

COURSES OF STUDY

The Governing Board recognizes that a well-aligned sequence of courses fosters academic progress and provides for the best possible use of instructional time. The district's course of study shall provide students with opportunities to attain the skills, knowledge, and abilities they need to be successful.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish processes for ensuring the articulation of courses across grade levels within the district. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall work with representatives of appropriate area districts and postsecondary institutions to ensure articulation of courses with other institutions to which district students may matriculate. The sequence of courses shall be designed to ensure that each course provides adequate preparation for the next course in the sequence, avoids significant duplication of content, and allows for reinforcement and progression in the subject matter.

The district shall not provide any course separately or require or refuse participation by any student on the basis of the student's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ethnic group identification, immigration status, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, or any other characteristic listed in Education Code 200 and 220, Government Code 11135, or Penal Code 422.55, or the student's association with a person or group with one or more of such actual or perceived characteristics. (Education Code 200, 220; Government Code 11135; Penal Code 422.55; 5 CCR 4940)

Elementary Grades

The Board shall adopt a course of study for elementary grades that sufficiently prepares students for the secondary course of study.

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

Secondary Grades

The district shall offer all otherwise qualified students in grades 7-12 a course of study that prepares them, upon graduation from high school, to meet the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges and universities and to attain entry-level employment skills in business or industry. The district's course of study may provide for a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates academic and career skills, includes applied learning across all disciplines, and prepares all students for high school graduation and career entry. (Education Code 51228)

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

In addition, the course of study for students in grades 9-12 shall include instruction in skills and knowledge for adult life, career technical training, and a timely opportunity for all otherwise qualified students to enroll, within four years before graduation, in each course necessary to fulfill the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges and universities. (Education Code 51224, 51228)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a process by which courses that meet college admission criteria (referred to as "a-g" course requirements) are submitted to the University of California for review and certification. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain an accurate list of all current high school courses that have been so certified, shall ensure that the list is provided annually to all students in grades 9-12 and their parents/guardians, and shall make updated lists readily available. (Education Code 51229, 66204)

Legal Reference (see next page)

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33319.3 *Driver education; CDE materials on road rage*
33540 *Government and civics instruction in interaction with government agencies*
48980 *Parental notifications*
51202 *Instruction in personal and public health and safety*
51203 *Instruction on alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs*
51204 *Course of study designed for student's needs*
51204.5 *Social science instruction; history of California; contributions of various groups*
51210-51212 *Course of study for grades 1-6*
51220-51229 *Course of study for grades 7-12*
51241 *Exemption from physical education*
51911-51921 *Comprehensive health education*
51930-51939 *Comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction*
51940 *Curriculum for brain and spinal cord injury prevention*
53278-53280 *Supplemental School Counseling Program*
60040-60052 *Requirements for instructional materials*
66204 *Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

11032 *Definition of dangerous drugs*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

10020-10049 *Automobile driver education and training*

10060 *Physical education program*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6101-6251 *School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Career Resource Network: <http://www.californiacareers.info>
California Colleges.edu: <http://www.californiacolleges.edu>
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>
California State University, Admission Requirements: http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school
University of California, a-g Course Submissions: http://www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ag/course_submissions
University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

Policy

adopted: October 26, 1999

revised: June 26, 2001

revised: August 12, 2003

revised: April 13, 2004

revised: March 27, 2012

revised: May 24, 2022

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

COURSES OF STUDY

Grades 1-6

Courses of study for grades 1-6 shall include the following:

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

1. English: knowledge and appreciation of language and literature, and the skills of speaking, reading, listening, spelling, handwriting, and composition (Education Code 51210)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Mathematics: concepts, operational skills, and problem solving (Education Code 51210)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Social sciences: age-appropriate instruction drawing upon the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, including instruction in: (Education Code 51210)

- a. The history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States

Instruction shall include the early history of California and a study of the role and contributions of men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society. (Education Code 51204.5, 60040)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

- b. The development of the American economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor
 - c. The relations of persons to their human and natural environments
 - d. Eastern and western cultures and civilizations
 - e. Contemporary issues
 - f. The wise use of natural resources

COURSES OF STUDY

(cf. 6142.5 - Environmental Education)

4. Science: biological and physical aspects, with emphasis on experimental inquiry and the place of humans in ecological systems (Education Code 51210)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

