2017-2018
Decatur Public Schools
STUDENT COURSE CURRICULUM GUIDE
A Guide for Parents and High School Students

At Decatur Public Schools, we have made it our mission to educate all students for life-long success.

OUR VISION is that all students will become responsible, caring and productive citizens of society in a setting where students, parents, staff and community members share responsibility; district leadership motivates people, policies, and decisions; and all resources are used effectively and efficiently.
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Vacant, Building and Grounds Director

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Dr. Amy Zahm-Duncheon, Principal
Ken Rufen, AP of Curriculum and Instruction
Courtney Setsles, AP of Student Services
Sergio Reyna, AP of Freshman Academy
Dr. Andrea Guerrero, Dean of students – Sophomores-Seniors with last name A-K
Eric Newbon, Dean of students – Sophomores-Seniors with last name L-Z
Steve Thompson, Athletic Director

EISENHOWER COUNSELORS
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Amanda Duckworth, A-F
Jackie Hayes, G-Q
Marcy Bialeschi, P-Z

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MACARTHUR ADMINISTRATION
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Jason Cutcher, Athletic Director

MACARTHUR COUNSELORS
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Danielle Sebring, A-F
Cyndi Kraemer, G-Q
Al Scheider, P-Z
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TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

Prerequisite - A course which must be completed with a passing grade before another course can be taken (examples: Algebra I is the prerequisite for Geometry; Introduction to Art is the prerequisite for Drawing or Sculpture).

Recommendation/Consent of the Instructor - For some courses, certain levels of performance or grades in a prior course are necessary. However, if a student does not have a prerequisite, he/she can take the course if the instructor grants permission.

Credit - One-half credit is granted each semester if a passing grade is earned in a course.

Accreditation
AdvancED (former North Central Association)
Illinois State Board of Education
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 22 credit hours is required for graduation from Decatur Public High Schools. One-half (0.5) credit is earned upon successful completion for each semester course. Students must earn Decatur Public School credit in order to earn a Decatur Public School diploma. Of the necessary credit hours, the following course requirements listed below must be met.

Credits for graduation are required in the following courses and subject areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>1 credit – Algebra 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit – Geometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1 credit - Life Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit - Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>1 credit - World History (AP World History satisfies this requirement)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 credit - United States History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.5 credit - Civics (Grades 11 or 12) (Illinois and United States Constitution Exams)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language, or Art, or Music, or Vocational Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education or Waiver*</td>
<td>0.5 credit – Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Education</td>
<td>Depends on the specific course:</td>
<td>0.5 or 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economics – 1 semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consumer Ed – 1 semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Living – 1 semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vocational Cooperative Education (Levels 3 and 4) – 2 semesters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperative Work Education – 2 semesters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Depending on Consumer Education course (as listed above)</td>
<td>4.5 or 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: Students may be waived from physical education class by approval of the Principal. (See Physical Education Waiver Policy)

SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 6 hours of service learning for each year, 3 hours per semester, for each year they are a student in Decatur Public Schools. Any student who attends Decatur high schools for four (4) years would need 24 hours. Students may not receive compensation for service hours. Students will complete the required number of hours through a variety of projects with the support of parents, staff, and administration. Projects can be academic or community based. Service learning encourages students to give back to the community both during and after their high school years.

STANDARDIZED TEST REQUIREMENTS

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the new state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. PARCC assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core and will be administered to students in English Language Arts and Mathematics. PARCC assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be administered to all students in grades 3-8. Regardless of grade level and for both regular and honors, high school students enrolled in English I will be assessed in English Language Arts, and high school students enrolled in Algebra I will be assessed in Mathematics.
GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION

A student is classified as a sophomore, junior, or senior using the following requirements:

Sophomore Year: 5.0 credits - must include:
• 1.0 credit for English
• 1.0 credit for Math

Junior Year: 11.0 credits - must include:
• 2.0 credits for English
• 2.0 credits for Math (1.0 credit for Algebra X/Y students)
• 2.0 credits for Science
• 1.0 credit for Social Studies

Senior Year: 16.0 credits - must include:
• 3.0 credits for English
• 2.0 credits for Math
• 2.0 credits for Science
• 2.0 credits for Social Studies

PLEASE NOTE: The classification of students who have participated in home schooling or other alternative educational placements will be determined by the administration on an individual basis.
GRADUATION INFORMATION

No student will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies or be listed in the graduation program unless all requirements for graduation have been completed. Any student who does not complete requirements, but who completes course work and provides official transcripts by the last day of summer before the next school year, will be considered a member of the graduating class. A contract outlining the course to be completed must be filled with a counselor and approved by the administration. No diploma will be issued until all requirements are met and the necessary transcripts have been received. If extended illness during the senior year or some other unique circumstance is involved, the principal may consider exceptions to this policy.

