

# Graduation Toolkit

Information for Planning  
Your High School Years & Beyond

Foundation High School Program



# Graduation Programs

Overview

- Foundation High School Program.
- Endorsement
- **Distinguished Level of Achievement**
- Performance of Acknowledgments.



# Foundation **High School Program**

FSHP

It is required to graduate and makes up the core of the Texas high school diploma program.

# Graduation Programs – Foundation High School Program



## The Foundation Requirements *(no endorsements 22 Credits)*

### **English - (4 Credits)**

English I

English II

English III

An advanced English course

### **Mathematics - (3 Credits)**

Algebra I

Geometry

An advanced Math course

### **Science - (3 Credits)**

Biology

Lab Science Class

1 Advanced Science courses

### **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 & CTE - (5 credits)**

**Speech - Demonstrated Proficiency**

# Graduation Program - 26 Credits



## Foundation with Multidisciplinary Endorsement

### English - (4 Credits)

English I  
English II  
English III  
English IV

### Mathematics - (4 Credits)

Algebra I  
Geometry  
2 advanced Math courses

### Science - (4 Credits)

Biology  
Lab Science Course  
2 Advanced Science courses

### Social Studies - (4 Credits)

World History  
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 - (6 credits)

### Demonstrate

\*\*\*Students may opt to Foundation-only with 22 credit only after completing the Sophomore year\*\*\*



# **Endorsements**

## **Choices**

Students can 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 within-depth knowledge of a subject area. 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.

# Endorsement Options



## Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

**(one of the following or a combination of no more than two of these categories)**

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses related to STEM
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Science

## Business and Industry

**(one of the following or a combination of areas)**

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Arts, Audio Video Technology and Communications
- Finance
- Marketing
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Technology Applications
- Architecture and Construction
- Business Management and Administration
- Transportation or Distribution and Logistics
- English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, advanced journalism including newspaper and yearbook

# Endorsement Options



## Public Service

### (one of the following)

- Human Services
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security"
- Health Science

- 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

- 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)

# Endorsement Options



## 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 and Algebra II

- 4 credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, LOTE or fine arts

***Texans Can Academies offer students course to earn an Endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies.***

\*\*\*\* If a student has earned credit for classes that qualify for another endorsement prior to enrolling with Texans Can Academy. Texans Can Academies will verify and honor that endorsement



# Graduation Program Overview

## Distinguished Level Of Achievement

Requires more Math and more Science than the Foundation High School Program. 1 Endorsement is required.

***26 Credits with Endorsement, Including Algebra 2***

# The Benefits

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

- 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



# The Benefits



## More Options...

- Most of the very best jobs available now and in the future require education and training beyond a high school diploma.
- 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 the TEXAS grant to help pay for university tuition and fees
- Ensure you are a more competitive applicant at the most selective colleges and universities.



# Graduation **Program**

Checklist

# Graduation Program Checklist

- Review Choices offered under the Foundation High School Program and the Endorsements to decide on your future academic path.
- Select the endorsement that best fits your area of personal interest and the major you plan to study in college.
- Recognize that most college entrance requirements include rigorous advanced courses including Algebra II, higher-level science courses and languages other than English.
- Monitor high school credits; be sure to meet all local and state requirements by the end of the senior year.
- Take dual enrollment or Advanced Placement courses if possible to earn college credit while still in high school.
- Keep a list of awards, honors and extracurricular activities for scholarship and college applications.
- Research colleges or universities you are interested in attending. Check admission and application requirements and timelines.
- Explore interests and take advantage of Career Day opportunities.
- Attend college nights hosted by your high school. Talk with school representatives about the types of financial aid available.
- Take the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in your sophomore year for practice. In your junior year, take the PSAT for eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Students who take the PSAT or ACT's PLAN tend to score higher on the SAT or ACT than those who do not.



# Graduation Program Checklist

- Take dual enrollment or Advanced Placement courses if possible to earn college credit while you are still in high school.
- Be sure to apply early and for as many scholarships as possible. Do not limit yourself to local scholarships.
- Consider taking SAT/ACT preparation classes. Sign up and take the ACT and/or SAT test, preferably in your junior year but no later than the fall of your senior year.
- Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) early in the spring of your senior year.
- Apply to college during the fall of your senior year.





# Performance **Acknowledgments**

# Performance Acknowledgments



## Performance Acknowledgments

Note outstanding achievement in specific areas. These distinctions will be included in your high school diploma and better position you for successful entry into college and/or the workforce.

## 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
- OnRamps courses



# University **Resources**

Information

# University Resources

## House Bill 5

[www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation-requirements/hb5.aspx)

In 2013, the Texas legislature passed House Bill 5 creating a new graduation plan for Texas students- 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 plans
- A Foundation High School Program Frequently Asked Questions
- Approved Foundation High School Program Rules – Detailed information about the state’s graduation plan.

## Compare College

[www.comparecollegetx.com](http://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?

### Eligible

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

### Earnings

Over their lifetime, high school graduates with a bachelor’s degree earn 84 percent more than a high school graduate?

### 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?



# Workforce **Resources**

Information

# In High School **Students** Can...

- Look at the five endorsements offered under the Foundation High School Program.
- Determine your area of interest
- 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 level of education and training requirements.
- Discover your interests and abilities; use labor market resources at [www.texasrealitycheck.com](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com)
- Research which jobs are amount the fastest and most indemand in Texas at [www.texascaresonline.com/hotshots/hotshotslist.asp](http://www.texascaresonline.com/hotshots/hotshotslist.asp)



## Did you know?

### **Community College & Career Schools**

Find training and certifications for specific occupations or skills through community colleges or career schools and colleges at [www.texasworkforce.org/svcs.propschools/career-schoolscolleges.html](http://www.texasworkforce.org/svcs.propschools/career-schoolscolleges.html)

### **Credential**

That Texas public school students can earn a Performance Acknowledgement with their diploma by earning a nationally or internationally-recognized credential for a specific professional occupation, such as certified nurses' aid certification or computer tech certification while in high school?

### **Tuition**

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

### **Earnings**

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



**IMPORTANT**  
**INFORMATION**  
Graduation Programs





## FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

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

\*Students may opt to Foundation-only with 22 credits only after completing the Sophomore year.



## ENDORSEMENTS

Areas of specialized study.

The areas are:

- \* Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- \* Business and Industry
- \* Arts and Humanities
- \* Public Service
- \* Multidisciplinary Studies

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



## DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

A 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 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students may earn an additional acknowledgement on their diploma because of outstanding performance in areas such as:

- \* dual credit courses,
- \* bilingualism and biliteracy;
- \* Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, PSAT, ACT's Plan, the SAT or ACT exams; or by earning a nationally- or internationally recognized business or industry certification.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



## 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, nationally, or internationally-recognized credential.
- \* Industry Workforce Credentials align with the knowledge and skill 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 or the automotive service excellence certification in the automotive industry.



## STAAR

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

- \* 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 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.



# QUESTIONS?

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