South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
CHE Approved on May 7, 2015

College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements For Entering College Freshmen Beginning in Academic Year 2019-20

FOUR UNITS OF ENGLISH: All four units must have strong reading (including works of fiction and non-fiction), writing, communicating, and researching components. It is strongly recommended that students take two units that are literature based, including American, British, and World Literature.

FOUR UNITS OF MATHEMATICS: These units must include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. A fourth higher-level mathematics unit should be taken before or during the senior year.

THREE UNITS OF LABORATORY SCIENCE: Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical, earth, or life sciences and selected from among biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science) or from any laboratory science for which biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth science is a prerequisite. Courses in general or introductory science for which one of these four units is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It's strongly recommended that students desiring to pursue careers in science, mathematics, engineering or technology take one course in all four fields: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science.

TWO UNITS OF THE SAME WORLD LANGUAGE: Two units with a heavy emphasis on language acquisition.

THREE UNITS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: One unit of U.S. History, a half unit of Economics, and a half unit of Government are required. World History or Geography is strongly recommended.

ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS: One unit in appreciation of, history of, or performance in one of the fine arts. This unit should be selected from among media/digital arts, dance, music, theater, or visual and spatial arts.

ONE UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR ROTC. One unit of physical education to include one semester of personal fitness and another semester in lifetime fitness. Exemption applies to students enrolled in Junior ROTC and for students exempted because of physical disability or for religious reasons.

TWO UNITS OF ELECTIVES: Two units must be taken as electives. A college preparatory course in Computer Science (i.e., one involving significant programming content, not simply keyboarding or using applications) is strongly recommended for this elective. Other acceptable electives include college preparatory courses in English; fine arts; foreign languages; social science; humanities; mathematics; physical education; and laboratory science (courses for which biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science is a prerequisite).

Total: 20

NOTES

1. Foundations in Algebra and Intermediate Algebra may count together as a substitute for Algebra I if a student successfully completes Algebra II. No other courses may be substituted for the three required mathematics courses (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry).

2. Each institution may make exceptions in admitting students who do not meet all of the prerequisites, limited to those individual cases in which the failure to meet one or more prerequisites is due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student.

3. The College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements are minimal requirements for four-year public college admission. Therefore, students should check early with colleges of their choice to plan to meet additional high school prerequisites that might be required for admission and to prepare for college entrance examinations.

4. Students should prepare themselves for college-level work by enrolling in challenging high school courses, such as honors, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment courses.

5. It is the responsibility of each school district to disseminate this set of requirements to entering freshmen students interested in pursuing a four-year college degree in South Carolina upon graduation from high school and to provide the web address for their viewing: http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/academicaffairs/College_Preparatory_Course_Prerequisite_Requirements_Fall_2019.pdf.

6. This revision of the College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements shall be fully implemented for students entering high schools beginning Fall 2015 and colleges and universities as freshmen beginning in Fall 2019. In the interim period, the 2011-12 version of the Prerequisites (approved by the Commission on Higher Education on October 5, 2006) remains acceptable.

7. The next revision cycle should begin in Fall 2020.

Policy originally approved by the SC Commission on Higher Education on April 7, 1983. Revisions approved: October 8, 1987; December 7, 1989; November 4, 1993; November 5, 1998; September 5, 2002; October 5, 2006; and May 7, 2015.

For Informational Purposes: Comparison of College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements to High School Diploma Requirements*

