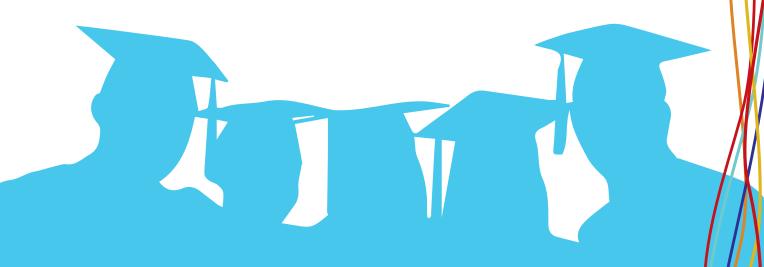
Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit

Information for Planning Your High School Years & Beyond



including information about the **Foundation High School Program**









Benefits



Choices





Texas Education Agency

Graduation Toolkit

Graduation Program - Overview

Distinguished Level of Achievement - Benefits

Texas High School Diploma - Steps

Endorsements - Choices

Graduation Program - Checklists

Information - University Resources

Information - Workforce Resources

Graduation Program - Glossary

Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Graduation Program – Overvíew

Foundation High School Program

The Foundation High School Program with endorsements is a flexible program that allows students to pursue their interests. It is the default graduation program for students who entered high school in the 2014-15 school year or later.

The program contains up to four parts:

- A 22-credit foundation plan which is the core of the Texas high school diploma program
- Five endorsement* options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
- A higher performance category called Distinguished Level of Achievement
- Performance Acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement in specific areas**

The Foundation requirements (22 credits) include:

English (4 credits)	 English I 	 English II 	 English III 	 An advanced English course
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Mathematics (3 credits)	 Algebra I 	 Geometry 	 An advanced math course
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An advanced science course

Social Studies (3 credits) • World History or World Geography • U.S. History

• U.S. Government (one-half credit) • Economics (one-half credit)

Languages Other Than English (2 credits) • 2 credits in the same language or

• 2 credits from Computer Science I, II, III

Physical Education (1 credit) Fine Arts (1 credit) Electives (5 credits)

Speech: Demonstrated proficiency

Endorsements Total credits with endorsements 26

Enhancements

Additionally, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement and/or a Performance Acknowledgment for outstanding performance. The Distinguished Level of Achievement must be earned to be admitted to a Texas public university under the Top 10 percent automatic admission law.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

- Foundation Program requirements
- 4 credits in math including Algebra II
- 4 credits in science
- at least 1 endorsement

Performance Acknowledgments Areas**

- dual credit courses
- bilingualism and biliteracy
- PSAT, ACT ASPIRE, SAT or ACT
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams
- earning a state-, nationally- or internationally-recognized business or industry certification or license

*A student entering 9th grade must indicate an endorsement he or she plans to follow.

A student may change or add an endorsement at any time.

A student may graduate without earning an endorsement if, after his or her sophomore year, the student's parent signs a form permitting the student to omit the endorsement requirement.

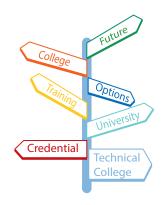
Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit

Distinguished Level of Achievement – Benefits

Choices determine options

Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma. Whether you intend to pursue a high-demand, industry workforce credential from a community or technical college or a traditional four-year degree from a university, the choices made in high school will determine your future options.

To best prepare yourself now for the transition to post-high school education or quality workforce training, choosing and taking the right classes is essential. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will ensure the best preparation for your future.



Why it matters — Benefits

The Distinguished Level of Achievement opens a world of educational and employment opportunities for you beyond high school. The Distinguished Level of Achievement will:

- Allow you to compete for Top 10% automatic admissions eligibility at any Texas public university;
- Position you among those first in line for a TEXAS Grant* to help pay for university tuition and fees; and
- Ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.

*Must be financially qualified

What it means

The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires more math and more science than the Foundation High School Program. The Distinguished Level of Achievement requires:

- A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II;
- A total of four credits in science; and
- Successful completion of an endorsement in your area of interest.

