



Caat

Central Academy of Arts and Technology

Caat College-Prep High School Course Guide and Planning

2026-2027

Access to an early college high school, without the tuition.

Understanding Dual Enrollment, Early College, and High School Planning at Caat

As families begin thinking about high school, one of the most important things to understand is how early planning can open doors for students after graduation. At Caat, our high school program is designed around helping students prepare for college and careers from the very beginning of their high school journey. Two important parts of that preparation are dual enrollment and early college opportunities.

Dual enrollment allows high school students to take real college courses while they are still in high school. These classes are taught through a partnership with a college and students earn both high school credit and college credit at the same time. This means students can begin building college transcripts early, explore subjects that interest them, and gain confidence in a college level learning environment.

An early college model goes a step further. Early college programs are intentionally designed so that students can complete a significant number of college credits, while they are still in high school. Students graduate with both a high school diploma and a strong start on their college education. This saves time, reduces the cost of college, and helps students see themselves as college ready.

At CAAT, planning for these opportunities begins early. Students do not wait until their senior year to think about college. Instead, we begin mapping out a four year plan in 8th and 9th grade, helping students choose courses that keep every door open. This includes selecting classes that meet college entrance requirements while also supporting their interests in arts, technology, and other career pathways.

Parents often hear about different graduation requirements, which can sometimes be confusing. There are three main sets of requirements to understand.

State Graduation Requirements are the minimum courses required by the State of California to earn a high school diploma. These requirements are designed to ensure students complete basic coursework in English, math, science, social studies, and other core subjects.

A-G Requirements are a separate set of courses required for admission to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. These courses are more rigorous and must be completed with specific grades. Completing A-G keeps students eligible to apply to California's public universities.

Caat Graduation Requirements are intentionally aligned with the A-G requirements and include a minimum of 18 college units. In other words, all Caat students take courses that meet college entrance standards. Our goal is to ensure that every student graduates college eligible, not just meeting the minimum requirements for a diploma.

What sets the Caat high school program apart is the level of planning and support students receive. Our program **includes early and comprehensive academic planning, personalized college counseling, and access to free college courses** through partnerships with Bakersfield College and the California State University system. Students are able to take real college classes while still in high school, gaining both experience and college credit without the financial burden that many families face later. Our personalized college counseling and college course save families thousands of dollars.

Our goal is simple: students should never fall through the cracks and families should have a clear four-year plan for high school. At Caat, we work closely with each student and family to ensure every child graduates competitively prepared, confident, and ready for the next step in their future.

CAAT High School Pathways and Early College Opportunities

At Caat, high school is designed with purpose. Our goal is to help every student graduate prepared for college, career, and life. Beginning early in high school, students follow a pathway that allows them to explore their interests while completing rigorous college preparatory coursework.

STEM Pathway (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

The STEM pathway is designed for students who enjoy problem solving, technology, science, and innovation. Students take courses that strengthen skills in mathematics, computer science, engineering concepts, and applied technology while also completing strong core academic classes.

The ideal student for the STEM pathway is curious about how things work, enjoys building or designing solutions, and likes tackling challenges that require logic and critical thinking. Students interested in careers such as engineering, medicine, technology, data science, or other science based fields often thrive in this pathway.

Arts Pathway

The Arts pathway is designed for students who enjoy creativity, expression, and artistic exploration. Students have opportunities to develop skills in areas such as visual arts, music, digital media, design, and creative production while also completing rigorous college preparatory courses.

The ideal student for the Arts pathway enjoys creating, performing, designing, or expressing ideas visually or artistically. Students interested in careers in media, design, performing arts, communications, architecture, or other creative industries benefit from this pathway.

Early College and CAL-GETC

Students in both pathways can participate in Caat's early college model, which allows them to take real college classes while still in high school through partnerships with Bakersfield College and California State University programs. These courses are offered at no cost to families and students earn both high school and college credit.

Students may work toward completing CAL-GETC (California General Education Transfer Curriculum) while in high school. CAL-GETC is a set of college courses that fulfills the general education requirements for both the University of California and California State University systems. These courses typically include college level writing, math, social sciences, humanities, and science classes. When students complete CAL-GETC, they enter college having already finished the general education coursework that most freshmen and sophomores take.

Why This Matters

Completing college coursework in high school can save families both time and money. Students may enter college with one to two years of credit already completed, allowing them to graduate earlier or focus more deeply on their major.

For many families, this can represent \$25,000–\$70,000 in potential savings in tuition, housing, and other college costs.

What Makes Caat Different

- Early four year academic planning
- Personalized college counseling
- Access to free Bakersfield College and CSU courses
- All high school courses meeting A-G college entrance requirements

Caat College -Prep

High School Graduation Requirements

High school students at Caat can choose from three college-prep pathways. Within each pathway, students take college courses through both Bakersfield College and CSU Bakersfield as part of their regular school schedule. Students may also choose to take additional college courses, as long as college classes do not make up more than 50% of their schedule. It is an expectation that all students engage in college coursework while at Caat.

	Arts Pathway	STEM Pathway	Col-GETC
English	40	40	40 *9 college units
Math	50	50	50 *3 college units
Social Science	35 *3 college units	35 *3 college units	35 *9 college units
Science	40	40	40 *7 college units
Foreign Language	40	40	40
Health	5	5	5
Physical Education	20	20	20
Elective	35 *12 college units	35 *12 college units	35 *3 college units
VPA	10 *3 college units	10 *3 college units	10 *3 college units
Total Units to Graduate	270	270	270
Total College Units Earned	18 college units	18 college units	34 college units

The Caat graduation requirements exceed the minimum California Graduation Requirements. College courses are offered at no cost to families and are taught on the Caat campus during the regular school day, through a combination of online and in person learning. Students must have parent permission to enroll in college courses. Student with disabilities may be offered alternative pathways to graduation.