

July 31, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members, Advisory Committee on Academic Programs

**From:** Dr. R. Lynn Kelley, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Consideration of Revisions to College Course Prerequisites**

**Background**

Implementation of the EEDA and the State Department of Education's review of high school graduation requirements imposed a responsibility to align the current (updated March 2003) *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements* with the high school curriculum and provided the public higher education community with an opportunity to define the appropriate precollegiate curriculum in favor of an educational experience of quality for preparing students for freshman-level collegiate coursework.

Through the Expanded ACAP, the Commission and public institutions of higher education have pledged to review the present set of *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements* for possible revision in the Fall 2006.

**Proposed Revision**

In keeping with informal feedback during the meetings of the Expanded ACAP group from a variety of participants in higher education and K-12, the following possible revisions to the current *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements* are being offered, by subject matter and by number of units required.

	Units	
	Current	Proposed
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Laboratory Science	3	3
Foreign Language	2	2
Social Science	3	3
Electives	4	1**
Computer Science	--	1
Fine Arts	--	1
PhysEd or ROTC	1	1
TOTAL	20	19

\*A fourth college preparatory mathematics course selected from among algebra III/trigonometry; precalculus; calculus; statistics; or discrete mathematics.

\*\*An elective to be selected from an additional college preparatory course in Computer Science, English, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, 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.)

**Rationale:**

For each of the additional courses proposed here, the following are offered as a rationale:

***Fourth Year College Preparatory Mathematics***

The addition of the fourth year of college-level mathematics is proposed because of the consensus among K-12 and college educators at the Expanded ACAP meetings who have urged that all college-going students have at least four years of

mathematics. *They have also urged that the fourth course be taken throughout the senior year of high school.*

### ***Fine Arts***

The high school curriculum allows for this and there is no other category within the current Precollegiate Curriculum to place this requirement.

### ***Computer Science***

The introduction of a course in computer science is in keeping both with the requirements for high school graduation and with the developing economic and social needs for computer-based knowledge.

### ***Reduction to 19 Required Courses and one Elective***

The reduction of electives to one and the addition of definite subject matter designations in a fourth year of math, a full year of computer science and a full year of a fine arts course all serve to add depth and rigor to the precollegiate curriculum requirements. Likewise, reducing the total number of required course units to 19 in the precollege curriculum allows a student to take whatever five courses (s)he might choose for a high school “career cluster” and still graduate with 24 units of credit, as required by the State Department of Education.

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs consider adoption of the revised *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements* as outlined above, to be phased in for full implementation for graduating high school seniors in Spring 2010.

Attachment: *Current College preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements*  
(Updated March 2003)