Recommended High School Courses for College-Bound Students

Although academic requirements differ among colleges, the admissions requirements listed below are typical for four-year colleges. The specific classes listed here are examples of the types of courses students can take.

English--Four years
Types of classes:

- American Literature
- Composition
- English Literature
- World Literature

Mathematics--Three to four years
Types of classes:

- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Calculus
- Geometry
- Precalculus
- Trigonometry

History & Geography--Two to three years
Types of classes:

- Civics
- Geography
- U.S. History
- U.S. Government
- World History
- World Cultures

Laboratory Science--Two to four years
Types of classes:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Physics

Foreign Language--Two to four years

Visual & Performing Arts--One year
Types of classes:

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Challenging Electives--One to three years
Types of classes:

- Communications
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Psychology
- Statistics

Course Planner for Parent and Student

This exercise will give you and your child a chance to look ahead and choose future courses. Be aware that some courses must be taken in sequence. On the form below, list your child's current courses or courses he or she will take this year. Then list courses that he or she will take during each year of high school. If you are not sure what courses your child should take, you should make an appointment with your child's guidance counselor and get some advice.

	This Year: ___ Grade		Next Year: ___ Grade	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
English				
Full course title:				
Mathematics				
Full course title:				
History/Social Studies				
Full course title:				
Science				
Full course title:				
Foreign Language				
Full course title:				
Other				
Full course title:				

Course Planner for Parent and Student

	___ Grade		___ Grade		___ Grade		___ Grade	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
English								
Full course title:								
Mathematics								
Full course title:								
History/Social Studies								
Full course title:								
Science								
Full course title:								
Foreign Language								
Full course title:								
Other								
Full course title:								

Questions To Ask Guidance Counselors

- What basic academic courses do you recommend for students who want to go to college?
- How many years of each academic subject does the high school require for graduation?
- What elective courses do you recommend for college-bound students?
- Can students who are considering college get special help or tutoring?

- What activities can students do at home and over the summers to strengthen their preparation for college?
- How much homework is expected of students preparing for college?
- What do different colleges require in terms of high school grades and SAT or ACT scores?
- What support services are offered for students with learning disabilities at the college? In my program?

Questions To Ask Potential Colleges

- What basic academic courses do you recommend for students who want to go to college? If I've had an IEP (or 504) all through high school, what do you need me to supply in order for me to have services and accommodations at your college.
- Do you require recent testing? How recent?
- Does the testing need to be through IDEA or ADA or is that not an issue**?
- How many hours are tutors available? Is there a limit to the number of hours per week per student?
- Is my advisor trained to work with students with LD issues?
- Will my advisor help me pre-register?
- Can I take tests orally, by computer, have extended time, with a reader or any other aid you need such as a scribe, calculator, speech-checker, tape recording and so on?
- Are there distraction-free environments?
- Are there add costs for the services I need?
- Will my professors be notified of my LD/ADHD and is the notification done by the student or the Program Director?
- Are course substitutions allowed?
- Is any other assistive technology or human professional help available that I have not already asked you about?