College Preparatory Course Prerequisites (for Entering College Freshmen Beginning in 2019)	***Recommended Courses to Meet the 2019 College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements****	***Current High School Diploma Requirements (SCDE) Effective 6/28/13***
FOUR UNITS OF ENGLISH: All four units must have strong reading (including works of fiction and non-fiction), writing, communicating, and researching components. It is strongly recommended that students take two units that are literature based, including American, British, and World Literature.	English 1 English 2 English 3 English 4 IB English Courses AP English Courses	**English Language Arts = 4 units** *English 1, 2, 3, 4*
FOUR UNITS OF MATHEMATICS: These units must include Algebra I***, Algebra II, and Geometry. A fourth higher-level mathematics unit should be taken before or during the senior year.	Algebra I*** Geometry Algebra II Fourth higher-level mathematics unit selected among: Algebra III Precalculus Calculus Probability and Statistics Discrete Mathematics Computer Science**** IB Mathematics Courses AP Mathematics Courses AP Computer Science	**Mathematics = 4 units** *Algebra 1, 2* *Geometry* *Pre-calculus* *Calculus* *Discrete Mathematics* *Probability and Statistics*
THREE UNITS OF LABORATORY SCIENCE: Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical, earth, or life sciences and selected from among biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science) or from any laboratory science for which biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth science is a prerequisite. Courses in general science or introductory science for which one of these four units is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It is strongly recommended that students desiring to pursue careers in science, mathematics, engineering or technology take one course in all four fields: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science	Biology Chemistry Physics Earth Science IB Science Courses AP Science Courses	**Science = 3 units** *Physical Science* *Earth Science* *Biology 1, 2* *Chemistry 1, 2* *Physics*
TWO UNITS OF THE SAME WORLD LANGUAGE: Two units with a heavy emphasis on language acquisition.	Spanish French German American Sign Language (ASL) Chinese Japanese Russian Classics (Latin, Greek, Hebrew)	**Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education = 1 unit**

College Preparatory Course Prerequisites (for Entering College Freshmen Beginning in 2019)	***Recommended Courses to Meet the 2019 College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements*****	***Current High School Diploma Requirements (SCDE) Effective 6/28/13***
THREE UNITS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE: One unit of U.S. History, a half unit of Economics, and a half unit of Government are required. World History or Geography is strongly recommended.	U.S. Government Economics U.S. History and Constitution World Geography Western Civilization Psychology Sociology IB Social Science Courses AP Social Science Courses	**U.S. History and Constitution = 1 unit** **Economics = ½ unit** **U.S. Government = ½ unit** Other Social Studies = 1 unit *World History* *World Geography*
ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS: One unit in appreciation of, history of, or performance in one of the fine arts. This unit should be selected from among media/digital arts, dance, music, theater, or visual and spatial arts.	Art (Media, Visual, Digital) Chorus Instrumental Music Dance Music Theater AP Fine Arts Courses IB Fine Arts Courses Art Appreciation Music Appreciation	
ONE UNIT OF PHYSICAL/HEALTH EDUCATION OR ROTC: One unit of physical education to include one semester of personal fitness and another semester in lifetime fitness. Exemption applies to students enrolled in Junior ROTC and for students exempted because of physical disability or for religious reasons.	Physical Education Health Education ROTC	**Physical Education or Junior ROTC = 1 unit**
TWO UNITS OF ELECTIVES: Two units must be taken as electives. A college preparatory course in Computer Science**** is strongly recommended for this elective. Other acceptable electives include college preparatory courses in English; fine arts; foreign languages; social science; humanities; mathematics; physical education; and laboratory science (courses for which biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science is a prerequisite)**.**	A college preparatory course in Computer Science**** is strongly recommended for this elective. Other acceptable electives include college preparatory courses in English; fine arts; foreign languages; social science; humanities; mathematics; physical education; and laboratory science (science courses for which biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science is a prerequisite).	**Electives = 7 units**

NOTES:

* Each institution may make exceptions in admitting students who do not meet all of the prerequisites, limited to those individual cases in which the failure to meet one or more prerequisites is due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student.

** This list of courses will be reviewed each year. Schools that offer dual enrollment courses should consult with and receive written approval from the Commission before using such courses to meet these requirements.

*** Foundations in Algebra and Intermediate Algebra may count together as a substitute for Algebra I if a student successfully completes Algebra II. No other courses may be substituted for the three required mathematics courses (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry).

**** Computer Science should involve significant programming content, not simply be keyboarding or using applications.