

A High School Degree Does Not Mean Your Child is ready for College

If your child takes the classes needed to graduate from High School then they should be eligible to go to a UC or a Cal State, right? ***Not necessarily.***

In order to enter a UC or Cal State, students must take the following classes to be eligible, commonly known as **A-G courses**:

Social Science 2 years (World History, U.S. History/Government)

English 4 years

Science (must include a laboratory) 2 years *

CSU = (one physical and one biological science)

UC = (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics)

Visual and Performing Arts 1 year

Mathematics 3 years * (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 or Intermediate Algebra)

Foreign Language 2 years * (2 years of the *same language*)

College Preparatory Elective 1 year (one additional course in any of the subject areas listed above)

* **An additional year is recommended.**

Your child does not need a Foreign Language or 3 years of math to graduate from High School. However, they do need these courses to be eligible for a UC or Cal State school.

So a High School Degree does not necessarily mean you have all the requirements to be eligible to go to a UC or Cal State school.

My child is going to Community College first, can't they make up the courses they need at El Camino? Community Colleges such as El Camino are also in Budget Crises mode. They are cutting back on classes, so it is taking longer and longer to acquire all the courses needed to complete the general education requirements. Then add the classes he/she could have taken in High School. Statistics show "Nearly 70% of degree-seeking students who entered community college in the 2003-2004 school year did not graduate or complete their degrees within 6 years" (Daily Breeze, October 21, 2010) So why waste valuable time taking & paying for classes in Community College you could have taken in High School?

My child is not in High School. Why do I need to know this now? Because in Middle School there will be elective choices. The choices made in Middle School will determine the classes they end up taking in High School.

Bottom Line: Please make sure you meet with your child's counselor in middle school. Understand your child's Six-Year School Plan. Be informed. Make sure your child graduates prepared and with options open.

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