

Texas State Graduation Requirements  
(Applies to students entering Grade 9 in the 2004-05 school year and thereafter)

A student entering Grade 9 in the 2004-2005 school year and thereafter shall enroll in the courses necessary to complete the curriculum requirements for the recommended high school program specified in §74.53 of this title (relating to Recommended High School Program) or the advanced program specified in §74.54 of this title (relating to Distinguished Achievement High School Program--Advanced High School Program) unless the student, the student's parent or other persons standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the minimum high school program specified in §74.52 of this title (relating to Minimum High School Program).

Discipline	Minimum Graduation Plan	Recommended High School Program	Distinguished Achievement Program*
English Language Arts *	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I, II, III, and IV.</li> <li>English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency.</li> <li>The fourth credit of English may be satisfied by either:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English IV,</li> <li>Research/Technical Writing,</li> <li>Creative/Imaginative Writing,</li> <li>Practical Writing Skills,</li> <li>Literary Genres,</li> <li>Business Communication,</li> <li>Journalism, or</li> <li>Concurrent enrollment in a college English course.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I, II, III, and IV.</li> <li>English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Four credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I, II, III, and IV.</li> <li>English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency.</li> </ul>
Mathematics *	<p><b>Three credits</b> to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I and</li> <li>Geometry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Three credits</b> must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I,</li> <li>Algebra II, and</li> <li>Geometry.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Three credits</b> must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I,</li> <li>Algebra II, and</li> <li>Geometry.</li> </ul>
Science *	<p><b>Three credits</b> to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology and</li> <li>Integrated Physics and Chemistry.</li> </ul> <p>May substitute Chemistry or Physics for IPC but must use a science course approved by SBOE for remaining credit.</p>	<p><b>Three credits.</b> One credit must be a biology credit (Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology). Must choose the remaining two credits from the following areas. Not more than one credit may be chosen from each of the areas to satisfy this requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Physics and Chemistry;</li> <li>Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry;</li> <li>Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics.</li> </ul> <p>Students are encouraged to take courses in biology, chemistry, and physics.</p>	<p><b>Three credits.</b> One credit must be a biology credit (Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology). Must choose the remaining two credits from the following areas. Not more than one credit may be chosen from each of the areas to satisfy this requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Physics and Chemistry;</li> <li>Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry;</li> <li>Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics.</li> </ul> <p>Students are encouraged to take courses in biology, chemistry, and physics.</p>

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\* Distinguished Achievement Program requirements also include student achievement of four advanced measures. (See last page.)

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Discipline	Minimum Graduation Plan	Recommended High School Program	Distinguished Achievement Program*
Social Studies *	<b>Three and one-half credits</b> must consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit).</li> </ul>	<b>Three and one-half credits</b> must consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit).</li> </ul>	<b>Three and one-half credits</b> must consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World History Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• World Geography Studies (one credit),</li> <li>• U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit), and</li> <li>• U.S. Government (one-half credit).</li> </ul>
Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits *	<b>One-half credit</b>	<b>One-half credit</b>	<b>One-half credit</b>
Physical Education	<b>Two credits</b> to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.) Can substitute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drill team,</li> <li>• marching band,</li> <li>• cheerleading,</li> <li>• ROTC,</li> <li>• athletics,</li> <li>• Dance I-IV,</li> <li>• approved private programs, or</li> <li>• certain career and technology education courses.</li> </ul>	<b>One and one-half credits</b> to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.) Can substitute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drill team,</li> <li>• marching band,</li> <li>• cheerleading,</li> <li>• ROTC,</li> <li>• athletics,</li> <li>• Dance I-IV,</li> <li>• approved private programs, or</li> <li>• certain career and technology education courses.</li> </ul>	<b>One and one-half credits</b> to include Foundations of Personal Fitness (one-half credit). (Limit two credits.) Can substitute: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drill team,</li> <li>• marching band,</li> <li>• cheerleading,</li> <li>• ROTC,</li> <li>• athletics,</li> <li>• Dance I-IV,</li> <li>• approved private programs, or</li> <li>• certain career and technology education courses.</li> </ul>
Languages Other Than English *	<b>None</b>	<b>Two credits</b> must consist of Level I and Level II in the same language.	<b>Three credits</b> must consist of Level I, Level II, and Level III in the same language.
Health Education	<b>One-half credit</b> or Health Science Technology (one credit).	<b>One-half credit</b> or Health Science Technology (one credit).	<b>One-half credit</b> or Health Science Technology (one credit).

