


# SOCIAL SCIENCES 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.