

NOTES

BUILDING THE CASE FOR YOUR STUDENT

Curriculum planning

What course credits does your kid need?¹

Minimum requirements for high school course credits vary from college to college, so here's a simple way to get your bearings:

		Suggested credits for		
Possible courses		high school graduation	general college	highly selective college
English	Composition, literature, rhetoric, creative writing, speech/communications, journalism, debate. <i>For general college:</i> AP or college courses should be considered. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP or college courses are strongly recommended.	4	4	4+
Math	Algebra 1 & 2, geometry, precalculus/trigonometry, calculus, AP calculus. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP courses strongly recommended. Consider statistics and accounting.	3	3–4	4+
History	World history, American history, U.S. government. <i>For general college:</i> Consider AP courses, economics, geography, constitutional law. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> Also consider sociology, psychology, political science. AP and college courses strongly recommended.	2–3	3–4	4+
Science	Physical science, general science, earth science, biology, chemistry, physics. <i>For general college:</i> Consider AP courses. <i>For highly selective colleges:</i> AP courses strongly recommended.	2–3	3–4	4+
Foreign language	French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, etc. <i>At least two years of same language is preferred.</i>	2–3	3–4	3–4
Physical education	<i>Many options available.</i>	1–2	1–2	1–2
Fine arts	Art, music, drama, photography, film, etc.	1–2	1–2	1–2
Electives	Practical arts, life skills, computer skills, Bible, etc.	5	5	5
Total credits		20–22	24–28	26–30

Protecting your credibility

Be careful that your student's credits do not exceed 34 or so. — For many admissions officers, seeing more than 34 credits on your student's transcript may raise concerns about how you awarded those credits.

EXCEPTION: Your student completed high school work *prior* to the high school years.

¹ The suggested credits above derive from what was once publically available information on the website of HSLDA.