

Important Notes on Graduation Requirements. There are two very important issues to consider when planning a high school schedule. The first is specifically about core requirements, while the second concerns the total credit requirement.

First note that the total core requirement will be met if students take one credit each of English, history, science, math, and language each year of high school. **If a student chooses to complete a core requirement with only three hours, that hour must be covered in another area.** This is something that should be considered in early planning.

Second, the basic core requirement is 20 hours. Adding in the Fine Arts and PE requirements gives all students 22 total credit hours, but the minimum graduation requirement is 24, with a total of 28 credit hours available. **Thus all students are implicitly required to extend significantly beyond the minimum requirements. It is important for students to go into ninth grade with an idea of how they will cover these additional hours.**

Meeting the minimum graduation requirements for core classes, Fine Arts, and PE, still leaves students between two and six credits short.

The good news is that this leaves room for up to twelve additional half-credit classes!

Here are some of the options students in the past have availed themselves of:

- We encourage all students to take more than the minimum number of Fine Arts courses required. Note that all upper school Fine Arts classes may be taken multiple times.
- Many other upper school electives may be taken multiple times.
- Some AP Science courses carry 1.5 credits.
- History seminars for seniors are also open to juniors.
- Occasionally the schedule allows for seniors to take more than two English or History seminars.
- Students may begin a second World Language starting in tenth grade.
- Students may double up in Science, especially with a Computer Science course.
- There are several Computer Science electives available for upper school.

In ensuring that both the core and general credit hour requirements are met, there needs to be a good understanding of which classes count as core and which do not. As a general rule of thumb, other than the English, History, and Math seminars, half credit courses do not count toward the core requirement.

Care must also be taken to distinguish between those half-credit courses which count towards the Fine Arts graduation requirement and those that do not. In particular, currently no Computer Science courses count toward that requirement.