



Academic School Year 2009-2010

To Whom It May Concern,

The high school student who is presenting the attached Academic Competitiveness Grant Validation Form may be eligible for additional grant money for their college studies. On February 8, 2006, President George Bush signed new legislation that created the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG). This grant is intended to provide additional money for full-time college students who completed a 'rigorous course of study' during their high school years.

Community College Financial Aid Offices can verify all of the eligibility requirements except one. We would like your assistance in verifying whether or not the student indicated has passed one of the rigorous courses of study requirements for your school. If you are a California High School, the requirements are included on the back of the form. For out of state high schools, please refer to the Department of Education's website at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs.html> and select the appropriate state listing.

Please indicate at which high school and which requirement was met, sign and date the document and affix your high school seal. Please return the form to the Cañada College Financial Aid Office.

Sincerely,

Financial Aid Office  
Cañada College



Rigorous Course of Study  
Validation Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date SSN or Student ID

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name M.I.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Attended Date Graduated (MM/YY)

I hereby authorize high school officials to release information regarding my high school transcript and/or academic records to Cañada College.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature** Date

The student identified above may be eligible for an additional grant in the amount of \$750-\$1300 based on this validation. When validation is complete please return to the school financial aid office.

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The student identified above graduated from \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of High School

On \_\_\_\_\_ and completed the following rigorous course of study:  
MM/YY

**High School Seal**

\_\_\_ Completed the California A-G Course Requirements (D or better grades in each course)

\_\_\_ Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

\_\_\_ AP exam # \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ AP exam # \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ California International Baccalaureate exam – score \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_

OR

\_\_\_ Completed Out-of-State of requirements in \_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of rigorous course requirement

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Principal or Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Principal or Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**California**  
**Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study**

If otherwise eligible, all students, including private school students, home-schooled students, and students enrolled in Department of Defense Overseas Schools, and Bureau of Indian Affairs students may qualify for an ACG under the rigorous secondary school program of study options pre-recognized by the Secretary. These options include a set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative and the Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores as detailed below.

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in California from January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 are:

- *The California Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*
- *A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.* This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
  - Four years of English;
  - Three years of math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics);
  - Three years of science, including one year each of at least two of the following courses: biology, chemistry, and physics;
  - Three years of social studies; and
  - One year of a language other than English.
- *Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.* This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
- *California A-G Requirements.* This program is available to students who complete the normal course requirements for the A-G requirements for admission to the UC or CSU, or complete a modified version of the A-G requirements for admission to the UC and CSU, in which a year-long, career technical education course that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic content standards approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for one of the courses that counts toward completion of the “G” requirement.
  - A. **History/Social Science:** 2 years required. Two years of history/social science selected from world history, cultures and geography; U.S. history; or, a combination of U.S. History, American government/civics, and economics equal to one year; and
  - B. **English:** 4 years required. Four years of college-preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement; and
  - C. **Mathematics:** 3 years required. Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that includes the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement; and
  - D. **Laboratory Science:** 2 years required. Two years of laboratory science chosen from biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement. Two years of an approved integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
  - E. **Language other than English:** 2 years required. Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture; and
  - F. **Visual and Performing Arts:** 1 year required. A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must satisfy the five State standards for artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relations and application; and
  - G. **College Preparatory Electives:** 1 year required. One year, in addition to those required in “A-F” above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the “E” requirement or two years of another language).