



SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE CHANGE

MSDE requires high school students to take the following three social science courses:
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT **US HISTORY** **MODERN WORLD HISTORY**

FORMER SEQUENCE

9th Grade
United States Government
10th Grade
World History
11th Grade
US History



NEW SEQUENCE

9th Grade
US History
10th Grade
United States Government
11th Grade
World History

How will this change occur?

2023-2024 School Year

9th Grade
(CLASS OF '27)

United States Government
or
AP US Government & Politics

10th Grade
(CLASS OF '26)

Modern World History
or
AP Modern World History

11th Grade
(CLASS OF '25)

High School US History
or
AP US History
or
HCC HIST 104

12th Grade
(CLASS OF '24)

No Required Courses

2024-2025 School Year

9th Grade
(CLASS OF '28)

High School US History
or
AP US History

10th Grade
(CLASS OF '27)

High School US History
or
AP US History

11th Grade
(CLASS OF '26)

High School US History
or
AP US History
or
HCC HIST 104

12th Grade
(CLASS OF '25)

No Required Courses

2025-2026 School Year

9th Grade
(CLASS OF '29)

High School US History
or
AP US History

10th Grade
(CLASS OF '28)

United States Government
or
AP US Government & Politics

11th Grade
(CLASS OF '27)

Modern World History
or
AP Modern World History
or
HCC HIST 110

12th Grade
(CLASS OF '26)

No Required Courses

WHY THE CHANGE?



Creates better flow across grades

PreK & Kindergarten: Good citizenship in classroom & community

Grades 1-3: Foundational discipline tools (civics; economics; geography; history)

Grades 4-5: US History pre-European contact to present

Grade 6-7: Geography (new framework anticipated in SY24-25!)

Grade 8: US History from American Revolution to Reconstruction (1770s - 1877)

High School:

- US History 1877-Present
- United States Government
- World History



Gives students background knowledge

United States Government is rooted in abstract concepts & ideas that require knowledge of all of US History to fully understand



Government is more applicable to older students

Moving United States Government a year closer to when students have full citizenship rights (age 18) makes it more relevant to students.



Anticipated improved outcomes on MCAP

Starting in SY23-24, students in United States Government will take the Government MCAP exam, which will account for 20% of the students' United States Government grade.

Moving United States Government out of 9th grade allows for additional cognitive maturation prior to taking the exam.



Align to other Maryland districts

19 of Maryland's 24 public school districts use the sequence to which HCPS is moving.