

University System of Georgia

Freshman Admission Requirements

Staying on Course: The Required High School Curriculum



The Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) is the cornerstone of the University System of Georgia (USG) admission policy. This document reflects the minimum high school unit requirements for 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 course titles and numbers used in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education. Consideration is also given to similar courses for students attending private or out-of-state high schools. In addition to the courses listed on this document, other AP and IB courses, as well as college-level courses completed through dual enrollment, may be considered in the appropriate subject area. In addition to these requirements, freshman applicants must meet the [high school GPA and test score requirements](#), if applicable, for the college or university they are applying to attend.

Students are encouraged to contact the Admission Office of their college or university of interest to learn more about requirements, necessary documentation, and deadlines.

CARNEGIE UNIT REQUIREMENTS	
UNITS	DESCRIPTION
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory English	Literature (American, English, World) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills View the courses that satisfy the English area of the RHSC.
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 View the courses that satisfy the mathematics area of the RHSC.
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. View the courses that satisfy the science area of the RHSC.
3 Carnegie units of college preparatory social science	Must include one unit focusing on U.S. studies and one unit focusing on world studies. View the courses that satisfy the social science area of the RHSC.
2 Carnegie units of the same foreign language OR 2 units of American Sign Language OR 2 units of computer science ²	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. View the courses that satisfy the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area of the RHSC.

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE ENGLISH REQUIREMENT

23.03400	Advanced Composition	23.06200	Tenth Grade Literature and Composition
23.04300	Advanced Placement Language/Composition	23.06300	World Literature/Composition
23.05100	American Literature/Composition	23.06400	Literary Types/Composition ¹
23.05200	British Literature/Composition	23.06500	Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition
23.05300	Advanced Placement English Language and Composition/American Literature	23.06600	Contemporary Literature/Composition ¹
23.06100	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	23.06700	Multicultural Literature/Composition
23.06120	International Baccalaureate English B SL	23.06800	International Baccalaureate English SL (American Literature)
23.06130	International Baccalaureate English B HL	23.06900	International Baccalaureate English HL (World Literature)
		52.09200	Dramatic Writing (Film, Television, and Theatre I)

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT

27.05220	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year One
27.05240	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year Two
27.07200	Advanced Placement Calculus AB
27.07300	Advanced Placement Calculus BC
27.07400	Advanced Placement Statistics
27.07500	Differential Equations
27.07700	Multivariable Calculus
27.07800	Calculus
27.07910	Advanced Finite Mathematics
27.08000	Engineering Calculus
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
27.09710	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

College-level mathematics courses completed through dual enrollment may also satisfy the 4th math unit of the USG's RHSC.

COURSES THAT 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	02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology
26.01500	Genetics	03.41100	Natural Resources Management
26.01800	IB Biology, Year One	03.45100	Forest Science
26.01900	IB Biology, Year Two	20.41400	Food for Life
26.03100	Botany	20.41810	Food Science
26.05100	Microbiology	20.41710	Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan
26.06100	Ecology	21.45100	Energy and Power Technology
26.06110	Environmental Science	21.45300	Advanced AC and DC Circuits
26.06200	AP Environmental Science	21.45700	Appropriate & Alternative Energy Tech
26.06300	IB Environmental Systems, Year One	25.44000	Essentials of Healthcare
26.06310	IB Environmental Systems, Year Two	25.44600	Sports Medicine
26.06400	Advanced Genetics/DNA Research	25.57000	Essentials of Biotechnology
26.06500	Epidemiology	25.56900	Applications of Biotechnology
26.07100	Zoology	43.45200	Forensic Science & Criminal Investigations
26.07200	Entomology		
26.07300	Human Anatomy/Physiology		
40.01100	Physical Science		OTHER²
40.02100	Astronomy	11.01600	AP Computer Science A
40.04100	Meteorology	11.01700	IB Computer Science, Year One
40.05100	Chemistry I	11.01710	IB Computer Science, Year Two
40.05200	Chemistry II	11.01900	AP Computer Science Principles
40.05300	AP Chemistry	11.42500	Web Development
40.05500	IB Chemistry, Year One	11.42700	Embedded Computing
40.05600	IB Chemistry, Year Two	11.42900	Game Design: Animation and Simulation
40.05700	Organic Chemistry	11.47100	Computer Science Principles
40.05800	Biochemistry	11.47200	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		
40.08310	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		
40.09230	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		

