

Minimum College Admission Standards

An Overview for Students and Parents

Revised 2009

New college admission requirements affect high school freshmen

In 2008, high school 9th graders who plan to seek admission to public baccalaureate institutions (four-year colleges and universities) in Washington began taking courses to meet the state's new minimum college admission standards.

The new standards, approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2007, include *College Academic Distribution Requirements* (CADR) that specify the course work required in six different subject areas. The subject areas are math, English, science, social science, world languages, and the arts. Feedback from high schools and institutions resulted in revisions to the standards in 2009 that clarify total CADR and laboratory science requirements.

Shown on the following page, in the right column, are the revised CADR that high school 9th graders, beginning with academic year 2008-09, must meet in order to be considered for regular admission to a public baccalaureate institution in 2012.

Shown in the left column are current CADR that remain in effect through the 2011-12 academic year for all other high school students, (except 9th graders in 2008-09, as previously noted).

The 2009 revised minimum college admission standards encourage high school 9th graders, beginning with the 2008-09 academic year, to begin earning three credits of CADR courses each year of high school, including their senior year. Students must take a minimum of three CADR courses in grades 10-12.

Each school district determines which of its courses meet CADR guidelines.

Revised science requirements

Beginning in the summer of 2010, to be considered for regular admission to a public baccalaureate institution, entering college freshman will need to complete two credits of laboratory science. One credit must be in an algebra-based laboratory science course (as determined by the school district). The other credit must be in biology, chemistry, or physics (this course may also meet the algebra-based requirement).

Standards fully implemented in 2012

Beginning in summer 2012, Washington's public four-year colleges and universities (baccalaureate institutions) will fully implement the new minimum college admission standards approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Notes on CADR and admission standards

CADR refer to college admissions criteria established by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. The term differs from high school graduation requirements that are determined by the State Board of Education and local school districts.

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

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.

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.

The information is available at:

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

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR)	
Through 2011*	Beginning 2012**
<p>15 Credits (in subject areas below)</p> <p><i>Note: The term "credit" is used to designate that a student has satisfactorily completed a CADR course during the high school academic year. School districts may use alternative or block scheduling that permit students to earn a credit in less than a full year.</i></p> <p>*All CADR below are effective through 2011, except science, (see below).</p>	<p>15 Credits (in subject areas below)</p> <p>Students are encouraged to take a minimum of three credits of CADR courses each year of high school, including senior year. Students who are unable to complete three CADRs as high school freshmen (grade 9) will be considered for admission provided they meet all other state and institutional admission requirements. Students must take a minimum of 3 credits of CADR courses in grades 10-12.</p> <p>**See Science below for CADR effective in 2010; all other CADR listed below take effect 2012.</p>
<p>English – 4 credits (including 3 credits of literature and composition)</p>	<p>English – 4 credits (must include 3 credits of college preparatory composition or literature). Passage of 10th-grade WASL-reading is equivalent to earning the first 2 CADR credits of high school English.</p>
<p>Mathematics – 3 credits (including algebra, geometry, and advanced math)</p>	<p>Mathematics – 3 credits (Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II, or Integrated Math I, II, and III) Passage of 10th-grade WASL-math is equivalent to earning the first 2 CADR credits of high school math (Algebra & Geometry or Integrated Math I and II). <i>Note: Successful completion of math through pre-calculus meets the requirement for 3 credits of math and the senior-year math requirement (below).</i></p>
<p>Mathematics – Senior-year None currently required.</p>	<p>Mathematics – Senior year, during the senior year of high school, students must earn a credit in a math-based quantitative course, e.g., statistics, applied math, or appropriate career and technical courses. An algebra-based science course taken during the senior year also would satisfy this requirement and part of the science requirement below. <i>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 of this requirement is for seniors to take meaningful math.</i></p>
<p>Science – 2 credits, including 1 credit of laboratory science. This CADR remains in effect through 2009.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Beginning in 2010, 2 credits of laboratory science. 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).</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Note: Western Washington University specifies that the algebra-based science course be chemistry or physics.</i></p>
<p>World Languages – 2 credits of the same world language, Native American language, or American Sign Language.</p>	<p>World Languages – 2 credits of the same World Language, Native American language, or American Sign Language.</p>
<p>Social Science – 3 credits</p>	<p>Social Science – 3 credits (history or other social sciences)</p>
<p>Arts – 1 credit of fine, visual, or performing arts, or electives from any of the other required subjects.</p>	<p>Arts – 1 credit of fine, visual, or performing arts—or 1 additional credit in other CADR subject areas.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

Students should consult with their local high school to obtain complete information about minimum college admission standards, and to be aware of which courses at their high school meet CADR guidelines, as determined by the local school district.