

# RIGOROUS CORE FACT SHEET

Students can complete the Regent's College Preparatory Program (3 years of math, 2 of science, and 2 of electives) to enter any of Montana's four-year universities. However, students who take more rigorous coursework in high school, maintain high GPAs, and score well on the ACT or SAT are most likely to be successful in college. The Montana Board of Regents adopted the Rigorous Core as a **requirement for the MUS Honors Scholarship (MUSHS)** in order to assure that the most meritorious students would compete for this scholarship and to assure that their grade point averages would be based on a similar set of rigorous courses (up to 200 MUSHS are offered to high school seniors each year). The complete text of the applicable policies can be found within the Board of Regents Policy Manual: <http://mus.edu/borpol/default.asp>.

## ENGLISH - 4 YEARS

In each year the content of the course should have an emphasis upon the development of written and oral communication skills and literature. In addition a designated college-prep or research-writing course is recommended.

## ELECTIVES - 3 YEARS

**3 years** chosen from the following: 2 years of a World Language , Computer Science, Visual and Performing Arts (including Speech/Debate) , Vocational Education units which meet OPI guidelines (such as Information Technology, Computer Science.)

## MATHEMATICS - 4 YEARS

Courses shall include Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II (or the sequential content equivalent of these courses) and a course beyond Algebra II, or Integrated Math IV (such as Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Computer Math, or Integrated Math VI.) All must have grades of "C" or better.

*NOTE: In school systems where a student may take Algebra I in the 8th grade, the student must still complete 3 years of college preparatory math in high school.*

### ***Alternate Rigorous Core Math/Science Combination***

Based on course availability, three years of mathematics, including a course beyond Algebra II, and four years of laboratory science may be substituted for the four years of math and three years of science requirement.

## SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 YEARS

The courses include Global Studies (such as World History or World Geography); American History; and Government, Economics, Indian History or other third year courses.

NOTE: Students must complete a full year of global studies such as World History or World Geography, a full year of American History, and an additional year in another social studies field such as economics, problems of democracy, psychology, sociology, tribal government or Indian History. With the recommendation of an additional 1/2 year or more of other courses such as psychology or humanities.

## LAB SCIENCE - 3 YEARS

Full year of each: General or earth science; biology; chemistry or physics.

## MORE INFORMATION

View your school's Rigorous Core classes and frequently asked questions online at <http://www.mus.edu/che/arsa/CollegePrep/hscpindex.asp>