

High School Graduation Requirements

Colorado Springs Early Colleges' High School graduation requirements are based on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) standards, commonly referred to as the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR).

In meeting the HEAR requirements, our students are better positioned for admission into Colorado's public four-year colleges or universities. Meeting these does not guarantee admission to a four-year public institution as colleges and universities may have additional requirements. Each school publishes an Admission Eligibility Index (a calculation based on high school grade point average and entrance exam scores (ACT and/or SAT)) to reflect their proposed baseline of academic performance for incoming freshman. High school students can then target their high school academic performance as well as judge the academic fit between student and school.

Private colleges and universities create their own admission standards which may differ from HEAR. Students are encouraged to contact these institutions to acquire the school's specific admission requirements. Community colleges have open enrollment policies; students who apply to these schools are automatically accepted and do not need to meet the HEAR standards.

Students can obtain specific information on college and university admission requirements (public, private or community; in-state or out-of-state) by visiting the CSEC Counseling's College library (located in the counseling conference room) or exploring College in Colorado's website at www.collegeincolorado.org. Computers are available in the student computer lab as well as the counseling library for student use.

For more information on CCHE Higher Education Admission Requirements, please visit the CCHE website at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/coursecompletion.html>. For more information on Admission Eligibility Index scores, see College in Colorado's *College Guide* or visit the CCHE's Admission Eligibility Index calculator at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Admissions/IndexScore/default.asp> or matrix at <http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Policies/Current/i-partf-index.pdf>.

CSEC Graduation Requirements versus HEAR

Academic Area	HEAR Standards	CSEC Graduation Requirements
English	4 years	4 credits
Math	4 years	4 credits
Natural Science (at least 1 year must be lab-based)	3 years	3 credits
Social Science (at least 1 semester must be U.S. or World History)	3 years	3 credits

Foreign Language	1 year	2 credits
Physical Education	N/A	2 credits
Career Planning	N/A	1 credit
Academic Electives	2 years	1 credit

The Colorado Department of Education allows CSEC students to meet the HEAR standards (and fulfill high school graduation requirements) through the following alternatives:

- English
 - Completing English 090 = 3 years/high school credits
 - Passing one college-level English class with C or better = 4 years/high school credits
- Math
 - Completing Math 090 = 3 years/high school credits
 - Passing one college-level Math class with C or better = 4 years/high school credits

CSEC requires its students to meet standards above and beyond the HEAR so they will better compete against their fellow college and workforce applicants. The following outlines what the CSEC counseling and academic teams advise.

- Math 099 is not required to graduate from CSEC. However, it is a pre-requisite at PPCC for taking College Algebra. It is also strongly recommended that students pursue College Algebra as most colleges and universities require it in their respective degree plans. Students are encouraged to prepare for career changes by taking both Math 099 and College Algebra.
- The HEAR standards propose 1 year of foreign language. However, many colleges and universities require 2 years as part of their admission requirements. In addition, most institutions prefer to see students take the same language both years (i.e., Spanish I and II).
- Career Planning is a college-level course that is not required by HEAR, but is required to graduate from CSEC. This class introduces students to the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for academic, work, and life-related success. Students are strongly encouraged to take the class (INTD111) on-campus; however, CSEC will accept one of the following courses as substitution if a student is unable to complete it at CSEC:
 - PPCC-AAA101 College 101: Student Experience
 - UCCS-ID101 Freshman Seminar

Initial Course Placement

Students are placed into the appropriate classes as determined by their Accuplacer results. What follows is the breakdown for mapping students to their appropriate level of coursework. Students must test College-Ready in both Reading Comprehension and Sentence Structure in order to place College-Ready in English through the Accuplacer test.

