

Choosing the Right Classes



To succeed in school, you need to be in the right classes. To help ensure that you put together the best course schedule for your academic and career goals, consider the following.

Know your options

Learn all you can about the programs and courses available at your school and in your district. Most high schools offer the following:

- ▶ career and technology programs for the students who like a more “hands-on” approach to learning or want to explore a career.
- ▶ programs that allow students to take college courses in high school (dual-enrollment).
- ▶ advanced, honors, and AP classes for students who excel in specific subjects.
- ▶ assistance for students who need extra help.

If you want to go to college

Four-year colleges recommend that students take the following college prep courses in high school:

- ▶ 4 years of English
- ▶ 3 years of science
- ▶ 3–4 years of math
- ▶ 3 years of social studies
- ▶ 2–3 years of one world language
- ▶ 1 year of fine or performing arts

Competitive schools and programs consider these courses to be the minimum requirements. They recommend that students challenge themselves by taking advanced courses whenever possible.

If you're interested in a specific career

Choose electives that relate to the career fields you're considering. For example, if you're thinking about a career in business, take as many accounting, math, and computer courses as you can. This is a good way to find out if a career field might be one you would enjoy.

If you want to play a sport in college

Athletes going to NCAA Division I and II colleges must have a minimum GPA in a specified number of core courses. If you want to play a sport in college, talk to your counselor about the courses you need to take to meet NCAA requirements.

Consider taking summer classes

Taking a class during the summer can be a good way to earn credits toward graduation and lighten your course load for the following school year.

In order to stay on track for graduation, students who are short on credits or have failed a required course should plan to attend summer school if at all possible.

Your counselor is an expert on the courses and programs available at your school. If you have questions about which classes would be right for you, talk to your counselor. *Check out this short video to learn more about the ways your counselor can help you.*

