

High school Courses and Requirements for the College Bound Student

Every student in South Carolina must meet a minimum of 24 credits for graduation with a high school diploma. Those credits are broken into certain categories with specific required courses. If a student plans to attend college at any time in the future, however, the required courses differ slightly. The College Preparatory Prerequisite Requirements listed below are **minimal requirements**. Check with the college of your choice for any additional requirements they may have for admission. Please see the list below for required courses for the college bound student, with descriptions, as issued by the SC Commission on Higher Ed.

COURSE CATEGORY	Number of credits
ENGLISH At least two must have strong grammar and composition components; at least one must contain British Literature and at least one must contain American Literature. Usually designated as English I, II, III, and IV.	4
MATHEMATICS These include Algebra I, II and Geometry . A fourth higher-level mathematics course should be selected from among Alg III/Trig, precalculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics, or a dual credit college level course .	4
LABORATORY SCIENCE Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical or life sciences and selected from among Biology, Chemistry, or Physics . The third unit may be from any field of science for which Biology or Chemistry is a prerequisite . It is strongly recommended that students take Physical Science as a prerequisite, however, Physical Science does NOT meet the lab science requirement and must be counted as an elective . It is also strongly recommended that students pursuing a career in science, math, technology or engineering take a class in each of the 3 fields above.	3
FOREIGN LANGUAGE At least two years of the same foreign language . Check with your college of choice—some require 3 years of the same language.	2
SOCIAL SCIENCE/ HISTORY One unit of US History, ½ unit of US Government, and ½ unit of Economics are required in this category. Choose one additional credit . Examples include World Geography and Cultures, World History, European History, etc.	3
FINE ARTS This includes Appreciation of, History of, or Performance in any category of Fine Arts.	1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION or ROTC Usually completed by end of 9 th grade.	1
COMPUTER One involving significant programming content (how to use specific programs such as WORD or EXCEL, for example, not simply keyboarding)	1
ELECTIVES Remaining credits can be completed in any college preparatory course in English, Science, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Social Science, Humanities, or Mathematics	5
Total:	24

