



**Commission on  
Higher Education**

Dr. Gail M. Morrison  
Interim Executive Director

CHE  
10/05/06  
Agenda Item 4.02.I.

October 5, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing *BRH/rk*

**Proposed Changes in College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements**  
**Effective Date: Academic Year 2011-12**  
**Entering College Freshmen**

At the ACAP meeting of July 31, 2006, the members and institutional delegates present agreed unanimously to accept revisions to the current College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements (revised 2003-2004). Subsequently, all institutions reaffirmed their support of this by the action of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing at its meeting on September 7, 2006.

Attached you will find a copy of the College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements which, if approved by the Commission, will become required of graduating seniors in South Carolina for admission to our colleges and universities in Fall 2011. This draft has been marked up electronically in those areas which are revised from the 2003-04 document.

The reasons for this change are multiple:

- In continuing studies by ACT and other testing organizations, four years of high school mathematics is correlated very highly with success in college.

- The preference for taking the fourth course in mathematics in the senior year of high school has been expressed often at ACAP, based upon the institutions' evidence-based experience of the freshman year at South Carolina's four-year institutions of public higher education.
- Requiring a course unit in one of the Fine Arts is important for aligning the precollege curriculum with the *Understanding University Success* document which has been adopted unanimously by ACAP and endorsed by both the State Department of Education's Division of Curriculum Services and Assessment and the Office of High School Redesign.
- Requiring a course in the Fine Arts is in alignment with the 2000 study *Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning* funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the General Electric Fund. That study shows the impact on learning across the board that comes from studying the arts and the consequent development of the creative enterprise in thinking.
- Reducing the number of required course units from 20 to 19 (including one precollege elective) more closely aligns the precollege curriculum with the goals of the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) by providing more choices for students for depth in particular fields of precollege study; and b) permitting students enough units outside the prerequisites to take a complete five -unit "career cluster" of courses in addition to meeting the college prerequisites.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the proposed revised College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements, to become effective for high school graduates entering as freshmen in Fall 2011 in South Carolina's public four-year institutions.

Enclosure: 2006 Revision (Draft)

**College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements**

**Effective Date: Academic Year 2011-12**

**Entering College Freshman**

Deleted: COLLEGE  
PREPARATORY COURSE  
PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS  
EFFECTIVE DATE: ACADEMIC  
YEAR 2003-2004

**FOUR UNITS OF ENGLISH:** At least two units must have strong grammar and composition components, at least one must be in **English literature**, and at least one must be in **American literature**. Completion of **College Preparatory English I, II, III, and IV** will meet this criterion.

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**FOUR UNITS OF MATHEMATICS:** These include **Algebra I** (for which **Applied Mathematics I and II** may count together as a substitute if a student successfully completes **Algebra II**), **Algebra II**, and **Geometry**. A **fourth higher-level mathematics course** should\* be selected from among **algebra III/trigonometry, precalculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics, or a capstone mathematics course** and should\*\* be taken during the senior year.

Deleted: is strongly recommended.  
The fourth course

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

**TWO UNITS OF THE SAME FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**THREE UNITS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE:** One unit of **U.S. History** is required; a half unit of **Economics** and a half unit in **Government** are strongly recommended.

**ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS:** One unit in **Appreciation of, History of, or Performance** in one of the Fine Arts.

Deleted: FOUR UNITS OF  
ELECTIVES: Four college preparatory  
units must be taken from at least three  
different fields selected from among  
Computer Science,

**ELECTIVE:** One unit must be taken as an elective. A college-preparatory course in **Computer Science (i.e., one involving significant programming content, not simply keyboarding)** is strongly recommended for this elective. Other acceptable electives include college-preparatory courses in **English, Fine Arts,**

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Foreign Languages, Social Science Humanities, Laboratory Science (excluding earth science, general physical science, general environmental science or other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite), or Mathematics above the level of Algebra II.

**Deleted:** It is suggested that one unit be in Computer Science which includes programming (i.e., not just keyboarding) and one unit in Fine Arts (appreciation of, history, or performance).

## ONE UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR ROTC

Total: 19

**Deleted: NOTE:**

### NOTES

1. Each institution may make exceptions in admitting a) 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 or b) students who have taken the Tech Prep (Applied Academics) courses rather than the required college preparatory curriculum described above and who meet all other institutional admissions criteria.
2. 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 such colleges might require for admission.
3. 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/New\\_Web/GoingToCollege/CollPrepPrereq.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoingToCollege/CollPrepPrereq.htm)
4. This revision of the Pre-College Course Prerequisite Requirements shall be fully implemented for students entering colleges and universities as freshmen beginning in Fall 2011. In the interim period, either the 2003-04 version of the Prerequisites or the current version is acceptable.

Revised: September  
2006

\* "must" replaced with "should" by Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing action of September 7, 2006

\*\* "should be" replaced with "recommended to be" by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing action of September 7, 2006

Not available until approved by CHE

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## **College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements**

**Effective Date: Academic Year 2011-12**

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**Foreign Languages, Social Science Humanities, Laboratory Science (excluding earth science, general physical science, general environmental science or other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite), or Mathematics above the level of Algebra II.**

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