EARLY GRADUATION
Decatur High Schools are designed to be four-year institutions. While the overwhelming majority of students attend high school for the full four years, it is possible to graduate after seven semesters. The school is not responsible to provide courses in a specific sequence to allow a student to graduate early.

Students who intend to graduate early must complete an application with their guidance counselor by December 1 of their junior year. Upon the completion of the application, the counselor will submit a request to the principal. In order to graduate early a student must meet all requirements for graduation by the last day of final exams in December. Seniors intending to graduate early must meet with their counselor to ensure that all requirements are met. The eighth (8th) semester of PE will be waived under those circumstances.

Students who graduate early are allowed to participate in all spring senior activities, which include prom and graduation ceremonies as well as any graduation activities. Early graduates will be invited to attend any applicable awards assemblies or honor banquets. Early graduates that qualify are eligible to receive Graduation Honors but will not be considered to speak at graduation as the selected Summa Cum Laude speaker or Orator.

Students who graduate early may not participate in any extracurricular activities after final exams in December.

Transfer students must complete one full semester at Decatur High Schools to be eligible for early graduation.

GRADUATION HONOR REQUIREMENTS - (determined after 7 semesters)

Summa Cum Laude (Must meet all of the following criteria)
- At least a 4.00 GPA
- Attain all 4 ‘Benchmarks’ on an ACT up until January of senior year
- Attain an SAT benchmark score of 1151-1600.

Magna Cum Laude (Must meet all of the following criteria)
- At least a 3.50 GPA
- Attain at least 3 ‘Benchmarks’ on an ACT up until January of senior year
- Attain an SAT benchmark score of 1091-1150.

Cum Laude (Must meet all of the following criteria)
- At least a 3.00 GPA
- Attain at least 2 ‘Benchmarks’ on an ACT up until January of senior year
- Attain an SAT benchmark score of 1020-1090.

Gold Delta
- Students who have attended a Decatur Public High School for two or more semesters and have a GPA of at least a 3.50 will receive the Gold Delta recognition. Early graduates are eligible.

Orator
- The Orator must have attended a Decatur Public High School for two or more semesters and have a GPA of at least a 3.50. Early graduates are not eligible.

GRADUATION SPEAKERS

Summa Cum Laude - Students who qualify for Summa Cum Laude may apply to speak at graduation. A committee consisting of administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and students will select the speaker from the qualified applicants. Early graduates are not eligible.

Orator - The Orator is the student that has been selected by the senior class to speak during the graduation ceremonies.
GRADE REPORTING INFORMATION

GRADE POINT SCALES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-weighted Courses</th>
<th>Weighted Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00 - A</td>
<td>5.00 - A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 - B</td>
<td>4.00 - B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 - C</td>
<td>3.00 - C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 - D</td>
<td>2.00 - D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.00 - F</td>
<td>0.00 - F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WEIGHTED COURSES

English
Honors English I, Honors English II, Honors English III, Research Paper/Critical Thinking, Public Speaking and Debate, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Capstone Seminar, AP Capstone Research

Social Studies
African-American History (Dual Credit), Economics, AP European History, AP Human Geography, AP Psychology, AP United States Government and Politics, AP United States History, AP World History

Mathematics
Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus,

Science
Honors Biology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Honors Chemistry I, Honors Chemistry II, Honors Physics I, Honors Physics II, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics

Foreign Language
Honors Spanish I, Honors Spanish II, Spanish III, Honors Spanish III, Spanish IV, Honors Spanish IV, AP Spanish Language

Art
AP Studio Art

Music
Music Theory I-II, AP Music Theory, Honors Instrumental, Honors Choral

Focused Programs
Honors Freshman Seminar

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses allow students to enroll in rigorous, college-level courses while in high school. The potential for college credit is determined based on the AP exam score (generally a score of 3 or higher earns college credit). AP exams take place once each year over the course of two weeks in May. The college credit that is awarded is specific to each institute of higher education.

