Staying on Course

University System of Georgia
High School Curriculum Requirements

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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 *See page 6 for the courses that may satisfy the 4 math units.*
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. *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.*
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. *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.*

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 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. 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.

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 https://secure.gacollege411.org/College_Planning/Prepare_for_College/Entrance_Requirements/USG_College_Entrance_Requirements/_default.aspx. 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

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

Students graduating high school in 2012 or later must complete a total of 4 units of science and 2 of the units 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 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.

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 years of the same foreign language, two units of American Sign Language, or two units of approved Computer Science courses.

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.

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/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 on 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 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

26.01200	Biology I (Grades 9-12)
26.01300	Biology II (Grades 9-12)
26.01400	AP Biology
26.01500	Genetics
26.01800	IB Biology SL
26.01900	IB Biology HL
26.03100	Botany
26.05100	Microbiology
26.06100	Ecology
26.06110	Environmental Science
26.06200	AP Environmental Science
26.06300	IB 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	AP Chemistry
40.05500	IB Chemistry SL
40.05600	IB Chemistry HL
40.05700	Organic Chemistry
40.05800	Biochemistry
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 SL
40.08600	IB Physics HL
40.08700	Environmental Physics
40.08800	Special Topics in Modern Physics
40.08900	AP 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 SL
40.09600	IB Design Technology HL
40.09700	IB Marine Science, Year One
40.09710	IB Marine Science, Year Two

CTAE COURSES

01.46100	General Horticulture and Plant Science
02.42100	Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology
02.42200	Equine Science
02.44100	Plant Science and Biotechnology
03.41100	Natural Resources Management
03.45100	Forest Science
20.41400	Food for Life
20.41810	Food Science
20.41710	Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan
21.45100	Energy and Power Technology
21.45300	Advanced AC and DC Circuits
21.45700	Appropriate and Alternative Energy Techno.
25.44000	Essentials of Healthcare
25.44600	Sports Medicine
25.57000	Essentials of Biotechnology
25.56800	Introduction to Biotechnology
25.56900	Applications of Biotechnology

Other Acceptable Courses

11.01600[1]	AP Computer Science A
11.01700[1]	IB Computer Science, Year One
11.01710[1]	IB Computer Science, Year Two
11.01900[1]	AP Computer Science Principles
11.42500[1]	Web Development
11.42700[1]	Embedded Computing
11.42900[1]	Game Design: Animation and Simulation
11.47100[1]	Computer Science Principles
11.47200[1]	Programming, Games, Apps and Society

[1]Students 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[2]	GPS Advanced Algebra Support (2012, 2013 and 2014 graduates only)
27.04600[2]	Mathematics Support III (2012, 2013 and 2014 graduates only)
27.05100**	Statistics
27.05220	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year One
27.05240	International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year Two
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 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
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
27.08800	Statistical Reasoning
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/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

[2]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.
***GADOE IDA (2) course - valid only for students who entered 9th grade prior to the 2008-09 school year.*
****GADOE IDA (3) course - valid only for students who entered 9th grade in the 2008-09 through the 2011-12 school years.*

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
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)

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES THAT MAY BE USED TO SATISFY THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SCIENCE LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENT	
11.01600[1]	AP Computer Science A
11.01700[1]	IB Computer Science, Year One
11.01710[1]	IB Computer Science, Year Two
11.01900[1]	AP Computer Science Principles
11.42500[1]	Web Development
11.42700[1]	Embedded Computing
11.42900[1]	Game Design: Animation and Simulation
11.47100[1]	Computer Science Principles
11.47200[1]	Programming, Games, Apps and Society

[1]Students 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 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.

Please visit the "College Planning" tab of the GAcollege411.org website and click on "Explore Schools" to learn more about institution admission requirements and to view institution contact information. 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.