ENTERING THE HIGH SCHOOL ZONE with DEANNE CRAWFORD

What You Need to Know to Move Ahead

Questions? Ask our expert Curriculum Consultants.
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Begin with the end in mind...

1. Career interests.
2. Research career or job reality.
3. Education and/or skills necessary to obtain job.

Define Dreams—set achievable goals:


5-year Goal:

10-year Goal:

Additional help as you are Entering the High School Zone:

- The Middle School Student’s Guide to Academic Success
- Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens
- Homeschooling High School—Revised
- Overnight Career Choice
- Pathfinder: Exploring Career and Education Paths (4th Ed)
- Discover What You’re Best At
  - 10 Best College Majors for Your Personality
  - 300 Best Jobs Without a Four-Year Degree
  - Interning for High School Credit (2nd Ed)
  - CLEP Official Study Guide 2017
  - Homescholar Guide to College Admissions
  - High School Handbook by Mary Schofield
    (Available at: http://cheaofca.org)
High School Graduation Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits Needed</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>English/Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5+</td>
<td>Electives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Example only. Each state may vary on graduation requirements. Check your local state for an up-to-date listing of these requirements.

Find Your State’s Grad Requirements:

A little digging will take you a long way. To start, check with your state homeschool organization for specific information. Or use an online search engine and type in your “(state) high school graduation requirements”. Check with area potential college choices for their requirements.

Need answers to questions or any legal concerns in your state:

Homeschooling High School (Donna Young)
www.donnayoung.org/forms/high-school.htm

(HSLDA) Homeschool Legal Defense Association
http://www.hslda.org/highschool/

Transcript Resources and Useful Tools:

- Transcript Sample from Liberty University:
  http://www.liberty.edu/media/9933/Sample_Transcript.pdf
- Transcript website: https://www.transcriptmaker.com
- Well-Planned Day’s High School 4 Year Planner
- Transcripts Made Easy
- Setting the Records Straight
- Lesson Planning & Record Keeping:
  https://www.lessontrek.com
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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</table>
# Transcript by Grade

## Grade 9:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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</table>

## Grade 10:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>
Taking Detours:

Sometimes taking detours, or the path around the road block to achieve our goals, helps us stay on the right course…Detours that may keep you on course include:

**Math Detours:**
- Art Reed, Saxon Teacher and DIVE for Saxon Math.
- Ask Dr. Callahan support materials for Jacob’s Math.
- Switched on Schoolhouse (AOP) and A+ Math Software.
- Independent programs: Life of Fred and Videotext Algebra and Geometry.

**Science Detours:**
- Apologia DVDs
- DIVE CD-ROMs

**Science Websites:**
- Biology Labs and Teacher Notes:  
  [http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/sci_edu/waldron/](http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/sci_edu/waldron/)
- Virtual Online Dissections of Various Animals:  
- Virtual Fetal Pig Dissection:  
  [http://www.whitman.edu/content/virtualpig](http://www.whitman.edu/content/virtualpig)
- Virtual Frog Dissection:  
- Net Frog:  
- Online Lab Links (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Anatomy, Math, Astronomy):  
  [http://onlinelabs.in/](http://onlinelabs.in/)
- Chemistry Labs and Simulations/Chemistry Club Link:  
  [http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/chemistryclubs/activities/simulations.html](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/chemistryclubs/activities/simulations.html)

**Other Detours:**
- Online Classes in general HS and AP:  
  [http://academy.hslda.org/?HSLDARelated](http://academy.hslda.org/?HSLDARelated)
- Online Composition:  
  [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)

*While these websites appear to be suitable for mature teens, it is recommended the parent(s) review these sites prior to use by their children. Rainbow Resource Center does not endorse nor is liable for content therein of any sites listed above. These links are simply provided as a resource for homeschool families.*
Various Testing Options and Discussion:

➤ AP—Advanced Placement: https://www.collegeboard.org

➤ ACT—American College Testing

➤ PSAT—Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

➤ SAT—Scholastic Aptitude Test

➤ CLT—Classic Learning Test

➤ CLEP—College Level Exam Program

  Online CLEP Test Prep links:
  ➤ www.free-clep-prep.com
  ➤ www.instantcert.com (fee based)

➤ DSST—Dantes Subject Standardized Test (military equivalent of CLEP)

  DANTES—Defensive Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
  (Department of Defense)

➤ PARCC—Partnership of Readiness for College & Careers

Dual Enrollment/Credit:

➤ Community college online hybrid
➤ Accreditation/transfer credits consideration
➤ Know your students: Pro’s & Con’s

Notes:
Differences between the ACT/SAT:

**Subject Content:**

- The SAT includes science in its evidence-based reading section. ACT has a separate science section, which tests reading and reasoning skills, especially the ability to read and understand graphs, scientific hypotheses and research summaries.

