



Staying on Course

University System of Georgia

High School Curriculum Requirements

www.usg.edu/student_affairs

The Office of Student Affairs

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The high school curriculum is the cornerstone of the University System of Georgia (USG) admissions policy. This document reflects the minimum USG unit requirements in each of the academic subject areas. Students should pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum to be best prepared for a successful college experience and should consult with their high school counselor to determine appropriate coursework. The following high school requirements must be met by all freshmen applicants and transfer applicants with less than 30 transferable semester hours. Students should contact their college or university of interest to learn about any additional institution-specific admission requirements that may apply.

Carnegie Unit Requirements

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 preparatory mathematics	Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra, and a 4th unit of advanced math, or equivalent courses <i>See page 6 for the courses that may satisfy the 4 math units.</i>
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory science	The 4 science units should include two courses with a laboratory component. Georgia public high school students should have at least one unit of biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement course, and a 4th science. <i>See page 5 for the courses that may satisfy the 4th science requirement. Students satisfying the 4th science requirement with a computer science course may not use that same computer science course towards satisfying the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement.</i>
3 Carnegie units of college preparatory social science	Must include one unit focusing on U.S. studies and one unit focusing on world studies
2 Carnegie units of the same foreign language or 2 units of American Sign Language or 2 units of computer science	The 2 units of the same foreign language must have an emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing. The 2 units of computer science must have a coding and programming emphasis. <i>Georgia public high school students satisfying the requirement through the computer science option must select from the approved courses provided on page 8. Students satisfying this requirement through the computer science option may not use the same courses to satisfy the 4th science unit.</i>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

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

Students graduating 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. Students who graduated high school prior to 2012 must have completed a total of 16 academic units consisting of 4 English, 4 mathematics, 3 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.

I'm considering taking an AP, IB, or Dual Enrollment course, which options are viewed most favorably by college admission officers?

There are a number of different opportunities for high school students to earn college credit prior to their high school graduation. An explanation of how the USG colleges and universities view the different options can be found online at

http://www.usg.edu/assets/student_affairs/documents/MOWR_Admissions_Guidance.pdf.

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. Some colleges also have additional requirements. Prospective students should check with the college admission office for additional information.

If I attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my high school course titles do not match the titles utilized by the Georgia Department of Education, how do I know if my courses will satisfy the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?

The course titles and numbers listed in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education; however, the USG colleges and universities will give consideration to similar courses taken by those attending a private school or a public high school outside of Georgia. Additional information, such as course descriptions, may be requested by the college so they can evaluate a course to determine if it may be used towards satisfying the RHSC.

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.

SCIENCE

How many science units should I complete?

Students must complete a total of four units of science, two of which should have 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 systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement course, and a fourth science from the list of approved science courses found in this document. Students who graduated prior to 2012 are only required to have 3 science units and those units should include at least one lab course from life sciences and one lab course from the physical sciences.

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 4 required science units. Georgia public high school students who take high school physical science while in middle school can also count that course provided their high school includes the credit for that high school course on their high school transcript.

If I graduate from a private high school or from an out-of-state public high school, am I required to complete 4 science units?

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.

My private or out-of-state high school offers several science course options, each counting as a partial unit, which can count towards satisfying the fourth science unit required for high school graduation. Can courses counting as a partial unit be used to satisfy the fourth science unit of the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?

Yes, students may take a combination of science courses to satisfy the fourth science unit provided the total credit earned equals a full unit.

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.

I attend a Georgia public high school so why does my science course not appear on the approved course list found in this document? Does this mean it cannot be used to satisfy the Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?

Only those courses approved by the USG faculty review committee are included in this document and can be used to satisfy the RHSC. The list of courses that have not been approved can be found online at www.usg.edu/assets/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_Course_Review.pdf.

If I take two approved computer science courses to satisfy the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement, can I also use one of those computer science courses to satisfy the 4th science requirement?

No, an approved computer science course may only be used towards the science requirement or the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement. One course may not be used to satisfy two RHSC requirements.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE

Should I take a foreign language in high school?