Advantages

- Opportunity to earn an endorsement in an area of interest
- More college and university options
- More financial aid options
- Better preparation for college-level coursework at community/technical colleges and universities
- Opportunity for immediate enrollment in classes related to your chosen field of study
- Strong foundation to successfully complete an industry workforce credential or college degree







Texas High School Diploma – Steps

Distinguished Level of Achievement

26 Credits • Algebra II Required • Eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admissions to Texas Public Universities

22 Credits for the Foundation High School Program



Requirements of 1 Endorsement

(including 4 credits in both Math and Science and 2 additional electives)



Be sure to visit your school counselor to learn more about your options.

Students may earn more than one endorsement.

Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Endorsements - Choices

Endorsements

Students are able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area.

Students must select an endorsement* in the ninth grade. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements. If only one endorsement is offered, it must be multidisciplinary studies.

Students earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including 4 credits in both math and science and 2 additional elective credits.

Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Mathematics Science
- Combination of no more than two of the categories listed above

Business and Industry (one of the following or a combination of areas)

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communication
- Business Management and Administration
- Finance

Law

- Hospitality and Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Information Technology
- Marketing
- Technology Applications
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

Computer Science

- English electives in:
 - advanced broadcast journalism
 - advanced journalism
 - debate
 - public speaking

Public Services (one of the following)

- Human Services
- Health Science
- Public Safety
- Education and Training
- Government and Public Administration
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Arts and Humanities (one of the following)

- 2 levels each in two languages other than English (LOTE)
- 4 levels in the same LOTE

Corrections and Security

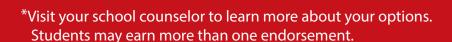
- Courses from one or two areas (music, theater, art, dance) in fine arts
- English electives not included in Business and Industry
- Social Studies
- American Sign Language (ASL)



Multi-Disciplinary Studies (one of the following)

- 4 advanced courses from other endorsement areas
- 4 credits in each foundation subject area, including English IV and chemistry and/or physics
- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts





Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Graduation Program – Checklists

8th Grade

	JIAME			
	Review choices offered under the Foundation to decide on your future academic path.	High	School Program and the Endorsements	
	Select the endorsement that best fits your are plan to study in college.	ea of	personal interest and the major you	
	Recognize that most college entrance require including Algebra II , higher-level science cours		_	
	9 th /10 th		Grade	
	Monitor high school credits; be sure to meet all local and state requirements .		Explore interests and take advantage of Career Day opportunities.	
	Take dual credit or Advanced Placement courses if possible to earn college credit while still in high school.		Attend college nights hosted by your high school. Talk with school representatives about the types of financial aid available.	
	Keep list of awards, honors and extracurricular activities for scholarship and college applications.		Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in your sophomore year for practice. In your junior	
	Research colleges or universities you are interested in attending. Check admission and application requirements and timelines.		year, take the PSAT for eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students who take the PSAT or ACT ASPIRE® tend to score higher on the SAT or ACT than those who do not.	
1	1 th /12 th Gra		de	
	Take dual credit or Advanced Placement cours you are still in high school.	es if	possible to earn college credit while	
	Check with your counselor's office to learn all and for as many scholarships as possible. Do n			
	Consider taking SAT/ACT preparation classe preferably in your junior year but no later than		-	
	Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal spring of your senior year.	ral St	udent Aid) early in the	
	Apply to college during the fall of your senior year.			

If you plan to pursue technical training or enter the workforce after graduation, see the Information - Workforce Resources page or visit Texas Reality Check at www.texasrealitycheck.com/.

Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Information – *University Resources*

Resources

Foundation High School Program with Endorsements

tea.texas.gov/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx

In 2013, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 5 creating the Foundation High School Program. This webpage provides an array of information including:

- A side-by-side comparison of the Foundation High School Program and the previous graduation programs
- A Foundation High School Program Frequently Asked Questions
- Approved Foundation High School Program Rules Detailed information about the state's graduation program

Compare College TX

www.comparecollegetx.com

Compare College TX is an interactive, mobile-friendly web tool designed to help students and parents learn more about Texas public universities and community/ technical colleges.