- The English section on the SAT is mainly focused on writing style and expressing ideas and ACT is focused more on sentence structure and grammar.

- The reading portion on the SAT is focused on examining particular points in the passage, the author’s writing style, and vocabulary; whereas, the ACT is more about reading comprehension. Even if there is not a clear direction, reading questions on the SAT are in chronological order. However, the evidence based questions on the SAT can be much more challenging. Also, the SAT will generally direct the student to what line they are referring to, while the ACT usually does not.

- The SAT is more straightforward with math concepts and is heavily focused on algebra with very little geometry. There is more geometry and trigonometry on the ACT (and more math topics in general). Also, the student will have to memorize any formulas he might need for the ACT but the SAT will give the student the formulas he needs. The SAT will only allow a calculator for a portion of the math test, while the ACT allows a calculator for the entire math section.

**ACT:**


*Optional writing test receives a separate score. Check intended college(s) to see if optional essay is required.

**SAT:**

| Questions: 154 | Essay: Optional* | Essay Focus: Tests how well student can evaluate & analyze complete issues. | Main Score: Out of 1600 (Total of 2 section scores) | Scores: 800 800 | Sections: Math, Reading & Writing | Test Time: - 3 hrs. (without essay) - 3 hrs. 50 min. (with essay) |

*Optional writing test receives a separate score. Check intended college(s) to see if optional essay is required.
Changes to the ACT:

- The ACT adds a STEM score for science, technology, engineering, and math.
- A language arts score is based on English, reading, and writing.
- The optional essay is more advanced and will require test takers to provide multiple perspectives on a topic instead of just one view.
- The math portion has additional statistics and probability problems.
- The reading test requires students to integrate knowledge and ideas across multiple texts. For example, comparing and contrasting two passages instead of one.
- There is a new Career Readiness Indicator aligned with Common Core Standards. This shows students where they need to improve on specific skills sought by employers.

Changes to the SAT:

- There is no penalty for wrong answers.
- There are 4 multiple choice answers instead of 5 choices.
- As I mentioned earlier, the essay is now optional and scored separately.
- There are fewer sections, but the sections will be longer.
- There are more evidence-based reading and writing. For example, students are asked a question about the test and then asked which piece of evidence best supports that answer. There are also more graphs and charts in the reading section and more excerpts from US founding documents.
- Foundational math skills are more important as well as problem solving math skills and data analysis.

Prep books for ACT/SAT:

- **The Official ACT Prep Guide 2016-2017:** From the writers of the ACT, focus on prep.
- **The Official SAT Study Guide:** Contains 4 practice test created by the test maker.
- **Cracking the ACT/SAT Premium:** Gives excellent strategies with drill example questions and clear explanations on how to “crack” them. (8 practice tests for the ACT; 6 for the SAT.)
- **Barron’s ACT 36:** Very thorough and practice tests are more difficult than the actual test. It contains advice and strategies for more of the difficult questions.
- **Kaplan ACT/SAT Premium 2016-2017:** Comprehensive study book containing useful tips and strategies and challenging questions that can be more difficult than the actual test. (SAT includes 5 practice tests; ACT has 8 practice tests.)
- **ACT/SAT College Prep Course for the Christian Student:** Emphasis is on spiritual development with detailed reviews of all subject areas on the test. Test sections are studied side-by-side rather than as a concentrated focus. (No practice tests included.)
- **ACT 36 in Just 7 Steps:** Written by a 19-year-old who received a perfect 36. She boils down how to study, not just what to study.
Beyond the Zone:

What will your destination be beyond the High School Zone?

- Community College
- 4-Year University
- Online Degrees
- Apprenticeships
- Military
  - Enlist
  - Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC):
    - www.nrotc.navy.mil (Navy/Marines)
    - www.afrotc.com (Air Force)
    - www.goarmy.com/rotc (Army)
  - US Naval Academy Homeschool Recommendations:

Notes:


