



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 (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	
16 Carnegie Units should be completed by students graduating high school prior to 2012 .	
17 Carnegie Units should be completed by students graduating high school in 2012 or later .	
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	Mathematics I, II, III and a fourth unit of mathematics from the approved list, or equivalent courses** or Algebra I and II, geometry and a fourth year of advanced math, or equivalent courses**
3 Carnegie units of college preparatory science for students <i>graduating prior to 2012</i>	Including at least one lab course from life sciences and one lab course from the physical sciences
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory science for students <i>graduating 2012 or later</i>	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 units of the same foreign language (or American Sign Language) 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 6 of this document.

*** The list of courses that may be used to meet the fourth science requirement can be found on page 5 of this document.

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 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 attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my high school course titles do not match the course titles utilized by the Georgia Department of Education. How do I know if my courses will satisfy the University System of Georgia'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, USG colleges and universities will give consideration to similar courses taken by students attending a private school or public high school outside of Georgia. Additional information, such as course descriptions, may be requested by the college/university to help them evaluate the courses 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

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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.

My 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 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/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_Course_Review.pdf.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Should I take a foreign language in high school?

While the Georgia Department of Education no longer requires students to complete two years of a foreign language for high school graduation, the University System of Georgia does require the completion of two years of the same foreign language or two years of sign language in order to be considered for admission.

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.

MATHEMATICS

Which math classes should I take in high school?

Students on a discrete math curriculum 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, or equivalent courses. Students on an integrated math curriculum should complete 4 units of math, which should include Mathematics I, II, III and a fourth unit of math from the approved list found in this document, or equivalent courses. A list of sample math sequences can be found online at www.usg.edu/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_and_HS_Math_Sequencing.pdf. Students

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 for more information about their requirements.

If I complete Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Mathematics Support III and Mathematics III, but will not take a math course beyond Mathematics III, will I be considered as having satisfied the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) in the area of mathematics?

In support of the Georgia Department of Education's efforts to successfully implement new mathematics curriculum options across the state, the University System has agreed to consider students graduating in 2012 or 2013 completing the following sequence of courses to have satisfied the RHSC:

- Mathematics I (or GPS Algebra)
- Mathematics II (or GPS Geometry)
- Mathematics Support III (or GPS Advanced Algebra Support)
- Mathematics III (or GPS Advanced Algebra)

However, students should keep in mind that the completion of the above sequence of courses may not prepare them for admission to all University System of Georgia colleges and universities, particularly those with selective admissions. In addition, the above sequence may not be appropriate for STEM majors.

Can Accelerated Mathematics courses count towards satisfying the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) in the area of Mathematics?

Yes, Accelerated Mathematics courses can count towards satisfying the RHSC. It is possible for students to complete the four required mathematics units by enrolling in a combination of the courses listed in the following "Mathematics Pathways" chart. Students must complete through Mathematics III or Algebra II (or an equivalent course or higher) and take one additional unit of advanced mathematics. Students graduating in 2012 or 2013 may complete through Mathematics III if Support Mathematics III was taken.*

If I complete an accelerated integrated mathematics course (i.e. Accelerated Mathematics I) one year and an on-level integrated mathematics course (i.e. Mathematics II) 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 which includes Mathematics III and one additional unit of mathematics from the approved list found in this document. For example, a student completing Accelerated Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Mathematics III and Mathematics IV would be considered as having completed the USG's Required High School Curriculum. Students graduating in 2012 or 2013 who take Mathematics Support III should see the related FAQ contained in this section.

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 satisfying the USG's RHSC. Only those courses recommended by the USG faculty review committee are included on the Staying on Course document. The list of courses that have been reviewed but not approved is maintained by the Office of Student Affairs and can be found online at www.usg.edu/student_affairs/documents/USG_RHSC_Course_Review.pdf.

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

Academic Courses		CTAE Courses	
26.01200	Biology I (Grades 9-12)	01.46100	General Horticulture and Plant Science
26.01300	Biology II (Grades 9-12)	02.42100	Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology
26.01400	Advanced Placement Biology	02.42200	Equine Science
26.01500	Genetics	02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology
26.01800	International Baccalaureate Biology SL	20.41810	Food Science
26.01900	International Baccalaureate Biology HL	20.41710	Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan
26.03100	Botany	21.45100	Energy and Power Technology
26.05100	Microbiology	21.45700	Appropriate and Alternative Energy Technologies
26.06100	Ecology	25.56800	Introduction to Biotechnology
26.06110	Environmental Science	25.05690	Applications of Biotechnology
26.06200	Advanced Placement Environmental Science		
26.06300	International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems		
26.06400	Advanced Genetics/DNA Research		
26.06500	Epidemiology		
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		
40.09230	Scientific Research III		
40.09240	Scientific Research IV		
40.09300	Forensic Science		
40.09400	Chemical & Material Science Engineering		
40.09500	International Baccalaureate Design Technology SL		
40.09600	International Baccalaureate Design Technology HL		
		Other Acceptable Courses	
		11.01600	AP Computer Science A
		<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>	

COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT

27.04300	GPS Advanced Algebra Support (2012 and 2013 graduates only)**
27.04600	Mathematics Support III (2012 and 2013 graduates only)**
27.05100	Statistics
27.05220	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematics Mathematical Methods
27.05240	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies SL
27.06100	Algebra I
27.06200	Informal Geometry
27.06210	GPS Algebra
27.06220	GPS Geometry
27.06230	GPS Advanced Algebra
27.06240	GPS Pre-Calculus
27.06300	Euclidean Geometry
27.06400	Algebra II
27.06500	Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry
27.06610	Algebra III
27.06700	Analysis (Pre-Calculus)
27.06900	Discrete Mathematics
27.07100	Calculus
27.07200	Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB
27.07300	Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC
27.07400	Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics
27.07700	Multivariable Calculus
27.07910	College Statistics A
27.07920	College Statistics B
27.08010	College Calculus A
27.08020	College Calculus B
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
27.08500	Advanced Mathematical Decision Making**
27.08600	Mathematics of Industry and Government**
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
27.09400	Accelerated GPS Algebra/Geometry
27.09500	Accelerated GPS Geometry/Advanced Algebra
27.09600	Accelerated GPS Pre-Calculus
27.09710	CCGPS Coordinate Algebra
27.09720	CCGPS Analytic Geometry
27.09730	CCGPS Advanced Algebra
27.09740	CCGPS Pre-Calculus
27.09750	Accelerated CCGPS Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A
27.09760	Accelerated CCGPS Analytic Geometry B/Advanced Algebra
27.09770	Accelerated CCGPS Pre-Calculus

*** Course may not prepare students for admission to all University System of Georgia colleges and universities, particularly those with selective admissions, and may not be appropriate for students planning to enter into a STEM major in college.*

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

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
23.06500	Advanced Placement English Literature and 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)

Notes:

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

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

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.