



College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs)

Included in Appendix A of the Admission Standards Policy

Effective: January 1, 2016, except where noted.

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COLLEGE ACADEMIC DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS (CADRs)

The minimum college admission standards include three components:

1. Maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
2. Take the SAT or ACT and have the scores sent directly to colleges.¹
3. Complete the college academic distribution requirements.

This appendix includes detailed information about the college academic distribution requirements. Students can meet these requirements through high school coursework or college coursework.

MEETING THE CADRs THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK

Identifying CADRs courses

Each school district is responsible for determining which of its high school courses meet CADR guidelines, and for ensuring that those courses are identified with "B" designations on students' transcripts. Students should consult with their local high school to obtain complete information about CADRs.

Earning Credits

Typically, students earn one credit by completing one full academic year of coursework. School districts may use alternative scheduling that permits students to earn a full credit in a given subject area in less than an academic year. School districts may also use competency-based assessments to award credit.

Course Scheduling

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

¹ For the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 AY, all Washington public 4-year institutions have implemented test optional polices. Eastern Washington University, Evergreen College, and the University of Washington have implemented permanent test-optional polices. Contact the admissions department at a college or university for additional information: [COP -Contacts.pdf \(councilofpresidents.org\)](#)

MEETING THE CADRS THROUGH COLLEGE COURSEWORK

College credit equivalents for CADR credits

In general, comparable college courses may substitute for CADRs not earned in high school. College students who complete five quarter credits or three semester credits of college-level coursework have earned the equivalent of one CADR credit.

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.

- 5 college quarter credits = 1 CADR credit.
- 3 college semester credits = 1 CADR credit

ENGLISH—4 CREDITS

| Meeting the CADRs through high school coursework | Meeting the CADRs through college coursework |
|---|--|
| <p>4 credits of English are required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must include 3 credits of college preparatory coursework, including literature and composition • May include Bridge to College English. • May include 1 credit of elective English <p><i>Examples:</i> English grades 9-12, creative writing, journalistic writing, English as a Second Language (ESL), drama as literature, public speaking, debate, or business English.</p> <p>Not accepted: Remedial or applied courses, acting, basic English skills, developmental reading, library, newspaper staff, vocabulary, yearbook or annual.</p> | <p>College students who have not met the English requirement may do so 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). • Any college-level course with an English or writing prefix. |

Note

English as a Second Language (ESL) courses will only count as elective credit. ESL courses include both high school and college English courses taken in countries where English is not the primary language of instruction.

MATHEMATICS—3 CREDITS

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
|---|--|
| <p>3 credits of mathematics are required. Must include either of the following 2 options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit each of Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II (intermediate algebra). • 3 credits of Integrated Math (Integrated Math I, II, and III). <p>Note Successful completion of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III meets both the math and senior year quantitative credit requirements.</p> <p>Not accepted: philosophy, bridge to college math, logic, statistics, or computer science</p> | <p>College students who have not met the mathematics requirement may do so 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 intermediate algebra (Math&98). • 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. |

SENIOR YEAR MATH-BASED QUANTITATIVE COURSE

The intent is to require that students take meaningful math during their senior year.

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
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| <p>This requirement can be met by taking one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit of math equal to or beyond one of the three required math credits. • Quantitative course Examples: statistics, advanced level of applied math, or math-based career and technical courses. • Algebra-based science course Examples: chemistry, physics, or other science courses that incorporate knowledge of algebra. • AP computer science course A • Bridge to College mathematics <p>Note Successful completion of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III, prior to senior year, meets both the math and senior year quantitative credit requirements.</p> <p>Examples: Pre-Calculus and beyond</p> | <p>Any college level math-based quantitative course or a pre-college math course that would prepare a student for college algebra.</p> |

SCIENCE—3 CREDITS*

*To align with high school graduation requirements, a third credit of science is now required for students entering college beginning summer or fall 2021. The third credit does not need to be lab-based.

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
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| <p>3 credits of laboratory science are required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit must be earned in an algebra-based science course. • 1 credit must be earned in biology, chemistry, or physics. • 1 additional science credit — does not need to be lab-based <p>Some courses may fulfill more than one science requirement, and if taken in the senior year, may also fulfill the senior year math-based quantitative requirement (any algebra-based science course).</p> <p>Because some courses may meet both of the above requirements, another lab science course may be acceptable for the second credit.</p> <p>To complete the second credit, students may take courses identified by the school district as laboratory science courses.</p> <p>Examples: astronomy, physical science, environmental science, geological science, genetics, astronomy, physiology, or marine science.</p> | <p>In general, comparable college courses may substitute for CADRs not earned in high school. College science courses with a lab will count toward the laboratory science requirement.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> astronomy, atmospheric science, biological structures, biology, botany, chemistry, environmental science (but not environmental studies), genetics, human physiology, anatomy, geology, oceanography, physical anthropology, physical geography, physics, or zoology.</p> |

WORLD LANGUAGES—2 CREDITS

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
|---|--|
| <p>2 credits are required in the same world language, Native American language, or American Sign Language.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> French, Spanish, Arabic, any American Indian language, American Sign Language (ASL), Latin, or ancient Greek.</p> <p>World language credits earned in middle school may satisfy this requirement if they are high school-level courses and indicated as such on the high school transcript.</p> <p>Schools may award credit based on a district-approved competency assessment consistent with the State Board of Education sample policy, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines, or the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy (RCW 28A.300.575).</p> <p>The world language requirement will be considered satisfied for applicants who complete their education through the seventh grade in a school or schools (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>Not accepted: other forms of sign language or computer “languages.”</p> | <p>In general, comparable college courses may substitute for CADRs not earned in high school. College students who earned one credit of a world language in high school must complete the equivalent of a second credit of the same language in college.</p> <p>Note College graduation requirements often include a third year of the same world language.</p> |

SOCIAL SCIENCE—3 CREDITS

These credits must be earned in history or any of the social sciences.

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
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| <p>3 credits are required in history or any of the social sciences.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> world history, US history, anthropology, contemporary world problems, economics, geography, government, political science, psychology, or sociology.</p> <p>Not accepted: courses in religion, consumer economics, student government, or community service will not count towards the requirement.</p> | <p><i>Examples:</i> anthropology, economics, ethnic studies, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, or sociology.</p> |

ARTS—1 CREDIT

| Meeting the CADR through high school coursework | Meeting the CADR through college coursework |
|---|---|
| <p>1 credit of art is required. Must be satisfied with either of the following two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in the fine, visual, or performing arts. • 1 credit beyond the minimum in any other CADR subject area. <p><i>Examples:</i> 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><i>Not accepted:</i> architecture, color guard, creative writing, drafting, drill team, fashion design, interior design, sewing, speech, web design or graphics, woodworking, and yearbook.</p> <p>Note 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.</p> | <p>Students can satisfy the arts requirement with any of the following three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 quarter credits or 3 semester credits in fine, visual, or performing arts. • 3 quarter credits or 2 semester credits in art, art history, cinema/filmmaking, dance, music, or photography. • 3 quarter credits or 2 semester credits in drama, except drama as literature courses. <p><i>Not accepted:</i> courses in architecture are generally not acceptable, except for those in architectural history.</p> |