

Understanding the A-G Requirements

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

WHAT IS A-G?

A series of 15 high school classes that are designed to help prepare students for college. Classes are in six subject areas, each represented by a letter from A to G.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE A-G?

- Students wishing to attend a University of California or California State University must complete these 15 courses with a grade of C or better in order to be eligible to apply as a freshman.
- Students who aren't sure about their college plans are encouraged to pursue these requirements in order to keep their options open.
- Students pursuing a career pathway or career technical education (CTE) can benefit from taking these classes, which provide a strong base of general knowledge beneficial to any career. Many CTE classes count toward A-G requirements.
- Many school districts require that students complete these courses in order to graduate. Families should check with their high school to learn about the graduation requirements.
- Students learning English (English learners) may take sheltered or Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE) classes that satisfy A-G requirements.

"The intent of the 'A-G' subject requirements is to ensure that students have attained a body of general knowledge that will provide breadth and perspective to new, more advanced study."
–*University of California*








*Students with special needs: Students with IEPs and their families are encouraged to talk with their counselor to learn what accommodations are available to help meet A-G requirements—as well as what alternatives to A-G might be available.

*Students wishing to attend Santa Rosa Junior College are encouraged to take A-G classes. These are not required for entry but can help prepare the student to take college-level classes.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Start early and create a four-year plan:** Talk to an advisor or counselor in middle school or the start of high school to create a plan to meet the A-G requirements.
- **Seek out challenging classes:** A-G classes are the minimum requirement to be eligible for a UC or CSU. Passing these classes does not guarantee admission to a state university. To really be prepared and competitive, talk to your counselor about other college preparatory classes you can take to strengthen college readiness. Try to strengthen the following 21st century skills for success in college and the modern workplace: Communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.
- **Consider a career pathway:** Ask a counselor about career pathway options. These integrated programs of core academic courses and services are centered around a career of interest to the student. They have proven success in helping students complete A-G requirements and be competitive for college.
- **Rebound from setbacks:** Students who fall behind should not be discouraged! An advisor or counselor can help develop a plan to catch up.

A-G REQUIREMENTS AT A GLANCE

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|  | A History/Social Science | Two years , including one year of world history, cultures, and historical geography and one year of U.S. history, or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of American government or civics. |
|  | B English | Four years of college preparatory English that integrates reading of classic and modern literature, frequent and regular writing, and practice listening and speaking. |
|  | C Mathematics | Three years of college-preparatory math, including or integrating the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. |
|  | D Laboratory Science | Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of the three disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics. |
|  | E World Language | Two years of the same language other than English or equivalent to the second level of high school instruction. |
|  | F Visual & Performing Arts | One year chosen from dance, music, theater, or the visual arts. |
|  | G College-Prep Elective | One year chosen from the A-F courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements above, or courses that have been approved solely in the elective area. |

*Information from University of California: ucop.edu/agguide

ALTERNATE PATHS TO UC/CSU

Keep in mind that taking approved high school (A-G) courses isn't the only way to satisfy these requirements. You also may meet them by completing college courses or earning certain scores on SAT, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam.

Students may also wish to attend a two-year college, such as their local junior college, and then apply to transfer to a UC/CSU.



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