

## Graduation Pathways: San Jose Early College

	24-Credit Standard Diploma	18-Credit CTE Diploma
<b>English</b>	4 credits	4 credits
<b>Math</b>	4 credits	4 credits
<b>History</b>	3 credits	3 credits
<b>Science</b>	3 credits	3 credits
<b>Additional required credits</b>	1 credit fine arts; 1 credit PE; 8 credits electives; 1 course online	Industry certifications and work-based learning experiences; electives in fine art and PE are optional
<b>Work-based learning experience</b>	Optional; standard diploma students may not have time in their schedules to participate in paid work-based learning	2 credits of paid internships or apprenticeships
<b>Industry certifications</b>	Optional and encouraged for every high school student	2 credits
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Benefits of Early College and college preparatory programs in high school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Save families money and stress: “Not only is [paying for college] stressful for parents, it’s also a cause of anxiety for students, since worrying about paying for school can derail their attention away from their studies.”<sup>1</sup></li> <li>2. Increase accessibility of college to a wider population of students</li> <li>3. Provide real-world applications, such as a strong work ethic, time management, writing ability, critical thinking and study skills</li> <li>4. Students gain more personal connections with teachers, peers</li> </ol>	<p>Today’s societal need for free access to career and technical secondary education is great. Wyman (2015) writes in Forbes Magazine, “The U.S. economy has changed. The manufacturing sector is growing and modernizing, creating a wealth of challenging, well-paying, highly skilled jobs for those with the skills to do them.” This author explores the demise of vocational education, which he demonstrates has led to a skills shortage today. “Many of the jobs in manufacturing are attainable through apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and vocational programs offered at community colleges. They don’t require expensive, four-year degrees for which many students are not suited.”<sup>2</sup> This need extends through nearly every technical career today.</p>

<sup>1</sup> VLACS Staff. (June 21, 2016). 5 Benefits of Early College Programs in High School. Blog retrieved January 18, 2020, from <https://vlacs.org/5-benefits-early-college-programs-high-school/>

<sup>2</sup> Wyman, N. (Sept. 1, 2015). “Why we desperately need to bring back vocational training in schools.” Forbes Magazine. Retrieved January 13, 2020, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicholaswyman/2015/09/01/why-we-desperately-need-to-bring-back-vocational-training-in-schools/#321bfac387ad>

	<p>5. Empowers students and builds confidence for college completion and career success</p>	
<p><b>Distinct opportunities for students at San Jose Early College</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-to-one technology access</li> <li>• Approved provider of the AP Capstone Diploma</li> <li>• Early College with dual enrollment, forging partnerships with local and distance-learning college programs</li> <li>• Students can graduate with a high school diploma and an AA degree</li> <li>• Authentic Learning</li> <li>• Industry Certifications</li> <li>• Blended Learning Model for flexibility and inclusivity</li> <li>• Emphasis on SAT/ACT prep and access, volunteer requirements, and accessing Bright Futures and similar scholarship programs</li> <li>• Clubs that are fully integrated into the academic and social networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Academies that provide high quality and state-approved career and technical education</li> <li>• Core Academic Center that employs a Blended Learning Model for flexibility and inclusivity</li> <li>• One-to-one technology access</li> <li>• Authentic Learning</li> <li>• SAT/ACT prep; easy access</li> <li>• Industry Certifications that can lead to post-secondary internships, a career or continuing education</li> <li>• Implement an effective communications plan that educates parents and students about CTE benefits and best practices</li> <li>• Clubs that are fully integrated into the academic and social networks</li> </ul>