

High School Curriculum

9-12

High School Curriculum is highly individualized in all high schools. This will be even more so in HIS Schools as high school students will be entering at various levels and pursuing varied goals, and as a result their curricular needs will also be very, very different from one student to another.

Although the optimal scenario is for high school students to be learning face to face with Christian peers, that might not be the case in many HIS Schools. So, we will address first the academic decisions as well as the social decisions that face a High School student who needs an affordable Christian school.

In terms of the academic decisions, some Christian students have the goal to become a Christian doctor, lawyer, or architect. These students, as well as any who desire eventually earning a Master's degree require a path that includes completing a Bachelor's degree. In addition, earning a bachelor's degree is now considered entry level to most salaried positions.

The HIS School you will be putting together will *not be accredited*. This does not matter in grades K-8. It does matter when you are talking about high school. But not as much as many people think it does. Dr. Coleman built a fully accredited high school with students who were admitted into selective colleges and universities, and went on to get a Master's Degree from Yale, among other prestigious grad schools.

When building the high school, one of the steps that was required was having each and every high school course approved by the UCOP (University of California Office of the President). If the course was not approved, it was sent back for corrections. ONLY UCOP approved courses counted toward admission -- not only to the University of California system, but nearly every other college or university in the country. Their list of college approved courses has been the gold standard to be admitted to most four year colleges and universities across the nation. It is unlikely that this has changed. It would upset a national system for recognizing high school courses for admission.

Anyone who knows anything about California's education system, knows where it stands in regards to aligning with the truth of God's Word. If it hasn't happened already, it is likely that there will be a push from the UCOP for new course submissions that will only be passed if they align with the world's view, or counter to God's truth. Recent California legislation in terms of what is *required* teaching in this public school system is very concerning.

And it is not just limited to California public schools. It is astounding what is being taught today in our colleges and universities, *including some previously well-reputed Christian colleges and Universities?* And even if your student is strong enough to withstand the pressure to conform, you'll need to ask yourself: is it worth paying the exorbitant tuition and fees, not to mention the price of receiving low grades by failing to conform? This site is not advocating for refraining from seeking higher education. It is merely putting out the question that we think is important for you to consider: Is it worth the cost to you and your student to go the traditional route these days?

The good news is that there are various ways to complete an unaccredited high school and still earn a B.A. from a prestigious college or university. There are many homeschooled high school students who went to a community college right out of high school and then transferred to (and were very successful) at universities such as a University of California school.

The main path for students going from an unaccredited high school to a bachelor's degree is through the community college route: earning an AA, and then transferring into a 4 year college or university. The other main path is to go directly into one of the rare colleges or universities that accept students from high schools that are unaccredited. We will examine both paths, because there are pros and cons to each, and pitfalls to consider in each.

The AA/Community College Path

- The AA/Community College Path is the optimal path for those whose dream is to be a doctor or a lawyer or architect or some other profession that requires similar academic degrees (and yes, there are many examples). Once an AA is earned, they can transfer into a college or university that will serve as the gateway into the grad schools who can provide degrees, such as medical doctor, or lawyer or architect. The pro to going this route is that it can save money and even time to go this route (a big plus when you consider the amount of tuition it costs to become any profession, such as these three listed here).

- There are 2 ways to get an AA:

1) After graduation from high school, go directly to any community college. In some states you don't have to have a high school diploma to go to community college. All you need is to be 18.

2) Take high school courses at a community college while still in high school. The advantage of this path is the student can shave off as much as 2 years from college. This is done by taking high school courses at a community college. This path helps by taking a course -- once, rather than twice -- once in high school and again in college. Some students have graduated from high school and graduated from community college simultaneously, having two graduation ceremonies! They save two years of time and save 2 years of tuition from a 4 year degree. It doesn't matter what high school they go to.

But! Be aware of this pitfall #1: Be sure to carefully **check the college catalogue for the course number. It must be a course number at least as high as 101. It also must be a transferable course.** It will say in the catalogue it is transferable if it is. If it doesn't say it's transferable, it isn't.

Also be aware of this pitfall #2: In most states, **once a student has turned 18, or has graduated from high school, any courses they subsequently take at a community college, locks them into completing an AA. They forfeit any possibility of transferring into a 4 year college.**

So, if the student wants to go directly into a four year college after high school, just be sure they don't take ANY courses in a community college after high school is completed! Once you take one course after this point, you can't transfer into any four year program until you complete the AA. You CAN transfer anytime from one 4 year program to another four year program. The same is NOT true from a community college to a 4 year college or university.

