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A-G Implementation Plan FAQ

What are A-G requirements?

A-G requirements refers to the rigorous sequence of courses in seven subject areas required to be eligible for acceptance into the University of California.

How is A-G different from what is currently required for graduation? The changes are slight though significant (see chart below). For most students it would require a second year of foreign language and a third year of college preparatory mathematics.

How many SFUSD students are currently UC/CSU eligible (meeting A-G requirements and having the required GPA)? According to SFUSD data, 31% of SFUSD graduates in 2008 voluntarily met all the A-G course requirements and many met most of them. That means that 69% of last year's graduates were not UC eligible. However, when we examine our data on a subject-by-subject basis, we find that 62% of these graduates met the three-year UC requirement for math while 38% did not, and 65% of graduates met the two-year UC requirement for foreign language, while 35% did not.

What is the current implementation timeline for instituting A-G requirements for all SFUSD high school students?

In December, 2008, the San Francisco Board of Education approved a policy calling for the class of 2014 to meet all CSU graduation requirements. This would mean that entering 9th graders in 2010 will have the course work in place for them to meet this goal. SFUSD is on track and is currently sharing recommendations with various district departments, and community members for additional feedback and establishment of its implementation plan.

In order for a student to be eligible for the University of California they must take the required A-G course sequence and earn a 'C' or better in each class. If a student doesn't achieve the grade requirement of a "C" or above, will they still be able to graduate?

Yes, if students receive a 'D' grade they will be eligible to graduate though not eligible for admission into the UC system at the time of graduation.

Will students be able to opt out?

The Study Team did not propose that any student “opt out” but rather various graduation blueprints be designed to help students graduate with a diploma. Graduation blueprints will be developed and designed for students to reach the graduation requirements rather than to be excused from meeting them. Special Education students would continue to meet the requirements specified in their Individualized Education Plans.

How can we be sure that if all students are required to take high level courses they will not be watered down?

We can look to other districts that have already implemented this reform for assurances that this will increase rigor and not result in watered-down courses. San Jose Unified has been doing this for seven years and their data show that more students are enrolled in AP courses and are actually passing the AP exams with a score of 3 or better, which is a good indicator that instructional standards were not diluted.

What plan can we have for students who are very low on credits?

SFUSD has a team working on a plan for credit recovery and credit earning alternatives. This will allow students to make up credits and learn material that was missed. One option is to utilize on-line courses. Another may be through participation in internships, or co-enrollment in courses at the community college.

I would like more information on graduation rates where policies like these have been implemented. For example, have dropouts increased or diminished in San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD), which implemented this policy 7 years ago?

SJUSD has similar demographics as SFUSD and their graduation rate has held steady over the past 7 years since the A-G requirement has been in place. Other success measures, such as the number and percentage of seniors taking and passing at least one AP course, has sharply increased to 70% of the senior class.

Does UC recognize narrative evaluation or do students need to receive letter grades for their coursework?

As UC eligibility and admission is based partially on grade point average (GPA), students must receive letter grades for all A-G approved courses. UC campuses do not request, nor do they review, narrative evaluations for students.

How does UC treat non-traditional curriculum, such as interdisciplinary, integrated and/or project-based coursework? UC faculty has established clear guidelines that indicate the coursework students are expected to complete in order to be prepared to succeed at the University of California. The course requirements are divided by subject area (A-G requirements). Schools are free to offer curriculum in whatever format they feel is appropriate, but students will ultimately be expected to demonstrate completion of the A-G subject area requirements to be eligible for admissions. Some charter schools have successfully presented their non-traditional curriculum to UC for A-G course approval.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & Minimum College Admission “A-G” Requirements

High School Subject Area	Current SFUSD Graduation Requirements	University of California Requirements A-G	Proposed SFUSD Course Requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2014 (entering 9 th graders in 2010)
English “B” Requirement	4 years - 40 credits English 9, English 10 American Literature, European Literature	4 years college preparatory English	4 years - 40 credits English 9, English 10 American Literature, European Literature
Mathematics “C” Requirement	2 years- 20 credits Algebra & Geometry; or a third year college prep course if Algebra is taken in 8 th grade	3 years, including Algebra, Geometry, and intermediate Algebra. 4 years recommended	3 years – 30 credits, of college prep math including Algebra, Geometry, and intermediate Algebra or a-g approved course sequence in IMP
Science “D” Requirement	2 years- 20 credits (lab sciences) Biology; Chemistry or Physics	2 years with lab required; 3 recommended	2 years- 20 credits (lab sciences) Biology; Chemistry or Physics
Social Science “A” Requirement CA State Dept of Education (CDE) requirement	3 years – 30 credits Modern World History, United States History American Democracy & Economics	2 years: U.S. History, World History, Principles of American Democracy	3 years – 30 credits Modern World History, United States History American Democracy & Economics
Language Other Than English “E” Requirement	1 year of the same language other than English – 10 credits	2 years of the same Language Other Than English required, 3 years recommended	2 years – 20 credits of the same Language Other Than English
Visual and Performing Arts “F” Requirement	1 year - 10 credits Dance, Drama/Theater, Visual Art, Music	1 year in Visual & Performing Arts (Dance, Drama/Theater, Music or Visual Art)	1 year -10 credits- in Visual & Performing Arts (Dance, Drama/Theater, Music or Visual Art)
Physical Education CA State Dept	Minimum 2 years – 20 credits required by CA law. Students who fail to	None	Minimum 2 years – 20 credits required by CA law. Students who fail to pass CDE Fitness Test must retake the test annually until they pass and could be required to take up to 4 years of Physical Education. Students who pass the test

<i>of Education (CDE) requirement</i>	pass CDE Fitness Test must retake the test annually until they pass and could be required to take up to 4 years of Physical Education. Students who pass the test in grade 9 may choose to take the minimum 2 years. Failing to pass the physical fitness test is not grounds for withholding diploma.		in grade 9 may choose to take the minimum 2 years. Failing to pass the physical fitness test is not grounds for withholding diploma.
Health Education	5 credits	None	5 credits
College & Career course	2.5 credits	None	2.5 credits
Electives "G" Requirement	REQUIRED: 1 additional year of college preparatory Mathematics or Science – 10 credits 62.5 credits of other electives	"G" Requirement – 1 year or more of advanced courses in Math, Arts, English, lab Sciences, Foreign Language or Social Sciences	52.5 credits for electives including at least 1 year – 10 credits of advanced courses in Math, Arts, English, lab Sciences, Language Other Than English or Social Sciences
Total Credits/Units for graduation	230 total credits	15 units with a 'C' or better to meet college entrance requirements	230 total credits
Assessments	California High School Exit Exam; required for graduation. (Please see the SFUSD Student Handbook for more information) Must pass the SFUSD Swimming Proficiency Test	SAT Reasoning Test or ACT 2 SAT subject Tests Subject A –English Placement	California High School Exit Exam; required for graduation. (Please see the SFUSD Student Handbook for more information) Must pass the SFUSD Swimming Proficiency Test