

High School/Postsecondary Curriculum Requirements

School counselors are asked to monitor the high school graduation requirements to ensure that each student is on track to complete the necessary coursework to graduate. In addition to these requirements established by the Department of Education, students must also be mindful of the curriculum and course units that are necessary for meeting admissions, Regents' Scholar diploma, and Opportunity Scholarship requirements in the event they are interested in pursuing postsecondary opportunities. Students must have no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for a course/unit to count toward meeting the curriculum requirement. The matrix below provides a useful tool for comparing the unique differences that exist across each of these areas.

SD Public Institution Admissions – The six Regental institutions have a common set of course admission requirements for those students seeking to be admitted as an associates or bachelors' degree seeking student. These 6 course requirements must be met in addition to meeting at least one of the following criteria which include: 1) rank in the top 60 percent of their high school graduating class; obtain an ACT composite score of 18 (SAT-I score of 870) or above (21 or higher at SDSMT and USD); or 3) obtain a high school GPA of at least 2.6 on a 4.0 scale.

Regents' Scholar Diploma - South Dakota high school graduates with the required coursework in seven designated areas (and an average grade of "B" or 3.0 on a 4.0 scale) shall be designated as Regents Scholars and may be eligible to receive a Regents' Scholar Diploma upon request by a high school administrator to the Board of Regents. High school graduates designated as Regents' Scholars automatically are admitted to all six public universities.

Opportunity Scholarship – Student entering high school for the first time prior to July 2010 must have the necessary coursework in 8 of the content areas. Those entering high school after July 2010 may have the option of completing two units of modern/classical language, career and technical education, or a combination of the two*. Health/Health Integration will also be required for those attending for the first time after 2013.

Curriculum Requirements Comparison Matrix

	SD Public Institution Admissions	Regents' Scholars Diploma	SD Opportunity Scholarship (Prior to July 2010)	SD Opportunity Scholarship (After July 2010)
English	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Advanced Mathematics	3 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Science	3 Years <i>(all must be lab sciences)</i>	4 Years <i>(3 must be lab sciences)</i>	4 Years <i>(3 must be lab sciences)</i>	4 Years <i>(3 must be lab sciences)</i>
Social Studies	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years	3 Years
Computer Science	½ Year	½ Year	----	----
Fine Arts	½ Year	1 Year	1 Year	1 Year
Modern or Classical Language	----	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years*
Career & Technical Ed.	----	----	---	2 Years*
Personal Finance/Economics	----	----	½ Year	½ Year
Physical Education	----	----	½ Year	½ Year
Health or Health Integration	----	----	----	½ Year (after 2013)

Placement in Developmental Coursework

Each year the South Dakota Board of Regents works with administrators (principals, superintendents, and school board presidents) for each high school to provide them with data on their graduates first year in college. The state high school to college transition report is published each year in October and individual high school reports are distributed depicting overall academic performance and remedial placement. The number of South Dakota graduates requiring remedial coursework in Math and English has gone down slightly over the past few years, but roughly 30% of all graduates require some form of developmental curriculum before they can complete college level coursework in these subject areas. High school counselors are encouraged to review the data from their high school to determine how their students compare with the students throughout the state. Additionally, we encourage counselors to inform students about the guidelines depicted below which are used to place students in developmental coursework. Students are encouraged to take additional coursework in high school to address any deficiencies that may exist based on their performance on the ACT or SAT taken at the end of the junior year.

Development Placement Procedures

Placement in English and math courses is based on a student's ACT or SAT I test scores. The Board of Regents has mandated that students who do not meet the college readiness benchmark of 18 on the English sub-score or 20 on the math sub-score must take developmental courses in these two subjects. If the required scores are not met, students have the ability to challenge their placement into developmental courses by taking the COMPASS examination. COMPASS is a computer-based adaptive assessment program using modules that allow students to work at their own speed and comfort level. The higher the score on the ACT or COMPASS Writing Exam, the fewer Basic Writing credits students are required to take. These Basic Writing courses are at the self-support tuition rate. Once successfully completed, Composition I (ENGL 101) may be taken. A similar approach is used in math, whereby a students can proceed to general education coursework once Math 021, 101 or 095 have been successfully completed.

<i>English and Math Remedial Placement Guidelines for ACT and SAT I Sub-scores</i>		
<i>ACT Sub-score</i>	<i>SAT I Sub-score</i>	<i>Course Placement</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>Verbal</i>	
1-13	0-360	ENGL 033 Basic Writing III
14-17	361-440	ENGL 032 Basic Writing II
18-36	441-800	ENGL 101 Composition I*
<i>Math</i>	<i>Quantitative</i>	
1-17	1-470	Math 021 Basic Algebra Math 095 Pre-College Algebra (SDSU)
18-19		Math 101 Intermediate Algebra Math 095 Pre-College Algebra (SDSU)
20-or Higher	471 or Higher	Math 102 College Algebra* Math 103 Quantitative Literacy* Math 104 Finite Math*
25 or Higher	561 or Higher	Math 115 Pre-Calculus Math 120 Trigonometry Math 121 Survey of Calc/Lab

Note: Those courses depicted with an asterisk meet system general education requirements in either English or Mathematics.