

Texas High School Graduation Recommendations



Foundation Diploma: 26 Credits

English – 4 credits

English I, II, III, plus
an advanced English course
from the following:
English IV, Honors English,
or Dual Credit
Other options include:
Research/Technical Writing
Business English, Journalism
Creative/Imaginative Writing
Literary Genres

Mathematics – 3 credits

Algebra I, Geometry, plus
an advanced math course
from the following:
Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus,
Dual Credit, or Honors Math
Other options include:
Engineering Mathematics
Statistics and Risk Management
Mathematical Models w/Applications
Money Matters – Personal Finance

Science – 3 credits

Biology, IPC or advanced science, plus
an advanced science course
from one of the following:
Chemistry, Physics, Dual Credit, or Honors
Other options include:
Biology II/Anatomy & Physiology
Aquatic or Marine Science
Environmental Science
Earth and Space Science
Astronomy, Forensics Science

Social Studies – 3 credits

US History, US Government (1/2),
Economics (1/2), World History or
World Geography
Other options include:
Psychology, Sociology, Ethnic Studies

Fine Arts – 1 credit

from one of the following:
Art I, II, III, or IV
Dance I, II, III or IV
Music I, II, III or IV
Theater I, II, III or IV

Physical Education – 1 credit

from one of the following:
Lifetime Fitness & Wellness Pursuits
Aerobics Activities & Outdoor Pursuits
Skills-Based Lifetime Activities
Team or Individual Sports

Elective Courses – 5 credits
see Possible Electives

Languages Other Than English – 2 credits
two courses from same language
or Computer Science I, II

Endorsement – 4 credits
Topic specific (see TEA Chapter 127)
or Multidisciplinary – 4 core subjects

Distinguished Diploma: 26 Credits

English – 4 credits

English I, II, III, AND an
advanced English course
from the following:
English IV, Honors English,
or Dual Credit

Mathematics – 4 credits

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
AND an advanced math course
from the following:
Pre-Calculus, Calculus,
Dual Credit, or Honors Math

Science – 4 credits

Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics, AND
an advanced science course
from the following:
Chemistry, Physics Dual Credit,
or Honors Science

Social Studies – 4 credits

US History, US Government (1/2),
Economics (1/2), World History and/or
Geography, and/or optional social studies

Fine Arts – 1 credit

Languages Other Than English – 2 credits

Elective Courses – 2 credits

Physical Education – 1 credit

Speech – demonstrated proficiency
(same as Foundation above)

Distinguished Level of Achievement – 4 credits of the 26 credits will be from Honors courses or Dual Credit selected from English, math, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts

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Possible Electives:

Speech Communications	Health I/II	College & Career Readiness
Child Development	Applied Math for Technical Professions	Human Growth and Development
Principles of Health Science	Pharmacology	Medical Terminology
Principles of Hospitality & Tourism	Culinary Arts	Food Science
Law Enforcement	Criminal Investigation	Political Science
Planning and Governance	National Security	Principles of Applied Engineering
Principles of Technology	Robotics	Scientific Research and Design
Game Programming and Design	Foundations of Cybersecurity	Principles of Bioscience
Engineering Science	Computer Aided Design & Drafting	Digital Forensics
Agribusiness Management & Marketing	Small Animal Production	Floral Design
Horticultural Science	Building Maintenance Technology	Cosmetology
Construction Management	Architectural Design	Interior Design
HVAC and Refrigeration Technology	Plumbing Technology	Animation
Digital Audio Technology	Commercial Photography	Graphic Design and Illustration
Professional Communications	Business Law or Management	Banking and Financial Services
Computer Maintenance	Principles of Information Technology	Web Design
Entrepreneurship	Welding	Accounting

Others: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education (see on-line for more information)

<https://tea.texas.gov/student-readiness-and-high-school/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/master-course-list.pdf>

One Carnegie Credit equals 135-150 hours (180 days equals 1 credit; 90 days equals ½ credit)

Completion of a high school text also constitutes 1 credit (or ½ credit if listed as such above)

High school courses taught on high school proficiency level and successfully completed prior to Grade 9 count toward graduation

Determining Grade Point Average:

Grade Point Scale for (unweighted) Home School Courses: A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, F=0.0

Grade Point Scale for (weighted) Honors or Dual Credit Courses: A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0, F=0.0

First, list all of the courses with the letter assigned to it, and write down the value of each letter that you received. Next, you determine your credit hours and multiply the value of the letters by the credit hours, which will give you your grade points. Now take your grade points, add them, and then take the answer to that and divide it the total amount of attempted hours. That's it!

Course	Credit	Grade	Weighted Points	Weighted Total Points	Unweighted Points	Unweighted Total Points
English II – Lit & Comp Honors	1	A	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Algebra II	1	A	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Chemistry with Lab	1	A	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
US History DC HIST 1301/1302	1	B	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Dance	½	B	3.0	1.5	3.0	1.5
Speech	½	A	4.0	2.0	4.0	2.0
Total for School Year	5.0			20.5		18.5
				20.5/5 = 4.10		18.5/5 = 3.70

UPDATED 10/1/26