



**PLANNING THE
HIGH SCHOOL
YEARS**

HOMESCHOOLING 101
PART 2:
Planning the High
School Years

VALLEY HOMESCHOOLERS (VHS)

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SCHEDULE:

WISCONSIN LAWS
CURRICULUM
THE 4 YEAR PLAN
CREDITS
GRADES
TRANSCRIPTS
TESTING
EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT
Q&A

2



Main reasons:

- Customize high school coursework
- Continue to set the pace
- Instill worldview
- Help acquire skills necessary to achieve post-high school goals

May need to:

- Let go of other responsibilities for a season
- Adjust family budget in order to fund high school materials
- Bring in outside instructors to teach a few courses

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FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

- **ACT** - American College Testing – standardized test for college entrance and scholarships
- **AP** –Advanced Placement
- **CLEP** – College Level Exam Preparation
- **CREDIT**- based on a Carnegie unit. Equal to 120 hours of work & high school level rigor.
- **DE** - Dual Enrollment – taking college classes for credit while still in High School.
- **DPI** – Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction
- **GPA** – Grade Point Average: averaging numeric grades indicating quality of student's work.
- **GED** – General Educational Development
- **HSLDA** – Home School Legal Defense Association
- **PSAT** - Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)
- **SAT**- Scholastic Achievement Test- used for College Admittance and Scholarships

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<p>KNOWING AND COMPLYING WITH WISCONSIN'S HOMESCHOOL LAWS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ File an annual report▪ Have the main purpose of providing private or religious-based education▪ Be privately controlled▪ Provide the required period of instruction▪ Teach the required subjects▪ Move your curriculum from simple to complex concepts 
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FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT

Every year on or before October 15, but after the 3rd Friday in September, you must file a statement of enrollment (PI-1206 form) with Wisconsin DPI. This can be done online via the DPI's website

Your statement must state how many students elementary-high school were enrolled in your homeschool as of the third Friday in September. It must also certify that you are complying with all requirements for homeschooling in the State of Wisconsin.

Be sure to save copies of all your completed PI-1206 forms. If you cannot prove you filed the PI-1206 during the years your child was in high school, some employers/government agencies may not recognize your student's high school education as legitimate.



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PURPOSE

The main purpose of your homeschool must be to provide private or religious-based education—*not* to circumvent compulsory school attendance laws.



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PRIVATE CONTROL

Your homeschool must be privately controlled (a public school or other government agency cannot operate a homeschool program.)



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PROVIDE THE REQUIRED PERIOD OF INSTRUCTION

You must provide at least **875 hours** of instruction each school year (such as July 1-June 30). Keep track of hours well enough so you could document 875 hours

Your records showing your student received 875 hours of instruction for each of his or her four years of high school should be maintained in your permanent records.



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TEACH THE REQUIRED SUBJECTS

Records showing your student received instruction in these subjects during all four years of high school should be maintained in your permanent records. You must provide instruction in the following subjects:

- Reading
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science and Health



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MOVE FROM SIMPLE TO COMPLEX CONCEPTS

The curriculum must be “sequentially progressive”—in other words, as you teach, you move from simpler to more challenging concepts or skills.



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IMPORTANCE OF RECORD KEEPING

Records should include:

- attendance records
- information on the textbooks and workbooks your student used
- samples of student's schoolwork (may include portfolios and test results)
- correspondence with school officials (if any)
- any other documents showing that your child is receiving an appropriate education in compliance with the law (PI-1206 forms)

Keep high school records and proof of compliance with home education laws during the high school years (including any type of home education notice filed with state or local officials) on file forever.



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FAQS

Are homeschool diplomas accepted as legitimate?

Is there a college admission bias against homeschoolers?

Does my student need to take a GED?

Who provides Drivers Education?

Can my student take public school classes?

Will my student participate in a graduation ceremony?

Can my student earn college credits while in high school?

Do classes/diploma need to be accredited?