There is one other pitfall #3: A 101 level course taken at a community college is equivalent to a high school AP course. The *good thing* about taking it in a community college is that there is no AP test to take and pass in order to earn the college units. As long as they pass the course, they have completed the course! *The challenge, the pitfall* is that the other difference between high school AP courses and community college courses is the high school AP courses are taught over an entire year; the comparable community college course is compressed into one semester.

Finally, be aware of pitfall #4: The completion rate of students who go to a community college to earn an AA is only 2 out of 10. Eight out of 10 students who go to community college *never* earn their AA. So, how do you know which students will be that 20% who will succeed at earning their AA? Here's the best predictor of how a student will fare in terms of an AA degree completion:

Where are they in terms of math?

Will they be able to pass the math test given at the community college to take Math 101? You'd be surprised how hard this test is. Sample tests can easily be obtained online at the community college you are looking at.

Where are they in terms of language arts?

Again, there is an entry test/placement test. Like math, based on how they score they will only be able to take the course in which they are placed. If they are placed in a course with a number that is less than 101, they will be required to take and pass that course before continuing on the path to being able to take the 101 level course. ONLY 101 level courses count toward the AA or a BA. Think how discouraging this can be!

If they can pass the entry tests for Math 101 and Language Arts 101

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If they won't be getting a car and job to pay for it,

Then, they will probably be in the 20% who can complete an AA.

What is the issue with the car and job? Well, it happens ALL the time! Students graduate from high school and the first thing they do is get a car. This means getting a job. Meanwhile, the student registers for a few courses at their local community college. 12 units is considered ambitious. The manager at their job changes the work schedule, only to conflict with the class schedule. The student has to either skip work or class. With a car payment hanging over their head, the class gets skipped ("It's only one class"). You can imagine how many times this happens. Before a few weeks have passed the student ends up dropping one class, probably even two. Now, they are completing maybe 6 units after one semester. An AA requires 60-90 completed units (passing). At this rate, how long will it take the student to get an AA? How many do you think will hang in there for more than 2 semesters?

BUT! It has been very successful for those who will work the system. Learn enough math and language arts in high school to pass the placement tests and be placed in Math 101 and Language Arts 101 AND don't buy a car or get a job.

Going directly into a 4 year college or university

It is possible to find a college or university that will accept students from unaccredited colleges and universities. The good news is that these are schools that have refused to compromise on standing on God's Word. These are schools that completely support a *biblical* worldview. For those who dream of being a teacher or a pastor, these are excellent choices.

Also, there are online courses that can be taken to complete the UCOP approved admission courses -- same as being in an accredited high school. These cost money, but if this is a course you and your student seek, it is an option. There are a few companies. As a tutor working with high school students during COVID, Dr. Coleman has thorough knowledge of the various programs available. They vary a little, but not enough to make a real difference. Just be sure to verify if the course you pay for is accredited. After all, that is the reason you are going this route. The challenge here is being able to give a high school diploma if you are not accredited.

As an example of how to approach this path, let us look at Hillsdale College. You can find them at this link: <https://www.hillsdale.edu/admissions-aid/admissions-2/> This will take you to the Home page. Take a moment to read about this college. They are a college that is committed to a biblical worldview. They do not require a high school diploma from an accredited high school. They are in demand, so their admission requirements will be the most rigorous of one of these colleges that will admit students from unaccredited high schools. So, this is what Hillsdale requires in terms of courses taken and passed in high school. The curriculum map provided herein would satisfy their requirements. Because they are selective, if a college like Hillsdale sounds like a fit, you might need to add some community college courses (summer is a great time to do this), or take some of the courses in the map at a community college.

You can find out their admission requirements here: <https://www.hillsdale.edu/admissions-aid/admissions-2/frequently-asked-questions/>

What courses do you recommend I take in high school?

Above all, Hillsdale College encourages high school students to follow a college preparatory curriculum that demonstrates academic motivation, ambition, and achievement. An aggressive college preparatory curriculum should include:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of math
- 3 years of biological and physical science
- 3 years of history/social science
- At least 2 years of a foreign language

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate Program (IB) courses are given special attention in the selection process. Community College courses taken during high school can substitute for these.

This is your checklist. As you can see, they do not require UCOP approved courses. This list is a typical high school curriculum. And the curriculum that is recommended in every curriculum guide in HIS Schools is a curriculum that will thoroughly prepare the students in the school you are putting together!

