



# **Planning for College While in High School Guidebook for AIG & Advanced Learners**

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*Disclaimer:*

*The links listed within this guidebook may change. Search for them via Google if a link no longer works.*

# What is the Guidebook?

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Socrates Academy (SA) created the “Planning for College While in High School (HS)” guidebook to help families navigate the best opportunities for a student through course selection and post-secondary goals.

This is a general guidebook and it is not specific to any college or university. It is merely a broad overview to help the user gain a better understanding of the big picture. Every college/university is different and has their own entrance requirements. If a student is considering a particular college or university, it is highly encouraged that families examine the enrollment requirements to ensure the best chance of acceptance.

There are many course pathways to travel to graduation such as meeting graduation requirements, preparing for college/university, and possibly earning college credit while still a HS student. There is no “one way” to plan this path. There is only “the way” that makes the most sense for the student. Students are different in their interests, where they want to go after HS, and what they want to accomplish prior to graduation. The information within this guidebook is for the user to make the most informed decision about what works best for them.

## Points to Consider

To make things easier to navigate, we have listed all the points to consider while choosing coursework during high school registration. Explanation for each point is below the initial list.

1. In planning for college, universities want to see students challenge themselves academically as demonstrated through their course selection.
2. North Carolina has an agreement between Community Colleges and Universities about credits earned at the Community College while in high school.
3. Rigorous course selections contribute to earning quality points and establishing a student’s class rank.
4. Consider how to maximize your course choices to meet high school graduation requirements.
5. Contact the high school counselor for general questions about course options that best meet your future college plans.

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## Explanation of Each Point to Consider

1. **In planning for college, universities want to see students challenge themselves academically as demonstrated through their course selection.** SA offers course selections such as general courses, Honors courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and Career and College Promise (CCP) courses. It is highly recommended that AIG students and advanced students take the most rigorous course available in their strength and interest areas.

Depending on the college/university one is considering, it is good to know what makes for a strong college application.

### Things to consider:

- Some colleges/universities ONLY want to see that students take and do well in an Advanced Placement (AP) course(s) AND score well on the AP exam.
- Only the AP exam can earn a student college credit, BUT that is dependent upon the institution and how well the student performed on that exam/assessment. Currently, the UNC system has 16 institutions that all offer credit for course specific scores of at least 3 or 4. Check the college/university website for more information.
- Some colleges/universities may have no preference about Honors, AP, or Career and College Promise (CCP). They are more interested in how the student performed in any course.
- Passing a CCP course will earn a student a college credit in a North Carolina system school college/university. See the section on UNC Schools for more information.
- Typically, most AP and CCP courses are taken during the junior or senior year. With that said, students seeking to maximize the opportunity to earn college credit, should consider frontloading their schedules in grades 7-10.
- AIG students identified in both reading and math are eligible to apply for CCP courses their freshman year. However, CCP is not meant for random course selection. The CCP program is broken into two primary categories:
  - College Transfer Pathway (CTP) for those pursuing an Associate's Degree in either: Arts, Science, or Engineering. Each of these options has very specific courses associated with it. See the CCP Transfer Pathway section for more information [QR](#)
  - Career and Technical Education Pathway (CTE) for those who want to begin a credentialing/certification program in a specific technical field or career area.

## **2. North Carolina has an agreement between Community Colleges and Universities about credits earned at the Community College while in HS.** These credits do transfer as college credit to NC system schools and may or may not count as credits toward college degree requirements.

To support high school students who are earning college credit while in high school through Career & College Promise (CCP), North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has determined dual credit allowances for courses included in the Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC) of the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). UGETC courses will transfer for equivalency credit from NC Community Colleges to UNC Institutions.

Students that want to participate in CCP (take courses at Central Piedmont Community College), must meet CPCC entrance requirements.

Students participating in CCP at CPCC are responsible for course expenses such as parking permit, and other required course materials as outlined by instructors and/or campus requirements. SA does not currently reimburse students for course textbooks.

