

## USA, General Reference for the Assessment of School and Higher Education Qualifications

### I. General University Entrance Qualification

The general university entrance qualification will not be fulfilled by a US High School Diploma (HSD). Therefore, for the purpose of direct admission to a higher education program in Austria additional qualifications are required, e.g. examinations taken within the Advanced Placement Program, the SAT, the ACT or credits from a recognized institution of post-secondary education (see II.1) to the extent of two years.

#### 1. High School Diploma

It is recommended to review the accreditation of the High School (e.g. via [AdvancED](http://www.advanc-ed.org/oasis2/u/par/search), <http://www.advanc-ed.org/oasis2/u/par/search>). The general prerequisites for the assessment of a HSD can be taken from the database ANABIN ([www.anabin.kmk.org](http://www.anabin.kmk.org) > *Schulabschlüsse mit Hochschulzugang* > USA > High School Diploma > Voraussetzungen / High School Diploma; for detailed information see also [www.anabin.kmk.org](http://www.anabin.kmk.org) > *Bildungswesen USA*).

#### 2. Supplementary Qualifications

##### a. Advanced Placement Program (APP)

At least four Advanced Placement Examinations in a specific combination of courses shall be shown in addition to the High School Diploma. Extensive information can be taken from the *AP-Empfehlung*.

##### b. SAT

A score of at least 1360 points shall be shown in the sections „Math“ and „Evidence-Based Reading and Writing“. With a score of 1220 points the evidence of supplementary achievements to the extent of one academic year is required.

For High School Diplomas obtained before March 2016 the following scores are applied: 1300 points in the sections „Math“ and „Critical Reading“, with 1150 points the evidence of supplementary achievements to the extent of one academic year is required.

### **c. ACT**

For HSD up to May 2014 inclusively 28 points, after that 29 points in the „Composite Score“ shall be shown. With 23 points (up to May 2014) or, respectively, 25 points (afterwards) the evidence of supplementary achievements to the extent of one academic year is required.

### **d. Associate Degree**

A HSD in connection with a two-year Associate Degree basically fulfills the general university entrance qualification; the content is checked by the higher education institution.

## **II. Higher Education Qualifications**

For the assessment of a US higher education qualification by ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA the following guidelines apply:

### **1. Accreditation**

ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA will in principle assess only diplomas, which have been awarded by a regionally accredited HE institution. For certain professional qualifications (e.g. in the area of health), however, only national accreditations exist. These accreditations shall be reviewed and likewise recognized on a case-by-case basis.

Recognized Regional Accreditation Agencies:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (CIHE, NEASC)
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)
- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC, WASC)

Recommended databases (nationally and regionally accredited HE institutions) with mentioning of the der respective Accreditation Agency:

- Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)
- U.S. Department of Education (USDE), Office of Post-secondary Education

## **2. Transcript of Records**

Only official records shall be taken into consideration („official transcript“). Lists of examinations with the imprints „unofficial transcript“ or „student copy“ will not be dealt with.

An encoded electronic transcript (e-transcript) which is sent to ENIC NARIC AUSTRIA directly by the HE institution, replaces the legalization of the diploma in the form of the Apostille.