So, the curriculum guide provided here provides a map from grade 9 through 12. Find where your student is on the map. If they already have taken and passed at least 9th grade somewhere else, check off any courses on the Hillsdale list. The rest of the courses need to be taken and completed at their own pace, either with others at HIS Schools or at home, or an online course (which will cost per course) or through community college, which costs, but they are getting college credit for it (usually no sooner than the Junior Year).

The curriculum provided in the HIS Schools high school curriculum map will thoroughly prepare your student for college, no matter where they go. The scope of the curriculum is more expansive than required, but as with all curriculum guides, it is better to include more than leave a gap in learning. The map for HIS Schools also *includes curriculum for a strong Bible* and an added *apologetics (defending your faith) component*.

There is also a link to the publishers we at HIS Schools have found that are not only affordable, but what we think will provide a strong foundation for them to carry them forward to fulfill their divine purpose. You can go to these links. Put the name of the course in the search option. You can also google the name of the publisher + the course name. It's that simple!

Bible and Apologetics are provided with links for you.

It is our hope and prayer that this lengthy, but comprehensive explanation of how it CAN work to go to an unaccredited high school, but still get an advanced graduate degree has been helpful.

We have addressed the academic decisions you and your student will need to make in high school. We conclude with a final word on the social decisions that face a High School student who needs an affordable Christian school.

Last, but not least, IT is a MYTH that students who -- go to small accredited high schools, or are homeschooled -- are socially deprived! There are more testimonies to the contrary that are too numerous to count. We at HIS Schools personally know many young adults who were homeschooled through high school, or accredited high schools with as few as 9 in their graduation class. These students went away to colleges and universities, even USC, and they brought with them a confidence, an ability to navigate challenging social situations with grace, love, and making more lifelong friends than the average student. Today, years after graduating from college and grad schools, they continue to succeed as HIS children in terms of social skills, integrity, resilience, love, and faith. They continue to stay in touch with friends they made at college years later. And they are bringing the same skills to their marriages and raising their children. Many are planning on using HIS Schools when their children are needing to go to Kindergarten.

Curriculum Map

High School: 9-12

This curriculum map is designed with a college like Hillsdale in mind: a college that will accept high school students from a school system that is unaccredited, but selective within that pool. There are

many other less selective schools who will also accept students from unaccredited school systems. But, this map will provide a way to a school like Hillsdale, as well as the others.

Today, the curriculum that is available for high school is very limited in terms of being untainted by the current pressures to conform to a worldview that is in opposition to a biblical worldview.

A few links to textbooks are provided here. Do be assured that if you need more than what is offered here, if you go to christianbook.com you can feel you will get books that will align with the values of this site. After many, many searches on this site, those of us at HIS Schools have yet to encounter anything that goes counter to God's Word.

Math

Four years recommended

In High School it's all about the math track. You can find textbooks for all of these courses at christianbook.com. The following course path is typical:

Pre-Algebra (for students who need more time in math). It does NOT satisfy the math requirement for college admission, but many colleges (other than Hillsdale, do not require more than 3 years of math).

Algebra 1

Geometry

Algebra 2

Precalculus

For a college like Hillsdale, it might be necessary to take an online remedial course in the summer can help keep a student on track. For the vast majority of the others, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 are more than sufficient. Some might only require Pre-Algebra through Geometry.

English

Four years recommended

List of supplemental reading:

This link will take you to a safe, vetted list of excellent literature to use to supplement the student textbook.

<https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/literature/childrens-classic-literature/literature-grades-9-12>

A book like this one can make a difference in teaching composition:

<https://www.christianbook.com/composition-conversation-seven-virtues-effective-writing/heather-hoover/9781540966032/pd/966035?event=ESRCG#CBD-PD-Publisher-Description>

Cost \$16

Can be used throughout high school.

Grade 9 Themes in Literature

You can't go wrong with ABEKA. It is always thorough and Christian.

Student Literature Textbook

<https://www.christianbook.com/grade-9-themes-literature-5th-edition/pd/641932?event=ESRCG#CBD-PD-Description>

Cost \$50

Student Grammar/Composition Textbook

<https://www.christianbook.com/grade-9-grammar-composition-iii-revised/pd/941894?event=ESRCG#CBD-PD-Description>

Cost \$32

You will need to supplement with literature and writing, writing, writing. The more they read, the better they will write. The more they write, the better they will write. Be sure to add a research paper.

