

January 13, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Revision: College and Career Readiness Recommendations

Issue

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) changed their graduation standards in 2014, causing the 2010-11 "College and Career Readiness Recommendations for Middle and High School Students" document approved jointly by the and USBE and the Utah State Board of Regents (USBR) to become out of date. A revision of the recommendations to reflect the new high school graduation standards and more current content in other areas is needed.

Background

In 2010-11, both the State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents approved a document titled "College and Career Readiness Recommendations for Middle and High School Students." The genesis of this statement was both national dialog about what academic pathways lead to students being "college- and career-ready" and the interest of Utah high school students and those advising students in having a document to guide them in choosing college- and career-ready pathways. The original set of recommendations document was provided to students, parents, teachers and counselors so that they could recognize the various pathways for becoming college- and career-ready and encourage students to be successful in reaching their educational and career goals. This statement has been helpful to all of those groups since it was first approved.

Recently, the State Board of Education revised their high school graduation standards. The high school graduation standards were included in the originally approved document, and with their change, the document became out of date. The staffs of the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) and the Academic and Student Affairs Division of the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) undertook a revision of the document containing the recommendations. Input has been provided by the staffs of USOE and USHE Academic Affairs, and the Chief Academic Officers of the USHE. In addition to the change in the high school graduation requirements, changes recommended by those using the statement over the last few years were also incorporated. The statement, in the form presented here, has now been approved by the State Board of Education.

Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends the Regents approve the revised "College and Career Readiness Recommendations to High School Students."

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David L. Buhler  
Commissioner of Higher Education

DLB/EJH  
Attachment

# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Utah State Board of Education and Utah System of Higher Education

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.
- Do your very best work possible in every class from middle school through senior year of high school.

**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 tests (such as the EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT sequence of tests, or ACCUPLACER) to determine how close you are to being ready for college.
- After taking the ACT junior year, use the ACT benchmark scores to evaluate how ready you are for college: English: 18; Reading: 22; Science: 23; Math: 22.

- If you are taking concurrent enrollment classes senior year, use ACT scores to guide selection:

Math: 23	Math 1030/1040/1050
Math: 19	Math Concept Review Course –will not qualify as a “progressive course” for Regents’ Scholarship (see back of this document for more info)
Math: <19	Explore high school math choices to get better prepared
English: 19	ENGL 1010
English: 29	ENGL 2010

- Visit StepUpUtah.com for tips and resources on how to prepare and pay for college, and to learn about events in your area.

# HIGH SCHOOL COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

DRAFT 12-04-2015

	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION*	COLLEGE- & CAREER-READINESS PATHWAY	REGENTS' SCHOLARSHIP**
<b>English/Language Arts</b>	<b>4.0 credits</b>	4.0 credits of English to develop reading and writing skills	4.0 credits of English**
<b>Math</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> 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 class beyond Secondary III**
<b>Science</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> 2.0 credits from Earth Systems, Biological Science, Chemistry, Physics, or Advanced 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**
<b>Social Science/ Social Studies</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> 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**
<b>Financial Literacy</b>	<b>0.5 credit</b> 0.5 credit General Financial Literacy	0.5. credit General Financial Literacy	Meet high school graduation requirement
<b>Directed Coursework</b>	<b>3.0 credits</b> 1.5 credits Fine Arts 1.0 credit Career and Technical Education 0.5 credit Computer Tech	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
<b>Physical Education/Health</b>	<b>2.0 credits</b>	Build a foundation for a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle.	Meet high school graduation requirement
<b>Required Electives</b>	<b>6.0 credits</b>	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
<b>World Languages</b>		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**
<b>District/Charter Requirements</b>	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 that satisfy Regents' Scholarship requirements, visit [regentsscholarship.org](http://regentsscholarship.org).