While the Georgia Department of Education no longer requires students to complete two units of a foreign language for high school graduation, the University System of Georgia does require the completion of two units of the same foreign language, two units of American Sign Language, or two units of approved Computer Science courses with a coding/programming focus.

If I have taken a unit of foreign language in middle school, can it count towards satisfying the USG's RHSC?

Yes, foreign language units taken in middle school may count towards satisfying the USG's RHSC. Students who have taken foreign language in middle school should be sure to submit their transcript showing the credit earned.

Which computer science courses can count towards satisfying the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement?

Only those computer science courses with an emphasis on coding and programming may satisfy this area of the RHSC. The list of approved courses is provided on page 8 of this document.

If I take one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science, will I have satisfied the requirement?

No, students must successfully complete two units of the same foreign language, or two units of American Sign Language, or two units of approved computer science courses.

If I take two approved computer science courses to satisfy the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement, can I also use one of those computer science courses to satisfy the 4th science requirement?

No, an approved computer science course may only be used towards the science requirement or the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement. One course may not be used to satisfy two RHSC requirements.

If I take two units of a language for native speakers, will those units satisfy the USG's RHSC foreign language requirement?

Yes, two units of a language (not English) for native speakers may satisfy the USG's RHSC foreign language requirement provided those two units are in the same language.

MATHEMATICS

Which math classes should I take in high school?

Students should complete 4 units of math which should include Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and a fourth math unit, from the approved course list found on page 6 of this document, or equivalent courses. A list of sample math sequences can be found at www.usg.edu/assets/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_and_HS_Math_Sequencing.pdf. Students should keep in mind that not all sequences prepare students for admission to all USG institutions, particularly those with selective admissions, and may not be appropriate for students planning to enter into a STEM major in college. Students should contact their college or university of interest for additional information.

If I complete an accelerated mathematics course (i.e. Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry) and an on-level mathematics course (i.e. Analytic Geometry) the following year, will this count towards satisfying the University System of Georgia's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) in the area of mathematics?

Yes, students who complete an accelerated mathematics course one year, and who take an on-level mathematics course the following year, may remain on-track for completing the USG's RHSC provided they complete four total units of mathematics including through Algebra II/Advanced Algebra (or an equivalent course or higher) and one additional unit from the approved list found on page 6 of this document. For example, a student completing Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry, Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and one additional math unit from the approved course list will have completed the USG's Required High School Curriculum.

I've taken a math course but it does not appear on the list. Does that mean it cannot be used to satisfy the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?

The University System and the Georgia Department of Education work collaboratively to identify courses that may be used to satisfy the USG's RHSC. Only those courses recommended by the USG faculty review committees are included on the Staying on Course document. The list of courses that have been reviewed but not approved is available at www.usg.edu/assets/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_Course_Review.pdf. Approved courses that have not appeared on the [State-Funded List of K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) in the last 5 years have been moved to the [Approved Course Archive](#).

If I complete Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, and Pre-Calculus at my high school, and complete a college-level math course through dual enrollment, will I have satisfied the USG's RHSC? If I complete Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra, and Pre-Calculus at

my high school, and complete a college-level math course through dual enrollment, will I have satisfied the USG's RHSC?

Yes, both of the above sequences satisfy the mathematics requirement of the USG's RHSC.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Does European History satisfy the World Studies requirement?

No, the World Studies requirement can only be satisfied with a course that has a world focus. Courses that focus on a particular area or region of the world do not satisfy the requirement. World History, World Geography, AP World History, and AP Human Geography satisfy the world studies requirement. Consideration is also given to similar courses for students attending private and out-of-state high schools.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

