

Department of Economics Revised GPA Admission Requirements

In response to the unprecedented events of Spring 2020, the Economics Department has revised the undergraduate GPA requirement for admission to the major. This revision is effective March 24, 2020 and will remain in effect until Spring 2020 courses are no longer factored into the prerequisite GPA calculation for admission to the Economics major.

These revised requirements are only for students who entered UC Berkeley as a freshman (4-year students). Transfer students who entered in Spring 2020, who have not already been contacted by the department about their admission should email ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu.

The tables below show the revised GPA requirements a 4-year student needs in the prerequisite courses taken at UC Berkeley in any semester **except** Spring 2020, in order to be admitted into the Economics major. NOTE: The [time frames to apply to the major](#) remain unchanged and students must apply for the Economics major by the end of their 5th semester or the accumulation of 80 units, whichever comes second.

Revised Economics Admission Policy						
GPA requirements with Spring 2020 courses (4yr students only)						
Total units of Spring 2020 prerequisite courses*	Total units of prerequisite courses taken at UC Berkeley					
	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	2.250	2.400	2.500	2.571	2.625	2.667
4	email	2.000	2.200	2.333	2.429	2.500
6	email	email	email	email	email	2.000
7	email	email	email	email	email	email
8		email	email	email	email	email
>8 please email**						
	13	14	15	16	17	18
3	2.700	2.727	2.750	2.769	2.786	2.800
4	2.556	2.600	2.636	2.667	2.692	2.714
6	2.143	2.250	2.333	2.400	2.455	2.500
7	email	2.000	2.125	2.222	2.300	2.364
8	email	email	email	2.000	2.111	2.200
>8 please email**						
	19	20	21	22	23	24
3	2.813	2.824	2.833	2.842	2.850	2.857
4	2.733	2.750	2.765	2.778	2.789	2.800
6	2.538	2.571	2.600	2.625	2.647	2.667
7	2.417	2.462	2.500	2.533	2.563	2.588
8	2.273	2.333	2.385	2.429	2.467	2.500
>8 please email**						

How to use:

- Determine your **total units of prerequisite courses taken at UC Berkeley (including all upper division core courses: 100A, 100B, 140)**, that you will have completed or in-progress *at the time of application*. Be sure to include your Spring 2020 prerequisites. This is your column.
- Determine the **total units of prerequisite courses successfully completed in Spring 2020 (grades C- or higher or P)**. This is your row.
- Find where your row and column meet; that cell represents the **GPA required for your admission to the major**.

*Find list of prerequisite courses [here](#).

**If you took more than 8 units of prerequisite courses in Spring 2020 and/or if your selected cell says "email," please contact us at ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu for further assistance in determining your admissions requirements.

A few examples of how this works:

EXAMPLE 1:

A student with 18 total units of prerequisite courses completed or in-progress *at the time of application*, who successfully completed 3 units of prerequisite courses in Spring 2020 would need an average 2.800 in the remaining prerequisite courses (column labeled "18" and row labeled "3").

EXAMPLE 2:

A student with 20 total units of prerequisite courses completed or in-progress *at the time of application*, who successfully completed 8 units of prerequisite courses in Spring 2020 would need an average 2.333 GPA in the remaining prerequisite courses (column labeled "20," row labeled "8").

NOTE: The total units of prerequisite courses includes the courses taken Spring 2020. A student with 8 units of prerequisite courses in Fall 2019, 8 units of prerequisite courses in Spring 2020, and 4 units of prerequisite courses in Fall 2020 (20 total) would need to earn an average 2.333 GPA (column labeled "20" and row labeled "8") in the courses taken Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 in order to be admitted to the major.

The Fine Print (please read!)

All cases will not be covered by this revised policy.

These revised requirements will not capture every unique circumstance related to admission to the Economics major. If your specific case is not represented in the revised GPA tables, please email us at ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu.

In particular, the following students should email us directly and should NOT use the revised GPA chart to determine their admission criteria:

- Any transfer student who entered UC Berkeley in Spring 2020.
- Any student who did not take a prerequisite course in Spring 2020. Regular [GPA rules](#) apply in these cases.
- Any student on a conditional admission contract in Spring 2020.
- Any student who was taking an Economics prerequisite for the second time in Spring 2020 (i.e. failed MATH 16A in Fall 2019 and took it again in Spring 2020).
- Any student who took a prerequisite(s) but did not successfully complete the course(s) in Spring 2020 (i.e. received D+ or lower or NP).

How the revised policy was created:

The development of these revised GPA requirements is based on two facts: [1] In normal times, a 4-year student needs an average 3.000 to be admitted to the economics major. [2] Courses passed (P or C- and above) in Spring 2020 will be counted as completed but no grades will be used even if a student requested the letter grade option.

The calculation uses the assumption that a student would have received an A (4.0) in the prerequisite classes passed during Spring 2020 and calculates what GPA is needed in the other prerequisite classes to meet the usual GPA requirement.

The formula is $(3 \times \langle \text{total \# of units in prereq courses} \rangle - 4 \times \langle \text{\# of Sp 2020 units of prereq courses} \rangle)$ divided by $(\langle \text{total \# of units in prereq courses} \rangle - \langle \text{\# of Sp 2020 units of prereq courses} \rangle)$.