

## PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Students planning to attend college must pay very careful attention to admissions requirements prior to selecting their high school courses. The requirements vary considerably depending upon the college or university that the student plans to attend and the major field of study that he/she plans to pursue. *It is essential that students and parents check specific college entrance requirements with their school counselors.*

### High School Credit Requirements

High school course work should prepare you for college by helping develop strong skills in at least four areas - English, mathematics, social science and natural science. Two years of a world language are also strongly recommended for university admission.

All UW System institutions require a minimum of 17 core academic high school credits (one credit is equal to one year of study) distributed as follows:

<b>Core Prep Courses</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Credits</b>
English	Accepted English courses stress an understanding of composition, literature and rhetoric. Significant practice in reading, writing and speaking is expected in composition and rhetoric. Several campuses require that at least three of the four credits in English include composition and literature. Most regular and advanced English courses are accepted. Courses not accepted tend to be those that emphasize applied skills, performance or technical production.	4
Mathematics	Algebra, geometry and other mathematics courses requiring algebra or geometry as prerequisites are accepted. Most campuses require both algebra and geometry. In most cases, courses are not accepted in mathematics if they are taught prior to first-year algebra, do not have algebra or geometry as prerequisite or are computer classes. Courses in applied math are not accepted at some institutions.	3
Social Science	Courses accepted in social science include history, political science, geography and theoretical studies of culture, economics and human behavior and societies (such as psychology and sociology). Courses in applied social science are not accepted.	3
Natural Science	Courses accepted in natural science include biology, chemistry and physics. These courses emphasize theory and usually have a significant laboratory component. Other science courses often accepted include astronomy, earth science, geology and physical science. Courses in applied science are not accepted at some institutions.	3
Elective Credits	Elective credits are chosen from the core college preparatory areas above, foreign language, fine arts, computer science and other academic areas. A minimum of two credits of a single world language is required for admission to UW-Eau Claire and UW-Madison and may help meet graduation requirements at other UW System campuses. Some campuses may accept career and technical education courses for a portion of these four elective credits.	4

It is impossible to list courses that are required by all institutions. Students and parents should work closely with high school counselors for admissions information for Wisconsin colleges and all out-of-state institutions.

The UW System Board of Regents approved a new Freshman Admissions Policy for students entering UWS campuses beginning fall 2008. The new policy provides for a comprehensive, individualized review of freshman applicants. The new policy provides criteria to be used in making admission decisions. Academic factors (rigor and quality of high school curriculum, rank

in class, grade point average and test scores) will continue to be the most important consideration. In addition, other factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to, student experiences, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, work experience, status as a non-traditional or returning adult, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, whether the applicant is socio-economically disadvantaged, and whether the applicant is a member of a historically under-represented racial or ethnic group.

A strong academic background in high school beyond the minimal college admissions requirements can be beneficial. In general, all 4 year colleges strongly recommend more than the minimal admission requirements. For the admissions requirements of a specific college see your counselor or contact the institution.



## **MILITARY ACADEMIES**

Students seeking nomination to a military academy should be aware of entrance requirements and application deadlines.

## **MILITARY ENLISTMENT**

A high school diploma is required for enlistment in all branches of the military. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test is also required.

Students not interested in a military career may still wish to take the ASVAB test to gain career information.

## **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE – ATHLETIC DIVISIONS I & II**

Athletes intending to compete in Division I and Division II colleges must complete the online NCAA Clearinghouse requirements. Information about the NCAA Clearinghouse is available in the Counseling Office.

## **PHS STUDENT SERVICES**

For information on post-secondary options such as 2 or 4 year colleges, the military, apprenticeships or employment, or for information on paying for college and/or scholarships, please go to the PHS Student Services webpage via the high school web page.

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