ACADEMIC COURSES		CTAE COURSES	
26.01200	Biology I	01.46100	General Horticulture and Plant Science
26.01300	Biology II	02.42100	Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology
26.01400	AP Biology	02.42200	Equine Science
26.01500	Genetics	02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology
26.01800	IB Biology, Year One	03.41100	Natural Resources Management
26.01900	IB Biology, Year Two	03.45100	Forest Science
26.03100	Botany	20.41400	Food for Life
26.05100	Microbiology	20.41810	Food Science
26.06100	Ecology	20.41710	Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan
26.06110	Environmental Science	21.45100	Energy and Power Technology
26.06200	AP Environmental Science	21.45300	Advanced AC and DC Circuits
26.06300	IB Environmental Systems, Year One	21.45700	Appropriate and Alternative Energy Techno.
26.06310	IB Environmental Systems, Year Two	25.44000	Essentials of Healthcare
26.06400	Advanced Genetics/DNA Research	25.44600	Sports Medicine
26.06500	Epidemiology	25.57000	Essentials of Biotechnology
26.07100	Zoology	25.56800	Introduction to Biotechnology
26.07200	Entomology	25.56900	Applications of Biotechnology
26.07300	Human Anatomy/Physiology		
40.01100	Physical Science	Other Acceptable Courses	
40.02100	Astronomy	11.01600 ¹	AP Computer Science A
40.04100	Meteorology	11.01700 ¹	IB Computer Science, Year One
40.05100	Chemistry I	11.01710 ¹	IB Computer Science, Year Two
40.05200	Chemistry II	11.01900 ¹	AP Computer Science Principles
40.05300	AP Chemistry	11.42500 ¹	Web Development
40.05500	IB Chemistry, Year One	11.42700 ¹	Embedded Computing
40.05600	IB Chemistry, Year Two	11.42900 ¹	Game Design: Animation and Simulation
40.05700	Organic Chemistry	11.47100 ¹	Computer Science Principles
40.05800	Biochemistry	11.47200 ¹	Programming, Games, Apps and Society
40.05900	Materials Chemistry		
40.06300	Geology		
40.06400	Earth Systems		
40.07100	Oceanography		
40.08100	Physics I		
40.08200	Physics II		
40.08300	AP Physics B		
40.08310	AP Physics I		
40.08320	AP Physics II		
40.08410	AP Physics C: Mechanics		
40.08420	AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism		
40.08500	IB Physics, Year One		
40.08600	IB Physics, Year Two		
40.08700	Environmental Physics		
40.08800	Special Topics in Modern Physics		
40.08900	Advanced Physics Principles/Robotics		
40.09100	Advanced Scientific Internship		
40.09200	Advanced Scientific Research		
40.09230	Scientific Research III		
40.09240	Scientific Research IV		
40.09300	Forensic Science		
40.09400	Chemical & Material Science Engineering		
40.09500	IB Design Technology, Year One		
40.09600	IB Design Technology, Year Two		
40.09700	IB Marine Science, Year One		
40.09710	IB Marine Science, Year Two		

¹Students satisfying the 4th science requirement with one of the above approved computer science courses may not use that same computer science course towards satisfying the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT

27.04300	GPS Advanced Algebra Support (2012, 2013 and 2014 graduates only) ³
27.04600	Mathematics Support III (2012, 2013 and 2014 graduates only) ³
27.05220	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year One
27.05240	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year Two
27.06210	GPS Algebra ²
27.06220	GPS Geometry ²
27.06230	GPS Advanced Algebra ²
27.06240	GPS Pre-Calculus ²
27.07200	Advanced Placement Calculus AB
27.07300	Advanced Placement Calculus BC
27.07400	Advanced Placement Statistics
27.07700	Multivariable Calculus
27.07800	Calculus
27.07910	College Statistics A
27.07920	College Statistics B
27.08000	Engineering Calculus
27.08010	College Calculus A
27.08020	College Calculus B
27.08100	Mathematics I – Algebra/Geometry/Statistics ²
27.08200	Mathematics II – Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics ²
27.08300	Mathematics III – Advanced Algebra/Statistics ²
27.08400	Mathematics IV – Pre-Calculus-Trigonometry/Statistics ²
27.08500	Advanced Mathematical Decision Making ³
27.08600	Mathematics of Industry and Government ³
27.08800	Statistical Reasoning ³
27.08900	College Readiness Mathematics ³
27.09100	Accelerated Mathematics I – Geometry/Algebra II/Statistics ²
27.09200	Accelerated Mathematics II – Advanced Algebra/Geometry/Statistics ²
27.09300	Accelerated Mathematics III – Pre-Calculus-Trigonometry/Statistics ²
27.09400	Accelerated GPS Algebra/Geometry ²
27.09500	Accelerated GPS Geometry/Advanced Algebra ²
27.09600	Accelerated GPS Pre-Calculus ²
27.09710	CCGPS/GSE Coordinate Algebra
27.09720	CCGPS/GSE Analytic Geometry
27.09730	CCGPS/GSE Advanced Algebra
27.09740	CCGPS/GSE Pre-Calculus
27.09750	Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A
27.09760	Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Analytic Geometry B/Advanced Algebra
27.09770	Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Pre-Calculus
27.09900	GSE Algebra I
27.09910	GSE Geometry
27.09920	GSE Algebra II
27.09940	GSE Accelerated Algebra I/Geometry A
27.09950	GSE Accelerated Geometry B/Algebra II

