

Revision of Graduation Requirements: Unit Requirements and Inclusion of Ethnic Studies Course

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Presentation Goals

1. Adjustment of Graduation Requirements
2. Rationale for changing Current Life to Navigating Life course in 9th grade and for adding Adulting Course
3. Navigating Life, Adulting, and Intro to Ethnic Studies Course features
4. Flow of courses through High School
5. Limit on AP Courses
6. Seeking approval of Navigating Life, Ethnic Studies, and Graduation Credit Requirements.

Graduate Profile

<i><u>I Am</u> College, Career, and Life Ready</i>	<i><u>I Seek</u> Opportunities and Challenges of Learning</i>	<i><u>I Know</u> Myself and Work Effectively With Others</i>	<i><u>I Build</u> Community Through Understanding and Service</i>
Core Academic Knowledge Life and Professional Skills	Critical Thinker & Problem Solver Ability to Stretch, Engage, & Persist	Socially and Emotionally Aware Effective Collaborator	Cultural Intelligence Civic Responsibility

Alameda County Graduation Requirements

<i>Alameda</i>	Albany	Berkeley	Castro Valley	Emeryville	Fremont	Hayward	Livermore
230	220	220	230	240	230	195	240
<i>Difference:</i>	-10	-10	Same	+10	Same	-35	+10

<i>Alameda</i>	New Haven	Newark	Oakland	Piedmont	Pleasanton	San Leandro	San Lorenzo
230	220	230	230	225	230	220	220
<i>Difference:</i>	-10	Same	Same	-5	Same	-10	-10

Revision of Graduation Credits

- Reduction in graduation elective requirements by 10 Credits (Currently 75 reduces to 60) (The addition of ethnic studies course adds 5 credits) – By doing this the total graduation requirements will be reduced from 230 to 220 for the 21/22 school year onward
- Waiving of community service requirement (for the class of 2022)
- Ethnic studies as a requirement starting for the graduating class of 2025 (addition of 5 credits)
- Current Life changed to Navigating Life or a course that fulfills the State health standards and AB 329 (Provide students with comprehensive sexual health education, along with information about HIV prevention)

What Will Course Requirements Look Like?

Graduation Requirements: The normal course load for students is six courses per semester.	Credits
English: Four courses of English	40
History: Three and one half years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics, and one semester of economics, and one semester of Ethnic Studies (Ethnic studies to begin as a requirement for the class of 2025)	35
Mathematics: Two years, including Algebra I	20
Science: Two years, including biological and physical sciences	20
Foreign Language/Visual and Performing Arts/CTE: Two years of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education	20
Physical Education: Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code	20
Navigating Life: A semester of Navigating Life or a course that fulfills the State health standards and AB 329	5
Electives: A combination of Board approved courses	60
Graduation Credits	220

Revision of Graduation Credits P.E. Exemption

Any AUSD high school student in grades ten (10) through twelve (12) may request an exemption from the graduation requirement of a second year of physical education (Education Code 51241(b)(1)) for either a full year (two semesters) or for a half year (one semester).

The requirements for an approval of such an exemption are as follows:

- Students must pass 5 out of 6 components of the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) taken during 9th grade. PFT certification or documentation must accompany the PE exemption request.
- Students shall evidence successful participation in AUSD interscholastic sports. One (1) season fulfills this requirement for a half a year (or one semester) PE exemption; two (2) seasons fulfill this requirement for a one year (or two semesters) PE exemption. **(Changes from 3 seasons to 2 seasons).**
- Students must obtain required signatures to document all requirements are met.
- Verification of participation in AUSD interscholastic sports must be completed by the school's Athletic Director (AD).
- Exemption requests from current 12th grade students must be submitted to school staff by the end of April. This includes any exemptions that may include spring sports still in progress.

Rationale for Navigating Life and Adulthood

Support for Students Entering and Exiting High School:

- Managing coursework demands to meet AUSD graduation and UC A-G requirements (especially in the time of COVID-19 and Distance Learning)
- Developing and nurturing relationships of respect
- Healthy decision making
- Evolving identity formation
- Reinforces Graduate Profile for AUSD
- Adulthood will support students who did not take Current Life and will become a course for all Seniors who choose to take it

Rationale for Intro to Ethnic Studies

- Students do better academically and become more empowered if they feel that they are *reflected* in the curriculum, are supported to deconstruct internalized ideas of unworthiness
- Ethnic Studies promotes respect and understanding among races, supports student success, and teaches critical thinking skills
- Ethnic studies curricula have been studied in relationship to three overlapping effects on students: academic engagement, academic achievement, and personal empowerment

“It is only when we can learn our shared history and the power dynamics that have molded it, when we recognize ethnic studies as an issue of humans qua humans, that we can hope to move forward.”- Gina Starfield, Yale Senior

Course Descriptions

1. Navigating Life Course Description:

The goal of this one semester freshman course is to **provide** our ninth graders with **knowledge and skills essential to academic success** and to **making thoughtful, health-enhancing choices while navigating adolescence** as they confront varied influences, obstacles and change.

2. Adulting Course Description:

The goal of this one semester 12th grade course is to help **prepare students to “launch” into our communities** as healthy, active, and critically thinking young adult participants.