GRADE CRITERIA

The awarding of the letter grade, based upon objective data, is the responsibility of the teacher. The teacher's grade is final and can only be changed by that teacher or, in an unusual circumstance, by the principal or Board of Education. If the administration or counselor drops a student from a class resulting in a class load below 6 credit hours, an “F” is assigned for that dropped class.

CLASS RANK

The ranking of all students is based on the grade point average computed at the end of each semester. Class rank is based on all semester grades issued except Physical Education, Driver Education or medical excuse grades. The grade of “F” is included in determining class rank. Class rank is determined but not honored during graduation.

HONOR ROLL

Honor roll is compiled at the end of each semester. The regular honor roll includes students with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.99; the high honor roll includes a GPA of 4.00 or higher. Physical Education and Drivers Education do not count towards Honor Roll or GPA.
STANDARDIZED TEST INFORMATION

American College Testing Assessment (ACT) (optional)
The American College Testing Assessment is administered by the American College Testing Program and used by postsecondary institutions for admissions purposes. The instrument includes five tests of educational development: English, Mathematics, Science, Writing and Reading. The High School Course/Grade Information questionnaire, ACT Interest Inventory and Student Profile Section are also included in the ACT. The ACT test will be given to all students with junior status in Decatur Public High Schools. This ACT is free of charge.

Students often retake the ACT test, administered at selected sites nationally. Students are responsible for the test fee at these sites and must register several weeks prior to the test date. Registration information is available in the school counselors’ office or at www.actstudent.org.

Preliminary Scholastic Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) (optional)
The College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) nationally administers the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The PSAT measures critical reading and mathematical reasoning abilities, plus writing skills. The PSAT is used to help students practice for the Scholastic Aptitude Test and to qualify for scholarships and recognition from such programs as the National Merit Scholarships, National Achievement Scholarships for Outstanding Negro Students, National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program, Student Search Service, and some statewide and national industry scholarship competitions. This is open to sophomores and juniors. Students are responsible for the test fees.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) (optional)
The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is an optional test nationally administered by the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB). The SAT is a standardized test designed to measure basic critical reading, math and writing skills. Students are responsible for the test fees. For further information, visit www.sat.collegeboard.org.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams - College Board
Decatur Public Schools currently offers 13 different Advanced Placement courses: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, World History, Human Geography, United States History, United States Government, Psychology, Human Geography, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish and Studio Art. Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) course are expected to take the national exam in May.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment
The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. PARCC assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered to students in English Language Arts and mathematics.

PARCC assessments in English Language Arts and mathematics will be administered to all students in grades 3-8, according to their current grade level. Students enrolled in English I and Algebra I at the high school will also be assessed in English Language Arts and mathematics for PARCC.
SCHEDULING INFORMATION

The 2016-2017 Curriculum Guide lists and describes all courses currently offered at Decatur Public High Schools. Students need to plan ahead to prepare for the various career options that are available once a diploma has been earned from Decatur Public Schools. Selections should be made carefully with deliberation and thoughtfulness, using the four-year plan for graduation that can be found at the end of this section, taking into account high school graduation requirements, preparation for post high school study, and career plans. Students are urged to retain the curriculum guide after classes are selected.

The course selection process begins with students, parents and counselors working together beginning in December to allow for thoughtful, informed decision-making. Students must select their scheduling choices carefully making use of a variety of resources: family, teachers, counselors, high school transcripts, the curriculum guide and post-secondary interests and goals.

After each student selects courses, the program of courses to be offered in the coming year is finalized and the teachers assigned to the courses are determined. As a student-centered district, we base the master schedule on student requests and available teacher staffing. Therefore, these selections have a major impact in the master schedule and staffing needs for the following school year. Dropping or adding a course is only allowed when there is significant evidence present that a student will not be successful in a course.

Subject-level placement of freshmen is based on the results of standardized test scores, placement assessments and the recommendations of middle school teachers. Placement of upperclassmen is based on previous performance including prerequisites and the recommendations of high school teachers.

