



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Utah State Board of Education and Utah System of Higher Education
Effective July 15, 2016

All students should have education and career goals that prepare them to experience fulfilling lives, actively participate in their communities, and succeed in a competitive economy. The following are joint college- and career-readiness recommendations from the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah System of Higher Education:

1. Build a strong academic foundation.

- Take the right classes in high school to develop an understanding of different subjects and be ready for college-level courses. Review the course recommendations on the back of this document and discuss options with your counselor and parents.
- Sign up to be a Utah Scholar and take the Utah Scholars college-prep curriculum, which will prepare you to apply for the Regents' Scholarship.
- Earn college credit in high school by taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or concurrent enrollment (CE) classes. Consider CE classes that apply to college general education courses, a certificate or a degree.
- Work hard in every class from middle school through senior year of high school, especially in Concurrent Enrollment courses, where course grades become part of your college transcript.

2. Strengthen your transferable skills.

- Select challenging courses in high school to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Establish effective time management and study habits.
- Learn how to communicate effectively through both writing and speaking.
- Seek opportunities to work with a team.
- Be proficient in current technology.

3. Explore college campuses and learn about the different ways to pay for your education.

- Visit at least one college campus during junior year in high school. Take a guided tour and ask questions. Think about what type of college environment is a good fit for you (size, location, student life, academics).
- Research how much college costs. Compare the tuition, fees, and housing expenses of different colleges.
- Understand the different ways to pay for college, such as savings (for example, through the Utah Educational Savings Plan), scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. Attend a Paying for College Night in your region during your junior and/or senior year.

4. Pay attention to deadlines.

- Take a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) during junior year. Retake it senior year if you want to improve your score.
- Submit college applications by the priority deadline. Participate in your high school's Utah College Application Week events during November of your senior year.
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline of your senior year. Need help filling out the FAFSA? Attend a FAFSA Completion Open House in your region.

5. Evaluate your progress.

- Make sure you are doing your best work possible by looking at your GPA, writing assessments, and other schoolwork. Adjust study habits and course choices to stay on track.
- Throughout middle school and high school, use standardized test results and your performance as indicated by GPA and course grades to gauge how close you are to being ready for college.
- Take a college entrance exam (e.g., ACT or SAT) to evaluate your college readiness based on test score evidence. .. See stepuputah.com for additional guidance.
- Use college entrance exam results by subject area (e.g., ACT or SAT sub-scores) to gauge your readiness for particular Concurrent Enrollment courses. Visit utahfutures.org and stepuputah.com for tips and resources on academic preparation needed for career pathways of interest to you, how to prepare and pay for college, and to learn about events in your area.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION*	COLLEGE- & CAREER-READINESS PATHWAY	REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP**
English/Language Arts	4.0 credits	4.0 credits of English to develop reading and writing skills	4.0 credits of English**
Math	3.0 credits 1.0 credit Secondary Math I 1.0 credit Secondary Math II 1.0 credit Secondary Math III	4.0 credits of math: Secondary Math I, II, and III and quantitative literacy requirement or other appropriate option for senior year math consistent with your CCR goal.	4.0 credits of progressive math (Secondary Math I, II, and III) and one progressive credit beyond Secondary III**
Science	3.0 credits 2.0 credits from two of the following five: Earth Science, Biological Science, Chemistry, Physics, or Computer Science 1.0 credit from the foundation courses or the Applied or Advanced Foundation science core list	3.0 credits of lab-based science have been shown to prepare you for college. Interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering or math)? Plan on taking 4.0 credits of science. For Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway, choose foundation, applied, or advanced courses aligned with your CCR goal.	3.0 credits of lab-based science courses, 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 elective	3.5 credits of social science. Select social studies classes that provide a strong academic foundation and enable you to explore a variety of career paths.	3.5 credits of social science**
Financial Literacy	0.5 credit 0.5 credit General Financial Literacy	0.5. credit General Financial Literacy	Meet high school graduation requirement
Directed Coursework	3.0 credits 1.5 credits Fine Arts 1.0 credit Career and Technical Education 0.5 credit Digital Literacy	Choose coursework in areas that interest you, especially relating to your career goals. CTE and fine arts courses allow you to explore these areas. Take a challenging computer technology course to prepare for college-level projects. Interested in CTE? Choose electives that build on one another and provide depth in an area that interests you.	Meet high school graduation requirement
Physical Education/Health	2.0 credits	Build a foundation for a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle.	Meet high school graduation requirement
Required Electives	6.0 credits	Take challenging courses through your senior year. Develop time management, problem-solving and study skills. Learn how to work well in teams, and maintain good attendance.	Meet high school graduation requirements
World Languages		2.0 years of the same world language in a progressive manner during grades 9-12.	2.0 credits of the same world language taken in a progressive manner during grades 9-12**
District/Charter Requirements	Varies by district.	Meet your district's requirements for graduation.	Meet district requirements

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

** For list of courses and grade requirements that satisfy Regents' Scholarship requirements, visit regents scholarship.org.