

USG Freshman Admission Requirements

Staying on Course: Required High School Curriculum



The Required High School Curriculum is the cornerstone of the University System of Georgia (USG) admissions policy. This document reflects the minimum USG unit requirements in each of the academic subject areas¹. Students should pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum to be best prepared for a successful college experience and should consult with their high school counselor to determine appropriate coursework. The course titles and numbers used in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education. Consideration is also given to similar courses for students attending private or out-of-state high schools. In addition to the courses listed on this document, other AP and IB courses, as well as college-level courses completed through dual enrollment, may be considered in the appropriate subject area. Students should contact their college or university of interest to learn about any additional admission requirements that may apply.

| CARNEGIE UNIT REQUIREMENTS | |
|---|--|
| UNITS | DESCRIPTION |
| 4 Carnegie units of college preparatory English | Literature (American, English, World) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills <i>View the courses that count towards satisfying the English area of the RHSC.</i> |
| 4 Carnegie units of college preparatory mathematics | Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra, and a 4th unit of advanced math, or equivalent courses <i>View the courses that count towards satisfying the mathematics area of the RHSC.</i> |
| 4 Carnegie units of college preparatory science | The 4 science units should include two courses with a laboratory component. Georgia public high school students should have at least one unit of biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement course, and a 4th science. <i>View the courses that count towards satisfying the science area of the RHSC.</i> |
| 3 Carnegie units of college preparatory social science | Must include one unit focusing on U.S. studies and one unit focusing on world studies. <i>View the courses that count towards satisfying the social science area of the RHSC.</i> |
| 2 Carnegie units of the same foreign language OR 2 units of American Sign Language OR 2 units of computer science ³ | The 2 units of the same foreign language must have an emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing. The 2 units of computer science must have a coding and programming emphasis. <i>View the courses that count towards satisfying the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area of the RHSC.</i> |

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE ENGLISH REQUIREMENT

| | | | |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| 23.03400 | Advanced Composition | 23.06200 | Tenth Grade Literature and Composition |
| 23.04300 | Advanced Placement Language/Composition | 23.06300 | World Literature/Composition |
| 23.05100 | American Literature/Composition | 23.06400 | Literary Types/Composition ² |
| 23.05200 | British Literature/Composition | 23.06500 | Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition |
| 23.05300 | Advanced Placement English Language and Composition/American Literature | 23.06600 | Contemporary Literature/Composition ² |
| 23.06100 | Ninth Grade Literature and Composition | 23.06700 | Multicultural Literature/Composition |
| 23.06120 | International Baccalaureate English B SL | 23.06800 | International Baccalaureate English SL (American Literature) |
| 23.06130 | International Baccalaureate English B HL | 23.06900 | International Baccalaureate English HL (World Literature) |

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT

| | |
|----------|---|
| 27.05220 | International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year One |
| 27.05240 | International Baccalaureate (IB) Mathematical Studies, Year Two |
| 27.07200 | Advanced Placement Calculus AB |
| 27.07300 | Advanced Placement Calculus BC |
| 27.07400 | Advanced Placement Statistics |
| 27.07700 | Multivariable Calculus |
| 27.07800 | Calculus |
| 27.07910 | Advanced Finite Mathematics |
| 27.08000 | Engineering Calculus |
| 27.08500 | Advanced Mathematical Decision Making ⁴ |
| 27.08600 | Mathematics of Industry and Government ⁴ |
| 27.08800 | Statistical Reasoning ⁴ |
| 27.08900 | College Readiness Mathematics ⁴ |
| 27.09710 | CCGPS/GSE Coordinate Algebra |
| 27.09720 | CCGPS/GSE Analytic Geometry |
| 27.09730 | CCGPS/GSE Advanced Algebra |
| 27.09740 | CCGPS/GSE Pre-Calculus |
| 27.09750 | Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A |
| 27.09760 | Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Analytic Geometry B/Advanced Algebra |
| 27.09770 | Accelerated CCGPS/GSE Pre-Calculus |
| 27.09900 | GSE Algebra I |
| 27.09910 | GSE Geometry |
| 27.09920 | GSE Algebra II |
| 27.09940 | GSE Accelerated Algebra I/Geometry A |
| 27.09950 | GSE Accelerated Geometry B/Algebra II |

College-level mathematics courses (College Algebra or higher) completed through dual enrollment may also satisfy the 4th math unit of the USG's RHSC.