Decatur High Schools have an extensive curriculum with many courses offered to meet the different ability and interest levels of its students. It should be noted, however, that just because a course is offered does not mean that it will be taught. Courses will be taught only if there is sufficient student enrollment. This is also true of courses that are sequential in a program. A sufficient number of students must be registered for a third or fourth year level to be taught.

Students are expected to enroll in six (6) courses per semester unless they are enrolled in a Richland Community College dual credit course. In this instance, the student is expected to enroll in four (4) courses on the high school campus if the dual credit course is taken during the school day.

SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Once a student selects courses for the year, changes are discouraged and should be made only as needed to meet graduation requirements. Only his/her counselor may make changes in a student’s daily schedule of classes. He/She must attend the classes as printed on his/her schedule until his/her counselor makes the necessary change. No student request for changes will be accepted during the first two (2) days of the semester or after five (5) days of the semester. Counselors are required to keep such changes to a minimum after the semester has begun. Therefore, a student should choose his/her courses carefully. Acceptable reasons for a schedule change: misplacement, scheduling error, or a change is needed to ensure timely graduation. Requested changes related to teacher assignments, class periods, etc. will not be considered.

AUDIT POLICY

Upon rare occasions, a student may wish to request permission to audit a class (attend without credit). A student may request to audit a semester course or a full year course but will not be granted more than one request. A student may not request to audit 2 single semester courses. No audits will be granted once a course is in session. The request for audit must be made in writing on a form provided by the Counselor’s Office. A rationale must be listed on the form as to why the audit is necessary. Permission to audit will only be granted when an acceptable reason is provided. The instructor, department chair, and the administrator in charge of scheduling and grade reporting will make the determination of what is acceptable.
SCHEDULING INFORMATION

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Certain courses require consent of the instructor and/or previous coursework in the field in order to register for a particular course. The guidance department will make every effort to make sure that prerequisites are met. However, students must be aware of their responsibility to ensure they have taken the appropriate prerequisites before registering for courses. All appropriate information regarding prerequisites is listed in the course curriculum guide. Students need to read the course curriculum guide carefully and understand that they are responsible for its contents including but not limited to all course prerequisites.

FOUR-YEAR EDUCATIONAL PLAN
The following charts illustrate a four-year high school plan for courses, both required and elective, at Decatur High Schools. It is intended as a guide for both parents and students. It is not intended to “lock” students into one particular path but rather to be used (and reused) to reflect changes in a student’s thinking as he/she matures. The plan can be used to prepare for higher education and to explore different career opportunities. A student must select at least six hours of credit each year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRESHMAN YEAR</th>
<th>SOPHOMORE YEAR</th>
<th>JUNIOR YEAR</th>
<th>SENIOR YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English I</td>
<td>English II</td>
<td>English III</td>
<td>English IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>Math Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman Seminar</td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>U.S. History</td>
<td>Civics/Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics First</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Science Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/Physical Education</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Consumer Education/ Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>Early Bird</td>
<td>Early Bird</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSFER OF CREDIT AND ALTERNATIVE COURSES (DUAL CREDIT)

A student will receive high school credit for successfully completing any course given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. High school transfer credits from schools approved by the state and certified by the North Central Association (NCA) or its equivalent will be evaluated by the administration. The conversion formula is typically one-half Carnegie unit of credit equals 1 semester credit hour.

Credit toward graduation requirements may be earned at Richland Community College, from other colleges, and from approved correspondence courses with the prior approval of the counselor and administration.

Credits earned will be counted in the grade point average according to the regular grading scale. Credits earned from schools in foreign countries will be calculated according to the regular grading scale only.

DC  DUAL CREDIT - RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students may receive college credit through a variety of credit offerings. A student who successfully completes community college courses may receive high school credit, provided the student is a junior or senior in good academic standing; the course is approved in advance by the student and guidance counselor and the high school administration; the student assumes responsibility for all fees; and the course would be transferable to a four-year college. Three (3) semester hours credit shall be considered the equivalent of one-half (0.5) of credit toward graduation.

Decatur Public Schools supports enrollment in the following dual credit courses offered at either Richland Community College or at the high school: English 101, English 102, Psychology 110, Sociology 110, and Communications 101.

Students interested in enrolling for RCC Dual Credit courses need to complete the following:

- The appropriate forms (available in counselor’s office):
  - Principal’s Approval Form
  - Parent/Guardian’s Approval Form
- The RCC Placement Test at RCC campus.
- Students should meet with their counselor and/or administrator prior to enrolling in dual credit courses.

