

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM PLANNER

Below are some suggestions for planning your high school course selections. It is important to keep in mind your career goals and select course work that will help you to prepare to achieve your goals.

Each student, with parental guidance, will develop his/her own schedule with the help of a school administrator. This system allows the student to select his/her classes. Eventually courses (especially electives) fill up; therefore, all students should plan alternatives.

Each student and parent can help assure success in scheduling by:

1. planning a four year program (grades 9 - 12) that is flexible;
2. participating jointly in the scheduling process;
3. being fully aware of course content and requirements for each course the student is considering;
4. knowing the graduation requirements and making a check list for meeting those graduation requirements.

As you are planning your child's high school career, keep in mind the following courses of study offered by ACS.

1. **COLLEGE PREPARATORY** - this course of study is designed to prepare the student to do well both on college entrance exams and in college. The College Prep course requires upper level math, science and foreign language.
2. **GENERAL EDUCATION** - This course of study is designed to prepare the student for a college with an open enrollment policy or to enter the work force for which no formal college education is required. Students taking this course are required only to complete courses in basic or functional math and science. No foreign language is required. Many students who choose this course of study do enter and are capable of successfully completing college work.
3. **BASIC EDUCATION** - This course of study is designed for the student who is unable to meet the requirements for graduation through the college prep or general education program. Students who complete this course of study graduate with a standard diploma but transcripts are noted with the phrase, "Student is working significantly below grade level."

General Information

Class Size:

As a general guideline-each secondary grade level is capped at 56 students. This allows for two sections of each class with no class being larger than 28 students. The exceptions to this are the sophomore, junior, and senior Bible classes. These classes have one section each so the class size is the entire enrollment for that grade.

High School Credit Transfer Policy:

Transfer out:

Credit is earned in .5 credit increments. Each class which meets every day for a semester earns .5 credit. Credit is posted on a transcript at the end of 1st and 2nd semester. If the student's account is clear official transcripts are sent to the receiving school at the school's request or given to the parent in a sealed envelope at the parent's request.

Transfer in:

ACS accepts credit that is posted on an official transcript from a school or tutoring program approved to issue credit. Credit is transferred as it appears on the sending transcript. If a letter grade is not given, the grade will be posted on the ACS transcript based on the ACS grading scale. 1 credit is equivalent to 130 contact hours.

Dual Enrollment:

ACS allows students to dual enroll in either college or home school (IDEA, Denali Peak, Raven, etc.) classes. In order to remain true to our philosophy and core values, students who wish to graduate from ACS and are dual enrolled may not **substitute** a class through an alternative program for a core class (Bible, English, math, science, and history) at ACS. An exception will be made for the student enrolled in classes other than Bible through a Christian university with a similar biblical philosophy, e.g. Liberty University's online program or Wayland Baptist University. The student may take and receive credit for other Bible classes taken *in addition* to the required ACS class but must at a minimum take the Bible class offered for their schedule at ACS.

University Classes:

ACS formally partners with Grand Canyon University and Liberty University for dual high school/ college enrollment. A student may enroll in other colleges if they choose. ACS does not allow a student to substitute a college course for a required ACS core course unless the college course is taken through a Christian university.

ACS transfers credit using the following formula: 3 credit college hour = .5 high school credit. This is communicated verbally to the parent and student when they discuss with the academic dean enrollment in a university course. The class and grade is posted as it appears on the sending transcript. No extra weight is given to college level credit when posted on the high school transcript.

Some determining factors in deciding which course of study is right for your child include the following:

1. your expectations for your child;
2. your anticipated date for your child's graduation;
3. your child's age at the time of enrollment;
4. your child's age at the projected graduation time if he pursues a full college prep program;
5. your child's functional level as determined by standard achievement tests;
6. your child's goals.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE

The four outlines below are designed to provide guidance in order to help you plan high school course selections. As you meet with an administrator to schedule classes, specific course suggestions will be offered to help in class selection and long range planning.

23 credits are required for graduation from ACS.