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

| ACADEMIC COURSES | | CTAE COURSES | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| 26.01200 | Biology I | 01.46100 | General Horticulture and Plant Science |
| 26.01300 | Biology II | 02.42100 | Animal Science Technology/Biotechnology |
| 26.01400 | AP Biology | 02.44100 | Plant Science and Biotechnology |
| 26.01500 | Genetics | 03.41100 | Natural Resources Management |
| 26.01800 | IB Biology, Year One | 03.45100 | Forest Science |
| 26.01900 | IB Biology, Year Two | 20.41400 | Food for Life |
| 26.03100 | Botany | 20.41810 | Food Science |
| 26.05100 | Microbiology | 20.41710 | Food & Nutrition Through the Lifespan |
| 26.06100 | Ecology | 21.45100 | Energy and Power Technology |
| 26.06110 | Environmental Science | 21.45300 | Advanced AC and DC Circuits |
| 26.06200 | AP Environmental Science | 21.45700 | Appropriate & Alternative Energy Tech |
| 26.06300 | IB Environmental Systems, Year One | 25.44000 | Essentials of Healthcare |
| 26.06310 | IB Environmental Systems, Year Two | 25.44600 | Sports Medicine |
| 26.06400 | Advanced Genetics/DNA Research | 25.57000 | Essentials of Biotechnology |
| 26.06500 | Epidemiology | 25.56900 | Applications of Biotechnology |
| 26.07100 | Zoology | 43.45200 | Forensic Science & Criminal Investigations |
| 26.07200 | Entomology | | |
| 26.07300 | Human Anatomy/Physiology | | |
| 40.01100 | Physical Science | | OTHER³ |
| 40.02100 | Astronomy | 11.01600 | AP Computer Science A |
| 40.04100 | Meteorology | 11.01700 | IB Computer Science, Year One |
| 40.05100 | Chemistry I | 11.01710 | IB Computer Science, Year Two |
| 40.05200 | Chemistry II | 11.01900 | AP Computer Science Principles |
| 40.05300 | AP Chemistry | 11.42500 | Web Development |
| 40.05500 | IB Chemistry, Year One | 11.42700 | Embedded Computing |
| 40.05600 | IB Chemistry, Year Two | 11.42900 | Game Design: Animation and Simulation |
| 40.05700 | Organic Chemistry | 11.47100 | Computer Science Principles |
| 40.05800 | Biochemistry | 11.47200 | Programming, Games, Apps and Society |
| 40.05900 | Materials Chemistry | | |
| 40.06300 | Geology | | |
| 40.06400 | Earth Systems | | |
| 40.07100 | Oceanography | | |
| 40.08100 | Physics I | | |
| 40.08200 | Physics II | | |
| 40.08310 | AP Physics I | | |
| 40.08320 | AP Physics II | | |
| 40.08410 | AP Physics C: Mechanics | | |
| 40.08420 | AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism | | |
| 40.08500 | IB Physics, Year One | | |
| 40.08600 | IB Physics, Year Two | | |
| 40.08700 | Environmental Physics | | |
| 40.08800 | Special Topics in Modern Physics | | |
| 40.08900 | Advanced Physics Principles/Robotics | | |
| 40.09100 | Advanced Scientific Internship | | |
| 40.09230 | Scientific Research III | | |
| 40.09240 | Scientific Research IV | | |
| 40.09300 | Forensic Science | | |
| 40.09400 | Chemical & Material Science Engineering | | |
| 40.09500 | IB Design Technology, Year One | | |
| 40.09600 | IB Design Technology, Year Two | | |
| 40.09700 | IB Marine Science, Year One | | |
| 40.09710 | IB Marine Science, Year Two | | |

