

College admission requirements set by the HECB

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has responsibility to “Establish minimum admission standards for four-year institutions, including a requirement that coursework in American sign language or an American Indian language shall satisfy any requirement for instruction in a language other than English that the board or the institutions may establish as a general undergraduate admissions requirement” (RCW 27B.600.160).

The HECB and the State Board of Education met in 2010 and adopted changes to their respective requirements that will foster alignment between high school graduation requirements and four-year public college admission requirements.

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs) refer to college admissions criteria established by the HECB. The term differs from high school graduation requirements that are determined by the State Board of Education and local school districts. Courses meeting CADR are determined by the school district and noted on the transcript with the “B” designation.

Students who plan to attend a four-year college or university should be aware of both sets of requirements.

Freshmen Admission Policy

This overview of freshmen admission requirements applies to all applicants to the public four-year colleges who enter directly from high school and/or students who enter college with fewer than 40 credits of college level coursework or equivalent.

Running Start and other dual-credit earning students, including those who have earned more than 40 quarter hours of college-level credit, who enter a public baccalaureate institution directly from high school, must meet minimum college admission standards:

- **CADR** (College Academic Distribution Requirements)
- **2.0 Minimum GPA**
- **Official SAT/ACT** test scores sent directly to the college or university (*Fee waivers for these tests are available - consult with your high school counselor*)

Notes on CADR and Admission Standards

CADR reflect the minimum number of credits required in six subject areas that students must earn to be eligible for routine admission consideration by four-year public baccalaureate institutions.

Meeting the minimum college admission standards does not guarantee admission to a public baccalaureate institution.

Therefore, students are encouraged to go beyond meeting minimum college admission standards to improve their chances for gaining entry to a public baccalaureate institution. Students should obtain admission information from the institution they wish to attend.

Comprehensive Review of Applications for Admission

Currently, each of the public baccalaureate institutions employs a comprehensive or holistic review process for at least a portion of their applicants. Holistic review is an additional means of ensuring student access. In cases where students do not meet the minimum college admission standards, the policy provides for alternative admission policies which may be more appropriate for certain students. Each student is encouraged to contact the admissions office of the institution they wish to attend if they have questions.

All K-12 and college personnel who advise students on admission to public four-year colleges and universities should obtain a copy of CADR guidelines and other related minimum college admission information at:

www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp

Minimum College Admission Standards - Guidelines for Educators

Revised 2011

For students entering college or university Summer or Fall 2012

College Academic Distribution Requirement (CADR) Coursework

Students are encouraged to take a minimum of three credits of CADR courses each year of high school, including senior year.

Students who take college-level coursework and complete 5 quarter credits or 3 semester credits will have earned the equivalent of one CADR credit. In addition, pre-college courses in English and math may be equivalent to CADR courses, provided they are designed to meet the same learning outcomes as the high school courses for which they substitute.

Students may meet high school requirements with courses taken in middle school, provided the courses are part of a sequence which is successfully continued in high school, or the courses are included on the high school transcript as high school-level courses.

Previous minimum college admissions standards used the term 'year' to designate completion of what is now referred to as 'one credit' of high school coursework. The use of 'credit' recognizes that school districts may use alternative or block scheduling that permits students to earn a full credit in a given subject area in less than an academic year.

English – 4 credits including 3 credits of college preparatory composition or literature. One credit may be satisfied by courses in drama as literature, public speaking, debate, journalistic writing, business English, English as a Second Language, or Learning Support English. Passing the state mandated high school assessment in Reading is equivalent to earning the first 2 CADR credits of high school English.

Mathematics – 3 credits: Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II (intermediate algebra), or Integrated Math I, II, and III. Passing the state mandated high school assessment in math is equivalent to earning the first 2 CADR credits of high school math (Algebra I & Geometry or Integrated Math I and II).

Note: Successful completion of math through pre-calculus meets the requirement for 3 credits of math and the senior-year math requirement (below).

Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative Course: During the senior year of high school, students must earn a credit in a math-based quantitative course. This requirement may be met through enrollment in one of the three required math courses listed above; or by completing a math-based quantitative course like statistics, applied math, or appropriate career and technical courses; or by completing an algebra-based science course taken during the senior year that would satisfy this requirement and part of the science requirement below.