We highly recommend visiting the following websites for more information about CCP:

- Pros and Cons of Dual Enrollment @ <https://www.savingforcollege.com/article/pros-and-cons-of-dual-enrollment>
- NC Department of Education Resource: What is the Career and College Promise Program? What are the benefits? What courses may be used to fulfill graduation requirements? How does it work? @ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/advanced-learning-and-gifted-education/career-and-college-promise>
- NC Community College Information Page for Career and College Promise @ <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/academic-programs/career-college-promise>
- Central Piedmont Community College High School Programs Information Page @ <https://www.cpcc.edu/admissions/enroll/earn-college-credit-in-high-school>

**3. Course selections contribute to earning quality points and establishing a student's class rank.**

- Advanced Placement (AP), some Career and College Promise (CCP)\*, and CPCC World Language Courses offer 5 quality points (QP) toward a student's GPA.
- Honors courses provide 4.5 QP toward GPA.
- Standard courses provide 4.0 QP toward GPA.

*\*In most cases, CTE courses taken at CPCC through CCP only count 4.0 QP toward GPA*

**4. Consider the ways you can maximize course selection with the SA High School (HS) Graduation Requirements by Subject and equivalent courses (see Course Selection Flow Chart for more information).**

- Be aware of college/university requirements for entrance. For example, SA requires 3 science credits to graduate; depending on the college/university major, a student may need 4 credits if they want to major in biology or Pre-Med.

**5. Contact the high school counselor for general questions about course options that best meet your future college plans.**

- For additional information, visit the School Counseling website available for the high school.

# Course Selection Flow Chart

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The High School (HS) Course Selection Flow Chart is for students who want to better understand how course selections work and what options are available. This information is for students seeking to continue their education beyond high school. Families may want to reference the [SA High School Course Offerings](#) for more information.

This is a general guide to equip families with information about possible options for earning both HS and college credit through dual enrollment. For specific information, consult the high school counselor to determine the best pathway to meet future educational goals.

AIG students and advanced students accelerated in middle school should take the most rigorous course level aligned to the HS graduation requirement and their post-secondary goals.

Things you need to consider:

## Subject Credit Requirements

English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Electives	Global Studies	Health & P.E.	Total Credits
4	4	3	4	6*	6**	1	28

- Consider all credits for either Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), or Career and College Promise (CCP) coursework as they align to strength areas, interest areas, and post-secondary goals.
- When taking an AP course, the exam score is an important factor. Students should be aiming for an AP exam score of 4-5. The AP exam scores may earn a student college credit.
- AP & CCP offer 5 quality points (QP) toward a student's GPA. Unless the CCP is CTE, then those courses offer 4 quality points.
- Honor courses provide 4.5 QP toward GPA.

## Course Equivalent Flow Chart

The top row of each section covers the basic SA graduation requirements. The rows beneath the high school graduation requirements provide other course options that meet the graduation requirements and provide advanced learning opportunities through AP and CCP.

To use this flow chart, start with the first level of coursework required for each subject area and then move on space to the right once that course is completed.

All AIG students and accelerated advanced learners have earned high school credits while in middle school. This opens up additional course options earlier.

**Consider the ways you can maximize course selection with the SA High School (HS) Graduation Requirements by Subject and other equivalent course options.**

## Course Equivalent Flow Chart

To use this flow chart, start with the first level of coursework required for each subject area and then move one space to the right once that course is completed. Most AIG students and accelerated advanced learners have earned high school credits while in middle school. This opens up additional course options earlier.

