Santa Rosa City Schools
a - g FAQs

What are the "a - g" Requirements?

- The “a - g” requirements are the minimum academic course requirements high school students must satisfy to be eligible to apply for freshman admission to UC/CSU. They consist of 15 year-long courses in seven subject areas, which students are required to pass with a grade of C or better.

Does meeting a - g requirements also aid in career readiness?

- While any student wishing to enter a four-year public college in the State of California must meet the "a - g" standard; knowledge acquired through the "a - g" curriculum is now a prerequisite for many employment positions that had far less stringent requirements a generation or two ago.
- Research demonstrates that having a higher standard of education for students is critical to students’ personal and academic development, as well as competitiveness in an increasingly global and technology-based economy

Will the level of rigor of UC/CSU “a - g” courses remain once all students are required to pass the “a - g” course sequence in order to graduate from high school?

- In order for a high school course to meet a UC/CSU “a - g” requirement, it must be reviewed by UC and receive “a - g” certification. Certification involves an extensive review by UC experts to make sure the course meets the expected rigor. These experts review the course description, required textbooks, supplemental instructional materials, number and types of assignments given, assessments used, anticipated goals and outcomes, and designated grade levels.
- The rigor of these a-g courses are based upon the Common Core State Standard which were approved by the Santa Rosa City School Board on May 24, 2017.

What results have other districts seen after implementing the "a - g" requirements?

- San Francisco Unified School District began requiring all graduates to complete the a - g sequence beginning in 2009-10. 60% of the 2014-15 SFUSD graduate cohort met a - g requirements. SFUSD graduation rates have improved 7.7% since the implementation of a - g requirements. Graduation rates have increased for all traditionally underserved subgroups.
- San Jose Unified has implemented the “a - g” requirements for several years, and its data show that more students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and earned

qualifying scores of three, four or five, indicating that instructional standards remained high.

Do all SRCS students have to meet the UC/CSU “a - g” requirements in order to graduate from high school?

- Not at this time. Students in the graduating classes of 2018 - 2021 are not required to complete the full sequence of UC/CSU “a - g” courses in order to earn a high school diploma. Starting with the Class of 2022 (thus the incoming freshmen class in 2018) and beyond, students will be required to take the full sequence of UC “a - g” subject area courses.

To meet UC/CSU “a - g” requirements, students must earn a grade of “C” or better in the courses they take. Since the new graduation requirements will include the UC/CSU “a - g” subject area courses, will students have to earn a grade of “C,” or will the district continue to use “D” as the passing grade for coursework?

- If a student receives a “D” grade in an “a - g”-required course, s/he is eligible to graduate from high school; however, in most cases the student will not be eligible to attend a UC/CSU school as a “D does not meet the grade requirement for a - g courses.

Are economics courses approved in the history / social science ("a") subject area?

- Courses in economics are only approved in the elective ("g") subject area. A course with an historical approach to economics could be approved in the "a" subject area if it meets the history / social science ("a") course criteria.

Does the University have a recommended course sequence for mathematics? Will UC approve an integrated math sequence to satisfy the "c" subject requirement?

- UC does not have a preferred math course sequence. Individual schools or districts may determine the best sequence that will enrich their students’ learning whether they choose a single-subject sequence or an integrated math sequence.