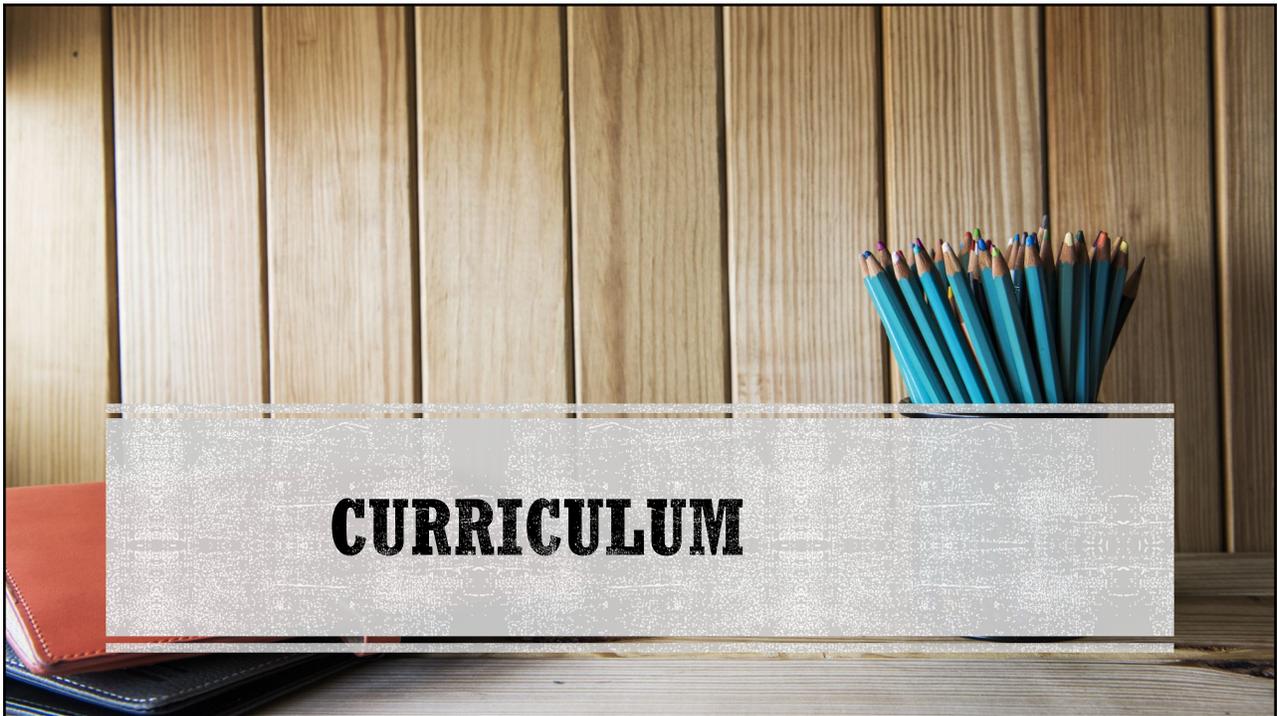
Can my student participate in public school sports?



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CURRICULUM

Traditional

The **traditional approach** utilizes textbooks and workbooks for each subject in each grade. In addition to student materials, parents purchase teacher's manuals (or guides) along with answer keys and test materials from the publisher. Teacher's manuals divide the courses into daily lesson plans and assignments. Answer keys help parents stay on top of the grading load.

Classical

The **classical approach** to learning emphasizes reading, writing, and memorization in the elementary years. Middle school focuses on abstract reasoning and basic logic. In high school, the ability to articulate viewpoints and worldviews. Often, curricula cover multiple subject areas simultaneously. For example, ancient history may also include the study of ancient literature along with Bible or church history.



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CURRICULUM, CONTINUED

Unit Study

A **unit study approach** brings various grade levels and subjects together to learn in an integrated way. Parents can offer more rigorous assignments to their teens, allowing children of multiple ages to study the same time period of history or branch of science. With this approach, the whole family can participate in and benefit from conversations about coursework.

Unschooling

The **unschooling approach** allows your teen to channel learning through areas of interest. Please understand that unschooling does *not* mean no schooling is taking place; rather, learning is less structured and is self-directed by your student rather than directed by textbooks.



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CURRICULUM, CONTINUED

Eclectic Approach

Most families use an **eclectic approach**. They may use textbooks for math but unit studies for subjects such as history and literature. The student's analytical skills might be sharpened by a classical approach in logic or debate. An unschooling approach for electives would allow for independently pursuing a love of music, astronomy, photography, etc., following student-led interests and initiative.

Don't Forget the "Soft" Skills

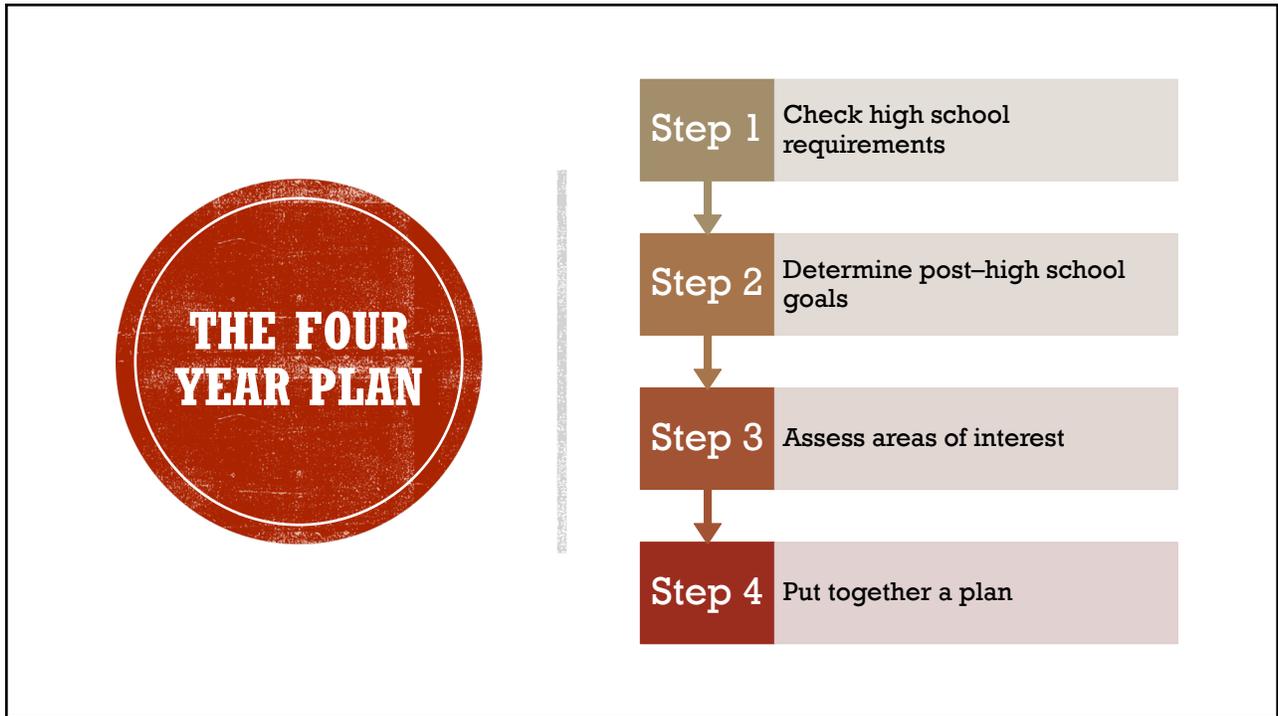
- Organizational skills
- Note-taking strategies
- Test preparation
- Time management skills



