

Pre-College Planning for High School

To make the most effective use of the last four years of schooling, and to ensure proper credits and records for college admissions, an overall plan of action should be developed. During the planning phase the basic areas to consider should include the following: curriculum credits, extra curricular activities, record keeping for high school transcript, test preparation and test taking.

Pre-College Curriculum

The first area to include in your plan should be your curriculum. Beginning in grade 9 and continuing through grade 12, your curriculum should follow the general guidelines accepted by most Illinois public and private institutions and most out-of-state institutions. The recommendations for a pre-college curriculum include the following:

English: Four years or more. One year credit each for English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12.

Mathematics: Three years or more. One year credit each for Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry is required. Extra course work could include Trigonometry, Calculus, other math beyond Algebra II, or Computer Math/ Science.

Social Science: Three years or more. One year credit each for American History and World History. Extra course work could include American Government, Economics, Geography, Psychology, or other History (European, State, etc.).

Natural Science: Three years or more (currently one of these courses must include a lab). One year credit each for Earth/ Space Science or Physics; Biology, and Chemistry. Extra course work could include General Science or a second year of one of the required sciences.

Foreign Language: Two or more years of the *same* foreign language.

Visual/ Performing Arts: One year. One year credit each for Visual Arts, Performing Arts or Arts Appreciation.

It is important to remember that these are *minimum requirements*. Highly competitive universities are looking for students who have taken several extra, more difficult courses than the minimum requirements listed above, and students hoping to receive academic scholarships will need to show extra difficult course work also. **Most** state universities will gladly admit students who have only met the *minimum requirements*.