Did you know...

credit

students can earn college credit while still in high school by taking Advanced Placement courses and earning high scores on the AP tests or by enrolling in and passing dual credit courses?

earnings

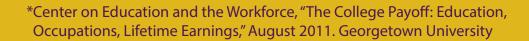
over their lifetime a high school graduate with a bachelor's degree earn 84 percent more* than a high school graduate?

eligible

students ranked in the Top 10 percent of their graduating class from an accredited public or private Texas high school may be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public university if they have completed the Distinguished Level of Achievement?

tuition

the highest ranking graduate at each Texas public high school receives a certificate from the Texas Education Agency that can be used as a scholarship to cover tuition costs at any Texas public college or university?



Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Information – Workforce Resources

Career

If you are considering going straight into the workforce or into a technical training program following graduation, you still need to complete your high school education and earn a high school diploma.

Vhil	e in high school, you will want to:	
	Look at the five endorsements offered under the Foundation High School Program.	
	Determine your area of interest.	1
	Complete your selected endorsement along with the required foundation program to earn your high school diploma.	
	Learn about available jobs, and any required post-high school or technical training.	
	Explore new career opportunities.	
	Research wage and occupation information, required levels of education and training requirements.	
	Discover your interests and abilities; use labor market resources at <u>www.texasrealitycheck.com</u> and at <u>www.texasworkforce.org/customers/jsemp/career-exploration-trends.html.</u>	<u>m/</u>
	Research which jobs are among the fastest and most in-demand in Texas at www.texascaresonline.com/hotshots/hotshotslists.asp.	
om	munity College & Career Schools	
	Find training and certifications for specific occupations or skills through	

www.texasworkforce.org/svcs/propschools/career-schools-colleges.html.

Did you know...

training many of the high-demand

many of the high-demand jobs¹ will require some postsecondary education?

tuition

students attending community colleges or trade schools may also be eligible for state or federal financial aid?²

that Texas public school students can earn a Performance Acknowledgement on their transcripts by earning a state-, nationally- or internationally-recognized credential for a specific professional occupation, such as certified nurses' aid certification (CAN) or computer tech certification (CTC) while in high school?

over their lifetime, high school graduates with a workforce certificate from a community or technical college earn 20 percent more³ than those with only a high school diploma?

²Get the facts at <u>www.collegeforalltexans.com</u> or <u>studentaid.ed.gov</u>

³Center on Education and the Workforce, "Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees," June 2012. Georgetown University

¹ Texas Workforce Commission

Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit Graduation Program – Glossawy

Foundation High School Program

The basic 22-credit graduation program for Texas public school students.

Endorsements

Areas of specialized study. The areas are:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry

- Arts and Humanities
- Public Services

Multidisciplinary Studies

A district or charter that offers only one endorsement must offer Multidisciplinary Studies.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

A high level of academic achievement earned by going beyond the Foundation High School Program. It requires a total of 26 course credits, including Algebra II, a fourth science credit and an endorsement. A student must earn this designation to be eligible for Top 10 percent automatic admission to a Texas public university.

Performance Acknowledgments

Students may earn an additional acknowledgment on their transcripts because of outstanding performance in areas such as dual credit courses and bilingualism and biliteracy; on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, PSAT, ACT ASPIRE_®, the SAT or ACT exams; or by earning a state-, nationally- or internationally-recognized business or industry certification.

Course Credit

A unit of measure awarded for successful completion of a course. Completion of a one semester course typically earns one-half credit for a student.

Industry Workforce Credential

A state-, national- or internationally-recognized credential that aligns with the knowledge and skills standards identified by an association or government entity representing a particular profession or occupation and valued by business or industry. Examples include a credential for certified nurse aid (CNA) or the automotive service excellence (ASE) certification in the automotive industry.

STAAR

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the state-mandated test given annually to students in grades 3-8 and in five high school courses.

EOC

STAAR end-of-course exams are state mandated tests given during the final weeks of a high school course. In addition to meeting graduation course requirements, students are required to pass five end-of-course exams to earn a diploma from a Texas public high school. Those five exams are given when a student takes English I and II, Biology, Algebra I and U.S. History courses.



Texas Education Agency Graduation Toolkit My Notes



1701 N. Congress Avenue Austin, Texas 78701-1494 512 463-9734 tea.texas.gov

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