5. Visual and performing arts: instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts aimed at developing aesthetic appreciation and creative expression (Education Code 51210)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. Health: principles and practices of individual, family, and community health, including instruction at the appropriate grade levels and subject areas in: (Education Code 51202, 51210)

- a. Personal and public safety and accident prevention, including instruction in emergency first aid, hemorrhage control, treatment for poisoning, resuscitation techniques, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation when appropriate equipment is available

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

- b. Fire prevention
- c. The protection and conservation of resources, including the necessity for the protection of the environment
- d. Growth and physical development, puberty and changes, disease

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

- e. The effects of alcohol, narcotics, drugs, and tobacco upon the human body

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

- f. Violence as a public health issue

7. Physical education, with emphasis on physical activities conducive to health and vigor of body and mind (Education Code 51210)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

8. Violence awareness and prevention

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

9. Career awareness exploration

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

Grades 7-12

Courses of study for grades 7-12 shall include the following:

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

1. English: knowledge and appreciation of literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading, listening, and speaking (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Social sciences: age-appropriate instruction drawing upon the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, with instruction in: (Education Code 51220)

a. The history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States, including instruction in:

- (1) The early history of California and a study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society (Education Code 51204.5)**
- (2) World War II, including the role of Americans and Filipino Americans who served in the United States Army during that time**
- (3) The Vietnam War, including the "Secret War" in Laos and role of Southeast Asians in that war**
- (4) The Bracero program, under which temporary contract laborers were imported pursuant to a 1942 agreement between the United States and Mexico**

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

- b. The American legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal and civil law and the state and federal constitutions
This course may include participation in a teen court or peer court program.
(Education Code 51220.2)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

- c. The development of the American economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor
- d. The relations of persons to their human and natural environments, including the wise use of natural resources (Education Code 51221)

(cf. 6142.5 - Environmental Education)

- e. Eastern and western cultures and civilizations
- f. Human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide (which may include, but is not limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides), slavery, and the Holocaust
- g. Contemporary issues

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

- 3. World language(s): understanding, speaking, reading, and writing, beginning not later than grade 7 (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

- 4. Physical education: with emphasis on physical activities conducive to health and vigor of body and mind, as required by Education Code 51222 (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

- 5. Science: physical and biological aspects; emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems; appropriate applications of the interrelation and interdependence of the sciences (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

6. Mathematics: mathematical understandings, operational skills, and problem-solving procedures; algebra (Education Code 51220, 51224.5)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

7. Visual and performing arts: dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic appreciation and creative expression (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

8. Applied arts: consumer and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business education, or general agriculture (Education Code 51220)

9. Career technical/vocational-technical education: in the occupations and in the numbers appropriate to the personnel needs of the state and community served and relevant to the career desires and needs of students (Education Code 51220)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

10. Comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention (Education Code 51225.36, 51934)

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

11. Personal and public safety, accident prevention and health, including instruction in: (Education Code 51202, 51203)

- a. Emergency first aid, hemorrhage control, treatment for poisoning, resuscitation techniques, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when appropriate equipment is available

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, instruction shall be provided in compression-only CPR. Such instruction shall be based on national evidence-based guidelines and shall include hands-on practice in compression-only CPR. (Education Code 51225.6)

- b. Fire prevention
- c. The protection and conservation of resources, including the necessity for the protection of the environment
- d. Sexually transmitted infections and diseases
- e. The effects of alcohol, narcotics, drugs, and tobacco upon the human body and upon prenatal development

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

- f. Prenatal care
- 12. Violence awareness and prevention
- 13. Ethnic studies

Commencing in the 2025-26 school year, the district shall offer a one-semester course in ethnic studies as specified in Education Code 51225.3.

