



The Cottonwood School: Graduation Requirements

High school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements are not the same. Course selection should be based on academic, career, and personal interest. Student interests and goals should guide the path through high school. College admission requirements will vary from school to school, it is recommended that students check admission requirements before applying to their college of choice. Students can always reach out to their high school counselor if they have questions about graduation requirements or the college admission process.

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements	Total Credits
Social Studies	6 semester courses <i>(Must include 1 year of US History, 1 year World History, 1 semester of Government, and 1 semester of Economics)</i>	30
English	6 semester courses	30
Math	4 semester courses <i>(Algebra 1 must be completed)</i>	20
Science	4 semester courses <i>(Must include 1 year of Physical Science and 1 year of Life Science)</i>	20
Visual & Performing Arts	2 semester courses	10
World Language		
Electives	18 semester courses	90
Total =		200 Credits

** Please note that once a subject area graduation requirement has been fulfilled, all excess credits will be rolled over to the Electives category.*

Suggested Graduation Sequence			
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English 9 ▪ Algebra 1 ▪ Physical Science <i>or</i> Earth Science ▪ Elective Elective ▪ Elective Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World History ▪ English 10 ▪ Math ▪ Biology ▪ Elective Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ US History ▪ English 11 ▪ World Language <i>or</i> Visual & Performing Arts ▪ Elective Elective ▪ Elective Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economics <i>and</i> Government ▪ Elective Elective ▪ Elective Elective ▪ Elective Elective ▪ Elective Elective

4-year College Entrance Requirements:

Students who plan to apply to a 4-year college right after high school graduation should plan to meet “a-g” requirements. These requirements are mandatory for students who apply to the CSU or UC systems, and recommended for students who plan to apply to private and out-of-state colleges and universities. The minimum “a-g” requirements are summarized below:

A-G	Subject Area	Subject Requirement
a	History Social Science	2 years <i>(1 year of World History and 1 year of US History, or ½ year of US History and ½ year of Government)</i>
b	English	4 years
c	Mathematics	3 years <i>(Algebra or higher)</i>
d	Laboratory Science	2 years <i>(At least 2 of the 3 disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)</i>
e	Language Other Than English	2 years <i>(Must be 2 years of the same language)</i>
f	Visual & Performing Arts	1 year
g	College-Preparatory Elective	1 year

* The ‘g’ requirement can be one year of an ‘a-g’ approved elective, or an extra year of any ‘a-g’ approved core course. Remember, one year is the minimum requirement, we always encourage students to do more than the minimum.

Students who plan to apply to the UC or CSU systems will need to take courses that are “a-g” approved. “A-G” approved Science classes must include labs. To meet minimum admission requirements, students must complete 15 yearlong high school courses with a letter grade of C or better – at least 11 of them prior to their last year of high school. There are alternative ways to meet “a-g” requirements through testing and community college courses. Students should consult with their high school counselor if they have any questions.

Subject requirements will vary for private and out-of-state colleges and universities. However, most students who are eligible for UC admission and fulfill the “a-g” requirements will probably meet the admission requirements for most of the private and out-of-state colleges and universities.

Students should also plan to take the SAT or ACT. SAT Subject Tests are usually optional; however, students who are applying to specific departments or highly selective schools will want to check with the admissions office of the college or university of interest to verify requirements.

For more information, please visit the sites below:

- “A-G” Requirements: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/a-g-requirements/index.html>
- Cottonwood School’s ‘a-g’ Course List: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/5485>
- SAT Information – <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- ACT Information – <http://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>