Content Area	Course Equivalents	Credit 1	Credit 2	Credit 3	Credit 4	Suggestions & Additional Course Choices:			
English	HS Graduation Requirement	English 1 (Honors)	English 2 (Honors)	English 3 (Honors)	English 4 (Honors)				
	AP Equivalent	No Option	No Option	AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition				
	CCP Equivalent	No Option	No Option	ENG 111 and either ENG 231 or ENG 232	ENG 111, ENG 112 and either ENG 241 OR ENG 242	To earn 2 English HS credits through CPCC, students must take 4 CPCC courses. These 4 courses will earn a student 12 college credit hours.			
Math	HS Graduation Requirement	Math 1	Math 2 (Honors)	Math 3 (Honors)	Pre-Calculus (Honors) OR Discrete Math (Honors)	Math elective options do not count toward graduation requirements, but do count as elective options.			
	AP Equivalent	No Option	No Option	No Option	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB and/or AP Calculus BC	Depending on 9 <sup>th</sup> grade coursework, students can take AP coursework earlier		
	CCP Equivalent	No Option	No Option	No Option	MAT 171 Pre-Calculus Algebra	MAT 172 Pre-Calculus Trigonometry	MAT 271 Calculus 1	MAT 272 Calculus 2	
Science	HS Graduation Requirement	Earth Environmental (Honors)	Biology (Honors)	Chemistry (Honors)	Students must have a course in all 3 areas: Biology, Physical, and Earth Science to meet HS requirements. Science elective options do not count toward graduation requirements, but do count as elective options.				
	AP Equivalent	AP Earth & Environmental Science	AP Biology	No Option	No fourth credit required, however, advanced coursework through senior year is highly recommended and counts as elective credits.				
	CCP Equivalent	No Option	BIO 111 General Biology 1 and BIO 112	CHM 151 General Chemistry 1 and CHM 152					

<b>Social Studies</b>	HS Graduation Requirement	Founding Principles of USA & NC Civics Literacy (Honors)	World History (Honors)	American History	Economics and Personal Finance	Elective options do not count toward the social studies graduation requirement, but do count as elective options.
	AP Equivalent	No Option	AP World: Modern	AP US History	No Option	
	CCP Equivalent	No Option	HIS 111 World Civilizations and HIS 112	HIS 131 American History 1	No Option	
<b>Health &amp; P.E.</b>	High School Graduation Requirement	Health & P.E.				
	AP Equivalent	No Option				
	CCP Equivalent	No Option				

**The flow chart does not include all elective choices. Check with the high school counselor for recommendations and suggestions based on strengths, interests, and post-secondary goals.**

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## How do I know which course option is the best for me?

This part of the guidebook assumes that AIG and Advanced Learners would opt for at least an Honors level course in their strength area or area of interest. When choosing the most challenging level course, there are many options to consider.

Option	Definition	Effect on GPA	Eligibility	Maintaining Eligibility
<b>Honors</b>	Course content, pace, and academic rigor place high expectations on the student and surpass standards specified by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study Guidelines. This level or higher is recommended for competitive college admission.	½ additional quality point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Placement (AP)</b>	Academic Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses that students can take in high school. After taking a national exam, students will be scored on a scale of 1-5. Students can earn free college credits or advanced placement or both at universities based on their scores. All UNC System schools award credit for scores of 3 or higher. There are more than 90 percent of four-year colleges in the United States that accept AP exam scores. AP exams are also a way for students to stand out on college applications.	1 additional quality point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet prerequisites of the course.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
<b>Career &amp; College Promise (CCP)</b>	Tuition free course credits toward the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science or Associate in Engineering and a four year degree.	Varies by course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a weighted GPA of 2.8 in high school coursework</li> <li>Demonstrate college readiness in English, reading, and mathematics as demonstrated on an assessment or placement exam or meet provisional status.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to make progress toward high school graduation</li> <li>Maintain a 2.0 GPA in college coursework after completing two courses or be subjected to college's policy for satisfactory academic progress</li> <li>Transcripts need to be submitted every semester.</li> </ul>

To determine the best course for you, consider your academic strengths, interests, and post-secondary goals. For AIG and advanced students, we highly encourage these students to enroll in the highest level of course in their strength areas.

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# Dual Enrollment

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Dual enrollment, or concurrent enrollment, is the practice of allowing a student to be enrolled at two academic institutions at once. Usually, this involves a high school and a college. The credits apply to both the high school diploma requirements and college graduation requisites. Career and College Promise courses and enrollment in a community college or university to have access to more advanced coursework are all examples of dual enrollment.

## What are the benefits of dual enrollment?

Students in a dual enrollment program can benefit in several ways:

- The programs make transition from high school to college smoother. Students can see what college courses are like without being overwhelmed by a full college schedule and a new environment at one time.
- A dual enrollment program allows students to sample different classes and a range of coursework before deciding on a college major.
- Many pre-requisite courses can be completed while in high school, as these courses are limited, and students may have to wait a semester or more to take those classes.
- Students enrolled in dual programs who are not in advanced placement can demonstrate, on their transcripts, the ability to handle a complex course load. Colleges use this information to predict student success and decide which applicants to admit.
- Dual-enrollment students have access to more courses than their high schools may offer.
- Credits not only apply to high school diploma requirements but may be applied toward college graduation. That means students could graduate earlier from college. Not only does this factor allow graduates to begin their careers sooner, but could potentially save money.