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENT

| COURSES FOCUSING ON WORLD STUDIES | | COURSES FOCUSING ON U.S. STUDIES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45.08110 | Advanced Placement World History | 45.08100 | United States History |
| 45.08300 | World History | 45.08200 | Advanced Placement United States History |
| 45.07110 | World Geography | 45.08700 | International Baccalaureate History of the Americas SL (US History) |
| 45.07700 | Advanced Placement Human Geography | | |
| IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING COURSES SATISFY THE THIRD SOCIAL SCIENCE UNIT: | | | |
| 45.01100 | Comparative Religions | 45.06200 | Advanced Placement Microeconomics |
| 45.01200 | Current Issues | 45.06300 | Advanced Placement Macroeconomics |
| 45.01300 | Technology and Society | 45.06400 | Comparative Political/Economic Systems |
| 45.01310 | International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society SL | 45.06500 | International Baccalaureate Economics SL |
| 45.01320 | International Baccalaureate Information Technology in a Global Society HL | 45.07200 | Asian Studies |
| 45.01400 | The Humanities/Social Studies | 45.07300 | Latin American Studies |
| 45.01500 | Psychology | 45.07400 | Middle Eastern Studies |
| 45.01600 | Advanced Placement Psychology | 45.07500 | Sub-Saharan Studies |
| 45.01700 | International Baccalaureate Psychology | 45.07600 | Local Area Studies/Geography |
| 45.02100 | Anthropology | 45.07700 | Advanced Placement Human Geography |
| 45.03100 | Sociology | 45.07800 | International Baccalaureate Geography SL |
| 45.03200 | Ethnic Studies | 45.08120 | U.S. History in Film |
| 45.05200 | Advanced Placement Government/Politics: United States | 45.08400 | Advanced Placement European History |
| 45.05300 | Advanced Placement Government/Politics: Comparative | 45.08500 | Georgia History |
| 45.05500 | Constitutional Theory | 45.08600 | Local Area Studies/History |
| 45.05600 | The Individual and Law | 45.08900 | Modern U.S. Military History, 1918-present |
| 45.05700 | American Government/Civics | 45.08910 | Early U.S. Military History |
| 45.05800 | Ethics and the Law | 45.08920 | Recent U.S. Presidents |
| 45.06100 | Economics/Business/Free Enterprise | 45.89300 | International Baccalaureate History of the Americas HL |
| | | 45.09100 | United States and World Affairs |
| | | 45.09200 | World Area Studies |

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES THAT SATISFY THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SCIENCE LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE REQUIREMENT³

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 11.01600 | AP Computer Science A | 11.42700 | Embedded Computing |
| 11.01700 | IB Computer Science, Year One | 11.42900 | Game Design: Animation and Simulation |
| 11.01710 | IB Computer Science, Year Two | 11.47100 | Computer Science Principles |
| 11.01900 | AP Computer Science Principles | 11.47200 | Programming, Games, Apps and Society |
| 11.42500 | Web Development | | |

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL FAQs

- Q.1** *How many total academic units must I complete in order to be considered for regular admission to a University System of Georgia (USG) college or university?*
- A.** Students must complete a minimum of 17 academic units consisting of 4 English, 4 mathematics, 4 science, 3 social science and 2 foreign language. Page 1 of this document provides a description for each of the subject area requirements.
- Q.2** *Should I pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum?*
- A.** Yes, in order to be best prepared for college, students are encouraged to take a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum. Students should consult with their high school counselor and parents to select courses suitable to their ability level in each subject area.
- Q.3** *Are AP, IB, honors, or dual enrollment classes viewed most favorably by college admission officers?*
- A.** Students are encouraged to pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum appropriate to their ability level in each subject area to be best prepared for a successful college experience. AP, IB, honors, and dual enrollment classes can all be considered rigorous. The USG's selective colleges and universities, such as the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia, consider the context of the student's high school when reviewing the rigor of a student's high school curriculum. The most successful applicants are those who take advantage of the most rigorous curriculum available to them in whatever form that may take. A more in-depth explanation of how the USG colleges and universities view the different options can be found on the USG's [Dual Enrollment Admissions Guidance document](#). Students should consult with their high school counselor to determine appropriate coursework.
- Q.4** *What else do colleges look for in addition to the completion of the Required High School Curriculum?*
- A.** While the rigor of the high school curriculum is very important, it is not the only factor considered when determining an applicant's potential to succeed in college and eligibility for admission. The grade point average (GPA) in academic courses and standardized test results, among other things, are also considered. Additional information on the other requirements can be found in the [USG Freshman Admission Requirements: SAT/ACT, HSGPA, and Freshman Index Requirements](#) document. Some colleges may also have additional requirements. Students should check with the admission office at their college or university of interest or visit their website for additional information.
- Q.5** *If I attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my high school course titles are not the same as those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education, how do I know if my courses will satisfy the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?*
- A.** The course titles and numbers listed in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education; however, the USG colleges and universities will give consideration to similar courses taken by those attending a private school or a public high school located outside of the state. Additional information, such as a course description, may be requested so the college or university can determine if it is appropriate to count the course as an RHSC unit.
- Q.6** *If I attend a private school or a public high school located outside of Georgia and my school offers a course similar to an approved course that the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) has discontinued, can the course offered at my school continue to count as an RHSC unit for USG admissions?*
- A.** The course titles and numbers listed in this document reflect those currently used by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE); however, the USG colleges and universities will continue to give consideration to similar courses taken at a private school or a public high school located outside of the state. If GADOE discontinues a course that was approved to satisfy an RHSC unit, then the course is removed from this document and added to the [USG Staying on Course Approved Course Archive](#) document. Additional information, such as a course description, may be requested so that the college or university can determine if it is appropriate to count the course as an RHSC unit.
- Q.7** *I will graduate from a Georgia public high school but will have participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment. Will I be eligible for admission to a University System of Georgia college or university?*
- A.** Students graduating from a Georgia Public High School having participated in the Georgia Alternative Assessment are not eligible for regular freshman admission to a University System of Georgia college or university. Courses designed for students in the Georgia Alternative Assessment (courses beginning with "Access") are not included in the USG's Required High School Curriculum.

