

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO CALL A COURSE?

The following is a list of possible course titles. Other resources are high school curriculum lists, vo-tech school course lists, college course lists... many of which are listed on-line. Another suggestion is to obtain a catalog from a college of interest and pattern course titles in that direction.

(1) ENGLISH COURSES. English courses will be English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12.

(2) MATHEMATICS COURSES. Mathematics options include accounting, algebra, applied math, bookkeeping, business mathematics, calculus, computer science, consumer mathematics, general mathematics, geometry, and trigonometry.

(3) SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES. Social studies options include American cultures, ancient history, anthropology, civics, economics, geography, history, history of the U.S. and Pennsylvania, modern history, Pennsylvania history, political science, psychology, sociology, United States history, world cultures, and world history.

(4) SCIENCE COURSES. Science options include astronomy, biological science, biology, chemical science, chemistry, ecology, earth science, environmental science, general science, geology, physical science, and physics. Three of the options, biology, chemistry, and physics, are called "laboratory sciences" in the public school regulations and should have a hands-on component.

(5) ARTS AND HUMANITIES COURSES. Arts and humanities options include art history, Bible, dance, film studies, foreign languages (Spanish, French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, ...), literature, music, music history, music theory, philosophy, practical arts and crafts, theater, theology, and visual arts. Extra English or history courses can be used to meet the arts and humanities requirement. Families who plan for their children to go to college should be aware that most colleges require that their applicants have completed two years of one foreign language. Not all colleges accept American Sign Language as a foreign language; research this in advance. For Sign Language to count as a foreign language, it must be formal American Sign Language with linguistic and cultural components, not just learning a list of signs.