English	4 credits
Bible	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	2 credits
P.E.	1 credit
Electives	5 credits

9th grade

English
Geography/Alaska History
Math
Physical Science
Bible
P.E.
Elective

11th grade

English
U.S. History
Bible
Math
Science or elective
Elective
Elective

10th grade

English
World History
Math
Biology
Bible
Elective
Elective

12th grade

English
Civics
Bible
Math or elective
Science or elective
Elective
Elective

SUGGESTED COLLEGE PREP PROGRAMS

Technical schools, colleges and universities vary in their entrance requirements. Because of this fact, it is difficult to specify a particular course of study for those students who plan to continue their post secondary training. However, the three examples provided should give guidance to those students who plan to continue their education beyond high school. It is also recommended that students contact specific colleges their junior year of high school in order to learn the entrance expectations of that particular school.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Math (more recommended)	2 credits
Science (more recommended)	2 credits
P.E.	1 credit
Computer (recommended)	1 credit

4 YEAR COLLEGES

English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Math	2 - 3 credits
Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry	
Science	2 - 3 credits
Physical Science, Biology	
Computer (recommended)	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits
P.E.	1 credit
AP Courses if offered	

SELECTIVE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Algebra I, II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus	
Social Studies	3 - 4 credits
Science	4 credits
Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	
P.E.	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 - 3 credits
Computer	1 credit
AP Courses if offered	

Admission to selective colleges is highly competitive. Twenty-five percent or fewer of the candidates may be accepted. Successful candidates should have very high grade point averages and exceptional ACT and SAT scores.

Academic Awards to strive for during high school

National Honor Society-

Selection for NHS is made during 4th quarter each year. Academic requirement is a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher. Students also must excel in the areas of character, service and leadership. Students who were in NJHS in junior high must reapply for National Honor Society once they are in high school. Announcements will be made approximately two weeks prior to the deadline. Students must take the initiative to pick an application from the NHS sponsor and verify their cumulative GPA.

Academic Excellence Award / Academic Letter-

Students qualify for the Academic excellence Award by maintaining two consecutive semesters with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Silver and gold stars are awarded for each additional semester with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Honor Graduate-

Students qualify for Honor Graduate by maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher following seven high school semesters. Honor cords are awarded at Senior Breakfast and worn at Graduation.

Class Rank

Class rank is determined by the cumulative average of all courses taken at Anchorage Christian Schools. Advanced Placement courses taken at ACS are weighted on a 5 point scale. University courses taken for dual credit are not weighted.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

To be selected as Valedictorian/ Salutatorian a student must:

1. Have "A's" in all the classes he/she has taken including elective courses;
2. Take the following college prep course of study;
 - a. 4 credits English to include a full year of AP English Literature and Composition
 - b. 4 credits on math to include a full year of AP Calculus
 - c. 4 credits of science to include a full year of chemistry and either Anatomy or Adv. Chemistry/ Physics
 - d. 4 credits of history
 - e. 4 credits of Bible to include Comparative ReligionsNo substitutions may be made to the above course list.
3. Receive an "A" in the Advanced Placement courses offered at ACS;
4. Have the highest percentage average for the AP courses taken at ACS;
5. In case of a tie for valedictorian, co-valedictorians will be recognized. There will be no salutatorian.

UA Scholar

The University of Alaska offers an \$11,000 scholarship to the top 10% of the graduating class. Recipients are chosen based on their class standing at the end of their junior year. Selection is based on the students cumulative GPA as of June following the junior year. In the case of a tie the students with the most advanced coursework will be selected. If after considering the student's coursework there is still a tie then student's percentage grades from 9-11th grades will be used to determine the winner.

Alaska Performance Scholarship This program awards scholarships to students attending Alaskan Postsecondary schools. This includes private schools, state schools and trade or vocational schools. Scholarship awards are based on the students' high school courses, college entrance exam scores and cumulative GPA at the end of the senior year. Go to the internet site below for scholarship requirements and application procedures.

http://akadvantage.alaska.gov/Grants_and_Scholarships/Alaska_Performance_Scholarship.aspx