

# POST-SECONDARY PREREQUISITE GUIDELINES

College admission committees consider your course selection, academic record, test performance, and involvement outside the classroom. Use these guidelines as a starting point for planning your high school coursework.

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS BY COLLEGE TYPE

**Important Note:** These are general minimum guidelines that may change yearly. Always verify requirements with specific institutions through their websites, counselors, or campus visits.

Subject Area	Highly Selective Colleges	Private 4-Year Colleges	Major Public Universities
English	4 years	4 years	4 years
Mathematics	4 years	4 years	4 years
Science (Lab)	4 years	3 years	3 years
Social Studies	3-4 years	3 years	3 years
World Language	4 years	2-4 years	2-3 years
Academic Electives	2 years	2 years	2 years

### Community Colleges (2 years)

Open admission policy, though some majors may have selective course requirements.

### Academic Electives

Illinois public universities accept most Art, Music, Vocational Education, and World Language courses as academic electives. Some schools may require additional Fine Art credits.

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## PLANNING RESOURCES

## SchoolLinks

Students will have access to this resource that includes important tools for post-secondary planning. All counselors will use these tools with students in addition to some classrooms.

## Counseling Website

Find out about our college and career planning resources and other pertinent information by selecting the counseling tab on the Hinsdale Central website.

## **College Visits**

Each fall, over 100 different college admissions representatives visit Hinsdale Central to share information about their institutions. These visits are open to juniors and seniors. A list of scheduled visits and sign-up information will be shared each fall in SchoolLinks

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# **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

While many colleges/universities are test optional for admissions, some may still require results of the ACT or SAT test. Even if a test is not required, they may still be helpful in the admissions process. Although these tests are not usually taken until spring of the junior year, there is little advantage in "cramming" at that time. The best preparation is a solid academic background.

## **Testing Timeline**

### **Freshman Year**

- PreACT: Fall & Spring

### **Sophomore Year**

- PreACT: Fall & Spring

### **Junior Year**

- PSAT/NMSQT: October
- ACT with Writing: Spring (**Required to graduate**)

### **Senior Year**

- ACT/SAT retakes if needed
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# WHAT ADMISSION COMMITTEES CONSIDER

College admission criteria vary greatly. Admission committees consider, to varying degrees, the following factors:

- The type of high school courses actually taken compared to the courses available in the high school
- The quality of the student's academic record
- Performance on college admission tests (ACT, SAT & Subject Tests)
- The development and maturity of the individual in areas outside the academic classroom (i.e., breadth and depth of involvement/leadership)

**College preparatory courses** are found in the following five traditional academic departments: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages.

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*For more information, consult with your high school counselor or visit specific college websites.*