Note: The senior-year math requirement does not mean a 4th credit of math is required, nor does it require a higher level of math; the intent is for seniors to take meaningful math.

Exception: Completion of higher-level math prior to the senior year exempts students from the senior-year quantitative course requirement (e.g., pre-calculus, math analysis, or calculus).

Science – 2 credits of laboratory science are required for admission to public baccalaureate institutions beginning summer of 2010. One credit must be in an algebra-based science course as determined by the school district. One credit must be in biology, chemistry, or physics (this course may also meet the algebra-based requirement). Principles of technology courses taught in Washington High Schools may satisfy the laboratory science requirement.

Note: Western Washington University specifies that one credit must be an algebra-based chemistry or physics course

World Languages – 2 credits must be earned in the same World Language, Native American language, or American Sign Language. Schools may award credit based on a district approved competency assessment consistent with the State Board of Education policy and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.

Note: A World Language course taken in middle school may satisfy one credit of the requirement if the second year level course is completed in high school grades 9-12.

Social Science – 3 credits of history or other social science (e.g. anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, geography, government, political science, psychology)

Arts – 1 credit of fine, visual, or performing arts - or 1 additional credit in other CADR academic subject areas as defined above. Acceptable coursework in the fine, visual, or performing arts includes art appreciation, band, ceramics, choir, dance, dramatics performance and production, drawing, fiber arts, graphic arts, metal design, music appreciation, music theory, orchestra, painting, photography, print making, or sculpture.

Note: The University of Washington and Western Washington University specify one-half credit in fine, visual or performing arts. The other half may be in the arts or in an academic elective.

Minimum College Admission Standards (**Revised 2011**)

College Academic Distribution Requirements – Guidelines for Educators

It is the responsibility of each school district to determine which of its high school courses meet CADR guidelines and ensure the "B" designations are made on students' transcripts. Students should consult with their local high school to obtain complete information about CADRs.

Subject Area	Minimum College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR)	Meeting the CADR if taken in high school	Meeting the CADR through college coursework
	<p>College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) coursework</p> <p><i>NOTE: Previous minimum college admissions standards used the term 'year' to designate completion of what is now referred to as 'one credit' of high school coursework. The use of 'credit' recognizes that school districts may use alternative or block scheduling that permit students to earn a full credit in a given subject area in less than an academic year.</i></p>	<p>Students are encouraged to take a minimum of three credits of CADR courses each year of high school, including senior year.</p>	<p>College credit equivalents for CADR credits</p> <p>College students who complete five quarter credits or three semester credits of college-level coursework will have earned the equivalent of one CADR credit.</p> <p>In addition, pre-college courses in English and math may be equivalent to CADR courses provided that they are designed to meet the same learning outcomes as the high school course for which they substitute.</p> <p>5 college quarter credits = one CADR credit 3 college semester credits = one CADR credit</p>
<p>English</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>English – 4 credits Must include three credits of literature and composition.</p> <p>May include one credit of elective English, such as creative writing, journalistic writing, English as a Second Language, or Learning Support English.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Passing the state mandated high school assessment in Reading is equivalent to earning the first two credits of high school English.</i></p>	<p>English – 4 credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include three credits of college-preparatory composition or literature. • One credit may be satisfied by courses in drama as literature, public speaking, debate, journalistic writing, business English, English as a Second Language (ESL), or Learning Support English. <p>Remedial or applied courses are not acceptable (e.g., acting, basic English skills, developmental reading, library, newspaper staff, remedial English, review English, vocabulary, yearbook/annual).</p> <p><i>NOTE: English courses are considered equivalent to ESL unless taken in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States.</i></p>	<p>English –</p> <p>Completing additional English CADR credits</p> <p>College students without four CADR high school English credits may earn credits by completing one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-college English coursework that would prepare a student for college level composition or literature (typically the highest level pre-college course at a given institution). • College level course work in composition or literature component. Generally any course with an English or writing prefix is acceptable. • One credit may be satisfied by a college course in speech, drama as literature, journalistic writing, business English, ESL, or engineering/technical writing. <p><i>NOTE: English courses are considered equivalent to ESL unless taken in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States.</i></p>