Course Descriptions, *cont...*

3. Intro to Ethnic Studies Description:

The goal is to **engage students** in both intellectually and emotionally rigorous course content constructed **around issues ethnicity, identity, service, and social justice**. Deeply rooted in modern world history (1700- present), this course will be a hybrid of historical and sociological approaches. Over the course of a semester student will examine how power, privilege, ethnocentricity, systemic oppression, and cultural hegemony intersect with their own individual experiences and throughout recent history. This course is intended to be an empowering critique of the systems and values which make up the fabric of students' lives.

Navigating Life* Course Outline

1. Navigating High School – Goal Setting and Course Planning
2. Adolescent Health and Wellness
 - Physiology and psychology of being a teenager
 - Teen Mental Health Counselor Certification
3. Gender, Sexuality, and Healthy Relationships
 - Comprehensive Sexual Health
 - Consent and Respect in Relationships
 - Contemporary Issues around Gender
4. Healthy Decision Making: Nutrition, Drugs, and Responsible Life Management
 - Tobacco and Drugs and the Adolescent Brain
 - Staying Safe in Social Situations
 - Financial Management and Decision Making

* *Note: UC A-G approved as G elective*

Adulting* Course Outline

Students will:

- Practice skills to become self-directed and able to navigate College, Career, and Life
- Recognize internal and external influences affecting their health and decision making, and formalize their post-secondary plan
- Practice decision making to make healthy choices
- Create connection to our communities and world
- Use civic knowledge, skills and values to participate in our democracy and to take action to change things for the better

* *Note: UC A-G approved as G elective*

Intro to Ethnic Course Outline

The Intro Ethnic Studies course will prepare students to excel in their Sophomore humanities courses.

Student will:

- Examine how power, privilege, ethnocentricity, systemic oppression, and cultural hegemony intersect with their own individual experiences and throughout recent history
- Identify and examine bias and validity
- Analyze both primary and secondary sources
- Construct a persuasive argument both written and orally, with clear structure and relevant supporting information
- Demonstrate the ability to build upon or respectfully disagree with ideas presented by peers
- Articulate ways in which they have agency to enact positive change in their own lives and communities

What Will Students' Schedules Look Like?

Graduation Requirements: The normal course load for students is six courses per semester.	Credits	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English: Four courses of English	40	English	English	English	English
History: Three and one half years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics, and one semester of economics, and one semester of Ethnic Studies (Ethnic studies to begin as a requirement for the class of 2025)	35	Ethnic Studies	Modern World History	US History	Gov/Econ
Mathematics: Two years, including Algebra I	20	Math	Math		
Science: Two years, including biological and physical sciences	20	Chem/Bio/Physics	Chem/Bio/Physics		
Foreign Language/Visual and Performing Arts/CTE: Two years of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education**	20		Choice of CTE/Language/Visual Art	Choice of CTE/Language/Visual Art	
Physical Education: Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code	20	PE	PE		
Navigating Life: A semester of Navigation Life or or a course that fulfills the State health standards and AB 329	5	Navigating Life			
Electives: A combination of board approved courses	60			Two or Three Electives	Three or Four Electives
Graduation Credits	220	60	60	50 or 60	50 or 60

What Will Students Need to Take to be UC A-G Eligible?

Graduation Requirements: The normal course load for students is six courses per semester.	Credits	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English: Four courses of English	40	English	English	English	English
History: Three and one half years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics, and one semester of economics, and one semester of Ethnic Studies (Ethnic studies to begin as a requirement for the class of 2025)	35	Ethnic Studies	Modern World History	US History	Gov/Econ
Mathematics: Three years, including algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra. Four years recommended.	30	Alg 1 or Geo	Geo or Alg2	Alg 2 or Pre Calc or Statistics	Pre Calc or Statistics or Calc
Science: Two years with lab required, chosen from biology, chemistry, and physics. Three years recommended.	20	Chem/Bio/Physics	Chem/Bio/Physics	Chem/Bio/Physics or other science course	
World Language: Two years in same language required. Three years recommended.	20		World Language	World Language	World Language
Visual and Performing Arts: One year of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.	10			dance, drama, music, or visual art	
Physical Education: Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code	20	PE	PE		
Navigating Life: A semester of Navigation Life or or a course that fulfills the State health standards and AB 329	5	Navigating Life			
Electives: A combination of board approved courses	60				One or two Electives
Graduation Credits		60	60	60	50 or 60

AP Courses and Dual Enrollment

Future Discussion with Stakeholders: Limit to three AP courses per year per student and Dual Enrollment.

Rationale for Limiting AP:

- Colleges do not always accept AP courses for credit and many students end up re-taking the courses in college again
- The rate of students suffering from anxiety and depression
- 3 college classes is considered a full-time schedule at college
- AP Courses can create a de facto tracking system

Dual Enrollment: Add Dual Enrollment options with COA and Peralta Colleges so that students are able to take college courses for high school and college credit.

Mitigating Circumstances

What will we do for our Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, and “Remote Program” Freshman who need “Current Life” or Navigating Life credit?

- Adulting for Seniors, being offered at Encinal, can replace the Current Life requirement.
- Edgenuity or other online program (TBD) “Current Life” equivalent can be taken for students unable to take Adulting

A-G Approved

- Navigating Life approved June 11, 2020
- Adulting approved June 18, 2020
- Intro to Ethnic Studies approved June 24, 2020

Unit Requirements and Inclusion of Ethnic Studies Course

Board Discussion