Further information regarding dual credit courses through Heartland Technical Academy can be found on page 97.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

A student enrolled in a correspondence course may receive high school credit for work completed, provided the course is given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The student must be a third or fourth year student and will assume responsibility for all fees. The high school principal or designee must approve the course in advance. A maximum of 2 credits of correspondence course credit may be counted toward the requirements for a student’s high school graduation.
CREDIT RECOVERY
Credit Recovery is a program that a student may use to repeat a previously failed course. The courses offered are limited. Students in need may enroll with their guidance counselor.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM
An exchange student will be granted a diploma if he/she completes the criteria for graduation established by the State of Illinois and the Board of Education. The Board of Education may grant a certificate of attendance to exchange students. District students in grades 9-12 will receive high school credit for foreign exchange courses that meet the criteria established in the curriculum and that are approved in advance by the building principal or designee. International study course work not meeting district requirements may be placed in the student’s permanent record and recorded as an international study experience with no course credit assigned.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The requirements set forth in this policy may be modified or waived, to the extent permitted by law, as determined by an individualized education plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities.

TRANSFER CREDIT ELECTIVES
Students who transfer to Decatur Public Schools from another school district may receive transfer credits if the student’s previous school did not offer as many courses in a year as Decatur Public Schools.

HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENT TRANSFERS
Grade placement by, and academic credits earned at, a nonpublic school will be accepted if the school has a Certificate of Nonpublic School Recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education, or, if outside Illinois, if the school is accredited by the state agency governing education. A student who, after receiving instruction in a non-recognized or non-accredited school, enroll in the District will 1) be assigned to a grade level according to academic proficiency, and/or 2) have academic credits recognized by the District if the student demonstrates appropriate academic proficiency to the school administration.

Any portion of a student’s transcript relating to such instruction will not be considered for placement on the honor roll or computation in rank. Notwithstanding the above, recognition of grade placement and academic credits awarded by a nonpublic school is at the sole discretion of the District. All school and class assignments will be made according to Board policy.

SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES
Summer school information and registration forms are available to parents and students in the guidance office in the spring semester. A limited number of courses are offered and are typically courses required for graduation. Enrollment in summer school allows students the opportunity to enroll in Credit Recovery classes or other courses as needed. The decision to offer a course is based on the enrollment numbers each year. The deadline for registration is early spring.
PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

High school gives you a chance, perhaps for the first time in your life, to choose many of the subjects you study. Which subjects should you take? Answering this important question is hard. But the Illinois Board of Higher Education would like to help you by offering the following advice:

The subjects you take in high school either will increase your chances for education and jobs after high school – or they will reduce those chances. That is why your choices now are very important. At this time in your life, you can’t be sure what your future career will be. The American economy is changing. New kinds of jobs are created every day, while others are disappearing. Some jobs will require more and more education.

What is the best way to prepare for this changing future? Take subjects that will give you as many future choices as possible. Don’t cut yourself short. Take subjects that will keep increasing your communication and computational skills. Take subjects that will broaden your technical skills.

Do you think you might go to college? Here’s more advice, especially if you think you’d like to get a bachelor’s degree (4 or more years). There are over 180 colleges and universities in Illinois alone. Each decides for itself how it will select high school graduates for admission. Admission requirements vary from one college to another. You must contact each one to find out what its specific requirements are. Admission requirements also can change from year to year. See suggested course patterns on this page.

Finally, ask for help and advice from your teachers, your counselor and your parents. These are the people who know the most about you and can help you with individual advice based upon your abilities and interests.

PLANNING AHEAD – SETTING EDUCATIONAL GOALS

In addition to planning for successful completion of the requirements for graduation, thought should be given to the immediate years beyond graduation so that subjects taken in high school will be meaningful in preparation for careers and college. The following is only a guideline to assist you in planning your four-year curriculum. Flexibility to meet your personal needs is encouraged. Due to the fact that college admission requirements vary a great deal from one college to the next, it is always recommended that the admission requirements of the specific colleges should be obtained. This information can be gathered from direct contact with the college in question or by checking with the most recent college catalog. Students should see their counselor for further information.

