Strong writing skills are essential to success at USC. All undergraduates at USC are required to take two writing courses: one lower-division and one upper-division course. The upper-division course must be taken at USC.

Before being admitted, however, successful transfer applicants will complete a course equivalent to the lower-division requirement, WRIT 150. Usually the second course in an English-language college composition sequence satisfies this requirement.

If your school does not offer a course equivalent to WRIT 150, you should take the strongest composition course available. This course may not be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Professional, technical, creative and remedial writing courses will not satisfy this requirement.

If you are unsure if your writing course is equivalent to WRIT 150, or if it does not appear on any current articulation agreements or histories, keep the syllabus and papers for later review by USC.

You are expected to have earned strong grades in at least three years of high school mathematics, including Advanced Algebra (Algebra II) or Intermediate Algebra at the college level with a grade of C or better.

Majors in the sciences, social sciences, business, architecture and engineering at USC require specific mathematics courses and achievement beyond this level.

If lower-division mathematics courses are required by your major, we advise you to complete them early in your college studies, prior to applying to USC.

Please refer to Additional Coursework by Major on pages 12-15 to find out if your intended program of study requires additional coursework.

The Diversity requirement addresses relations among groups marked by differences in age, ability, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, nationality and social class. Courses in this category challenge undergraduates to respect these differences, to analyze their social and cultural consequences, and to relate this information to conflicts in a contemporary American context.

Diversity courses are typically (but not exclusively) offered by ethnic studies and gender studies departments. Introduction to Sociology also fulfills this requirement.

Requirements vary by major (see pages 12-15). Many degree programs have a third-semester foreign language requirement (see pages 12-15 for a list of these programs). To fulfill the third-semester requirement, it may be necessary in some cases to complete a fourth-semester course. Students attending schools on the quarter system will need to take a fifth quarter to complete this requirement.

Students who have not completed the equivalent of USC’s third-semester course must take a placement exam to determine the appropriate entry level.

Students are encouraged to start taking these courses early in their college career. A score of 4 or higher on an AP foreign language exam (other than Latin) can fulfill this requirement.

Language courses taken fully or partially online do not satisfy this requirement.
General Education Courses Recommended for Admission

The General Education curriculum will be revised as of fall 2015, but new students enrolling full-time prior to fall 2015 may follow these GE requirements. To graduate, USC undergraduates are required to take one course in each of the six categories below. Successful applicants to USC will fulfill at least some of these courses before being admitted.

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<td>WESTERN CULTURES AND TRADITIONS</td>
<td>GLOBAL CULTURES AND TRADITIONS</td>
<td>SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY</td>
<td>SCIENCE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE*</td>
<td>ARTS AND LETTERS</td>
<td>SOCIAL ISSUES*</td>
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Courses must focus broadly on Greco-Roman or Judeo-Christian traditions through the modern European era, with at least a two-century span (e.g., Western Civilization).

Not acceptable: History of non-European groups, including World Civilization courses, or courses on specific topics (e.g., 18th-century French drama).

Courses in this category examine cultures associated with Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Native America or Russia. Although there may be comparisons with the West, these courses examine cultures on their own terms as distinctly different from the West and over a substantial period of time. Cultural Anthropology fulfills this category.

Not acceptable: Courses in U.S. or Latin American political history, Israel or the Middle East in the 20th century, or modern Asia.

Courses should focus on basic scientific principles including the scientific method and the development of a body of scientific knowledge. The first course in the major sequence, or a course for non-majors, is usually acceptable, so long as the course includes a lab or field experience. The course cannot be remedial.

Not acceptable: Interdisciplinary or applied sciences, such as environmental science, ecology, meteorology, paleontology, anatomy, physiology and microbiology. Labs may not be taken online.

This course focuses on a particular area of research using perspectives from many scientific disciplines to show connections among fields, as well as potential real-world uses and consequences.

Courses require critical analysis of literature, philosophy, visual arts, music and/or film. Students must demonstrate intense engagement with these works using methods of written argumentation and persuasion. Courses centered on a theme, country, genre or well-defined time period are preferred over broad surveys.

Not acceptable: Studio, performance or pre-professional courses.

Courses focus on local, national and international problems, and on developing the analytical skills to understand them in a broad context. Each course includes a companion series of evening lectures.

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MAJOR-RELATED COURSES  Make a note of suggested additional preparation for your major (see pages 12-15).