²Course is no longer taught in GA public high schools but may appear on transcripts for students who entered high school before 2012.

³Course may not prepare students for admission to the University System of Georgia institutions with selective admissions and is not appropriate for students planning to enter into a [STEM](#) major in college.

NOTE: College-level mathematics courses (College Algebra or higher) completed through dual enrollment may also satisfy the 4th math unit of the USG's RHSC.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

COURSES FOCUSING ON WORLD STUDIES

45.08110	Advanced Placement World History
45.08300	World History
45.07110	World Geography
45.07700	Advanced Placement Human Geography

COURSES FOCUSING ON U.S. STUDIES

45.08100	United States History
45.08200	Advanced Placement 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
45.07200	Asian Studies
45.07300	Latin American Studies
45.07400	Middle Eastern Studies
45.07500	Sub-Saharan Studies
45.07600	Local Area Studies/Geography
45.07700	Advanced Placement Human 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

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE ENGLISH REQUIREMENT

23.03400	Advanced Composition
23.04300	Advanced Placement Language/Composition
23.05100	American Literature/Composition
23.05200	British Literature/Composition (previously English Literature/Composition)
23.05300	Advanced Placement English Language and Composition/American Literature
23.06100	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition
23.06120	International Baccalaureate English B SL
23.06130	International Baccalaureate English B HL
23.06200	Tenth Grade Literature and Composition
23.06300	World Literature/Composition
23.06400	Literary Types/Composition ⁴
23.06500	Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition
23.06600	Contemporary Literature/Composition ⁴
23.06700	Multicultural Literature/Composition
23.06800	International Baccalaureate English SL (American Literature)
23.06900	International Baccalaureate English HL (World Literature)

⁴Course is an elective (not core) for high school graduation.

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

11.01600 ⁵	AP Computer Science A
11.01700 ⁵	IB Computer Science, Year One
11.01710 ⁵	IB Computer Science, Year Two
11.01900 ⁵	AP Computer Science Principles
11.42500 ⁵	Web Development
11.42700 ⁵	Embedded Computing
11.42900 ⁵	Game Design: Animation and Simulation
11.47100 ⁵	Computer Science Principles
11.47200 ⁵	Programming, Games, Apps and Society

⁵Students satisfying the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement through the computer science option may not use the same courses to satisfy the 4th science requirement.

NOTES

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.

All other AP and IB courses may be considered in the appropriate subject area.

Courses that have not appeared on the *State-Funded List of K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses* in 5 or more years ago have been removed from this document. An archive of removed courses can be viewed online at http://www.usg.edu/assets/student_affairs/documents/Staying_on_Course_Approved_Course_Archive.pdf.

Courses designed for students in the Georgia Alternative Assessment are not considered (courses beginning with “Access”).

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

Students should contact their college or university of interest to learn about any additional institution-specific admission requirements that may apply.

Questions regarding admission to a specific University System of Georgia institution should be directed to the institution. General questions regarding this document may be directed to the University System of Georgia’s Office of Student Affairs by emailing student-affairs@usg.edu or calling 404-962-3110.