In addition, the course of study for grade 7 and/or 8 may include parenting skills and education, including, but not limited to, child growth and development, parental responsibilities, household budgeting, child abuse and neglect issues, personal hygiene, maintenance of healthy relationships, teen parenting issues, and self-esteem. (Education Code 51220.5)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

High schools shall offer automobile driver education that includes instruction in: (Education Code 51220, 51220.1, 51220.4)

- 1. Vehicle Code provisions and other relevant state laws
- 2. Proper acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic
- 3. Appreciation of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents
- 4. Knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles
- 5. The safe operation of motorcycles
- 6. The dangers involved in consuming alcohol or drugs in connection with the operation of a motor vehicle
- 7. The rights and duties of a motorist pertaining to pedestrians and the rights and duties of pedestrians pertaining to traffic laws and traffic safety

Certification of College Preparatory Courses

The Superintendent or designee shall identify courses in history-social science, English, mathematics, laboratory science, languages other than English, visual and performing arts, career technical education, and college preparatory electives that may qualify for designation as "a-g" college preparatory courses. ~~He/she~~ The Superintendent or designee shall submit course information to the University of California

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

(UC) including, but not necessarily limited to, the course title, subject area, grade level(s), unit value, a brief course description, prerequisites and co-requisites, texts and supplemental instructional materials used in the course, whether the school is seeking designation of the course as an honors course, and whether the course is classified as a career technical education or regional occupational program course. The Superintendent or designee also shall electronically submit updates to UC whenever course content changes or a course will not be offered in a particular year.

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall provide written notice to parents/guardians of students in grades 9-12 that, to the extent possible, shall not exceed one page in length and that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51229)

1. A brief explanation of the course requirements for admission to UC and the California State University (CSU)
2. A list of the current UC and CSU web sites that help students and their families learn about college admission requirements and that list high school courses that have been certified by UC as satisfying the requirements for admission to UC and CSU
3. A brief description of what career technical education is, as defined by the California Department of Education (CDE)
4. The Internet address for the portion of the CDE web site where students can learn more about career technical education
5. Information about how students may meet with school counselors to help them choose courses that will meet college admission requirements and/or enroll in career technical education courses

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Financial Aid Requirements for Students in Grade 12

Commencing in the 2022-23 school year, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each student in grade 12 completes and submits a FAFSA to the U.S. Department of Education or, if a student is exempt from paying nonresident tuition a CADAA to the Student Aid Commission (CSAC), unless either: (Education Code 51225.7)

1. The student's parent/guardian, emancipated minor, or student age 18 years or older submits an opt-out form to the district
2. If the district determines that a student is unable to complete a requirement of Education Code 51225.7, the district shall exempt the student or the student's parent/guardian from completing the FAFSA, CADAA, or optout form and shall complete and submit an opt-out form on the student's behalf.

COURSES OF STUDY (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each high school student in grade 12, and if applicable, the student's parent/guardian, be directed to any support and assistance necessary to complete the FAFSA and/or CADAA that may be available through outreach programs, including, but not limited to, programs operated by CSAC, postsecondary immigration resource centers, college readiness organizations, community-based organizations, and/or legal resource organizations. (Education Code 51225.7)

Information shared by students and parents/guardians in completing and submitting the FAFSA and/or CADAA shall be handled in compliance with the federal Family Rights and Privacy Act and applicable state law, regardless of any person's immigration status or other personal information. (Education Code 51225.7)

Regulation

adopted: October 26, 1999

revised: June 26, 2001

revised: August 12, 2003

revised: March 1, 2004

revised: March 5, 2012

revised: February 12, 2018

revised: May 24, 2022

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

Instruction

Work Flow - New Course Development & Approval for Secondary

- 1) New course concept is developed by:
 - a. Teacher/Departments
 - b. District initiated based on alignment with new standards, frameworks, or curriculum
- 2) Site leadership team approves a course concept and submits to the Curriculum Department by October 15 or the next working day if October 15 falls on a weekend
- 3) VUSD Curriculum Department directors conduct a preliminary approval process:
 - a. Concept Approval—Return to original site for course outline development
 - b. Concept Rework—Return to the site with recommendations for changes and resubmittal
 - c. Concept Rejected—the course concept is dropped or the site may petition for an extension of time
- 4) New course outline draft is created by site (1a) or district (1b) and electronically submitted to the VUSD Curriculum Department by November 15 or the next working day if November 15 falls on a weekend
- 5) Curriculum Department directors:
 - a. Conduct format adjustments and editing as needed
 - b. Stakeholder dissemination for outline review
 - i. Other site leadership teams and teacher/departments (if applicable)
 - ii. Principals
 - c. Conduct additional edits and adjustments
 - d. Present to assistant superintendent of Educational Services for cabinet review and approval
- 6) Cabinet approves course outlines
- 7) Course outlines are submitted to the Board of Education for approval