

# Admission Requirements for Four-Year Colleges and Universities

## Admission and Eligibility

Most universities employ a comprehensive or holistic review process. Eligibility does not assure admission to a particular institution. Each college will draw its class from the pool of eligible candidates. Actual admission criteria vary considerably. Please visit the college's website for specific admissions requirements. In general, colleges use the following criteria when selecting students:

- Grade point average (GPA)
- SAT/ACT score
- Rigor of high school course selections (CADRs)
- Letters of recommendation
- Service and leadership activities

## College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) and Admission Standards:

The Washington Student Achievement Council establishes minimum admission standards for four-year institutions in this state. These standards are different from high school graduation requirements that are determined by the State Board of Education.

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) reflect the minimum number of credits required in six subject areas that students must earn to be eligible for routine admission consideration by the four-year public baccalaureate institutions. Meeting the minimum college admission standards does not guarantee admission. Therefore, students are encouraged to go beyond meeting minimum college admission standards to improve their chances for gaining entry to a public baccalaureate institution.

## College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) Coursework:

**English – 4 credits** including 3 credits of college preparatory composition or literature. One credit may be satisfied by courses in Drama, Literature, Public Speaking, Debate, Journalistic Writing, Business English, English as a Second Language, or Learning Support English.

**Mathematics – 3 credits:** Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II (Intermediate Algebra).

**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 – 3 credits** of laboratory science are required for admission to public baccalaureate institutions beginning in the 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:** Most colleges and universities specify 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.

**Social Science – 3 credits** of History or other Social Science (e.g. Contemporary World Problems, Economics, Geography, Government, Political Science, Psychology)

**Arts – 1 credit** of fine, visual, or performing arts – or additional credit in other CADR academic subject areas as defined above. Acceptable course work in the fine, visual, or performing arts includes Art Appreciation, Band, Ceramics, Choir, Dance, Dramatic 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 an academic elective.