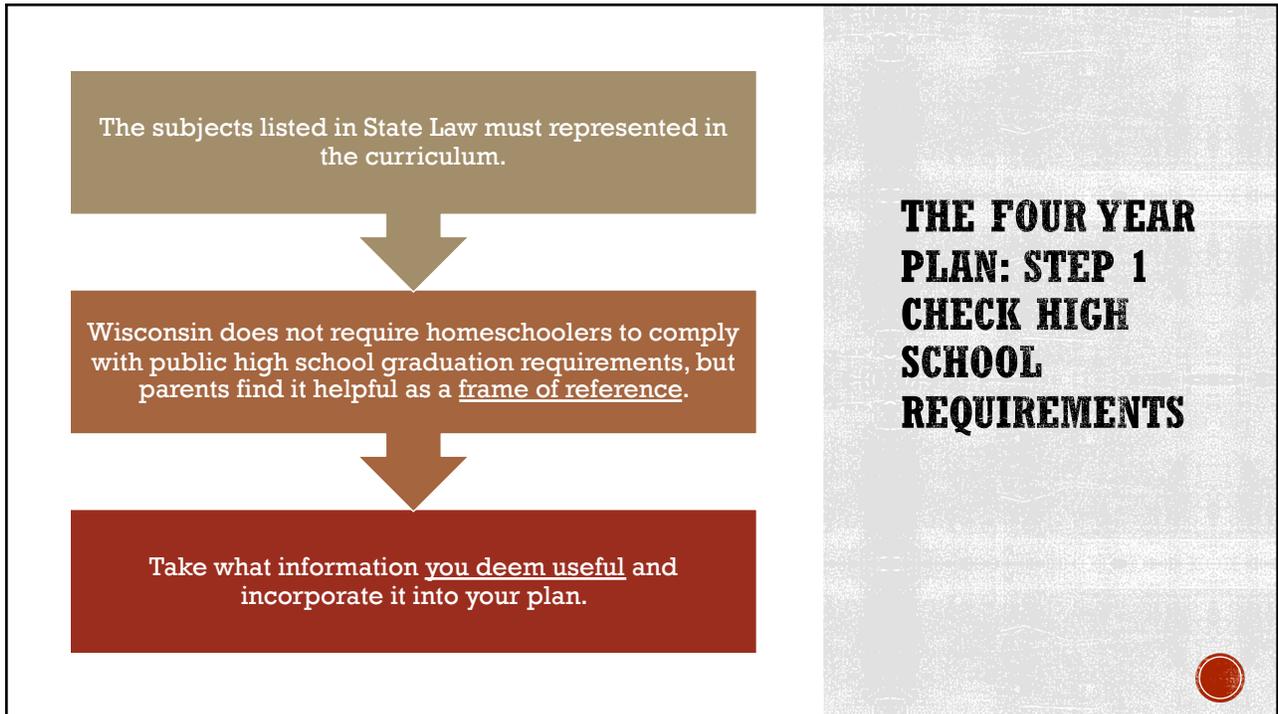
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High school years play a substantial role in the development of the knowledge, skills, and expertise needed for adult life.



High school should be seen as a crucial time of gaining a foundation in each core subject area.



College-bound students, check various college websites and note credit requirements for admission. **collegeboard.org** also lists courses colleges are interested in seeing.

THE FOUR YEAR PLAN: STEP 2 DETERMINE POST-HIGH SCHOOL GOALS



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- Apprenticeship/Trade
- Tech School/Community College
- Private or state College/University
- 1st or 2nd Tier Ivy League School
- Military Academy
- College Credits/Degree while in High School
- Music/Film/Art Conservatory
- Professional Sports or NCAA scholarship
- Entrepreneurship/Business Owner
- Mission work
- Marriage/Family

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



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Examples:

Owning a business someday? Accounting course

Plan to enter the nursing field? Take Anatomy

Law degree? A Debate course is invaluable.