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Discipline	Minimum Graduation Plan	Recommended High School Program	Distinguished Achievement Program*
Technology Applications *	<p>One credit, which may be satisfied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the following courses in Chapter 126 (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications): Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, or Independent Study in Technology Applications;</li> <li>• the following courses in Chapter 120 (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Business Education): Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia; or</li> <li>• the following courses in Chapter 123 (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Education/Industrial Technology Education): Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology.</li> </ul>	<p>One credit, which may be satisfied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 126: (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications): Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, Independent Study in Technology Applications, or <u>state-approved technology applications innovative courses</u>;</li> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 120: (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Business Education) Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia;</li> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 123: (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Education/Industrial Technology Education): Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology; or</li> <li>• the completion of three credits (for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep high school plan of study) consisting of two or more state-approved career and technology courses in 19 TAC Chapters 119-125 and 127. Districts shall ensure that career and technology courses, including innovative courses, in a coherent sequence used to meet the technology applications credit are appropriate to collectively teach the knowledge and skills found in any of the approved courses listed above in chapters 126, 120, and/or 123. Students pursuing this technology applications option described in this subparagraph must demonstrate proficiency in technology applications prior to the beginning of Grade 11 through credit by examination as described in 19 TAC §74.24 (relating to Credit by Examination).</li> </ul>	<p>One credit, which may be satisfied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 126: (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Applications): Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/ Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, Independent Study in Technology Applications, or <u>state-approved technology applications innovative courses</u>;</li> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 120: (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Business Education) Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia;</li> <li>• the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 123: (relating to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Technology Education/Industrial Technology Education): Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology; or</li> <li>• the completion of three credits (for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technology courses or who are enrolled in a Tech Prep high school plan of study) consisting of two or more state-approved career and technology courses in 19 TAC Chapters 119-125 and 127. Districts shall ensure that career and technology courses, including innovative courses, in a coherent sequence used to meet the technology applications credit are appropriate to collectively teach the knowledge and skills found in any of the approved courses listed above in Chapters 126, 120, and/or 123. Students pursuing this technology applications option must demonstrate proficiency in technology applications prior to the beginning of Grade 11 through credit by examination as described in 19 TAC §74.24 (relating to Credit by Examination).</li> </ul>

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Fine Arts *	None	One credit which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117.	One credit which may be satisfied by any course found in 19 TAC Chapter 117.
Speech	One-half credit: • Communication Applications	One-half credit: • Communication Applications	One-half credit: • Communication Applications
Program Credits Excluding Electives	18	20 ½	21 ½
Additional Components * (Elective Courses)	Six credits from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), • state-approved innovative courses, • JROTC (one to four credits), or • Driver Education (one-half credit).	Three and one-half credits from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), • state-approved innovative courses, • JROTC (one to four credits), or • Driver Education (one-half credit).	Two and one-half credits from: • the list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9-12 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills), • state-approved innovative courses, • JROTC (one to four credits), or • Driver Education (one-half credit).
Total Program and Elective Credits	24	24	24

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**Distinguished Achievement Program - Advanced Measures**

**Advanced Measures**

- The measures must focus on demonstrated student performance at the college or professional level.
- Student performance on advanced measures must be assessed through an external review process.
- A student must achieve any combination of four of the following:

Original research/project:

- judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or
- conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; and
- related to the required curriculum set forth in 19 TAC §74.1 (relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills).

Original research/projects may not be used for more than two of the four advanced measures.

Test data:

- a score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement examination;
- a score of four or above on an International Baccalaureate examination;
- a score on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of The College Board; or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.

College courses:

- a grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit, including tech prep programs.