

Plan Your High School Course Selections

Colleges care about which courses you're taking in high school.

The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Are you signing up for advanced classes, honors sections, or accelerated sequences? Are you choosing *electives* that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities? Or are you doing just enough to get by?

Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones.

Do your high school course selections match what most colleges expect you to know? For example, many colleges require two to four years of foreign language study.

Successful completion of the courses listed in the [recommended college prep courses](#) chart are commonly expected of prospective students. Of course, each college and university may have different high school course requirements. Be sure to check with the colleges you're interested in to see what they recommend or require.

English	Four years of English
Mathematics	Three years of mathematics, including rigorous courses in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Natural Sciences	Three years of science, including rigorous courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
Social Studies	Three years of social studies
Additional Courses	Some colleges and universities require other classes as prerequisites for admission, such as two or more years of the same foreign language or courses in the visual arts, music, theater, drama, dance, computer science,