

S.A.Y.  
San Diego

# Preparing Your Child For College





## **DID YOU KNOW?**

*In a national sample, only 26% of students who did not take geometry in high school went to college, but 71% of students who took geometry did go to college.*

All colleges have certain course requirements that first-time students must meet to qualify for admittance. These course requirements vary from college to college, but most are similar. Parents should speak with their child's school counselor to find out what classes in middle school get students on the right track for the high school classes required for college. The courses discussed with the counselor should be listed on your students "4-year" plan. Discuss these classes with your child to make sure that he or she is on track.




## **HIGH SCHOOL COURSES REQUIRED BY MOST COLLEGES FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION**

### **MAIN COURSES:**

-  **History/Social Science: 3 years**  
(U.S. history, civics, American government, world history, economics or geography)
-  **Language Arts (English): 4 years**  
(Literature, writing/composition, speech)
-  **Mathematics: 3 to 4 years**  
(Algebra, geometry, algebra II, trigonometry and/or calculus--- Some high schools accept mathematics classes taken in middle school to fulfill part of this requirement)
-  **Laboratory Science: 3 years**  
(Biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth/space science)

### **OTHER KEY COURSES:**

Some colleges require two additional years of study from the above main courses, or two years from the following electives:

-  **Visual and Performing Arts:** Art, music, dance, drama
-  **Computer Science**
-  **Foreign Language (language other than English)**  
(Some high schools accept foreign language classes taken