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<p>Senior year math-based quantitative course</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p> <p><i>NOTE: The intent is to require that students take meaningful math during their senior year. The policy does not require a higher level of math than the basic requirement.</i></p>	<p>Math-based quantitative course</p> <p>One credit of math-based quantitative coursework is required in the senior year. This requirement may be met through enrollment in one of the three required math courses;</p> <p>OR... by completing a math-based quantitative course like statistics, applied math, or appropriate career and technical courses;</p> <p>OR... by completing an algebra-based science course.</p> <p>Substitute Provision: Successful completion of math through pre-calculus meets both the course and senior year math requirement.</p>	<p>Math or math-based quantitative course in senior year – 1 credit</p> <p>This requirement can be met by taking Algebra II (intermediate algebra), or Integrated Math III;</p> <p>OR... pre-calculus or math analysis (if Algebra II or Integrated Math III was completed prior to grade 12);</p> <p>OR... a quantitative course such as statistics, advanced level of applied math, or math-based career and technical courses;</p> <p>OR... an algebra-based science course, e.g., chemistry, physics, or other science course that incorporate knowledge of algebra.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: <i>Prior to the senior year, completion of higher-level math – e.g., pre-calculus, math analysis, or calculus – exempts students from the senior-year quantitative course requirement.</i></p>	<p>Comparable college courses in math, (e.g., pre-calculus, statistics, or algebra-based science) may apply.</p>

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<p>Mathematics</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>Mathematics – 3 credits</p> <p>Must include one credit each of Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II (intermediate algebra);</p> <p>OR... three credits of Integrated Math (Integrated Math I, II, III).</p> <p>NOTE: <i>Passing the state mandated high school assessment in math is equivalent to earning the first two CADR credits of high school math (Algebra I and geometry or Integrated Math I and II).</i></p>	<p>Mathematics – 3 credits</p> <p>Completion of three credits - Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II (intermediate algebra);</p> <p>OR... the integrated Math I, II, III series is required.</p> <p>NOTES: <i>Successful completion of math through pre-calculus meets the 3-credit math requirement.</i></p> <p><i>Arithmetic, pre-algebra, business math, computer science, philosophy, and statistics courses will not count toward the requirement.</i></p>	<p>Mathematics – Completing a third math credit</p> <p>College students without a third high school mathematics credit may earn that credit by completing one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-college math coursework that would prepare a student for college Algebra (typically the highest level pre-college math course at a given institution). • A course in intermediate algebra - the course must be completed with a grade of 'C' (2.0) or better. At Washington community colleges, this course is numbered below 100 and is considered the equivalent of the third year of high school math. It does not transfer as college credit. • Mathematics courses with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite (see exceptions below). This includes any higher-level mathematics courses such as elementary functions, pre-calculus, calculus, and beyond. <p>NOTE: <i>Courses in philosophy (e.g., logic), statistics, or computer science do not satisfy the mathematics requirement.</i></p>

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Subject Area	Minimum College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR)	Meeting the CADR if taken in high school	Meeting the CADR through college coursework
<p>Science</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>Science – 2 credits</p> <p>Two credits of laboratory science are required.</p> <p>One of these credits must be in an algebra-based science.</p> <p>One of these credits must be in biology, chemistry, or physics</p> <p><i>NOTE: A third credit of science will be required when the State Board of Education formally adopts into rule a 3-credit science graduation requirement. The third credit would not need to be lab-based.</i></p>	<p>Science – 2 credits</p> <p>Two credits of laboratory science are required for college admission in the 2010-11 academic year and beyond.</p> <p>One credit must be in an algebra-based science course. Students completing this requirement typically take this course in two successive high school semesters.</p> <p>One Credit must be in biology, chemistry, or physics (this course may also meet the “algebra-based” requirement).</p> <p>The principles of technology courses taught in Washington state high schools may also satisfy the laboratory science requirement.</p> <p>To complete the second credit, students may take courses identified by the school district as laboratory science courses, e.g., astronomy, environmental science, geological science, genetics, or marine science.</p> <p>An algebra-based science course with laboratory taken in the senior year may satisfy both the science requirement and the senior-year math-based credit requirement (see senior year math-based quantitative course requirement above).</p>	<p>Science –</p> <p>Completing additional CADR science credits</p> <p>College science courses with a lab will count toward the laboratory science requirement. For example, lab courses in astronomy, atmospheric science, biological structures, biology, botany, chemistry, environmental science (but not environmental studies), genetics, human physiology, geology, oceanography, physical anthropology, physical geography, physics, or zoology may apply toward this requirement.</p>