PLANNING AHEAD – SETTING EDUCATIONAL GOALS

English 4 years, emphasizing written and oral communication, literature
Math 3 or 4 years, through advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry or fundamentals of computer programming
Social Studies 2 or 3 years
Science 2 or 3 years laboratory sciences
Foreign Language 2 years – music, art and vocational education are possible alternatives at some universities. (Some state schools may require four years of the same foreign language for college graduation. If you take two years in high school, you may need to take more in college, depending on how you place on their entrance exam. If you take four years in high school and pass their entrance exams, you may be exempt from further foreign language study in college.)
ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED STUDY PATTERNS

MOST COMPETITIVE COLLEGE
Includes colleges for which even superior students will encounter a great deal of competition for admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 to 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 to 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOCATIONAL
For students planning to go directly into the nation’s work force, e.g. schools of cosmetology, diesel mechanics, travel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COLLEGE
Includes colleges for which superior students will encounter some competition for admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>3 to 4 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OPEN/ENRICHMENT
2-year junior college or non-competitive college. Also for students taking courses for personal enjoyment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Required Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>2.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOLARSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as the FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid (including the Pell Grant, Federal student loans and Federal Work-Study). The U.S. Department of Education begins accepting the application beginning January 1 of each year for the upcoming academic year. Each application period is 18 months; most federal, state, and institutional aid is provided on a first come, first served basis. Students are advised to submit a FAFSA as early as possible for consideration for maximum financial assistance. For further information on the FAFSA, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Local scholarships are listed in the scholarship bulletins published through the guidance office. Also, use www.careercruising.com for more information on scholarships. (A password is available from MacArthur or Eisenhower guidance counselors). The Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County is another source of scholarships for students who attend local high schools in Macon County as well as Millikin University and Richland Community College. For a list of the current scholarships, visit the Community Foundation’s website, www.endowdecatur.org. Students may also contact their counselor for further information or call the Community Foundation at 217-429-3000.
NCAA ELIGIBILITY FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT ATHLETES

The NCAA Eligibility Center verifies the academic and amateur status of all student-athletes who wish to compete in Division I or II athletics.

College-bound student-athletes, who want to practice, compete and receive athletically related financial aid during their first year at a Division I or II school, need to meet the following requirements:

Core Courses (16)

- NCAA Divisions I and II require 16 core courses. See the charts below.
- Beginning August 1, 2016, NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses to be completed prior to the seventh semester (7 of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural or physical science that meet the distribution requirements below). These 10 courses become “locked in” at the start of the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.
  - Beginning August 1, 2016, it will be possible for a Division I college-bound student-athlete to still receive athletics aid and the ability to practice with the team if he or she fails to meet the 10 course requirement but would not be able to compete.

Test Scores (ACT/SAT)

- Students must present a corresponding test score and core-course GPA on the NCAA sliding scale.
- Division II requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
  - SAT: critical reading and math sections.
    - The best subscore from each section is used to determine the SAT combined score for initial eligibility.
  - ACT: English, mathematics, reading, and science sections.
    - The best subscore from each section is used to determine the ACT sum score for initial eligibility.

- All ACT and SAT attempts before initial full-time collegiate enrollment may be used for initial eligibility.
- When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.

Core Grade-Point Average

- Only core courses that appear on the high school’s List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center’s website (www.eligibilitycenter.org) will be used to calculate your core-course GPA. Use this list as a guide.
- Division I students enrolling full time before August 1, 2016, should use Sliding Scale A to determine eligibility to receive athletics aid, practice and competition during the first year.
- Division I GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.000-2.299.
- Division II GPA is required to be eligible for competition on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.300.
- The Division II core GPA requirement is a minimum of 2.000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION I</th>
<th>DIVISION II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Core Courses</td>
<td>16 Core Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years of English</td>
<td>3 years of English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)</td>
<td>2 years of math (Algebra 1 or higher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years of natural/physical science</td>
<td>2 years of natural/physical science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1 year of lab)</td>
<td>(1 year of lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of additional English, math, or natural/physical science</td>
<td>3 year of additional English, math, or natural/physical science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years of social science</td>
<td>2 years of social science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language, or comparative religion/philosophy)</td>
<td>4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language, or comparative religion/philosophy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division III college and universities set their own admission standards. The NCAA does not set initial eligibility requirements in Division III.

For more detail about academic requirements visit the Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org