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CHE
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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman John L. Finan and Members, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Revisions to College Preparatory Course Prerequisites

The College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements Task Force was created to review the current (last revised in March 2006) *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements*. The Task Force was directed to align the *College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements* with the high school curriculum and graduation requirements and provide the public higher education community with an opportunity to define the appropriate pre-collegiate curriculum necessary to prepare students for college-level coursework. The Task Force met August 25, 2014; September 17, 2014; and December 5, 2014 to review the current college preparatory requirements, high school graduation requirements, and high school courses offered. The Task Force recommended several revisions to the college preparatory course prerequisites, which resulted in the following documents that are provided for your consideration:

- A draft of the revised College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements
- A draft of a Comparison Chart of Changes in College Preparatory Course Prerequisites, which includes current high school graduation requirements, current college preparatory course prerequisites, proposed college preparatory course prerequisites, and high school courses meeting the proposed prerequisites.

Please note that the revisions presented to ACAP for consideration are based on currently approved high school courses and compared to recommendations by College Board and ACT. The Task Force also recommends that the list of high school courses meeting the proposed prerequisites be reviewed on an annual basis.

Proposed Revision

The Task Force chose to make the document broader in nature and to develop a separate document listing the specific high school courses meeting the prerequisites. Some key changes in the revised document include the following:

- Applied Mathematics I and II were deleted from the approved list as these courses are no longer offered in South Carolina high schools. New courses titled **Foundations in Algebra*** and **Intermediate Algebra*** may count together as a substitute for Algebra I if a student successfully completes Algebra II.
- Earth Science was added as a new science field.
- Foreign Language was changed to World Language to reflect the current standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).
- American Sign Language (ASL) was added to the list of accepted high school courses.
- The number of required electives was increased to two units from one unit.
- Computer science was included as a recommended course in mathematics, or an elective with the recommendation that computer science should involve significant programming content, not simply keyboarding or using applications.
- A statement was added to the notes encouraging students to 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.
- The total required units were increased from 19 to 20 in order to include the additional elective.

The chart below compares the recommended revisions to the current College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements by subject matter and number of units required.

Subject	Units	
	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Laboratory Science	3	3
World Language	2	2
Social Science	3	3
Fine Arts	1	1
Physical Education or ROTC	1	1
Electives	1	2
TOTAL	19	20

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission adopt the revised *College Ready Course Prerequisite Requirements* as outlined above, to be phased in for full implementation and applied to entering college freshmen beginning in Fall 2019.

*The names of highlighted courses were adjusted after the April 8, 2015 CAAL meeting to the current course name and reflect information received from the South Carolina Department of Education.

College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements
Effective Date: Academic Year 2019-20
For Entering College Freshmen

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.
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/New_Web/GoingToCollege/CollPrepPrereq.htm. **Please note the (underscore) character between the words "New" and "Web" in the URL.**
6. This revision of the College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements shall be fully implemented for students entering 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.

**The names of highlighted courses were adjusted after the April 8, 2015 CAAL meeting to the current course name and reflect information received from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Comparison Chart of Changes in High School Course Prerequisites*

Current HS Diploma Requirements (SCDE) 6/28/13	College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2011	Proposed College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2019	Recommended Courses
English Language Arts = 4 units English 1, 2, 3, 4	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.	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
Mathematics=4 units Algebra 1, 2 <i>Geometry</i> <i>Pre-calculus</i> <i>Calculus</i> <i>Discrete Mathematics</i> <i>Probability and Statistics</i>	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.	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 Algebra III Precalculus Calculus Probability and Statistics Discrete Mathematics Computer Science*** IB Mathematics Courses AP Mathematics Courses AP Computer Science
Science=3 units <i>Physical Science</i> <i>Earth Science</i> Biology 1, 2 <i>Chemistry 1, 2</i> <i>Physics</i>	THREE UNITS OF LABORATORY SCIENCE: Two units must be taken in two different fields of the 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	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,	Biology Chemistry Physics Earth Science IB Science Courses AP Science Courses

Current HS Diploma Requirements (SCDE) 6/28/13	College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2011	Proposed College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2019	Recommended Courses
	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 this 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.	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	
Foreign Language or Career and Technology Education = 1 unit	TWO UNITS OF THE SAME FOREIGN LANGUAGE.	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)
U.S. History and Constitution = 1 unit Economics = ½ unit U.S. Government = ½ unit Other Social Studies = 1 unit <i>World History</i> <i>World Geography</i>	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.	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

Current HS Diploma Requirements (SCDE) 6/28/13	College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2011	Proposed College Preparatory High School Course Prerequisites (Entering College Freshmen) 2019	Recommended Courses
	ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS: One unit in Appreciation of, History of, or Performance in one of the fine arts.	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
Physical Education or Junior ROTC = 1 unit	ONE UNIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR ROTC.	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
Electives = 7 units	ONE UNIT OF 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; 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.	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).

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.
- ** **Foundations in Algebra**¹ and **Intermediate Algebra**¹ may count together as a substitute for Algebra I if a student successfully completes Algebra II.
- *** Computer Science should involve significant programming content, not simply be keyboarding or using applications.

¹The names of highlighted courses were adjusted after the April 8, 2015 CAAL meeting to the current course name and reflect information received from the South Carolina Department of Education.

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