Becoming a realtor? Consider working alongside an experienced realtor several hours a week

- Check websites for types of high school courses beneficial in preparation for specific careers, and what education and training are necessary
- No idea? Start with basic general courses, or utilize a career development resource in the first year or two of high school so your student can begin to explore possibilities

THE FOUR YEAR PLAN: STEP 3 ASSESS AREAS OF INTEREST

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TOOLS FOR DETERMINING A PATH

DISC Profile: Used to understand behavioral differences. Offers tips related to working with people of other styles to help work more effectively with others.

Myers-Briggs Personality Types: Based on the theory that variation in behavior is actually consistent, orderly, and due to personality types. Types are: Extraversion/Introversion, Sensing/Intuition, Thinking/Feeling, and Judging/Perceiving. 16 possible variations.

Learning Styles Inventory: Determine learning styles and develop abilities in a less dominant style, as well as further develop the styles that you already use well.

Career Clusters from U.S. Dept of Ed.: Organizes 79 Career Pathways into 16 Career Clusters to help students navigate their way to greater success in college and career.

Holland Code Personality Interests: Measuring interest levels in 6 areas. Based on RAISEC (Realistic, Artistic, Investigative, Social, Enterprising, Conventional) model of career choice.

Johnson O'Connor: Extensive testing program. Students learn their particular set of natural traits, empowering them to make educated choices about school and work.

Campus Explorer-Certificate Programs, Apprenticeships, Internships

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Custom-design the road map
*no two high school plans will look alike

Customize courses:
Strengths, Interests, Goals

Start by choosing courses in core academic subjects (esp. required by homeschooling laws):

Add electives to develop new skills, broaden interests, or explore areas connected to a future career.

Involve your teen in choosing electives

THE FOUR YEAR PLAN: STEP 4 PUT TOGETHER A PLAN



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GENERAL HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM		
<i>For students planning to go directly into the workplace, vocational school, or the military</i>		
	Suggested Credits	Possible Courses
English	4 credits	Composition, literature, rhetoric, creative writing, journalism (<i>Suggested courses should stress grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills.</i>)
Math	3 credits	Algebra 1 and 2, geometry, general math, consumer math, business math, accounting
History	2–3 credits	World history, American history, United States government
Science	2–3 credits	Physical science or earth science, general science, biology, health, nutrition, chemistry, physics
Foreign language	2–3 credits	French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, etc. (<i>Two years of the same language is preferred.</i>)
Physical education	1–2 credits	<i>Many options are available.</i>
Fine arts	1–2 credits	Art, music, drama, photography, etc.
Electives	5 credits	Practical arts, life skills, Bible, computer skills, etc.
	Total: 20–22 credits	

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GENERAL COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM		
<i>For college-bound students—meets minimum requirements for many colleges</i>		
	Suggested Credits	Possible Courses
English	4 credits	Composition, literature, rhetoric, creative writing, speech/communication, journalism, debate (<i>Also consider AP or college courses.</i>)
Math	3–4 credits	Algebra 1 and 2, geometry, precalculus/trigonometry, calculus, AP calculus
History	3–4 credits	<i>Essentials:</i> world history, American history, United States government (<i>Also consider economics, geography, constitutional law, and AP courses.</i>)
Science	3–4 credits	Physical science or earth science, biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, physics (<i>Also consider AP courses.</i>)
Foreign language	3–4 credits	French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, etc. (<i>At least two years of the same language is preferred.</i>)
Physical education	1–2 credits	<i>Many options are available.</i>
Fine arts	1–2 credits	Art, music, drama, photography, etc.
Electives	5 credits	Practical arts, life skills, Bible, computer skills, computer science, etc.
	Total: 24–28 credits	

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RIGOROUS COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM		
<i>For students applying to highly selective colleges</i>		
	Suggested Credits	Possible Courses
English	4+ credits	Composition, literature, rhetoric, creative writing, speech/communication, journalism, debate (<i>AP or college courses are strongly recommended.</i>)
Math	4+ credits	<i>Essentials:</i> algebra 1 and 2, geometry, precalculus/trigonometry (<i>Also consider calculus, statistics, and accounting. AP courses are strongly recommended.</i>)
History	4+ credits	<i>Essentials:</i> world history, American history, United States government (<i>Also consider geography, sociology, psychology, political science, constitutional law, etc. AP courses are strongly recommended.</i>)
Science	4+ credits	Physical science, biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy, microbiology (<i>AP courses are strongly recommended.</i>)
Foreign language	3-4 credits	French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, etc. (<i>At least two years of the same language is preferred.</i>)
Physical education	1-2 credits	<i>Many options are available.</i>
Fine arts	1-2 credits	Art, music, drama, photography, etc.
Electives	5 credits	Practical skills, Bible, computer skills, computer science, etc.
	Total: 26-30 credits	

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	Wisconsin	General	College Prep	Rigorous
English	4	4	4	4+
Math	3	3	3-4	4+
Social Studies	3	2-3	3-4	4+
Civics Exam	Required			
Science	3	2-3	3-4	4+
Foreign Lang.	(1-2)	2-3	3-4	3-4
P.E.	1.5	1-2	1-2	1-2
Health (7-12)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Fine Arts	(1-2)	1-2	1-2	1-2
Electives	(4-5)	5	5	5
Total	15 (23.5)	20-25	24-29	26-30+

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CREDITS

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The Carnegie Unit:

Represents the equivalent of 50-minute instruction taught 5 days a week for 36 weeks (total of 150 hours of instruction)

1 Carnegie unit is the same as 1 credit in most states.

Textbook Method:

Using a high school textbook, consider the material covered as one credit.

