

California
Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in California during the 2005 or 2006 calendar years are:

- ***The California Golden State Seal Merit Diploma***
- ***A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.*** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics);
 - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - One year of a foreign language.
- ***Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.*** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
- ***California A-G Requirements.*** This program is available to students who complete the normal course requirements for the A-G requirements for admission to the UC or CSU, or complete a modified version of the A-G requirements for admission to the UC and CSU, in which a year-long, career technical education course that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic content standards approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for one of the courses that counts toward completion of the “G” requirement.
 - A. History/Social Science: 2 years required. Two years of history/social science selected from world history, cultures and geography; U.S. history; or, a combination of U.S. History, American government/civics, and economics equal to one year; and
 - B. English: 4 years required. Four years of college-preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement; and
 - C. Mathematics: 3 years required. Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement; and
 - D. Laboratory Science: 2 years required. Two years of laboratory science chosen from biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to

fulfill this requirement. Two years of an approved integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement; and

- E. Language other than English: 2 years required. Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture; and
- F. Visual and Performing Arts: 1 year required. A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must satisfy the five State standards for artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relations and application; and
- G. College Preparatory Electives: 1 year required. One year, in addition to those required in “A-F” above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the “E” requirement or two years of another language).