

## District C Schools

# General College Course Requirements

### *English*

One year of English is required in each grade level - 9th through 12th. For students in ESL, the first level of English that meets college course requirements is ESL 3.

### *Foreign Language*

Normally a student must complete a minimum of two years of a foreign language - but the more competitive colleges and universities will require three to four years of a language. Parents should also inquire if their school district offers students who are currently fluent in a foreign language an opportunity to take a proficiency exam in that language in order to receive credit. Check with colleges as to their willingness to accept foreign language requirements that have been completed by taking a proficiency exam. Some colleges will accept an AP score or an SAT II score in a language to validate fluency of that language.

### *Science*

Most colleges and universities require a minimum of two years of laboratory sciences. This generally refers to biology and chemistry. More competitive colleges look for a minimum of an additional year of physics, physiology, geology or other lab science. Be sure that the science classes that your student is enrolled in meet requirements of the college to which he or she wants to apply.

### *Mathematics*

Usually, colleges require that a student completes a minimum of two years of algebra and one year of geometry. However, more competitive colleges require a student to take one year of math analysis and a fourth year that would include calculus or statistics.

### *Social Science*

Usually three years of social sciences are required for admission to colleges. Courses normally taken include one year of world history, one year of United States history (required in most states), and a semester or year of government and economics.

### *Electives*

Many, if not most colleges require that additional "elective" classes be taken by students in fulfilling their admission requirements. Often, this requirement specifies visual or performing arts courses. Elective classes are those that a student chooses based on his or her own particular interests. Parents and students should closely review entrance requirements to a variety of colleges and universities to determine which electives may be acceptable for admission.

# High School Scheduling for College

The following chart will give parents an idea of what your student should be enrolled in whether he or she is applying to an "average," "competitive," or "highly selective" university. In looking at the following chart, keep these important points in mind:

- Begin algebra no later than the ninth grade.
- Be sure that your student is enrolled in laboratory science classes that will meet the college requirements.
- Foreign language should be started by the ninth grade.
- Most colleges will look at not only what classes were taken, but also the level of those classes. Courses designated as "honors", "college preparatory" and "Advanced Placement" are recognized by all colleges. In some cases, additional weight is added in the calculation of the student's GPA if the student takes an honors or Advanced Placement class. Students who take these classes are identified as being more likely to be successful in college.

Students should consider taking Advanced Placement courses (*italics*) in subjects where the student has demonstrated academic strength. This will enhance their college applications and their chances of acceptance to the more selective colleges throughout the U.S.

GRADE	AVERAGE COLLEGE	COMPETITIVE COLLEGE	VERY COMPETITIVE COLLEGE
8			Algebra (first year) Foreign language (first year)
9	Algebra (first year) English (one year) World History/Geography (one year)	Algebra (first year) Foreign language (first year) English (one year) World History/Geography (one year)	Geometry (one year) Foreign language (second year) English (one year) World History/Geography (one year)
10	Algebra (first year) or Geometry Foreign language (first year) <i>Biology (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English	Geometry (one year) Foreign language (second year) <i>Biology (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English (one year)	Algebra (second year) Foreign language (third year) <i>Biology (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English (one year)
11	Algebra (second year) or Geometry Foreign language (second year) <i>U.S. History (one year)</i> <i>Chemistry (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English (one year)	Algebra (second year) Foreign language (third year) <i>Chemistry (one year)</i> <i>U.S. History (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English (one year)	Math analysis (one year) <i>Foreign language (fourth year)</i> <i>Chemistry (one year)</i> <i>U.S. History (one year)</i> College elective (one year) English (one year)
12	Algebra (second year) <i>Foreign language (third year)</i> <i>Government/Economics (one year)</i> College elective (one year) <i>English (one year)</i>	Math analysis (one year) <i>Government/Economics (one year)</i> <i>Physics/science elective (one year)</i> College elective (one year) <i>English (one year)</i>	<i>Calculus (one year)</i> <i>Physics (one year)</i> <i>Government/Economics (one year)</i> College elective (one year) <i>English (one year)</i>

# Programming Your High School Student for College and Graduation

- Students are programmed by their counselors in the spring (April and May) for the coming school year. Parents should check carefully in May to insure that their students have been properly programmed into courses that will prepare them for college when they graduate.
- Obtain a list of graduation requirements from your child's high school. Remember that a school district's graduation requirements are normally the minimum number of credits and courses a student needs to take in order to graduate. College requirements are generally more stringent.
- Look at the college entrance requirements from a variety of colleges. Remember that classes required for admission to your local or state universities may not meet the requirements of public and private schools in other states.
- If your high school does not offer classes that will meet the college entrance requirements of schools you are interested in, you may wish to explore programs offered at local community or state colleges in addition to what is offered at the high school. When taking any class outside of your local high school, the student must check with his or her counselor to insure that those classes will be accepted for both graduation requirements and college admissions.
- Review your student's progress in his or her current grade, particularly in mathematics and English.
- What are the dates for course programming for your child for the coming school year? Discuss with the counselor any concerns that you may have regarding your child's program. **Be sure that the high school counselor knows your student's college plans.**
- Remember, classes taken in the ninth grade will count in fulfilling college entrance requirements, and the marks earned in these classes do count in the student's grade point average.

## Advanced Placement Programs

The College Board offers Advanced Placement programs for high school students and they are available in all District C schools. These courses provide students with the opportunity to take 'college level' classes while in high school. . In LAUSD, students who successfully complete Advanced Placement classes receive extra weighting of their GPA. In May of each year, the College Board offers an exam for each of these courses. A student who is successful on these exams may earn college credit based on his or her score on the examination. Exams are currently given in the subject areas listed below. Not all classes are offered at each high school. Statistics show that students who take AP courses and the exams are more successful in college.

U.S. History	Calculus AB	Biology	English Composition	Spanish Language	Studio Art
European History	Calculus BC	Chemistry	English Literature	Spanish Literature	Art History
U.S. Government	Computer Science A	Physics B		French Language	Music Theory
Human Geography	Computer Science AB	Physics C		French Literature	
World History	Statistics	Environmental Science		Latin	
Psychology				German Language	
Economics					
Comparative Govt.					

Advanced Placement courses are recognized by most colleges and universities as being the most competitive level of courses taught in the high school. Be sure to obtain each college's policy concerning the granting of credit for AP classes and how they may or may not compute the grade as part of the student's GPA.