

Understanding the Requirements (Part 1)

Purpose: Develop a clearer understanding of high school graduation requirements and college admissions requirements.

Objectives: This workshop will give you the tools to effectively:

- identify the A-G/college admissions requirements (course requirements for the University of California and California State University)
- understand the difference between high school requirements and A-G/college requirements

Benefits: Participation in this workshop will help you to:

- identify the courses you need to take to graduate from high school
- identify the courses you need to take to be eligible for college
- prepare for your future

Supplies: Some supplies are optional or can be substituted for other materials

- Poster board
- Q-cards
- Envelopes
- Adhesive
- Markers
- Decorative designs, etc.

Directions: You will need to create a Jeopardy board with questions assigned to each category. The categories should address the A-G/high school (H.S.) requirements. Make sure to have fun with the questions you ask, as your audience needs to be engaged. Make sure you have a silly category or allow for creativity.

Categories: A-G requirements should represent each category

A. History/Social Science—U.S. History, U.S. Government, World Civilization
B. English
C. Mathematics—Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher level Mathematics
D. Science—Physical, Biological/Life
E. Foreign Language—other than English
F. Visual/Performing Arts—Dance, Drama/Theater, Music, Visual Art
G. Elective

- Quantity per category: There should be about five questions representing each category. Each question should get progressively harder, (i.e., the easiest question should start with 100 points and the hardest question should be worth 500 points.).

Sample Questions:

- How many years of science are needed?
- What is the square root of 25?
- How many years of physical education do you need for college?
- What tests do you need to take to go to college?
- Make sure you throw in a few double Jeopardy questions for fun. For example: Where was Superman I filmed? Where do Mary Kate and Ashley Olson go to school? Name this song _____. Name the president and the university he attended.

Part 1 (15 min): Workshop Introduction

1. Welcome the group; introduce yourself and the workshop topic.
2. Review the “Purpose, Objectives and Benefits” (POB).
3. Activity: This activity will help you to get people moving around and into groups. This activity is best done in a space where people can move around freely. It will require you to be creative and enthusiastic, as you will be directing people to move around. Be considerate of the kinds of questions you ask as some people may have a hard time revealing a little bit about themselves.
4. Ask people how they are and wait to get a response. Once you have participant’s attention ask participants to:
 - Find a partner and introduce yourself to one another and share the name of your favorite president.
 - Find another partner that you don’t know/haven’t spoken to and tell him/her what your favorite book is.
 - Partner with a group of (please select a number) and add all of your ages together for total years of experience.
 - Find (please select a number) people who are wearing the same color shoes as you and discuss what came first the chicken or the egg.
 - Get into groups of (please select a number) and say a word in a foreign language.
 - Get into a group of (please select a number) and share the name of your favorite artist or movie.
 - Find (please select a number) people and share what you want to be when you grow up.
 - Partner up with another group until the entire group is divided evenly in half, then share the name of the college you want to attend.
5. Now that your group is divided in half, ask them to remain that way and to find a seat. Once your group is seated and calm you may begin the lesson by asking participants to reflect on the activity. Make sure you point out the connection between the activity and the themes below:
 - You have to follow the directions/requirements in order to be able to move on/be admitted.
 - The questions asked were related to the A-G requirements.
 - College will introduce you to a variety of people.
 - Help to broaden your perspective.
 - Get you thinking about your future.
6. This workshop is designed to help you identify and understand the difference between high school and college requirements.

Part 2 (10 min): High School Requirements

1. Explain: Each school is composed of different people with varying needs, thus each school/district gets to decide what requirements are best aligned with the demands of the state and the needs of its community. High school requirements indicate what coursework a student must complete in order to graduate from high school. For this reason it is imperative that students and parents identify and understand their school’s academic requirements.
2. At this time you should pass out the requirements for the high school and explain to the participants what the requirements are for graduation. (Refer to the attached IAP worksheet with high school requirements for an example).

Course	HS Req.
A. History/Social Science-- U.S. History, U.S. Government, World Civilization	3
B. English	4
C. Mathematics—Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher level mathematics	3--at least one year of Algebra
D. Science—Physical, Biological/Life	3--1 year of lab and 1 yr physical
E. Foreign Language—other than English	1--or 1 year of fine arts
F. Visual/Performing Arts—Dance, Drama/Theater, Music, Visual Art	1--or 1 year of foreign language
G. Elective	45 credits
Physical Education	2
Health	1/2 a year
Applied Arts	1/2 a year
Technology	1/2 a year
Economics	1/2 a year
Community Hours	40
Completed	220 credits

3. Ask participants if they have questions.
4. The high school requirements may be and often are different than college requirements. After all, the ultimate goal of high school requirements is to help students complete a general education.

Part 3 (10 min): A-G

1. Explain: While all colleges are different most four year accredited universities in California align their content requirements for admissions with those proposed by the University of California, the A-G requirements. The A-G requirements are a set of multidisciplinary college preparatory coursework that outline the content standards needed to qualify for a four year institution of higher education.
2. You may want to ask students to define “interdisciplinary.”
3. Explain: In order for students to meet the requirements for college admissions to the University of California, California State University and a number of private institutions they must complete the following college preparatory course work with a grade of C or better. (Refer to the IAP worksheet with college requirements as an example).

Course	California A-G/College Req.
A. History/Social Science—U.S. History, U.S. Government, World Civilization	2
B. English	4
C. Mathematics—Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, or higher level mathematics	3--must complete Algebra II
D. Science—Physical, Biological/Life	2-CSU requires 1 year of each
E. Foreign Language—other than English	2
F. Visual/Performing Arts—Dance, Drama/Theater, Music, Visual Art	1
G. Elective	1
Community Hours/Extra Curricular Activities	As many as possible/reasonable
GPA	Vary by School
Testing	SAT Reasoning or ACT, SAT Subject, vary
Essay	Vary by school

Keep in mind that while high school requirements don't always fulfill college requirements, college requirements almost always fulfill high school requirements. Thus, it is better to take college prep coursework that fulfill A-G requirements that will provide options for the future rather than taking the easy way out and not having the requirements needed to attend college.

Part 4 (20 min): A-G Jeopardy

1. The group should still be divided in half. That group will now become their team.
2. Explain: The teams are about to go head to head in an A-G Jeopardy challenge. Similar to Jeopardy, each group will have an opportunity to test their wit against their opponent.
 - Each team will have an opportunity to select a category and quantity.
 - The moderator/game host will proceed to read the question and give that team 15 seconds to identify an answer.
 - If the team does not answer correctly the opposing team has an opportunity to answer and steal their points (this will not affect their sequence in turns).
 - Repeat the process by alternating between groups.
 - Once all of the categories have been answered or one of the teams has reached the agreed upon point amount you may identify the winner.

Part 5 (5 min): Workshop Debrief

1. Relevant Questions:
 - What classes do you have to take to go to college?
 - Can you fulfill A-G requirements with high school requirements?
 - What do you feel was the most important thing you learned from today's workshop?
2. Explain: This workshop was intended to help you develop a clearer plan for fulfilling high school requirements and college requirements. You should be able to identify the A-G approved courses at your school and execute a plan to fulfill college and high school requirements.
3. Take questions and provide answers.
4. Thank you!

We know our college abc's!

A to G high school courses required for university admission

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
HISTORY/ SOCIAL SCIENCE 2 years required	ENGLISH 4 years required	MATH 3 years required 4 years recommended	LABORATORY SCIENCE 2 years required 3 years recommended	LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH 2 years required 3 years recommended	VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS 1 year required	ELECTIVE 1 year required

University of California, Santa Cruz- Educational Partnership Center



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