

Your High School Planning Guide

Hey, it's Alfonso Arana... glad you could join me! I'm graduating from high school this year and I'm going to share high school planning tips with you in three simple steps:

1. Know Florida's Graduation Requirements
2. Use a Four-Year Course Planner
3. Complete a High School Checklist



STEP ONE: FLORIDA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Before you start, remember to work with your guidance counselor when planning your high school career. Here are the minimum Florida standards; your school may have additional requirements. **To find out specific class and test requirements for your high school, take advantage of planning sessions with your high school guidance office. Check with your guidance counselor to find out!**

Students Must Attain 24 Academic Credits:

1. Language Arts—4 Credits. English courses must include major concentrations in composition and literature.
2. Mathematics—3 Credits. Algebra I or equivalent must be included.
3. Science—3 Credits. Two of the science credits must include a laboratory component.
4. Social Studies—3 Credits.
5. Practical/Vocational/Performing Art—1 Credit.
6. Life Management Skills-- .5 Credits.
7. Physical Education—1 Credit.
8. Electives—8.5 Credits.

How Many Credits Do You Have?

Place a **number** on each line to indicate how many credits you still need to complete in order to fulfill the associated requirement.

- _____ Language Arts—4 Credits. English courses must include major concentrations in composition and literature.
- _____ Mathematics—3 Credits. Algebra I or equivalent must be included.
- _____ Science—3 Credits. Two of the science credits must include a laboratory component.
- _____ Social Studies—3 Credits.
- _____ Practical/Vocational/Performing Art—1 Credit.
- _____ Life Management Skills-- .5 Credits.
- _____ Physical Education—1 Credit.
- _____ Electives—8.5 Credits.

Total Credits Still Needed for Graduation: _____

You also must meet these general eligibility requirements to graduate:

1. Pass the 10th Grade FCAT. Students must earn a passing score on the grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test to be eligible for graduation.
2. Grade Point Average. Students entering 9th grade are required to have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale for promotion to a higher grade, for extra-curricular eligibility, and for graduation from high school.
3. Elective Credits. No student shall be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in more than a total of nine elective credits in remedial programs.
4. No student shall be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in more than one credit in exploratory vocational courses.
5. No student shall be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in more than three credits in practical arts, family, and consumer classes.
6. No student shall be granted credit toward high school graduation for enrollment in any Level 1 course unless the student's assessment indicates that a more rigorous course of study would be inappropriate.

The short checklist will give you an idea of what courses you will have to take to be eligible for high school graduation. Remember to work with your high school guidance department in planning your schedule and in answering any specific questions you may have. Now it's time to use your course planner. So...

Get to Your [Course Planner](#) Now!

STEP TWO: HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PLANNER

You can use the checklist on the first page to help you decide how to schedule your courses in high school.

	Freshman Year		Sophomore Year	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
English				
Course Title				
Mathematics				
Course Title				
History/Social Studies				
Course Title				
Science				
Course Title				
Art				
Course Title				
Language				
Course Title				
Electives				
Course Title				

STEP TWO (Continued): HIGH SCHOOL COURSE PLANNER

	Junior Year		Senior Year	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
English				
Course Title				
Mathematics				
Course Title				
History/Social Studies				
Course Title				
Science				
Course Title				
Art				
Course Title				
Language				
Course Title				
Elective				
Course Title				

STEP THREE: HIGH SCHOOL CHECKLIST

Here is a really simple list of questions to get you to identify your needs. If you don't know the answers to any of these questions, you can go to our [college planning](#) section to find out. Share this list with your guidance counselor.

1. **Create a Four-Year Course Schedule**

- Am I taking the right courses to graduate?
- Should I take Advanced Placement courses?
- What college prep courses will I need?
- Has my guidance counselor looked at my schedule?

2. **Identify Your Deadlines**

- Do I know when to register and take the SAT and/or ACT?
- When should I start applying to colleges?
- When should I apply for financial aid?
- When should I start looking for other scholarships?

3. **Prepare for College**

- What major should I choose?
- What courses will help me get a good job?
- Will my college help me get a job?
- What skills do I need to work on for college?

4. **Construct a Task List**

- How much does college cost?
- How will I pay for college?
- What things do I need to know about college?
- Who can help me plan for college?

5. **Create A Plan**

- Is my task list on a calendar?
- Are my priorities right?
- Have I asked the right questions?
- Do I have answers to my questions?

COMPONENTS OF A GOOD EDUCATIONAL PLAN

1. **Goals:** Identify your short- and long-term educational goals.
2. **Tasks:** Identify the tasks necessary to achieve your goals.
3. **Deadlines:** Determine the timelines for completing important tasks.
4. **Schedule:** Make sure your plan includes task completion dates.
5. **Values:** Your plan should express who you are and what you want.

It's Alfonso again. I urge you to take a few minutes to think about each of the questions listed above. As you work on your four-year course plan for high school, start thinking about college too. How will you prepare? What do you need to do? When do you have to do it? Lots of questions for you to think about...

If you want more information about any of these questions, click the button below and go get Take Stock in Children's *College Planning Guide*. There you'll find a four-year events calendar and many other things to help you get ready for college.

Or maybe you're not quite ready for that yet -- but want to improve on what you are doing in high school. All the planning in the world won't help much if you don't get the good grades to go along with it. If you like, make a stop at Take Stock in Children's [The Secrets to Getting Good Grades](#) and learn how to make the best of your hard work and efforts.

Well, I've enjoyed talking to you about planning for high school. I hope you will make the time to use the course planner to create a schedule that's best for you. I wish you all the best in high school -- and beyond!

Go to [College Planning!](#)

Find out [The Secrets to Getting Good Grades!](#)