

Completing an Associate Degree While in High School

Is it right for you?

High School Concurrent Enrollment courses are \$5 per credit and a great opportunity for many students; however, they are not a good fit for everyone. All concurrent enrollment courses are placed on a permanent college transcript and should not be taken lightly. Most high school students take 2-3 concurrent enrollment courses throughout their junior and senior years. While it is possible to earn a full associate degree in high school, only a few students earn the full 60 college credits required to complete the UVU Associate Degree before they graduate. Although a sibling or neighbor earned an associate degree while in high school, this does not mean it is right path for every student.

Important Things to Consider

1. Understand Long-Term Educational Goals

- It is important for students to have a clear idea of what bachelor's degree they will pursue when deciding on earning an associate degree in high school. Unless the student has taken classes applicable to their bachelor program as part of the associate degree electives, he or she will need more than 60 additional credits (2 years) to finish a bachelor's degree. **A student who has earned an associate degree will have completed 2 years' worth of college credit but potentially will have 3+ years to complete a bachelor's degree.**
- Some bachelor degree programs have specific general education requirements or incorporate general education courses into their schedule sequence to balance class-loads throughout a four-year degree. A student must maintain full-time status (12-18 credits) to maintain scholarships and federal financial aid. This may be difficult to accomplish if all general education requirements are already complete. This is especially important to consider when planning certain STEM or pre-health degrees such as nursing.
- There is no guarantee that earning an Associate Degree while in high school will increase a student's chance to get accepted at competitive colleges. Students must familiarize themselves with the admissions process at the college or university that interests them.
- Advanced opportunity courses, such as Concurrent Enrollment, can affect high school grade point averages. If a student's GPA begins to decline due to taking college courses, then pursuing a college degree while in high school may not be right for them. High school GPA is an important consideration in scholarships and admission processes at most colleges.

2. Understand Other Factors Involved in Pursing an Associate Degree

- Due to the rigorous coursework and additional workload required to receive both a high school diploma and an associate degree, students may miss out on normal high school activities and other social functions. It may be hard to juggle high school activities, sports, a job, etc. For some, it can be a major adjustment. **Free time and social time will often be exchanged for study time.**
- Other college and career preparation activities may not be given the attention they need. If a student is completely focused on earning an associate degree, he or she may not spend enough time on ACT prep, career exploration, scholarship searches, college and university planning, and more. Career & degree exploration is especially crucial for associate degree seekers since a student will start right into bachelor degree major requirements once at college.
- Some classes required for an associate degree may deal with mature and sensitive issues. They may include class discussions that are uncomfortable for some students. These classes cannot be waived.
- There are pre-requisites for some courses offered through Concurrent Enrollment. It is the student's responsibility to know what these are and how to complete them.

3. Create An Academic Plan

- Students must meet with both a high school counselor and a Concurrent Enrollment Academic Advisor. Careful, advanced planning is imperative to ensure that both high school and college graduation requirements are met.

University Studies, A.S.

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Requirements

The University Studies Associate in Arts/Science is designed to provide an opportunity for students who may be potentially exploring their career and major options, or provides flexibility for those that are seeking an Associate that enables transferability or simply completion of a broad variety of curriculum options. The AS/AA UVST enables the ability to begin work toward the General Education requirements while meeting the needs of a broad variety of student circumstances.

Total Program Credits: 60

General Education Requirements:		35 Credits
	ENGL 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing	3
or	ENGL 1005 Literacies and Composition Across Context (5)	
	ENGL 2010 Intermediate Writing Academic Writing and Research	3
Complete one of the following:		3
	MAT 1030 Quantitative Reasoning (3) (recommended for Humanities or Arts majors)	
	MAT 1035 Quantitative Reasoning with Integrated Algebra (6)	
	STAT 1040 Introduction to Statistics (3) (recommended for Social Science majors)	
	STAT 1045 Introduction to Statistics with Algebra (5)	
	MATH 1050 College Algebra (4) (recommended for Business, Education, Science, and Health Professions majors)	
	MATH 1055 College Algebra with Preliminaries (5)	
	MATH 1090 College Algebra for Business (recommended for Business majors) (3)	
Complete one of the following:		3
	HIST 2700 US History to 1877 (3)	
and	HIST 2710 US History since 1877 (3)	
	HIST 1700 American Civilization (3)	
	HIST 1740 US Economic History (3)	
	POLS 1000 American Heritage (3)	
	POLS 1100 American National Government (3)	
Complete the following:		
	PHIL 2050 Ethics and Values	3
or	PHIL 205G Ethics and Values	3
	HLTH 1100 Personal Health and Wellness (2)	
or	EXSC 1097 Fitness for Life	2
Distribution Courses:		
	Biology	3
	Physical Science	3

Additional Biology or Physical Science	3
Humanities Distribution	3
Fine Arts Distribution	3
Social/Behavioral Science	3
Discipline Core Requirements:	25 Credits
Any course(s) 1000 or higher	25

Graduation Requirements:

1. Completion of a minimum of 60 semester credits.
2. Overall grade point average of 2.0 (C) or above. (Departments may require a higher GPA.)
3. Residency hours -- minimum of 20 credit hours through course attendance at UVU.
4. Completion of GE and specified departmental requirements.

**University Studies, A.S.
Graduation Plan**

Degree total:	60
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This graduation plan is a sample plan and is intended to be a guide. Your specific plan may differ based on your Math and English placement and/or transfer credits applied. You are encouraged to meet with an advisor and set up an individualized graduation plan in [Wolverine Track](#).

Milestone courses (pre-requisites for a course in one of the subsequent semesters) are marked in red and Italicized.

Semester 1	Course Title	Credit Hours
Elective	(<i>MAT 1010</i> Intermediate Algebra recommended)	4
<i>ENGL 1010 or ENGH 1005</i>	Introduction to Academic Writing or Literacies and Composition Across Context	3
Elective	(SLSS 1000/2100/1190/1200 recommended)	3
Elective		3
Elective		3
	Semester total:	16
Semester 2	Course Title	Credit Hours
MAT 1030 or MATH 1035 or STAT 1040 or STAT 1045 or MATH 1050 or MATH 1055 or MATH1090	Quantitative Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning with Integrated Algebra or Introduction to Statistics or Introduction to Statistics with Algebra or College Algebra or College Algebra with Preliminaries or College Algebra for Business	3
ENGL 2010	Intermediate Writing Academic Writing and Research	3
Biology		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
	Semester total:	15
Semester 3	Course Title	Credit Hours
Physical Science		3
PHIL 2050/205G	Ethics and Values	3
HLTh 1100/ EXSC 1097	Personal Health and Wellness/Fitness for Life	2
Fine Arts		3
Elective		3
	Semester total:	14
Semester 4	Course Title	Credit Hours
American Institutions		3
Humanities		3
3 rd Science		3
Social Science		3
Elective		3
	Semester total:	15