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

COURSES FOCUSING ON WORLD STUDIES		COURSES FOCUSING ON U.S. STUDIES	
45.08110	Advanced Placement World History	45.08100	United States History
45.08300	World History	45.08200	Advanced Placement United States History
45.07110	World Geography	45.08700	International Baccalaureate History of the Americas SL (US History)
45.07700	Advanced Placement Human Geography		
IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING COURSES SATISFY THE THIRD SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIT:			
45.01100	Comparative Religions	45.06200	Advanced Placement Microeconomics
45.01200	Current Issues	45.06300	Advanced Placement Macroeconomics
45.01300	Technology and Society	45.06400	Comparative Political/Economic Systems
45.01310	International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society SL	45.06500	International Baccalaureate Economics SL
45.01320	International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society HL	45.07200	Asian Studies
45.01400	The Humanities/Social Studies	45.07300	Latin American Studies
45.01500	Psychology	45.07400	Middle Eastern Studies
45.01600	Advanced Placement Psychology	45.07500	Sub-Saharan Studies
45.01700	International Baccalaureate Psychology	45.07600	Local Area Studies/Geography
45.02100	Anthropology	45.07700	Advanced Placement Human Geography
45.03100	Sociology	45.07800	International Baccalaureate Geography SL
45.03200	Ethnic Studies	45.08120	U.S. History in Film
45.05200	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: United States	45.08400	Advanced Placement European History
45.05300	Advanced Placement Government/Politics: Comparative	45.08500	Georgia History
45.05500	Constitutional Theory	45.08600	Local Area Studies/History
45.05600	The Individual and Law	45.08900	Modern U.S. Military History, 1918-present
45.05700	American Government/Civics	45.08910	Early U.S. Military History
45.05800	Ethics and the Law	45.08920	Recent U.S. Presidents
45.06100	Economics/Business/Free Enterprise	45.89300	International Baccalaureate History of the Americas HL
		45.09100	United States and World Affairs
		45.09200	World Area Studies

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES THAT SATISFY THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SCIENCE LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENT²

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL FAQs

- Q.1** *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?*
- A.** Students must complete a minimum of 17 academic units consisting of 4 English, 4 mathematics, 4 science, 3 social science and 2 foreign language. Page 1 of this document provides a description for each of the subject area requirements.
- Q.2** *Should I pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum?*
- A.** 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.
- Q.3** *Are AP, IB, honors, or dual enrollment classes viewed most favorably by college admission officers?*
- A.** Students are encouraged to pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum appropriate to their ability level in each subject area to be best prepared for a successful college experience. AP, IB, honors, and dual enrollment classes can all be considered rigorous. The USG's selective colleges and universities, such as the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia, consider the context of the student's high school when reviewing the rigor of a student's high school curriculum. The most successful applicants are those who take advantage of the most rigorous curriculum available to them in whatever form that may take. A more in-depth explanation of how the USG colleges and universities view the different options can be found on the USG's [Dual Enrollment Admissions Guidance document](#). Students should consult with their high school counselor to determine appropriate coursework.
- Q.4** *What else do colleges look for in addition to the completion of the Required High School Curriculum?*
- A.** 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, among other things, are also considered. Additional information on the other requirements can be found in the [USG Freshman Admission Requirements: SAT/ACT, HSGPA, and Freshman Index Requirements](#) document. Some colleges may also have additional requirements. Students should check with the admission office at their college or university of interest or visit their website for additional information.
- Q.5** *If I attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my high school course titles are not the same as those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education, how do I know if my courses will satisfy the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?*
- A.** 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 located outside of the state. Additional information, such as a course description, may be requested so the college or university can determine if it is appropriate to count the course as an RHSC unit.
- Q.6** *If I attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my school offers a course similar to an approved course that the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) has discontinued, can the course offered at my school continue to count as an RHSC unit for USG admissions?*
- A.** The course titles and numbers listed in this document reflect those currently used by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE); however, the USG colleges and universities will continue to give consideration to similar courses taken at a private school or a public high school located outside of the state. If GADOE discontinues a course that was approved to satisfy an RHSC unit, then the course is removed from this document and added to the [USG Staying on Course Approved Course Archive](#) document. Additional information, such as a course description, may be requested so that the college or university can determine if it is appropriate to count the course as an RHSC unit.
- Q.7** *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 college or university?*
- A.** Students graduating from a Georgia Public High School having participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment are not eligible for regular freshman admission to a University System of Georgia college or university. Courses designed for students in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (courses beginning with "Access") are not included in the USG's Required High School Curriculum.