1-credit course typically requires 1 school year to complete.

A half-credit academic course (such as American Gov.) typically requires 1 semester to complete.

Note: Diligently cover main concepts found in the text.

75% of a textbook = completion of the text.

Let integrity be your guide

Easy to assess credit. 2 years or 6 weeks—it still equals 1 credit.



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RECORD-KEEPING: CREDITS

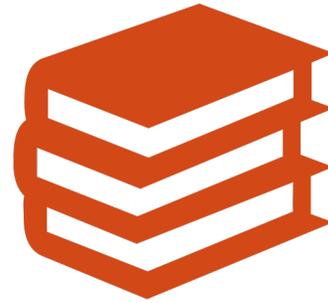
Hour-Logging Method:

Keep a log of the hours spent completing course work. Log all the hours invested in the course (including instructional time and time spent completing assignments)

Minimum thresholds to determine one Carnegie unit:

- 100-120 hours for a one-credit elective course
- 120-150 hours for a core academic course (one-credit English, math, history, science, or foreign language course)

Do not stress out or be legalistic about logging hours!



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Dual Enrollment Method

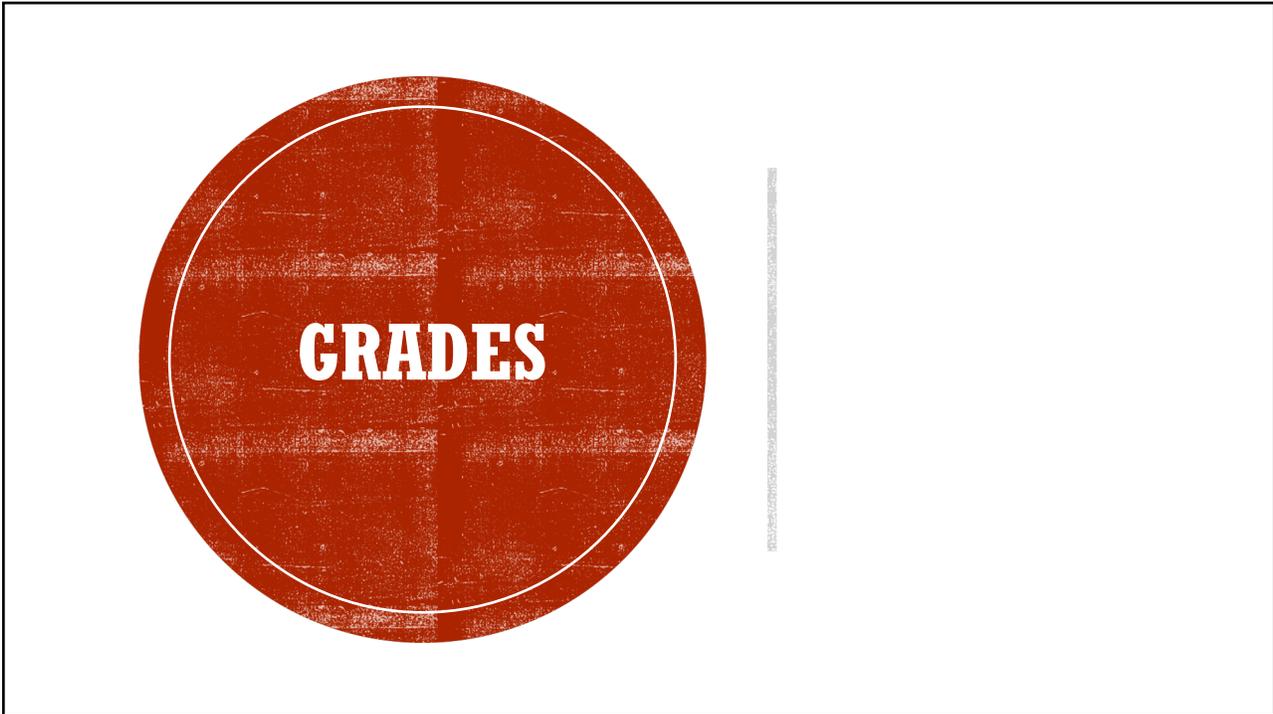
One **Semester** College Course = 3-4
College Credits = 1 High School (**Year**)
Credit

Example: English 101 (one semester at
community college)

3 college credits = 1 HS credit (1
Carnegie unit) on student's HS transcript

Earn needed credits quickly through DE!