Accuplacer English	Range of Scores	Course Placement
Reading Comprehension	0-39	030

	40-61	060
	62-79	090
	80+	College-Ready
Sentence Structure	0-49	030
	50-69	060
	70-94	090
	95+	College-Ready
Accuplacer Math		
	Range of Scores	Course Placement
Elementary Arithmetic	0	030
	1-44	060
	45-60	090
	61-84	099
	85+	College-Ready

To ensure maximum student preparation and success, CSEC refines the placement process with further department-level testing for those who test College-Ready via their Accuplacer results. In some cases, students who test College-Ready through the Accuplacer but have difficulty with the departmental tests, will be placed in the College Preparatory classes (i.e., ENG 090 or MAT 090) to give them more time to hone their skills before engaging the rigor of college-level material.

CSEC Department Tests	Range of Scores	Course Placement
English	Proficient	ENG111
	Partially Proficient	ENG111, with ENG095
	Not Proficient	ENG 090
Math	13-15	MAT120, 121, or 135
	7-12	MAT 099
	<7	MAT 090

Course and Credit Progression

This section outlines the typical progression through the CSEC curriculum and how credits are evaluated. Please see the CSEC Course Descriptions for more detailed information on specific courses.

High School Credits

- In general, a one-semester high school class = 0.5 credit
- English
 - 030 (5th/6th grade equivalency): one semester course earning 0.5 credit
 - 060 (7th/8th grade equivalency): two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
 - 090 (9th grade equivalency): two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
 - With teacher approval, students can attempt to finish both sections of a course (i.e., English 060A and 060B) in one semester, receiving credits for all classes as they are completed.
- Math

- 030 (5th/6th grade equivalency): one semester course earning 0.5 credit
- 060 (7th/8th grade or Pre-Algebra equivalency): two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
- 090 (9th grade or Algebra I equivalency): two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
- 095 Financial Math (9th – 12th grade equivalency): two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
- 099: two semester course earning 0.5 credit per semester
- Foreign Language
 - With teacher permission, students can attempt to finish both semesters of the curriculum (i.e., Spanish IA and IB) in one semester, receiving 0.5 credits for each semester completed.

College Course Credits (subject to change)

The following table shows how CSEC translates college credit hours to high school credits in order to track a student's graduation progress:

College Credit	High School Credit
1-credit hour course	0.5 credit
2- or 3- credit hour course	1.0 credit
4-credit hour course	1.5 credits
5-credit hour course	2 credits

Mastery

Students earn credit toward high school graduation requirements with grades of C or better. Anything below 70% is recorded as an F and no credit is earned.

Several CTU Associate degree plans require grades of 73% or higher in the pre-requisite college courses in order for students to continue taking higher-level college courses.

Part-time versus Full-time

The Colorado Department of Education has laid out guidelines for determining a student's status as either full-time or part-time. The following table outlines how CDE evaluates this. However, the Counseling and Academic teams strongly advise students to maximize their time (and free college tuition) at CSEC and take as many courses as they find both challenging and manageable.

Coursework Type	Full-Time Course Load	Part-Time Course Load
College Courses only	7+ college credit hours	<7 college credit hours
College Prep courses only	4 classes	1 class
Combination – College & College Prep courses	3 college credit hours & 1 class	

Off-Campus Options

Please refer to the Post-Secondary Enrollment Process forms (located outside the Counseling Office or via download from the school website, www.csec914.org) to facilitate enrollment at PPCC, UCCS, or CTU.

For CTU, students are considered on-campus if they are taking CSEC CTU College semester classes built for CSEC high school students; they are considered off-campus when taking college courses from CTU's traditional, quarter-based, adult program.

The following points are some important things to keep in mind when considering enrolling off-campus:

- Students are welcome to go off-campus to take classes that are not offered on-campus.
- On-line courses are possible by exception with Academic Dean approval only!
- CSEC strongly encourages the following students to stay on-campus
 - 9th and 10th grade students
 - First-time college students
 - Students who have previously failed one or more off-campus college courses
- Students who have previously demonstrated success being off-campus are able to take off-campus summer school classes after meeting with Carol Earnhart to determine their year's fund balance.