



CLASS REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 8TH AND 9TH GRADE STUDENTS & PARENTS

GRADUATION AND COURSE LOAD REQUIREMENTS

Credits are awarded on the basis of 5 credits per course per semester; thus a typical course taken for a full year will earn a student 10 credits toward graduation (NOTE: seniors opting for a Teacher Assistant assignment earn no credits for such duty. Students must receive a passing grade in a course in order to earn any credit for that course.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

| SUBJECT/CONTENT AREA | REQUIREMENTS |
|-----------------------|--|
| English/Language Arts | 40 credits (including 1 literature-based and 1 writing based course at the 10 th grade or higher level) |
| Social Studies | 40 credits |
| Mathematics | 30 credits (including Algebra I and Geometry or equivalents) |
| Science | 30 credits |
| Health | 5 credits |
| Physical Education | 5 credits |
| Careers/Transitions | 5 credits |
| Electives | 100 credits |
| TOTAL REQUIREMENTS | 255 credits (established for the class of 2014 & 2015) |
| (Foreign Language) | (20 credits recommended) |

Please note that figures given for meeting graduation requirements are minimums only. Students planning on attending most four year colleges and universities will want to exceed AGHS requirements in order to assure admission.

Ashland-Greenwood High School requires all students to register for at least seven classes, leaving no more than one study hall. Many students will find that the benefits to be derived from taking a full load of eight classes outweigh the perceived advantage or value of a study hall. This is particularly true when one considers that only during four years of high school can a student receive instruction in such a variety of subject material without having to pay for each and every class taken. At the same time, students registering for a college preparatory course load may find a study hall beneficial.

SUBJECT AREA COMMENTARY

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES: Students and parents are advised that high school foreign language study is strongly recommended by virtually all colleges and universities. Many college major areas of study require a foreign language component; having a foreign language in high school thus is very beneficial.

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES: Weight Training may be repeated if space is available; preference is naturally given to students who have not yet taken the course. Team Sports may be repeated if space is available. Students may take only one Physical Education class per year. Beginning next year, all 10th and 11th graders will be required to take one semester of Health (either Personal Health or Family Health).

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES: Current 8th graders must register for English Survey. Students are reminded that they will need one literature-based course and one writing-based course in order to meet graduation requirements.

MATHEMATICS COURSES: Entry or ninth grade level math courses list Initial Math Placement as a prerequisite. That prerequisite refers to a determination made by school personnel, subject to ultimate parental approval, as to which course will be of most benefit to each student in terms of challenge level and opportunity for success. Applied Mathematics I, Algebra I, and Fundamentals of Math are the entry level math courses. Successful completion of Applied Mathematics I will prepare students for either Algebra I or Applied Mathematics II the following year. Students are reminded that three years of math including Algebra I and Geometry (or their equivalents) are required for graduation. Completing Applied Math I, Applied Math II, and Applied Geometry will satisfy graduation requirements.

GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

| GRADE | REQUIRED | RECOMMENDED | ELECTIVES |
|----------|---|--|---|
| Ninth | English Survey Geo-Science World Geography Algebra I <i>OR</i> Applied Math I <i>OR</i> Geometry if ALG I completed as 8 th grader | Spanish I | Classes of personal or career interest to the student sufficient to fill the student's schedule. May include only one study hall. |
| Tenth | American Literature or Composition American History Biology Health (or 11 th) Careers/Personal Finance (or 11 th) Required coursework failed as a ninth grader | Geometry (may be taken in combination with Algebra II) <i>OR</i> Applied Math II Spanish I <i>OR</i> Spanish II | Classes of personal or career interest to the student sufficient to fill the student's schedule. May include only one study hall. |
| Eleventh | American Lit, Composition, Expository Writing World History Health (if not at 10 th grade) Careers/Personal Finance (or 10 th) Required coursework failed as a ninth or tenth grader | Additional math, science, or foreign language coursework needed to meet AGHS graduation or college admission requirements. | Classes of personal or career interest to the student sufficient to fill the student's schedule. May include only one study hall. |
| Twelfth | An English class Economics/Civics Coursework needed to meet AGHS graduation requirements (review transcripts with the counselor). | Additional math, science, social studies, English, or foreign language coursework needed to meet college admission requirements. | Classes of personal or career interest to the student sufficient to fill the student's schedule. May include only one study hall and one TA request. |

