



Staying on Course

High School Curriculum Requirements for the University System of Georgia

Office of Student Affairs

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The high school curriculum is the cornerstone of the University System of Georgia admissions policy. Students should pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum to be best prepared for a successful college experience. The following appropriate high school curriculum must be met by all freshmen applicants and transfer applicants with less than 30 transferable semester hours.*

Graduating Prior to 2012

The College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) should be completed by students graduating high school prior to 2012.	
Carnegie Unit Requirement	In Specific Subject Areas
4 Carnegie Units of college preparatory English	Literature (American, English, World) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills
4 Carnegie Units of college mathematics	Algebra I and II, geometry and a fourth year of advanced algebra and trigonometry, algebra III, pre-calculus, discrete mathematics, calculus, statistics, IB mathematics or analysis
3 Carnegie Units of college preparatory science	Including at least one lab course from life sciences and one lab course from the physical sciences
3 Carnegie Units of college preparatory social science	Must include one unit focusing on US studies and one unit focusing on world studies
2 Carnegie Units of the same foreign language or American Sign Language	Must be two consecutive units emphasizing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

Graduating 2012 or Later

The Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) should be completed by those students graduating high school in 2012 or later.	
CPC Carnegie Unit Requirement	In Specific Subject Areas
4 Carnegie Units of college preparatory English	Literature (American, English, World) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills
4 Carnegie Units of college mathematics	Mathematics I, II, III and a fourth year of advanced math or equivalent courses**
4 Carnegie Units of college preparatory science	The four science units should include two courses with a laboratory component. Students graduating from a Georgia public high school should have at least one unit in biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth science or environmental science and a fourth science.***
3 Carnegie Units of college preparatory social science	Must include one unit focusing on US studies and one unit focusing on world studies
2 Carnegie Units of the same foreign language or American Sign Language	Must be two consecutive units emphasizing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

*Students who graduate from a Georgia public high school having participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment will not be eligible for admission to a USG institution.

** The list of courses that may be used to meet the four units of mathematics can be found on page 4 of this document.

*** The list of courses that may be used to meet the fourth science requirement can be found on page 3 of this document.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I will graduate high school in 2012, how many science classes should I complete?

Students graduating high school in 2012 or later must complete a total of 4 units of science. The four sciences should include two courses with a laboratory component. Students graduating from a Georgia public high school should have at least one unit in biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth science or environmental science and a fourth science, which should come from the list of courses found in this document.

My school or school system only offers physical science in the 8th grade, will I be considered deficient if I don't take it in high school?

Students enrolled in Georgia private high schools and high schools in other states often complete physical science while in the eighth grade and then take three or more additional science units in high school. Consequently, students from private high schools and public high schools in other states can count physical science courses taken in the eighth grade as one of the required four science units.

I am graduating from a private high school or from an out-of-state public high school. Am I required to have four science courses?

Yes, students graduating from a private high school or an out-of-state public high school are required to complete four science units, including two courses with a laboratory component. At least one course should be from the life sciences and one course should be from the physical sciences.

The science courses offered at my high school include life science and physical science content in each course. Can these courses count towards the four required college preparatory science units?

Yes, provided the total content is equivalent to taking four units of science. The content must be the equivalent of two units with a laboratory component and should include the equivalent of at least one unit from the life sciences and one unit from the physical sciences.

Should I take a foreign language in high school?

While the Georgia Department of Education will no longer require students to complete two years of a foreign language in order to graduate from high school (after 2012), the colleges and universities comprising the University System of Georgia WILL require the completion of two years of the same foreign language or two years of sign language in order to be considered for admission.

Which math classes should I take in high school?

Students should complete 4 units of math which should include Algebra I and II, geometry and a fourth year which should consist of advanced algebra and trigonometry, algebra III, pre-calculus, discrete mathematics, calculus, statistics, IB mathematics or analysis. Students graduating from a Georgia public high school in 2012 or later should complete 4 units of math, which should include Mathematics I, II III and a fourth year of advanced math or equivalent courses.

How many total academic units must I complete in order to be considered for admission to a University System of Georgia college or university?

Students graduating high school prior to 2012 must complete a total of 16 academic units consisting of 4 English, 4 mathematics, **3 science**, 3 social science and 2 foreign language. Students graduating high school in 2012 or later must complete a total of 17 academic units, consisting of 4 English, 4 mathematics, **4 science**, 3 social science and 2 foreign language.

Should I pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum?

Yes, in order to be best prepared for college, students are encouraged to take a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum. Students should consult with their high school counselor and parents to select courses suitable to their ability level in each subject area.

What else do colleges look for in addition to the completion of the high school curriculum?

While the rigor of the high school curriculum is very important, it is not the only factor considered when determining an applicant's potential to succeed in college and eligibility for admission. The grade point average (GPA) in academic courses and standardized test results (SAT and ACT) are also considered. Information regarding these requirements can be found online at www.gacollege411.org/StudentPlanner/CollegeEntranceRequirements/usg/. Some colleges also have additional requirements and admission requirements vary depending on the type of college and space available. Prospective students should check with the admission office for additional information.

I will graduate from a Georgia public high school but will have participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment. Will I be eligible for admission to a University System of Georgia institution?

