Title
[Announcement of New Admission Standards], Highland High School, Salt Lake City, Utah

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Publication Date
1980-02-01

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Highland High
February 7, 1980
Increasing Academic Excellence

English skills have been slipping in Utah and nationally the last 10 years and as a result the University of Utah has decided to require four years of high school English for admission and is taking a hard look at requirements in other subject areas.

Even the best among high school graduates appears to be disappointingly weak in terms of the basic skills of reading and writing upon which the development of critical thinking and communication in all fields of knowledge is based.

More and more students are entering our universities unprepared to cope with even simple arithmetic.

As the math skills of entering freshmen decline in Utah and elsewhere in the nation, the universities are faced with a heavier demand for remedial courses. The gap between what the faculty has to offer these students and what they are prepared to learn is widening. The decline in basic math preparation comes at a time when more and more disciplines are requiring math competency.

Too many young people see their dreams of becoming a doctor, nurse or engineer fade because they failed to take the necessary background courses in high school.
We are as much concerned about the content of courses and the skills developed in them as we are about the particular subjects suggested.

The English classes should all have a significant emphasis on writing. The history classes should include the writing of essays and the examinations should be at least partially of essay type.

This reflects the belief that a rigorous secondary school preparation remains the best means by which students can be assured of maximizing the benefits to be derived from a rigorous and challenging college education.

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We do our students a disservice when we expect less from them than they are capable of doing. Too many able students appear to be taking light academic programs in high school. Three solid subjects each term is considered a light academic program. Four "solids" would be considered medium in strength and five "solids" is considered heavy.

What is a solid subject? By way of illustration: History, English, Math, Biology, Chemistry are solids as distinguished from P.E., Drivers Education, Band, Survival Skills, and Parenting which are considered electives.

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Too many students who are preparing for university work are taking three "solids", and are arriving at the university with an inadequate preparation. One way that parents can directly influence academic excellence is to encourage students to take (at least) four "solids" each term.

The University of Utah recommends that students planning to attend the university have the following high school courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Fall 1981 - 4 years required with significant emphasis on writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics -</td>
<td>2 years minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students expecting to study in colleges of Science, Engineering, Mines, Business and others must take plane and solid geometry, trigonometry and advanced algebra and it would be prudent to take analytical geometry and calculus as well</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science -</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science -</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language -</td>
<td>3 years of one language is preferable (A college B.A. degree requires proficiency in a language)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 units $\div 4 = 4 \ 1/4$ each year</td>
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