INFORMATION REGARDING COURSE SELECTION AND COLLEGE PREPARATION

Introduction

In the discussion that follows, students will learn:

What performance requirements must be met in order to be eligible for university level study

What high school coursework requirements must be met in order to be eligible for university level study

What high school course of study is recommended for students interested in continuing on to the university level

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln and its requirements are used as a basis for discussion in this booklet. Students and parents should understand that each college and/or university may have requirements that differ somewhat from those referenced here; at the same time, selecting a course of study that meets UNL's requirements will also meet requirements found at most colleges and universities. Anyone with questions or concerns about admission to an institution other than UNL should contact the guidance office. You will also find a fairly comprehensive listing of Nebraska two- and four-year program web links listed at the end of this section; accessing any link will take you to that institution's home page.

Students and parents are also cautioned that requirements for admission to university study are not the same as requirements for graduation from Ashland-Greenwood High School. In many subject areas, students can graduate from AGHS without being required to take the number of years of math, English, or science needed to gain admission to university study. That fact does not mean that the academic program at AGHS is in any way deficient; rather, the academic program at AGHS is designed to serve and provide opportunities for success to all students in the district. University admission requirements are designed to provide service only to a select group likely to be capable of success at the university level. Students wishing to be included in that select group must ensure that they complete the necessary coursework at the high school level.

Performance Requirements for Admission to University Level Study

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln has established standards for admission that are based on a student's performance relative to either other students in his or her class or to students nationwide. In order to be admitted to university level study, a student must:

Be ranked in the 50th percentile or higher of his or her graduating class in an accredited high school OR

Have received an enhanced ACT composite score of 20 or greater OR

Have received an SAT total score of 950 or greater

Specific colleges within the university system may have more restrictive requirements for admission; the guidance office should be consulted for questions on that matter.

High School Coursework Requirements for Admission to University Level Study

(NOTE: References to requirements below are expressed in terms of "units," a term preferred by UNL for evaluating high school transcript. A unit is equal to one full year of study for a given course; that would be equivalent to 10 credits toward meeting high school graduation requirements.)

English/Language Arts Requirements: 4 units; all units must include intensive reading and writing experiences

Foreign Language Requirements: 2 units of the same language; in most cases, students graduating from high school with 4 units of the same language will be exempted by the university from any college level language requirement; even students graduating with only 2 or 3 units may be eligible to test out of the college level language requirement

Mathematics Requirements: 4 units (must include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one unit that builds on a knowledge of algebra); two years of Applied Math will count as the equivalent of one year of Algebra I; students

following the applied math sequence and seeking admission to university level study will need to take Geometry and Algebra II during their junior year and Advanced Math during their senior year.

Natural Sciences Requirements: 3 units (including at least 2 units selected from biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science); 1 unit must include laboratory instruction

Social Sciences Requirements: 3 units (at least 1 unit of American and/or World History and one additional unit of history, government, and/or geography)

Recommended High School Course of Study for Students Interested in Continuing on to the University Level

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|---|---|
| <p><u>Ninth Grade</u> English Survey Algebra I GeoScience World Geography Spanish I Electives to Fill Schedule</p> | <p><u>Tenth Grade</u> An English Class (American Literature or Contemporary Novel or Basic Composition) Geometry (and Algebra II for likely math majors) American History Biology Spanish II Careers/Personal Finance (or 11th) Electives to Fill Schedule</p> |
| <p><u>Eleventh Grade</u> An English Class (American Literature or Contemporary Novel or Basic Composition or Expository Writing or World Literature or SCC Composition) Algebra II or Trigonometry World History Chemistry or Physics or Physical Science Spanish III Careers/Personal Finance (if not 10th) Electives to Fill Schedule</p> | <p><u>Twelfth Grade</u> An English Class (American Literature or Contemporary Novel or Basic Composition or Expository Writing or World Literature or SCC Composition) College Statistics <u>or</u> College Algebra, <u>or</u> College Calculus Economics/Civics Chemistry or Physics or College Biology Spanish IV Electives to Fill Schedule</p> |