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GRADES

-  Necessary for high school records
-  Helps others understand academic performance
-  Will likely have to take tests, write papers, and design projects
-  Typical transcript shows letter grades, used to calculate GPA
-  Colleges utilize GPA as a factor for determining admission
-  Scholarship sponsors take GPA into account for award eligibility



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GRADES: STRUGGLES & USES

Process seems subjective

Classroom teachers struggle with grading

More art than science

Celebration or wake-up call

Graded in every season

College, military, employers

Grades teach:
Time management,
adherence to deadlines



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GRADES: TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS

- Tests
- Quizzes
- Papers
- Presentations
- Oral Discussions
- Hands-On Projects
- Portfolios
- Performances
- Notebook Evaluations



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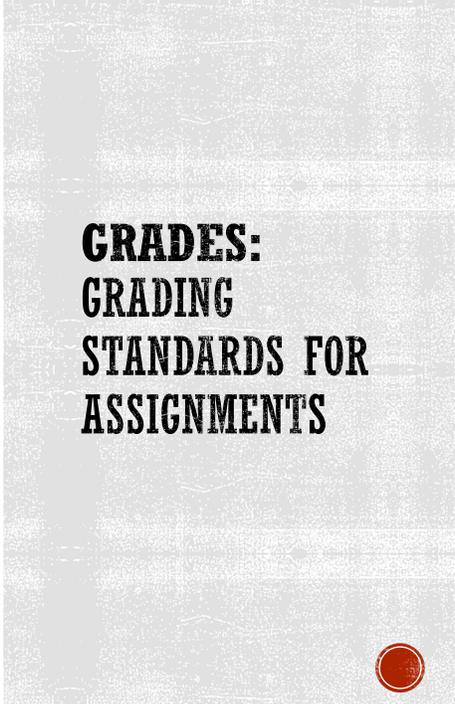
**GRADES:
GRADING
STANDARDS FOR
ASSIGNMENTS**

Math, science, and foreign language: **objective terms**

English composition, history, electives pose more of a challenge: **subjective**

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-  Advanced notice on how you intend to evaluate
-  Base grade upon satisfactory completion
-  Some courses have substantial reading/discussion elements. It is reasonable to evaluate all of these
-  Decide how much of the final grade daily work is worth and expect diligent effort
-  Not all work should be graded like an exam
-  Teachers give check-plus, check, check-minus, zero points
-  Incorporate similar ideas to help you evaluate daily work



**GRADES:
GRADING
STANDARDS FOR
ASSIGNMENTS**

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GRADES: CALCULATING A FINAL COURSE GRADE

Consider 3 types of work:

- **History:** tests = 45%; term paper = 30%; reading assignments = 25%
- **Math:** tests = 50%; problem sets = 30%; class problems = 20%
- **Science:** tests = 40%; lab work = 30%; chapter questions = 30%
- **Foreign Language:** tests = 40%; homework = 30%; memorization = 30%
- **English:** papers = 60%; vocabulary = 20%; reading/discussions = 20%

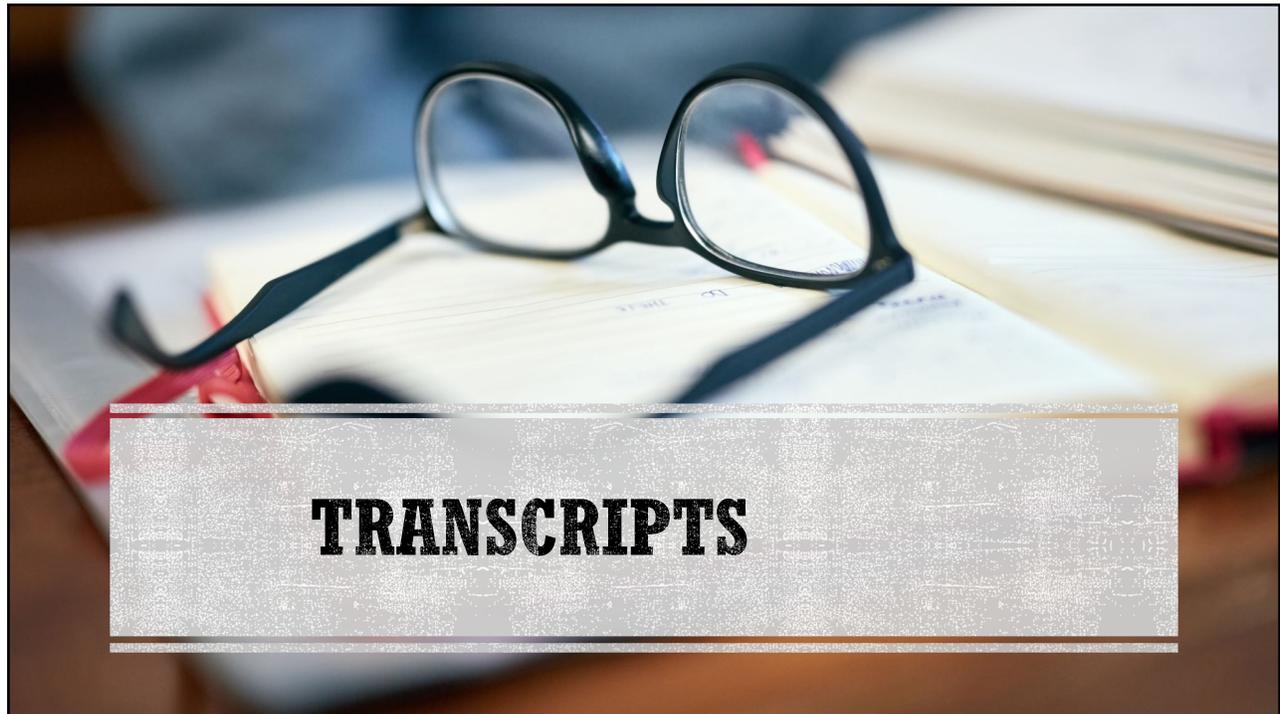
Choose a grading scale. (90–100=A, 80–89=B, 70–79=C, and so on) or (93–100=A, 85–92=B, 77–84=C, and so on).

