

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Sydnee Dickson
Deputy Superintendent

DATE: December 3-4, 2015

ACTION: College and Career Readiness

Background:

The Board has requested a study session on College and Career Readiness, in connection with reports from Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) and Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT). USHE and the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) have authored a joint document for schools to use with students and parents to help them make course selections that will help them be better prepared for success in post-secondary institutions.

Key Points:

Staff from the USOE and USHE have co-developed documents over the past few years that outline appropriate courses that help prepare students adequately to be successful in college and careers. In addition, Career and Technical Education (CTE) endeavors include academic expectations for technical courses and principles of engineering are now embedded in both science and technical courses. However, the Board hasn't officially adopted a PK-16 articulation of what constitutes "college and career readiness." Board members have also expressed interest in talking about the relevance of the high school diploma as indicating readiness for a student's future.

Anticipated Action:

The Board will consider approving the College and Career Ready document as a joint statement with USHE about how to best prepare for success in post-secondary institutions.

Contact: Sydnee Dickson, 801-538-7515

College and Career Readiness Recommendations to High School Students



Prepared by the
Utah State Office of Education

December 3-4, 2015

Sydnee Dickson, Deputy Superintendent
sydnee.dickson@schools.utah.gov



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 soft 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 11-20-2015

	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 class beyond Secondary III**
Science	3.0 credits 2.0 credits from Earth Systems, Biological Science, Chemistry, or Physics 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 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
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 (other than English) in a progressive manner during grades 9-12.	2.0 credits of the same world language (other than English) taken in a progressive manner during grades 9-12**
District 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 that satisfy Regents' Scholarship requirements, visit regentsscholarship.org.