

Drake High School COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

College Entrance Requirements

Preparation for college during the high school years is important and necessary. Any student who anticipates college attendance should plan a program of studies beginning the first day of entrance into high school. The counseling department will work with students to develop a four year plan. Please remember that colleges have a variety of different entrance requirements. Use Drake High School's Naviance program to investigate these different requirements.

A student's scholastic record during the four years of high school will be one of the single greatest factors in admission to college. A poor scholastic record will close the doors to many institutions while a good record may open the way to unexpected opportunities. Colleges are interested in a student's work in the community. Good citizenship, including participation in school activities, as well as volunteer and service work, will result in good recommendations and will increase the chances of the student being accepted by the college the student has selected. Some colleges ask counselors to report if students have been suspended from school for any reason. Colleges sometimes alert students to last-minute rejections, based on a drop in final semester grades and/or attendance problems.

Admission to the University of California System

The following sequence of high school courses is required for fulfilling the minimum eligibility requirements for admission to the University of California. In addition to completion of these courses, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 with no grade lower than a C in any course. All Drake course work for the UC "A-G" requirements can be found on the UC Doorways homepage.

The "a –g" requirements can be summarized as follows:

- a. **History/Social Science:** (2 years required) One year of world history, cultures and historical geography and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.
- b. **English:** (4 years required) College preparatory English which includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature.
- c. **Mathematics:** (3 years required, 4 recommended) College preparatory mathematics that include the topics in elementary and advanced algebra and two and three-dimensional geometry.
- d. **Laboratory Science:** (2 years required, 3 recommended) Laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in a least two of these three disciplines: biology, chemistry and physics.
- e. **Language Other than English:** (2 years required, 3 recommended) Two years of the same language other than English.
- f. **Visual - Performing Arts:** (1 year required) One year-long sequence selected from dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.
- g. **College Preparatory Electives:** (1 year required) Two semesters chosen from additional "a –f" courses beyond those used to satisfy the requirements above, or courses that have been approved solely for use as "g" electives.

Required Testing: All students applying to UC campuses need to take college entrances tests: either/ or both the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT with Writing. SAT Subject Tests are not required, but certain

programs in some campuses recommend them. For further information see:
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/welcome.html>

Admission to the California State University System

The CSU requires a minimum 15 unit pattern of courses for admission as a first time freshman. Each unit is equal to a year of study in a subject area. A grade of C or higher is required for each course you use to meet any subject requirement.

- a. **History/Social Science:** (2 years required) One year of world history, cultures, and historical geography and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government;
- b. **English:** (4 years required) College preparatory English composition and literature;
- c. **Mathematics:** (3 years required, but 4 years recommended) Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher mathematics;
- d. **Laboratory Science:** (2 years required) One biological science and one physical science;
- e. **Language Other Than English:** (2 years required) Two years of the same language (American Sign Language qualifies);
- f. **Visual and Performing Arts:** (1 year required) Dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art; and,
- g. **College Preparatory Electives:** (1 year required) Electives chosen from the University of California “a-g” list.

Required testing: All students applying to CSU schools need to take a college entrance test: either the ACT or SAT reasoning test or both tests.

Admission to Community College

Enrolling in community colleges vary. Please check with the admission requirements for each community college. Most of these institutions have the following understandings:

- Open admission to all high school graduates.
- Non-graduates 18 or older are admitted on probation.
- Non-graduates who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination are admitted.
- Testing is required in certain courses for placement purposes, usually for English and mathematics.

Examinations for College Admission

Students must check the admission examination requirements for each college or university in which they wish to enroll. Presented below are descriptions of typical examinations required across the United States.

SAT I - Scholastic Assessment Tests - Verbal and mathematics assessment tests. Scores on these tests are used by colleges to determine a student's probable success in college. Preparation classes are available through the District Community Education program. Test dates are usually scheduled in October, November, December, January, March, May, and June. For more information visit the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com.

SAT II - Subject Tests - Available in foreign language, social science, English composition and literature, science, and mathematics. Test dates are usually scheduled in October, November, December, January, March, May, and June. For more information visit the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com.

PSAT - Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test – This test is taken normally by juniors as a "warm up" for the SAT. Scores on this test are used to determine eligibility for the National Merit Scholar competition. Sophomores who have completed geometry are encouraged to take the exam. The test is usually scheduled in October. See your counselor for more information.

ACT - American College Test - Four (4) sub-tests in English, mathematics, social studies and natural science. The ACT is accepted by almost all colleges in lieu of SAT/Subject tests. Test dates are usually scheduled September, October, December, February, April, and June. For more information visit the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com.

AP Exams - Advanced Placement Exams – These exams are available for students who have talent or interest in particular areas. Students generally take a related Advanced Placement course before taking the exam, although students may take the exams without having taken the course. Successful completion of the exam may earn college credit. The tests are usually scheduled for mid-May each year.