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**What high school classes do colleges look for?**

Depending on where you are in your high school career, you may find it challenging to look ahead and plan for college already. However, it’s never too late to start considering your college application and the high school classes that are most important for furthering your education. College admissions officers expect to see a well-rounded high school education, which you’ll be able to improve on during your time in college. We recommend taking a minimum of five classes per semester. Today we’ve compiled a list of the basic courses you’ll need for college, which you can then add advanced courses on top of to show you are willing to challenge yourself.

**Basic Classes Everyone Should Take in High School**

The following classes are essential for any college applicant to complete. They form the foundation of your education, which you can then expand on during your college years:

* **English** – English is essential to take each year in high school. You’ll improve your reading, writing, and language skills, all of which are essential for a career in almost any field.
* **Math** – While we know math is not everyone’s favorite subject, geometry and algebra are recommended to help with your college entrance exams. Try to take the initial classes early on so you have three years of math classes and can also add on some more advanced ones.
* **Social Studies** – Social studies show you are interested in the world around you. We recommend taking U.S. history for a year, U.S. government, and geography during your time in high school.
* **Science** – Try to take a year of earth science, chemistry or physics, and biology. Depending on the field you are hoping to study in the future, you will want to look at adding advanced classes in any of these subjects.
* **Languages** – We recommend taking two years in a single language during your time in high school. Pick one language you are passionate about, and work on honing your skills in that area.
* **Arts** – Many colleges now expect one or two classes to be completed in high school, which can be any of the arts you enjoy. Choose from drama, music, art, or dance, and you’ll find you challenge your mind or body in new ways.

**Adding on Advanced Classes**

If you are looking to challenge yourself further, once the basics are established, we recommend adding on AP courses, honors classes, or an International Baccalaureate. These will all stand out on your college application and show you are willing and determined to push yourself in your education. When choosing AP classes, try to stick with ones related to the main subjects listed above, as these will look best on your college application. However, look for quality over quantity. Don’t push yourself too far if your grades then drop as a result of this.

It’s never too early in high school to begin planning for your time in college. By selecting the right high school classes from the beginning of your time there, you’ll increase your chances of creating a successful college application and getting into the college of your dreams.