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<p>World Languages</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>World Languages – 2 credits</p> <p>Two credits of the same World Language, Native American Language, or American Sign language.</p>	<p>World Languages – 2 credits</p> <p>Two credits must be earned in the same language. The World Language course work requirement will be considered satisfied for applicants who complete their education through the seventh grade in school(s) (a) where English was not the language of instruction and (b) in countries other than Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States.</p> <p>Coursework completed in any World Language may be used to satisfy this requirement, including an American Indian language, American Sign Language (ASL), or languages no longer spoken, such as Latin and ancient Greek. However, other forms of sign language or computer “languages” do not satisfy the World Language requirement.</p> <p>Schools may award credit based upon a district approved competency assessment consistent with the SBE sample policy and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.</p> <p>NOTE: A World Language course taken in middle school may satisfy one credit of the requirement if the second year level course is completed in high school grades 9-12.</p>	<p>World Languages – Completing additional CADR credits</p> <p>Each five-credit quarter or three-credit semester of language in college is considered equivalent to one credit in high school. Applicants who have never studied a World Language will need to complete six semesters or 10 quarter credits of a single, sequenced World Language.</p> <p>College students who earned one credit of a World Language in high school must complete the equivalent of a second credit of that language in college.</p> <p>For example, a high school student who earned only one credit in French would be required to take five quarter credits, or three semester credits, of French 102 or equivalent to gain a second CADR credit.</p> <p>NOTE: College graduation requirements in World Languages often include the third year of the same language.</p> <p>5 college quarter credits = one CADR World Language credit</p> <p>3 college semester credits = one CADR World Language credit</p>

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<p>Social Science</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>Social Science – 3 credits</p>	<p>Social Science – 3 credits</p> <p>Three credits are required in history or in any of the social sciences – e.g., anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, geography, government, political science, psychology, or sociology.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Credit for religion courses, consumer economics, student government, or community service will not count towards the requirement.</i></p>	<p>Social Science – Completing additional CADR credits</p> <p>Courses in the social sciences, e.g., anthropology, economics, ethnic studies, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, or sociology will count toward the requirement.</p>

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<p>Arts</p> <p>Implementation:</p> <p>Students Entering College Summer or Fall 2012</p>	<p>Arts – 1 credit</p> <p>One credit of fine, visual, or performing arts, or one additional credit in math, English, social science, lab science, or world languages.</p>	<p>Arts – 1 credit</p> <p>One credit in the fine, visual, or performing arts or an additional year in any of the academic areas defined above is required.</p> <p>Acceptable coursework in the fine, visual, or performing arts may be chosen from art appreciation, band, ceramics, choir, dance, dramatics performance and production, drawing, fiber arts, graphic arts, metal design, music appreciation, music theory, orchestra, painting, photography, print making, or sculpture.</p> <p>Courses not acceptable toward this requirement include architecture, color guard, creative writing, drafting, drill team, fashion design, interior design, sewing, speech, web design or graphics, woodworking, and yearbook.</p> <p>Academic electives are courses in any of the six subject areas (defined above) beyond the minimum number of years specified above.</p> <p>NOTE: <i>The UW and WWU specify that one-half credit of this requirement must be in the fine, visual, or performing arts; the other half may be either in the arts or in an academic elective.</i></p>	<p>Arts – Completing additional CADR credits</p> <p>College students may meet the CADR requirement by taking:</p> <p>Five quarter credits or three semester credits in fine, visual, or performing arts;</p> <p>OR... three quarter credits or two semester credits in art, art history, cinema/filmmaking, dance, music, or photography;</p> <p>OR... three quarter credits or two semester credits in drama except drama as literature courses.</p> <p>Note: <i>Courses in architecture are generally not acceptable, except for those in architectural history.</i></p>