Students graduating from a Georgia Public High School having participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment are not eligible for admission to a University System of Georgia institution.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT*

Academic Courses		CTAE Courses	
26.01300	Biology II (Grades 9-12)	01.46100	General Horticulture and Plant Science
26.01400	Advanced Placement Biology	02.42100	Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology
26.01500	Genetics	02.42200	Equine Science
26.01800	International Baccalaureate Biology SL	02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology
26.01900	International Baccalaureate Biology HL	20.41810	Food Science
26.03100	Botany	20.41710	Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan
26.05100	Microbiology	21.45100	Energy and Power Technology
26.06100	Ecology	21.45700	Appropriate and Alternative Energy Technologies
26.06110	Environmental Science	25.56800	Introduction to Biotechnology
26.06200	Advanced Placement Environmental Science	<i>Additional CTAE courses which may be used to satisfy the fourth science requirement are currently under review by the Georgia Department of Education and the University System of Georgia and will be posted here as they are approved.</i>	
26.06300	International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems		
26.06400	Advanced Genetics/DNA Research		
		Other Acceptable Courses	
26.06300	International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems	11.01600	AP Computer Science A
26.07100	Zoology		
26.07200	Entomology		
26.07300	Human Anatomy/Physiology		
40.01100	Physical Science		
40.02100	Astronomy		
40.04100	Meteorology		
40.05100	Chemistry I		
40.05200	Chemistry II		
40.05300	Advanced Placement Chemistry		
40.05500	International Baccalaureate Chemistry SL		
40.05600	International Baccalaureate Chemistry HL		
40.06300	Geology		
40.06400	Earth Systems		
40.07100	Oceanography		
40.08100	Physics I		
40.08200	Physics II		
40.08300	Advanced Placement Physics B		
40.08410	Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics		
40.08420	Advanced Placement Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism		
40.08500	International Baccalaureate Physics SL		
40.08600	International Baccalaureate Physics HL		
40.08900	Advanced Physics Principles/Robotics		
40.09100	Advanced Scientific Internship		
40.09200	Advanced Scientific Research		
40.09300	Forensic Science		
40.09400	Chemical & Material Science Engineering		
40.09500	International Baccalaureate Design Technology SL		
40.09600	International Baccalaureate Design Technology HL		

* Course titles and numbers listed in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education. Consideration should be given to similar courses for students attending private and out-of-state high schools.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT*

27.08100	Mathematics I – Algebra/Geometry/Statistics
27.08200	Mathematics II – Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics
27.08300	Mathematics III – Advanced Algebra/Statistics
27.08400	Mathematics IV – Pre-Calculus-Trigonometry/Statistics
27.06100	Algebra I
27.06300	Euclidean Geometry
27.06200	Informal Geometry
27.06400	Algebra II
27.06610	Algebra III
27.05100	Statistics
27.06700	Analysis (Pre-Calculus)
27.07100	Calculus
27.06500	Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry
27.06900	Discrete Mathematics
27.09100	Accelerated Mathematics I – Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics
27.09200	Accelerated Mathematics II – Advanced Algebra/Geometry/Statistics
27.09300	Accelerated Mathematics III – Pre-Calculus-Trigonometry/Statistics
27.05220	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics Mathematical Methods
27.05240	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies SL
27.07200	Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB
27.07300	Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC
27.07400	Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics
27.04600	Mathematics Support III
27.08500	Advanced Mathematical Decision Making**
27.08600	Mathematics of Industry and Government**

**Course not appropriate for students planning to enter into a STEM major in college.

All Other AP and IB Mathematics Courses

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE ENGLISH REQUIREMENT*

23.05100	American Literature/Composition
23.05200	English Literature/Composition
23.05300	Advanced Placement Literature/Composition (American Literature/Composition)
23.06100	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition
23.06200	Tenth Grade Literature and Composition
23.06300	World Literature/Composition
23.06400	Literary Types/Composition
23.06500	Advanced Placement Literature/Composition
23.06600	Contemporary Literature/Composition
23.06700	Multicultural Literature/Composition
23.06800	International Baccalaureate English SL (American Literature)
23.06900	International Baccalaureate English HL (World Literature)
23.06120	International Baccalaureate English B SL
23.06130	International Baccalaureate English B HL

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENT*

COURSES FOCUSING ON WORLD HISTORY

45.08300	World History
45.08110	Advanced Placement World History

COURSES FOCUSING ON U.S. STUDIES

45.08100	United States History
45.08700	International Baccalaureate History of the Americas SL (US History)

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE THIRD UNIT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

In addition to any of the above, any of the following:

45.01100	Comparative Religions
45.01200	Current Issues
45.01300	Technology and Society
45.01310	International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society SL
45.01320	International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society HL
45.01400	The Humanities/Social Studies
45.01500	Psychology
45.01600	Advanced Placement Psychology
45.01700	International Baccalaureate Psychology
45.02100	Anthropology
45.03100	Sociology
45.03200	Ethnic Studies
45.05200	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: United States
45.05300	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: Comparative
45.05500	Constitutional Theory
45.05600	The Individual and Law
45.05700	American Government/Civics
45.05800	Ethics and the Law
45.06100	Economics/Business/Free Enterprise
45.06200	Advanced Placement Microeconomics
45.06300	Advanced Placement Macroeconomics
45.06400	Comparative Political/Economic Systems
45.06500	International Baccalaureate Economics SL
45.07110	World Geography
45.07200	Asian Studies
45.07300	Latin American Studies
45.07400	Middle Eastern Studies
45.07500	Sub-Saharan Studies
45.07600	Local Area Studies/Geography
45.07800	International Baccalaureate Geography SL
45.08120	U.S. History in Film
45.08400	Advanced Placement European History
45.08500	Georgia History
45.08600	Local Area Studies/History
45.08900	Modern U.S. Military History, 1918-present
45.08910	Early U.S. Military History
45.08920	Recent U.S. Presidents
45.8930	International Baccalaureate History of the Americas HL
45.09100	United States and World Affairs
45.09200	World Area Studies

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