

## Recommended Courses for College-Bound Students

-- by Kay Peterson, Ph.D.

The courses you take now will determine where you will be accepted to college - not to mention how you'll do once you get there. While requirements vary from school to school, the chart below outlines a typical core college prep course.

COURSE	YEARS	TYPES OF CLASSES	ACADEMIC BENEFIT
<b>English</b>	4	Composition American Literature English Literature World Literature	These courses will help you improve your writing skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary.
<b>Mathematics</b>	3-4	Algebra I & II Geometry Trigonometry Precalculus Calculus	Mathematics provides a solid foundation for a variety of majors, including engineering and the sciences.  Recent studies show that students who take algebra and geometry in high school are much more likely to go on to college.
<b>History &amp; Geography</b>	2-3	Geography U.S. History U.S. Government World History World Cultures Civics	In these courses, you'll become better informed about the world around you.  They also provide excellent preparation for college studies in history and political science.
<b>Laboratory Science</b>	2-3	Biology Earth Science Chemistry Physics	Laboratory sciences prepare you for careers within the sciences and related fields.  In addition, these courses teach you about scientific methodology and train your observation skills.

<b>Foreign Language</b>	2-3	French German Spanish Latin Russian Japanese	Mastering a foreign language gives you access to different cultures - as well as career paths you may not have even considered.  Many companies prefer bilingual job candidates.
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	1	Art Dance Drama Music	The arts expose you to a world of communication and expression.  Research has suggested that students who take courses in the arts often excel in school and on standardized tests.
<b>Appropriate Electives</b>	1-3	Economics Psychology Statistics Computer Science Communications	Electives provide the opportunity to sample a variety of disciplines. They can help you choose your major in college.