Q.8 *I'm a Georgia public high school student and have taken a course that is not listed on this document, does that mean it cannot be counted as an RHSC unit?*

A. The Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) and the USG work collaboratively to determine the Georgia high school courses appropriate to satisfy the RHSC units. Faculty from the USG colleges and universities closely examine each new high school course to determine if it has the academic rigor needed to prepare students for college-level course work. Only those courses that have been reviewed and approved are included on this document. Students should work closely with their high school counselor to ensure they take courses that satisfy high school graduation requirements and satisfy the RHSC.

Courses that are not approved, or are currently under review, appear on the [USG RHSC Course Review document](#). Approved courses that have not appeared on the GADOE's [State-Funded List of K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses](#) in the last five years are moved to the [Approved Course Archive](#) and can still be accepted if taken when approved.

MATHEMATICS

Q.1 *Which math classes should I take in high school?*

A. Students should complete 4 units of math that include Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and a fourth math unit listed as approved on page 2 of this document, or equivalent courses. The USG provides a [list of sample high school math sequences](#) but students should be aware that not all sequences provide the same level of preparation for college. Students planning to apply to a college or university with selective admissions (i.e. the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University of Georgia), or planning to pursue a STEM major, are encouraged to speak with their high school counselor and with the appropriate admissions office to ensure an appropriate math course sequence is taken.

Q.2 *If I complete an accelerated mathematics course (i.e. Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry) and an on-level mathematics course (i.e. Analytic Geometry) the following year, will both courses count towards satisfying the University System of Georgia's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) in the area of mathematics?*

A. Yes, students who complete an accelerated mathematics course one year, and an on-level mathematics course the following year, may remain on-track for completing the USG's RHSC provided they complete four total units of mathematics including through Algebra II/Advanced Algebra (or an equivalent course or higher) and one additional unit from the approved list provided on page 2 of this document. For example, a student completing Accelerated Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry, Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra and an additional math unit from the approved course list will have completed the USG's Required High School Curriculum.

Q.3 *If I complete Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, and Pre-Calculus at my high school, and complete a college-level math course through dual enrollment, will I have satisfied the USG's RHSC? If I complete Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra, and Pre-Calculus at my high school, and complete a college-level math course through dual enrollment, will I have satisfied the USG's RHSC?*

A. Yes, both of the above sequences satisfy the mathematics requirement of the USG's RHSC.

Q.4 *My private or out-of-state high school offers Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry as an option to satisfy the 4th math unit required for high school graduation. Does the USG allow this course to satisfy the 4th math unit for USG admissions?*

A. Yes, while the Georgia Department of Education discontinued their Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry course in 2015, this course continues to count as a 4th RHSC math unit for students attending a private or out-of-state high school.

SCIENCE

Q.1 *How many science units should I complete?*

A. Students must complete a total of four units of science, two of which should have a laboratory component. Students graduating from a Georgia public high school should have at least one unit in biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement course, and a fourth science from the list of approved science courses provided on page 3 of this document.

Q.2 *My school or school system only offers physical science in the 8th grade, will I be considered deficient if I don't take it in high school?*

A. Students enrolled in Georgia private high schools and high schools in other states often complete physical science while in the eighth grade and then take three or more additional science units in high school. Consequently, students from private high schools and public high schools in other states can count physical science courses taken in the eighth grade as one of the 4 required science units. Georgia public high school students who take high school physical science while in middle school can also count that course provided their high school includes the credit for that high school course on their high school transcript.

Q.3 *If I graduate from a private high school or from an out-of-state public high school, am I required to complete 4 science units?*

A. Yes, students graduating from a private high school or an out-of-state public high school are required to complete four science units, including two courses with a laboratory component. At least one course should be from the life sciences and one course should be from the physical sciences.