Whichever scale you decide to implement, use it consistently.

Some utilize straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F) while others choose to add pluses or minuses to the grades (e.g., A-, B+)



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TRANSCRIPTS

Definition of a Transcript: The academic record of school coursework.

Keep good records.

No standard *format*, however, the *information* typically found on all transcripts is generally the same.

Transcripts contain **four main sections**:

- Personal and homeschool information
- Courses completed (including course title, final grade, and credit earned)
- Academic summary (including total credits and cumulative GPA)
- Self-certification, signature, and date



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TRANSCRIPTS PURPOSE: WHO NEEDS ONE?

- Colleges
- Employers
- Military
- Scholarship Committees
- Trade schools
- Apprenticeship programs
- Insurance companies for good student driver discounts

Keep a concise record of coursework which summarizes academic abilities.

Some mistakenly assume that a transcript is unnecessary if not needed directly following graduation.

Need a transcript for: job security clearances, certification programs, or qualifying for financial aid, etc.

Make a transcript for your student.



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TRANSCRIPTS, CONTINUED

Personal student and homeschool information

- Student's full name
- Address, phone number, email
- Birthdate
- Parents' names
- Graduation date (month, day, year) or anticipated graduation date
- Homeschool information
 - Choose a name
 - provide a street address, phone #, email address
 - contact name



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TRANSCRIPTS: ACADEMIC RECORD OF COURSES

Most use **grade level format**, listing courses by grade (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th) and school year

Some list courses by **subject area**:

May be a better option for two situations:

- For students who may finish high school in 3 years rather than 4
- For students who require 5 years

Once you choose the format, then list courses.

For each course, indicate: course title, final grade, and credit earned.

Transcript should list all courses completed to date.



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TESTING



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TESTING, END-OF-GRADE:

*In Wisconsin, assessment testing is **not required**

Standardized Testing: Provides a snapshot of academic skills and abilities of a large sampling of students in the same grade.

Prepare your Student:

- Questions range from below grade level to well above grade level, which is important for your student to understand.
- Don't expect to know all the answers on the test, but simply want to find out how many he *does* know
- Some of them are deliberately too hard. He should just do his best
- **Test preparation materials** and practice tests are available.



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TESTING: COMMONLY USED TESTS

- Basic Achievement Skills Inventory (BASI) for grades 3–12
- Brigance Diagnostic Inventories: Very thorough test; helpful in IEP/SEP/goal setting for special needs children. May be given by parents. HSLDA members may rent from HSLDA
- California Achievement Test (CAT)
- Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS)
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- Stanford Achievement Test Stanford-10 or SAT, not to be confused with College Board SAT.
- PASS test: from Hewitt; standardized but not nationally normed
- Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) Short but accurate; because of brevity, can be helpful for children with attention difficulties
- Woodcock-Johnson: Oral interaction/evaluation + written work; administered by qualified tester, usually a psychologist or an education professional



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Why take the PSAT?

1. National Merit Scholarship winners are awarded based on PSAT scores
2. Indication of how well student will do on SAT
3. Confidence boost

Why take the ACT?

1. Score-based scholarships
2. Lighter Algebra than the SAT
3. Required by some states

Why take the SAT?

1. Score-based scholarships
2. Taken at a slower pace and doesn't cover as many math concepts as ACT
3. Heavy on Algebra, light on Geometry and Trigonometry
4. Does not have a dedicated Science section, which the ACT does
5. SAT organizes its reading questions, which the ACT does not



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Test	When Offered	Scoring	Unique Aspects	Highest Level of Math	Registration	Length of Test
PSAT	2 Test Dates in October	Overall: 240 Avg: 141	Utilizes skills developed throughout education	Algebra & Functions, Geometry	Through Local High School	2 hours, 10 min
ACT	Feb, Apr, June, Sept, Oct, Dec	Highest: 36 Avg: 21	Based on courses taught in high school	Trigonometry	4 weeks before, or pay late fee	3 hours, 30 min
SAT	Jan. Mar/Apr, May, June, Oct, Nov, Dec	Highest: 2499 Avg: 1500	Vocab, Reason & Logic, essay not required, Science section included	Algebra II, Basic Geometry	2 weeks before, or pay late fees	3 hours, 45 min

