Typical high school credit suggestions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Non-college bound student – 22 total</th>
<th>For college bound – 24 total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>3 – 4 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>4+ yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>4+ yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>3+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>1 + year</td>
<td>1+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1.5 – 3 years</td>
<td>Fine Arts 1.5 – 2 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>.5 year</td>
<td>Health .5 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Ed.</td>
<td>1.5 years</td>
<td>Physical Ed. 1/5 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career/Technology</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Foreign Lang. 2 – 3 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives to meet or exceed credit requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources

Disclaimer – These are things we have found helpful, but of course each family has different needs and tastes. Some resources are secular, others have a Biblical worldview. Hopefully these suggestions will get you started!

Study Skills

Chapter 5 in Organizing the Disorganized Child by Kutscher has some simple, effective, basic study skills. (The rest of the book is good, too!) Look for it at the library.

Language Arts

-Wordly Wise or Worldly Wise 3000 – use for vocabulary AND spelling words. Student interacts with same words in a variety of ways for one week. At the end of the week, spelling comes more naturally than by rote memorization – it’s connected with the meaning of the words.

-Movies as Literature by Kathryn Stout – explores literary terms via classic movies, rather than books. After this initial introduction, can more easily transition to text.

-Jensen’s Format Writing – concentrate on expository writing, as it’s the only one typically used as an adult.
Consider literature anthologies targeted to younger teens if you want exposure to great, classic stories and short biographies that might not otherwise be covered due to lack of time. Old editions of these anthologies are good because they usually are well written, like Childcraft How and Why Library Scientists and Inventors, Pioneers and Patriots, People to Know, etc. (These can easily be found at Goodwill, and certainly from online used book sources like www.abe.com.) The old, old ones (c. 1964) have illustrations that aren’t too childish – mostly line drawings.

Another older anthology series is My Book House edited by Olive Beaupre Miller – only volumes 9 – 12 as the others are for much younger children, (c. 1971 is good). The writing is excellent, the font is fairly large, and often the accompanying artwork is from the original text.

I pitch them to my kids as ‘retro’ which somehow makes them cool.

Other examples of more current anthologies with classic stories are William Bennet’s Moral Compass, Book of Virtues, John McCain’s Character is Destiny. These have lots of white space on the page, the selections are relatively short, the reading level isn’t high school, and the books themselves aren’t too intimidating.

Science

“Exploring the World of....” Series by Tiner– more narrative based than typical textbooks.

God’s Design for Heaven & Earth series by Answers In Genesis -- despite it's grade recommendations, it really just contains the essentials that a literate adult would know. Chapters are short!

Everything You Need to Know about Science Homework by Scholastic Homework Reference Series as a reference for ‘must know’ topics.

Biology 101 and Chemistry 101 DVD’s by Westfield Studios.

Wonders of Science series by Steck Vaughn – written at middle school reading level, but contains the basics (appears to be out of print, but is readily available used online)

Math

Pre-algebra courses are usually good review courses, but are light on ‘teaching’ the subject (Teaching Textbooks is good because it gets mom out of the picture, but it’s still light in the teaching area.)

Key to series (Fractions, Decimals, Percents, Algebra, Geometry, and Metric Measurement) Algebra and Geometry wouldn’t be appropriate for a complete college prep course. These
are self-teaching, non-intimidating, and cover these subjects in an incremental manner to arrive at mastery. ([www.keycurriculum.com](http://www.keycurriculum.com))

*Working with Numbers Refresher* by Steck Vaughn (just what it says, a refresher)

Check out New Readers Press (intended for adult and ESL learners) math materials. We haven't used these, but they look interesting.

**History/Geography**

*Everything you Need to Know about...Homework* by Scholastic Homework Reference Series. Different ones cover American History, World History, and Geography (check them out of the library to have a look at them) I use these to determine what the 'big ticket items' are that my kids should know. The grade range listed on the books merely indicates that these topics are being introduced to students during those grades. They will be re-introduced and explored in more depth in subsequent years.

Our family loves the Landmark series of historical books and we use them with the above Scholastic guides as a timeline. These were published in the 50’s through 70’s and are written by well respected authors. They are not historical fiction, rather incredibly interesting and accurate accounts of particular episodes of history. There is a series devoted to US History and one devoted to World History. Reading level is about 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A listing of the books can be found here: valerieslivinglibrary.com. Click on “Landmark and World Landmark Books.”

They give a much more in-depth treatment of a particular topic than a textbook. Most of them are out of print, but a few have been reprinted. Use interlibrary loan!

**Misc. Resources**

*Lifepac Select Electives* by Alpha Omega Publications is a good resource for computer based subjects from American Literature to Health to Civics to Earth Science to GED Prep—targeted to either grades 7 – 12 or 9 – 12. This means the content is delivered in such a way as to be understandable for the lowest grade listed. Print versions are also available in the form of LifePacs.

Things targeted to the adult population with learning challenges or ESL resources are often very friendly to our older kids, as they typically lack childish pictures, childish subject matter, grade level distinctions printed on the cover, etc. Check out [www.NewReadersPress.com](http://www.NewReadersPress.com).

A good source for old books (or any used book) is [www.abe.com](http://www.abe.com). I often find it cheaper than the ‘used’ option you find when you look up a new book on Amazon.

*Home-Designed High School* – Diana Johnson (have to purchase used) or *High School @ Home – You Can Do It!* (her new one)– gives traditional scope and sequence and helpful
ideas for a traditional high school plan (bear in mind that this likely won’t fit our kids who are behind, but it gives you ideas from which to personalize your student’s school experience)

*Home Learning Year by Year* – Rebecca Rupp – traditional scope and sequence  (same caveat as above!)

Check out ‘electives’ from major publishers for shorter ‘just the basics’ courses.

*Uncle Eric* series of books by Richard Maybury – *Whatever Happened to Penny Candy?* and others for interesting treatment of economic ideas. The books have accompanying guides called *Bluestocking Guides.*