

Taking a Course Online

Taking a course online can be a useful option but it is important to find a reputable provider that will meet high school, college, and (if applicable) NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) eligibility requirements. For example, BYU (Brigham Young University) offers many courses but is not approved by the NCAA; UC (University of California) recognizes only a few BYU courses. Some courses are structured over a set number of weeks; others may be self-paced over a 12-month period. Some require a proctored final exam. Students are often more successful with live support from a local tutor.

Steps to Taking an Online Course

1. Talk with your high school counselor about school policies for receiving high school credit for online courses. It is always possible to take a course and include it as part of your college application, but it is up to the high school to determine how that course is treated with regard to your high school requirements and transcript. Ask about options for proctoring the final exam, especially if you will be finishing the course during the summer or other school break.
2. Choose an appropriate course. Providers may offer standard high school level courses or college level Advanced Placement courses. UC and many other colleges do not accept online courses for lab science (Scout is exception) or visual and performing arts requirements.
3. Find an appropriate provider. Consider reputability of the provider, teaching format, schedule, cost, final exam proctoring requirements.

The UC Doorways website can be used as a guide for reputability. Check whether an online course is included on the UC certified course list. Visit www.ucop.edu/doorways/ and search for an online provider and available courses.

Providers offering part-time options that have been approved by UC include:

- Allied High School (self-paced over 6 mos) - <http://www.alliedhighschool.com/>
- APEX Learning Virtual School (8 or 17 week options) - <http://www.apexlearninghs.com/>
- Ed Program for Gifted Youth Online High School at Stanford University (self-paced) - epgy.stanford.edu/
- National University Virtual High School (by term) - <http://www.nuvhs.org/>
- Keystone Online (self-paced over 12 mos) - <http://www.nuvhs.org/>
- Laurel Springs School (rolling, by term) - <http://laurelsprings.com/>
- Scout, offered through the University of CA (terms vary). Credit and possible fees must be coordinated through the student's high school. <http://www.ucscout.org/contact#faq>

4. Confirm high school approval of the specific course and provider.
5. Upon course completion, request a transcript to be given to the high school.
6. When applying to colleges, include the online provider as an additional high school and request a transcript to be sent from the online provider. (Some colleges may not require this if the course is included on the high school transcript. Scout credit is ONLY through the high school.)