Let them choose novels they want to read. Consider including at least some of the following (from Hillsdale Reading List for 9th grade):

Julius Caesar, *William Shakespeare*

The Aeneid, *Virgil* (translation Fagle)

Grade 10 British Literature / Composition

ABEKA British Literature

Student Textbook

https://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/easy_find?Ntt=ABEKA+British+Literature&N=0&Ntk=keywords&action=Search&Ne=0&event=ESRCG&nav_se arch=1&cms=1&ps_exit=RETURN%7Clegacy&ps_domain=www

Cost \$61

You will need to supplement with literature and writing, writing, writing.

Let them choose novels they want to read. Consider including at least some of the following (from Hillsdale Reading List for 10th grade): *Beowulf*: A dual translation edition, *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer, *Paradise Lost*, John Milton, *Pride & Prejudice*, Jane Austen

This course is designed to develop and refine skills in writing, grammar, and vocabulary building. Particular emphasis is placed on the study of British literature by reading assignments of classical British works. In addition, the course further develops vocabulary and writing skills through formal essays, a topical research paper, and a variety of creative and analytical writing experiences.

Grade 11 American Literature / Composition

ABEKA British Literature

Student Textbook

<https://www.christianbook.com/american-literature-classics-christians-fourth-edition/pd/208359?event=ESRCG>

Cost \$61

You will need to supplement with literature and writing, writing, writing. Let them choose novels they want to read. Consider including at least some of the following: *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain, *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville, *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley, *Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck

This course includes a comprehensive study of American literature. In addition, the course further develops vocabulary and writing skills through formal essays, a topical research paper, and a variety of creative and analytical writing experiences. A review of the grammar and mechanics introduced in Introduction to Lit / Comp will be part of the curriculum.

Grade 12 World Literature / Composition

ABEKA World Literature
Student Textbook

<https://www.christianbook.com/abeka-world-literature/pd/215401?event=ESRCG>

Cost \$54

You will need to supplement with literature and writing, writing, writing. Let them choose novels they want to read. Consider including at least some of the following (from Hillsdale Reading List for 12th grade): *Hamlet*, Shakespeare, *Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Inferno*, Dante Alighieri

This course is designed to prepare students for college level English. Major literary works are drawn from around the world and studied in thematic context of Christianity, history, culture, and modern society. Composition includes analytical essays, thematic essays, and a major research paper. Special attention is also given to developing discussion skills useful for the college classroom.

Science

Three years recommended

For science, the textbooks are listed by the author. Just google the subject and the author. You will find the same books available through multiple sites, with a wide variance in cost. This site is indebted to Hillsdale, who have vetted the following. Or try this link:

<https://www.booksprince.com/advancedSearch.do?title=Earth+Science&keywords=&author=tasa&z=y&vard=y&msclkid=a6b928d2c8211da60b874c1ac106ff88>

You can start in 9th grade or 10th.

Grade 9/10

Biology, Sylvia Mader

Grade 10/11

Chemistry, by Steven and Susan Zurndahl
Not cheap, but you can rent through Amazon

Grade 11/12

Earth Science, by Edward Tarbuck & Frederick Lutgens

History/Social Studies

Three years recommended

You can start in 9th or 10th grade

Hillsdale University provides their **Social Studies/Civics/American History courses (K-12)** -- **FREE!** It's their gift to provide not only affordable, but free Christian alternative, that aligns with a biblical worldview. You can find it here: <https://k12.hillsdale.edu/Curriculum/The-Hillsdale-1776-Curriculum/>
It only covers America. You will need to supplement.

You will NOT in all likelihood be able to cover ALL of the following. Choose some from each.

Grade 9/10

Ancient to 500 AD

The History of the Ancient World, Susan Wise Bauer

https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?hspart=trp&hsimp=yhs-001&grd=1&type=Y143_F163_201897_122820&p=The+Historyof+the+Ancient+World

Multiple vendors, with varied cost

Grade 10/11

Europe 500 to 1815

<https://www.christianbook.com/exploring-world-history-part-1/ray-notgrass/9781609990619/pd/990619?event=ESRCG>

Cost \$45

Grade 11/12

Modern World

1815-current

<https://www.christianbook.com/1815-present-homeschool-manual/marlin-detweiler/9781932168747/pd/710199?event=ESRCER1#CBD-PD-Description>

Foreign Language

Two years recommended

The foreign language you choose to use will depend on where you are located and which volunteers are willing to teach it.

Latin is offered as a safe and useful foreign language to offer. It is the basis for much of the English vocabulary.

***Whichever language you choose, be sure to be ready to commit to 2 years!
Switching after this year will cause a lot of challenges for the students.***

Latin I

<https://www.christianbook.com/henle-latin-1-text-first-year/robert-henle/9780829410266/pd/646687?event=ESRCG>

Cost \$18