Q.4 *My private or out-of-state high school offers several science course options, each counting as a partial unit. Can courses counting as a partial unit be used to satisfy the fourth science unit of the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?*

A. Yes, students may take a combination of science courses to satisfy the fourth science unit provided the total credit earned equals a full unit.

Q.5 *The science courses offered at my high school include life science and physical science content in each course. Can these courses count towards the four required college preparatory science units?*

A. Yes, provided the total content is equivalent to taking four units of science. The content must be the equivalent of two units with a laboratory component and should include the equivalent of at least one unit from the life sciences and one unit from the physical sciences.

Q.6 *I attend a Georgia public high school so why does my science course not appear on the approved course list found in this document? Does this mean it cannot be used to satisfy the Required High School Curriculum (RHSC)?*

A. Only those courses approved by the USG faculty review committee are included in this document and can be used to satisfy the RHSC. The courses that have been reviewed and not approved are provided on the [USG RHSC Course Review](#) document.

Q.7 *If I take two approved computer science courses to satisfy the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement, can I also use one of those computer science courses to satisfy the 4th science requirement?*

A. No, an approved computer science course may only be used towards satisfying the science requirement or the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement. One course may not be used to satisfy two RHSC requirements.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Q.1 *Does European History satisfy the World Studies requirement?*

A. No, the World Studies requirement can only be satisfied with a course that has a world focus. Courses that focus on a particular area or region of the world do not satisfy the requirement. World History, World Geography, AP World History, and AP Human Geography satisfy the world studies requirement. Consideration is also given to similar courses for students attending private and out-of-state high schools.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE

Q.1 *Should I take a foreign language in high school?*

A. While the Georgia Department of Education no longer requires students to complete two units of a foreign language for high school graduation, the University System of Georgia requires the completion of two units of the same foreign language, two units of American Sign Language, or two units of approved Computer Science courses with a coding and/or programming focus.

Q.2 *If I have taken a unit of foreign language in middle school, can it count towards satisfying the USG's RHSC?*

A. Yes, foreign language units taken in middle school may count towards satisfying the USG's RHSC. Students who have taken foreign language in middle school should be sure to submit their transcript showing the credit earned.

Q.3 *Which computer science courses can count towards satisfying the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement?*

A. Only those computer science courses with an emphasis on coding and programming may satisfy this area of the RHSC. The list of approved courses is provided on page 2 of this document.

Q.4 *If I take one unit of a foreign language and one unit of computer science, will I have satisfied the requirement?*

A. No, students must successfully complete two units of the same foreign language, or two units of American Sign Language, or two units of approved computer science courses.

Q.5 *If I take two approved computer science courses to satisfy the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement, can I also use one of those computer science courses to satisfy the 4th science requirement?*

A. No, an approved computer science course may only be used towards the science requirement or the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science requirement.

Q.6 *If I take two units of a language for native speakers, will those units satisfy the USG's RHSC foreign language requirement?*

A. Yes, two units of a language (not English) for native speakers may satisfy the USG's RHSC foreign language requirement provided those two units are in the same language and have an emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing in that language.

NOTES

¹ In addition to meeting the Required High School Curriculum, applicants must also meet test score, high school GPA (HSGPA) and freshman index (FI) requirements, as outlined on the [USG Freshman Admission Requirements: SAT/ACT, HSGPA, and Freshman Index Requirements](#) document.

² Course is an elective (not core or required) for students graduating from a Georgia public high school; however, the course may count as one of the 4 required English/Language Arts units of the USG's Required High School Curriculum (RHSC).

³ Students satisfying the 4th science unit with a computer science course may not also use that course in the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area. Students satisfying the Foreign Language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area with two units of computer science may not use either computer science course to also satisfy the 4th science requirement.

⁴ Course may not prepare students for admission to the University System of Georgia institutions with selective admissions and is not appropriate for students planning to enter into a STEM major in college.

Please note that admission requirements are subject to change. Meeting the minimum requirements provided in this document does not guarantee admission to a USG college or university. Eligibility for admission is determined by the colleges and universities after a complete review of an applicant's credentials. Students are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office or to visit the website for their college or university of interest to learn more about their requirements. The contact information for the USG Admissions Offices can be accessed by going to the [USG Institutions](#) page and clicking on "Profile" for the college or university of interest.

Questions regarding admission to a specific USG college or university should be directed to the admissions office for the college or university of interest. General questions regarding this document may be directed to the USG's Office of Student Affairs by emailing student-affairs@usg.edu or calling 404-962-3110.