

## COURSE SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR RISING JUNIORS

1. Since most of our students do not know which colleges they are interested in, our overarching advice is for students to take **one course in each of the five major academic disciplines: English, Math, Social Science, Science and Foreign Language**. By taking a course in each of these areas, students will **keep all options open**. Even though Bullis graduation requirements may be less than this, If the student thinks he/she may be applying to large state schools, having four years of English and Math is a necessity (with very few exceptions.) University of Maryland has changed their requirements and now expects all applicants to have four years of math.
2. Maintaining a **foreign language through level 3 and beyond** is strongly encouraged. Have the student check out these guidelines at some of the colleges they have heard of--most of them will see that 3 years is expected.
3. **Take appropriate level of rigor**. If a student plans to apply to very competitive colleges (Ivy Leagues, Stanford, Duke, Vanderbilt, Williams, Amherst, Pomona, etc.), advise him/her to take **as much rigor as possible**. Keep in mind the student's after school commitments and **find a balance**, but to have a good chance of admission at these types of colleges, the student must demonstrate a willingness to challenge himself/herself. For most other students, a few honors and AP courses in junior and senior year is appropriate. For some students, no honors or AP courses is the appropriate level of challenge. They will still get accepted at colleges.
4. **Follow teacher placement recommendations**. The teachers have taught students for a year and know the student's skills and abilities. They have given much thought and consideration to these recommendations and they should be respected and adhered to. If student wishes to challenge the placement and take a course he/she is not recommended for, please make sure to follow the appropriate steps.
5. **Make sure to meet all graduation requirements**. Be sure each student will be able to complete one full year of arts and one trimester of health before graduation.
6. If student is planning to enroll in a **Signature Program**, make sure the **prerequisites** are included in the junior schedule.

Entrepreneurship: Business Model Design AND Entrepreneurial Finance

Humanities/Global Studies: Contemporary Global Issues

STEM: Research and Design Methods

Visual and Performing Arts: Check with department

7. Encourage student to **take what he/she enjoys**. There is no magic curriculum that ensures admission to college. If student is having a hard time deciding between AP Biology or AP Chemistry, for example, just ask him/her which one he/she would enjoy more and sign up for that one. If the student takes what he/she enjoys most, he/she will naturally do better in that course.
8. If student has any interest in taking the **Applerouth Test Prep Class**, please sign him/her up now. (We will decide if it is ACT or SAT later). It will be easier to build the schedule around this course from the beginning, rather than trying to fit it in later. Student will give up the study hall two days a week. Thus, this does not count as one of the 6-7 classes each day but rather is partnered with the study hall 2 days a week. Please advise student there will be approximately a \$600 fee for this course and is currently only offered in **winter trimester**.
9. If student plans to play **Division I or Division II athletics** in college, it is important that he/she enrolls in as many **courses as possible that are NCAA approved**. This list of non-NCAA approved courses is below. This is especially important for students who need to boost their gpa in their core courses.
10. Our unwritten rule is a student cannot drop both Foreign Language and Science--if students don't have both, they should have one or the other. It is not a good idea to overload in Social Sciences or other departments, but to have a differentiated curriculum.

**NON- NCAA APPROVED COURSES:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Independent Studies Courses</li><li>• All Capstone courses (because they are seen as independent studies)</li></ul> <p><b>English</b> All Journalism courses</p> <p><b>Entrepreneurship</b> Leadership Course Business Model Design Entrepreneurial Finance Personal Finance</p> <p><b>Humanities &amp; Global Studies</b> Classical Mythology</p> <p><b>Science</b> Decision Theory Food Science Kinesiology and Rehabilitation</p>	<p><b>STEM</b> Maker Lab Making for Social Good Intermediate Making: Iteration and Design Sound Design and Programming Digital Media I and II Mobile App Development Game Design Creative Coding Cyber Security Foundations Engineering Applications for Theatre Engineering Graphics Robotics I and II AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A</p> <p><b>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</b> All Visual and Performing arts courses (including AP)</p>
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