Q.8 *I'm a Georgia public high school student and have taken a course that is not listed on this document, does that mean it cannot be counted as an RHSC unit?*

A. The Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) and the USG work collaboratively to determine the Georgia high school courses appropriate to satisfy the RHSC units. Faculty from the USG colleges and universities closely examine each new high school course to determine if it has the academic rigor needed to prepare students for college-level course work. Only those courses that have been reviewed and approved are included on this document. Students should work closely with their high school counselor to ensure they take courses that satisfy high school graduation requirements and satisfy the RHSC.

Courses that are not approved, or are currently under review, appear on the [USG RHSC Course Review document](#). Approved courses that have not appeared on the GADOE's [State-Funded List of K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) in the last five years are moved to the [Approved Course Archive](#) and can still be accepted if taken when approved.

MATHEMATICS

Q.1 *Which math classes should I take in high school?*

A. Students should complete 4 units of math that include Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and a fourth math unit listed as approved on page 2 of this document, or equivalent courses. The USG provides a [list of sample high school math sequences](#) but students should be aware that not all sequences provide the same level of preparation for college. Students planning to apply to a college or university with selective admissions (i.e. the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University of Georgia), or planning to pursue a STEM major, are encouraged to speak with their high school counselor and with the appropriate admissions office to ensure an appropriate math course sequence is taken.

Q.2 *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 both courses count towards satisfying the University System of Georgia's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) in the area of mathematics?*

A. Yes, students who complete an accelerated mathematics course one year, and 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 provided on page 2 of this document. For example, a student completing Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry, Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and an additional math unit from the approved course list will have completed the USG's Required High School Curriculum.

Q.3 *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?*

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

Q.4 *My private or out-of-state high school offers Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry as an option to satisfy the 4th math unit required for high school graduation. Does the USG allow this course to satisfy the 4th math unit for USG admissions?*

A. Yes, while the Georgia Department of Education discontinued their Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry course in 2015, this course continues to count as a 4th RHSC math unit for students attending a private or out-of-state high school.

SCIENCE

Q.1 *How many science units should I complete?*

A. 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 provided on page 3 of this document.

Q.2 *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?*

A. 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.

Q.3 *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?*

A. 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.

Q.4 *My private or out-of-state high school offers several science course options, each counting as a partial unit. Can courses counting as a partial unit be used to satisfy the fourth science unit of the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?*

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

Q.5 *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?*

A. 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.

Q.6 *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)?*

A. Only those courses approved by the USG faculty review committee are included in this document and can be used to satisfy the RHSC. The courses that have been reviewed and not approved are provided on the [USG RHSC Course Review](#) document.

Q.7 *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?*

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

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Q.1 *Does European History satisfy the World Studies requirement?*

A. 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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE

Q.1 *Should I take a foreign language in high school?*

A. 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 requires 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 and/or programming focus.

Q.2 *If I have taken a unit of foreign language in middle school, can it count towards satisfying the USG's RHSC?*

A. 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.

Q.3 *Which computer science courses can count towards satisfying the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement?*

A. 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 2 of this document.

Q.4 *If I take one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science, will I have satisfied the requirement?*

A. 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.

Q.5 *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?*

A. No, an approved computer science course may only be used towards the science requirement or the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement.

Q.6 *If I take two units of a language for native speakers, will those units satisfy the USG's RHSC foreign language requirement?*

A. 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 and have an emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing in that language.

NOTES

FOOTNOTES

¹ Course is an elective (not core or required) for students graduating from a Georgia public high school; however, the course may count as one of the 4 required English/Language Arts units of the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC).

² Students satisfying the 4th science unit with a computer science course may not also use that course in the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area. Students satisfying the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area with two units of computer science may not use either computer science course to also satisfy the 4th science requirement.

³ Course 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.

GENERAL NOTES

Please note that admission requirements are subject to change. Meeting the minimum requirements provided in this document does not guarantee admission to any USG college or university. Eligibility for admission is determined after a complete review of an applicant's credentials.

Students are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office or to visit the website for their college or university of interest to learn more about their requirements. The contact information for the USG Admissions Offices can be accessed by going to the [USG Institutions](#) page and clicking on "Profile" for the college or university of interest. General questions regarding this document may be directed to the USG's Office of Student Affairs by emailing student-affairs@usg.edu or calling 404-962-3110.