includes California resident freshmen, California Community college transfers, domestic and international nonresidents. The academic verification process, yield, and enrollments will be notably compromised by the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

I am requesting the temporary suspension of Academic Senate regulations (within Chapters 2-4) under BOARS purview and seek flexibility in light of global educational disruptions not only for

current high school seniors but for all high school and transfer students in the pipeline. This would include the following:

- 1) Requirement of a high school diploma or equivalent (completion certificates, exit exams)
- 2) Requirement of A-G completion with grade of C or better (as schools move towards pass/no pass grading)
- 3) Requirement of standardized test completion
- 4) Requirements for admission to advanced standing

This recommendation is not intended to waive all requirements, but to allow campuses to use maximum flexibility in recruiting, admitting, enrolling otherwise qualified students who may not technically meet requirements for admission due to educational disruption attributed to the COVID-19 crisis.

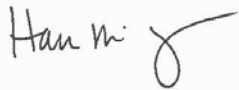
Given the sheer volume of students who may warrant the proposed exceptions, I also request an exemption for students missing requirements due to the COVID-19 crisis from the Admission by Exception calculation.

**SR 464.** (En 17 June 2009) (Am June 2013)

*Notwithstanding the requirements for freshman admission specified in SR 419, 424, 440, and 450, applicants who do not satisfy the University's minimum requirements may be admitted provided that the proportion of the enrolled freshman class admitted to a campus in this manner does not exceed six (6) percent*

It is requested that further extensions of this policy will be considered, if necessary, to accommodate students whose circumstances are impacted by the COVID-19 situation. Campuses will also continue with their regular practice of allowing for exceptions for unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis. I will continue to work with campus leadership, as well as those performing admission selection and verifications to ensure a fair and equitable process that does not adversely affect students who would have, but for the disruptions resulting from the coronavirus, otherwise matriculated to the University of California.

Respectfully,



Han Mi Yoon-Wu  
Director, Undergraduate Admissions  
University of California Office of the President

cc: Senate Chair Bhavnani  
BOARS Vice Chair Sorapure  
Provost Brown  
Interim Vice President Gullatt  
Executive Director Baxter



**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)**

**Eddie Comeaux, Chair**

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March 26, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: TEMPORARY FLEXIBILITY IN UC TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS DUE TO  
COVID-19**

Dear Kum-Kum,

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) encourages temporary flexibility from campus admission officers regarding transfer admission requirements to UC due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Certain major preparation and/or general education admission requirements may not be possible to provide given the postponement or cancellation of courses. As well, transfer applicants may suffer personal tragedy and require deferral or dismissal of some transfer requirements. This process is similar to that enacted to support victims of wildfires in the recent past. It is therefore important to be thoughtful and flexible, where possible, under these high-risk conditions.

We thank our UC colleagues for their mindful approach during this time of crisis.

Sincerely,

Eddie Comeaux

BOARS Chair

cc: BOARS Members  
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director  
Yvette Gullatt, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs  
Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director, Undergraduate Admissions



**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)**

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March 26, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: AP EXAM CREDIT DURING COVID-19 CRISIS**

Dear Kum-Kum,

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) notes that The College Board recently announced changes to the AP exam format for spring 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. For this year only, AP exams will be administered in 45-minute online format which students will take from home. The exams will include material that most high schools would have covered through early March. Despite the shortened exam format and reduced content, UC recognizes the effort that students have already applied in these challenging courses and will continue to award UC credit consistent with previous years for 2020 AP exams completed with scores of 3, 4, or 5.

Thank you for conveying this consideration to President Napolitano.

Sincerely,

Eddie Comeaux  
BOARS Chair

cc: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director  
BOARS Members  
Yvette Gullatt, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs  
Han Mi- Yoon-Wu, Director, Undergraduate Admissions