



Course Selection to Prepare for College

Dear Students and Parents,

UBMS is a college-prep program, and our main goal is for every student to attend a four-year college after high school. This should also be the goal of every student. **To be competitive in the college admissions process, and to lay the foundations for academic success in college, students should be taking appropriate classes in high school.** There is a big difference between what is required to graduate from high school, and what is expected for college admission. When college admission officers review your transcript, they look to see if you have challenged yourself and if you have the academic foundations to succeed at their institution. With that in mind, we wanted to provide a guide to selecting your classes throughout high school:

- You should take at least 5 solid, full-year classes every year, one from each core subject area:
 - Math
 - Science
 - English
 - Social Studies/History
 - Foreign Language
- Core classes should always be the priority over electives, and full-year classes are always preferred to half-year classes.
- You should take the hardest level of classes that you can handle in any given subject. The more Accelerated/Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) classes, the better. If you are consistently getting high grades in a class, you should think about moving up a level. Talk to your teacher and see what they think.
- These guidelines should be followed regardless of what major you think you might want to study in college.
- Course selection is discussed with your guidance counselor. Make sure they know you want to go to college. You can still make changes to your schedule, but the longer you wait, the more difficult it is as classes fill up.
- You should also keep UBMS informed about your class choices. Let us know if you need any assistance with talking to your counselor about your classes.

SEE REVERSE SIDE!!!

Here is a more detailed guide based on classes offered at your high school (some courses depend on school):

Math

You should take 4 years of math, making sure to take at least one of the following in every year of high school:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus

Science

You should take 4 years of science, making sure to take at least one of the following in every year of high school:

- Science 9/Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

*If you take all of these classes before senior year, you should take AP Biology, AP Chemistry, or AP Physics (depending on what is offered at your school).

English

You should take 4 years of English, choosing out of the following:

- English 9/Foundations of English
- English 10/American Literature
- English 11/World Literature
- English 12
- AP English Language
- AP Literature

Social Studies/History

You should take 4 years of Social Studies, choosing out of the following:

- World History
- US History
- American Studies/American Government
- Civics
- AP Government
- AP US History
- AP World History

Foreign Language

You should take as many years of foreign language as possible, but at least 3 years of the same language, choosing out of the following:

- Spanish/French/Italian/Latin I
- Spanish/French/Italian/Latin II
- Spanish/French/Italian/Latin III
- Spanish/French/Italian/Latin IV