



Utah State Office of Education and
Utah System of Higher Education

College and Career Readiness Recommendations to High School Students



The Utah State Board of Regents and the Utah State Board of Education believe all students should have education and career goals that will prepare them to experience fulfilling lives, actively participate as educated citizens, and thrive in a particularly competitive and global marketplace. A college- and career-ready student is prepared to succeed in college and in postsecondary workforce training programs. The following are joint recommendations for students to be college- and career-ready:

To Be Ready for College and Careers, Students Should...

1 *Build an Academic Foundation:*

- Take challenging classes in high school to develop an understanding of different subjects and a solid academic preparation for college-level courses. See College and Career Readiness Pathway suggestions on the next page.
- Take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or concurrent enrollment classes that lead to college credit and provide direct experience in college-level studies. Select concurrent enrollment classes that apply to general education, a certificate, or a degree that fits educational plans.

2 *Develop Intellectual and Career Capacity:*

- Select courses in high school that challenge the intellect and develop critical thinking, analysis, and problem-solving strategies.
- Practice creative problem solving, increase written and oral communication and teamwork skills and become technology proficient.
- Establish time management and study habits to prepare for the greater amount of independent work required in college.

3 *Evaluate Progress for College:*

- Do the very best academic work possible in every class taken from middle school through the senior year of high school.
- Speak with a counselor about your course choices; ask for advice on enhancing college readiness skills.
- Throughout the middle and high school years, use external methods (such as the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT sequence of tests, or Accuplacer) to determine how close you are to being ready for college.
- Adjust study habits and school course choices appropriately to address weaknesses and stay on track.

4 *Explore Postsecondary Options:*

- Visit at least one college campus; take a guided tour, and ask questions.
- Learn how much college costs. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline. Ask a Financial Aid advisor about scholarships, grants, loans, and work study.
- Complete the steps necessary for college entry: take a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) and submit an admission application by the priority deadline.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

	High School Graduation*	College and Career Readiness Pathways		Regents' Scholarship**
	State Graduation Requirements (effective Fall 2011)	1- & 2-Year Certificate and Degree Pathway	2-Year Transfer and 4-Year Degree Pathway	Course Requirements
English/ Language Arts	4.0 credits	Concentrate on developing technical reading, writing and research skills.	Concentrate on developing reading, writing and research skills.	4.0 credits of English**
Mathematics	3.0 credits 1.0 credit Algebra I 1.0 credit Geometry 1.0 credit Algebra II Mathematics course titles will change to Common Core Mathematics titles for 9th graders in Fall 2011.	Take required Mathematics courses and focus on the application of math concepts related to the chosen career goal in your Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP).	Take a Mathematics class in the senior year. Students interested in STEM degrees should take at least one Mathematics course beyond Algebra II.	4.0 credits of progressive Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) and one class beyond Algebra II. For the graduating class of 2015, students will take the Common Core and one additional progressive course.
Science	3.0 credits 2.0 credits from the four science foundation areas: Earth Systems, Biological Science, Chemistry, or Physics 1.0 credit from the foundation courses or the Applied or Advanced Foundation science core list	Three credits of Science will prepare you for college. Choose foundation, applied, or advanced courses aligned with your SEOP goal.	Three credits of Science will prepare you for college. Choose foundation, applied, or advanced courses aligned with your SEOP goal. Students interested in STEM degrees should take 4 credits of Science.	3.0 credits of lab-based Science courses to include one each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Social Science/ Social Studies	3.0 credits 1.0 credit U.S. History 0.5 credit Geography 0.5 credit World Civilization 0.5 credit U.S. Government and Citizenship 0.5 credit General Financial Literacy	Select Social Studies classes that provide the strong academic foundation but also enable you to explore a variety of career paths.	Select Social Studies classes that provide the strong academic foundation but also enable you to explore a variety of career paths.	3.5 credits of Social Science**
Directed Coursework	3.0 credits 1.5 credits Fine Arts 1.0 credit Career and Technical Education 0.5 credit Computer Tech	Choose electives that concentrate in a pathway that meets your high school graduation requirements and provides depth (two or more courses) in an area of interest.	Choose directed coursework associated with your career path. CTE and fine arts courses allow you to explore these areas. Take a challenging computer technology course to prepare for college-level projects.	
Physical Education/ Health	2.0 credits	Build a foundation for a healthy lifestyle that is key to college and career success.	Build a foundation for a healthy lifestyle that is key to college and career success.	
Required Electives	6.0 credits	Select electives that focus on your SEOP goal and chosen Pathway.	Take challenging courses through the senior year.	
World Languages			Recommend 2.0 years of the same World Language, other than English, in a progressive manner during grades 6-12.	Require 2.0 credits of the same World Language, other than English, taken in a progressive manner during grades 9-12.
District Requirements	Varies by District	Meet your district's requirements for graduation.	Meet your district's requirements for graduation.	Meet your district's requirements for graduation.

* For more information on Utah High School Graduation Requirements, visit <http://schools.utah.gov/curr/main/GradInfo.htm>

** For list of courses that satisfy Regents' Scholarship requirements, see http://www.higheredutah.org/scholarship_info/regents-scholarship/
See UtahFutures.org and college and university websites for additional financial aid and scholarship information.