

Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2014 and Beyond

Students who enter the ninth grade in the **fall of 2010 and thereafter** must enroll in courses necessary to complete the *Recommended High School Program* or the *Distinguished Achievement Program* unless the student, parent, and a school counselor agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the *Minimum High School Program*. Students should study the table below which outlines requirements for the *Recommended High School Program* and the *Minimum High School Program*. Then, using the list of course descriptions that follow, students should select and register for courses. Note that students graduating under the *Recommended High School Program* will need to schedule additional courses not required for the *Minimum High School Program*. Counselors at each high school will furnish all other information necessary for students to complete registration.

Courses	Recommended High School Program	Minimum High School Program	Notes
English	4	4	
Advanced Academic Strategies	½	½	• One-half credit is required and may be taken in grade 8 or 9.
or			
Skills for Academic Success	1	1	• One credit is required for all 9 th -grade students who did not pass all 8 th -grade core academic classes (language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies) and who have not met the state standards on all 8 th -grade reading, math, science, and social studies TAKS test. • Beginning ESL students, intermediate ESL students, and special education students in need of in-class support are also recommended to take this year-long class.
Mathematics	4 Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and an additional math course	3 Must include Algebra I and Geometry	• Beginning with the class of 2014 (ninth graders entering high school during fall 2010), CFISD will require that <u>all</u> students take 4 math courses in grades 9-12 for the Recommended Program. • Math Models with Applications may satisfy the requirement for the additional math credit only if taken <u>prior</u> to Algebra II. • AP Computer Science may satisfy the requirement for the additional math credit only if taken after successful completion of Algebra II.

Courses	Recommended High School Program	Minimum High School Program	Notes
Science	4 Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and an additional science course	2 Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology or 3 Biology, Chemistry, and Physics	• Integrated Physics and Chemistry may satisfy the requirement for the additional science credit if taken <u>prior</u> to Chemistry and Physics. • All students entering high school in fall 2010 and beyond will take Biology in ninth grade.
U.S. History	1	1	
World History	1	1	
World Geography	1		
Government	½	½	
Economics	½	½	
Health or Health Science Technology	½ or 1	½ or 1	• Health may be taken in any grade or taken through correspondence, summer school, or through credit-by-exam.
Physical Education	1	1	• Students may earn a maximum of four (4) credits in P.E. toward graduation—including athletics. Students enrolled in the regular physical education program must take Foundations of Personal Fitness. • Students may substitute the fall semester of marching band and cheerleading, and both semesters of drill team and JROTC. Students may also meet the physical education requirement if they participate in a district-approved Olympic caliber, off-campus training program. • Physical education credit may be earned through approved correspondence courses.
Languages other than English (Foreign Language)	2		• Students may take any two levels of the same foreign language to meet the requirements for the Recommended High School Program. Foreign language credits earned in middle school will count toward this requirement.

Courses	Recommended High School Program	Minimum High School Program	Notes
Speech	½	½	• These courses meet the requirement: Communication Applications (½), Debate I (1), Oral Interpretation I (1).
Fine Arts	1	1	• Approved fine arts courses include art, music, Dance I-IV and theatre courses.
Academic Elective: World Geography or Science Elective		1	
Electives	4 ½	3 ½ - 5 ½	• Must be state-approved courses.
Total State Credits Required	26	22	

Distinguished Achievement Program

Students desiring to earn the Distinguished Achievement Program transcript must complete the requirements for the Recommended High School Program plus **one additional credit in languages other than English (foreign language)** and any combination of four advanced measures selected from the following options:

- A score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement Examination.
- A grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit, including tech-prep programs and dual credit courses.
- Original research/project conducted under the direction of mentor(s) reported to an appropriate audience and judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project. Original research may not be used for more than two measures.
- A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition in one of these ways: (1) Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, (2) National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students, or (3) National Hispanic Scholar Program. *Note: The PSAT score may only count as one advanced measure, regardless of the number of honors received by the student.*

Note: Math Models with Applications and AP Computer Science may not serve as math credits on the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP). Additionally, Integrated Physics and Chemistry may not serve as a science credit on the DAP.

End-of-Course Assessments (Class of 2015 and Beyond)

Current law mandates that students in the Class of 2015 will take the following end-of-course (EOC) assessments instead of TAKS tests. Courses with EOC assessments for students who graduate under the RHSP are listed in the chart below.

English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
English I	Algebra I	Biology	World Geography
English II	Geometry	Chemistry	World History
English III	Algebra II	Physics	US History

Graduation Requirements for Students in Special Education

Graduation requirements for students in special education are determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee. Special education students will take the TAKS, TAKS-Accommodated, TAKS-Modified, TAKS-Alternate, or may be exempt from this requirement as determined by the student's ARD committee.

Students who receive special education services, enter ninth-grade in the fall of 2004 and thereafter, and complete the same credit, assessments, and curriculum requirements (i.e., no content modifications) as students in general education may graduate under the Minimum, Recommended, or the Distinguished Achievement Programs. On the other hand, students who receive special education services with modifications in state assessments and/or curriculum (e.g., enrollment in in-class support with modifications, resource, adaptive behavior, and/or life skills) will qualify to graduate under the Minimum High School Program only.

State Programs Supporting Texas Students

The State of Texas has developed several programs to encourage students to pursue a strong academic high school program which will adequately prepare them for further study and to face challenges in the twenty-first century work place. These programs focus on admissions, grants, tuition exemptions, and financial aid, which will enable well-prepared, eligible students to attend public and non-profit institutions of higher learning in the State of Texas. **Some programs specify that students must graduate under the Recommended High School Program.**

- ◆ Top Ten Percent Admissions
- ◆ Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Programs
- ◆ Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)
- ◆ Early High School Graduation Scholarships
- ◆ Other Texas Financial Aid Programs
- ◆ General Information

Texas Financial Aid Information Center
Toll free: (877) 782-7322
1-888-311-8881 to get financial aid questions answered

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Web Address: www.theccb.state.tx.us

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation
Web Address: www.AdventuresInEducation.org

Exemption Information
1-800-242-3062. ext. 6387 (unmanned)

Tract sheet and links to other sources
Web Address: www.collegefortexans.com