## Dual Enrollment Career & College Promise (CCP)

According to the NCDPI website, “Career and College Promise (CCP) is North Carolina’s dual enrollment program for high school students. This program allows eligible NC high school students to enroll in college classes at NC community colleges and universities through their high school. Students who successfully complete college courses can earn college credit, which they can take with them after graduation. In many cases, students can earn dual credit—meeting high school graduation requirements with college courses. “

CCP offers students the option to choose from one of the following pathways:

- College Transfer Pathway (CTP)

The CTP is for students planning to continue their educational journey toward an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree at a community college or a four-year university. Students can choose to pursue:

- Associate’s Degree in Arts
- Associate’s Degree in Science
- Associates in Arts in Teacher Preparation
- Associates of Science in Teacher Preparation
- Associate’s Degree in Nursing (ADN)
- Associate’s Degree in Engineering

The CTE is for students who want to obtain certifications and college transferable courses in seven different areas:

- Agricultural Education
- Business Finance, and Information Technology Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Science
- Marketing and Entrepreneurship
- Technology Engineering & Design
- Trade & Industrial

To be eligible for this pathway as a 9-10<sup>th</sup> grader, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have a recommendation from the high school principal
- Demonstrate college readiness in English, reading, and math on an approved CCP benchmark assessment\*
- Participate in advising conversation that explains the requirements of the CCP program
- Complete paperwork, which includes specific signatures from the student, parent, SA and CPCC stakeholders

To be eligible for this pathway as an 11-12<sup>th</sup> grader, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have an unweighted GPA of 2.8 on high school coursework OR
- Have benchmark assessment scores in all areas (ELA, math, etc.)
- Complete additional application/registration process for CPCC

To maintain eligibility for continued enrollment, a student must complete the following:

1. Provide a current transcript each semester enrolled at the community college
2. Continue to make progress toward high school graduation
3. Maintain a 2.0 GPA in college coursework after completing two courses

For more information about CCP, visit the CPCC Career & College Promise website @

<https://catalog.cpcc.edu/programs/career-and-college-promise/>, or contact the SA Guidance Department.

## CCP & UNC School Institutions & Affiliates

In North Carolina, all the public educational institutions granting four-year degrees are part of the University of North Carolina System. The multi-campus system encompasses 16 universities and the NC School of Science and Mathematics, the nation's first public residential high school for gifted students. This affiliate network provides agreements between the community colleges that provide CCP coursework and the college/university.

To aid in your search for information, we have included a link to the [University of North Carolina \(UNC\) System of Institutions and Affiliates](#).

\* You can take the RISE Placement Test at no charge (by appointment only). You are encouraged to review the practice test on the website to study and prepare for the test.

[Schedule RISE placement testing](#).

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# NC Special Schools

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**Students can apply to special schools such as the Governor’s School, the NC School for Science and Mathematics, and the NC School of the Arts**

- For more information about Governor’s School, visit <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/governors-school-north-carolina>
- For more information about the North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics, visit <https://www.ncssm.edu/about>
- For more information about the North Carolina School of the Arts, visit <https://www.uncsa.edu/high-school/index.aspx>
- Contact the high school counselor for more information about these opportunities

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## Early Graduation

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For students interested in graduating early because they have met the requirements for high school, contact your high school counselor.

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## In Closing

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This guidebook is a supplement to the [SA Graduation Requirements](#) and the [SA HS Course Offerings](#).

There is no “one way” to plan your future. There is only the way that is right for you based on your interests and post-secondary goals.

If you have further questions about course selection/registration, Advanced Placement (AP), and/or counseling services, please contact your child’s high school counselor.

If you have further questions about AIG services, please contact the AIG Secondary Coordinator, Carrie Taft, at [ctaft@socratesacademy.us](mailto:ctaft@socratesacademy.us).