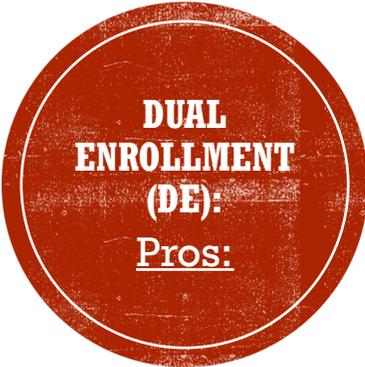
TESTS: PSAT / ACT / SAT



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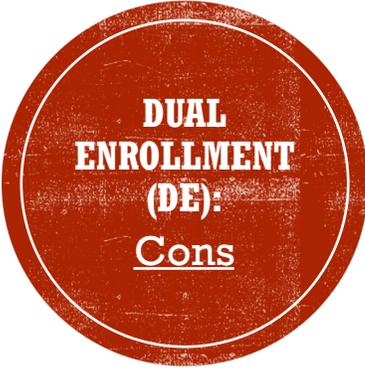
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Taking classes at a local or online college & potentially earning college credit.

- Introduces full-time college coursework
- Gives a closer look at an area of academic interest
- Find an area of interest before the pressure is on to declare a major
- Demonstrates ability to handle difficult (non-homeschool) coursework
- DE courses may be conducted right at home (MANY options)
- Start accumulating college credits, graduate on time or even early

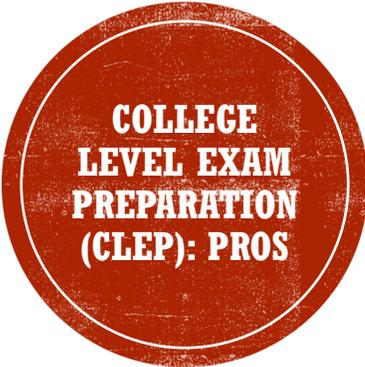
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- Colleges may wonder why a student chose to take an intro class at a community college if an AP class in the same subject is available
- Schedule: Students are bound to the college semester schedule
- Could raise questions about the academic rigor of senior year courses. Carefully consider the value of any class
- Real college courses, real college credit; grades will go on permanent record
- Could hurt chances at college acceptance down the line.
- PLEASE check to see how many credits (if any!) a DE class would earn your child at desired colleges.

The credit policy will depend on the school

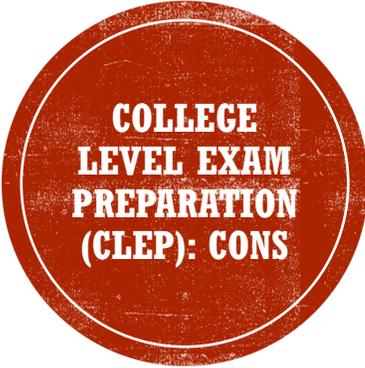
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COLLEGE LEVEL EXAM PREPARATION (CLEP): PROS

- Increased in popularity (allows students chance to gain college credit through exams)
- CLEP program is not necessarily used as substitution college. Many students use CLEP to prepare for and enhance college experience.
- Take fewer classes in college.
- Get college credit for information you already know.
- Allows student to translate already acquired knowledge into college hours for credit. CLEP-ing out of beginner (101) classes can help jump into more advanced and interesting courses
- Spend less money (CLEP exams cost roughly \$65)
- Finish your Degree (great way to get those last few college hours)

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COLLEGE LEVEL EXAM PREPARATION (CLEP): CONS

- Credibility of degree. Many employers/colleges reluctant to accept CLEP credits as legitimate. **(Check with colleges of interest first)**
- Many colleges are paring down which classes they'll accept
- Scholarships nullified (**too many college hours** to qualify for scholarships)
- Many students then considered **transfer** students and can miss out on scholarships

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Program created by the College Board offering college-level curricula and examinations to high school students

- Colleges may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores.
- Curriculum created by panel of experts and college-level educators in that field of study.
- In order to have the designation, the course must be audited by the College Board
- Any student can take any examination regardless of participation in its respective course.
- Homeschooled students have an equal opportunity to take AP exams.
- The AP exams begin on the first Monday in May and last 10 days (2 weeks)
- The cost is roughly \$100 per test
- Some high schools allow homeschooled students to take AP classes



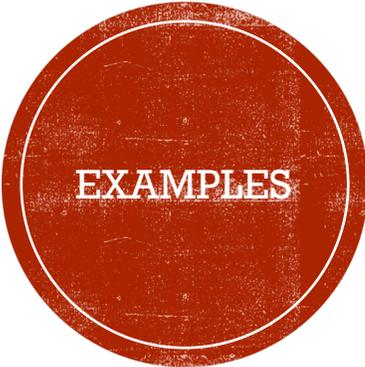
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ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

- 5 – Extremely well qualified
 - 4 – Well qualified
 - 3 – Qualified
 - 2 – Possibly qualified
 - 1 – No recommendation
- According to College Board, 31% of colleges look at AP experience when making scholarship decisions
 - Currently 38 courses and exams available through the AP Program.
 - Most colleges only award credit for scores of 3 (or 4) or higher
 - Many colleges limit the number of accepted AP credits
 - Nationally normed, AP tests can give colleges a comfort level with a homeschool students' level of knowledge and education.



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- Grades
- Standardized Tests (End-of-Grade)
- ACT Report
- Transcript
- School Profile
- Resume of Activities

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