GUIDE TO GRADUATION

UNDERSTANDING ENDORSEMENTS AND GRADUATION PLANS

GRADUATION PLANS

Fort Worth ISD offers three (3) graduation plans:

- Distinguished Level of Achievement – 26 credits
  Recommended graduation plan for all students
- Foundation High School Program + Endorsements – 26 credits
- Foundation High School Program – 22 credits
  Option not eligible for selection until after the completion of sophomore year.

The Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) designation upon graduation must be earned in order to be eligible for top 10 percent automatic admission to a public Texas university.

In order to earn a DLA designation, a student must successfully complete four math credits, including Algebra II; four science credits and an endorsement requirement.

Foundation High School Program = **22 CREDITS**	Foundation High School Program + Endorsements = **26 CREDITS**	Distinguished Level of Achievement = **26 CREDITS** (Recommended graduation plan for all students)
4 English Credits: • ELA I • ELA II • ELA III • One credit in any advanced English course	**4** English Credits: • ELA I • ELA II • ELA III • One credit in any advanced English course	**4** English Credits: • ELA I • ELA II • ELA III • One credit in any advanced English course
3 Math Credits: • Algebra I • Geometry • One credit in any authorized math course	**4** Math Credits: • Algebra I • Geometry • Two credits in any advanced math course (one of those credits is to satisfy endorsement requirements)	**4** Math Credits: • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II • One credit in any advanced math course to satisfy endorsement requirements
3 Science Credits: • Biology • One credit in IPC or Chemistry or Physics One credit in any advanced science course	**4** Science Credits: • Biology • One credit in IPC or Chemistry or Physics • Two credits in any advanced science course (one of those credits is to satisfy endorsement requirements)	**4** Science Credits: • Biology • One credit in IPC or Chemistry or Physics • Two credits in any advanced science course (one of those credits is to satisfy endorsement requirements)
4 Social Studies Credits: • World/Human Geography • World History • U.S. History • Government, Economics	**4** Social Studies Credits: • World/Human Geography • World History • U.S. History • Government, Economics	**4** Social Studies Credits: • World/Human Geography • World History • U.S. History • Government, Economics
2 World Language Credits	**2** World Language Credits	**2** World Language Credits
1 Physical Education Credit	**1** Physical Education Credit	**1** Physical Education Credit
1 Fine Arts Credit	**1** Fine Arts Credit	**1** Fine Arts Credit
0.5 Health Credit	**0.5** Health Credit	**0.5** Health Credit
0.5 Speech Credit	**0.5** Speech Credit	**0.5** Speech Credit
3 Elective Credits	**5** Elective Credits	**5** Elective Credits
Students may opt to Foundation-only after completing Sophomore year	*Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement*	*Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement. A student must graduate under this plan to be eligible for the Top 10% Automatic Admission in State Universities*

ENDORSEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

Endorsements allow the student to focus their studies in coursework, which support future college and career choices.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM)

Includes courses directly related to:
- Science, including environmental science
- Technology, including computer science
- Engineering
- Math

Must complete Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, and one of the following:
1. A coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the STEM career cluster.
2. A coherent sequence of four credits in selected Computer Science courses.
3. A total of 5 credits in Math by successfully completing Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and 2 additional Math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.
4. A total of 5 credits in science by successfully completing biology, chemistry, Physics, and 2 additional Science courses.
5. In addition to Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics, a coherent sequence of 3 additional credits from no more than two of the three areas listed in 1, 2, 3, and 4.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Includes courses directly related to:
- Accounting
- Agricultural science
- Architecture
- Auto technology
- Communications
- Construction
- Database management
- Finance
- Graphic design
- HVAC
- Info technology
- Logistics
- Marketing

Must complete one of the following:
1. Coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the courses listed to the left.
2. Four English elective credits by selecting three levels in one of the following areas:
   - Advanced Broadcast Journalism
   - Advanced Journalism: Newspaper
   - Advanced Journalism: Yearbook
   - Debate
   - Public Speaking
3. Four technology application credits listed below:
   - 3-D Modeling & Animation
   - Digital Art & Animation
   - Digital Communication
   - Digital Design & Media Production
   - Digital Video & Audio Design
   - Independent Study in Evolving/Emerging Technologies
   - Web Communication
   - Web Design
   - Web Game Development
4. Coherent sequence of four credits from 1, 2, or 3.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Includes courses directly related to:
- Culinary arts and hospitality
- Education and training
- Government & public administration
- Health sciences and occupations
- Law, public safety, corrections & security

Must complete one of the following:
1. Coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the courses listed to the left.
2. Four courses in JROTC.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Includes courses directly related to:
- Cultural studies
- English Literature
- Fine arts
- History
- Political science
- World languages

Must complete one of the following:
1. Total of 5 social studies credits
2. Four levels of the same language in language other than English (LOTE)
3. Two levels of the same language in LOTE and two levels in a different language in LOTE
4. Four levels of American Sign Language
5. Coherent sequence of 4 credits by selecting courses from 1 or 2 categories or disciplines in fine arts or innovative courses approved by the commissioner
6. Four English elective credits by selecting from the following:
   - AP English Literature & Composition
   - Creative Writing
   - English IV
   - Humanities
   - IB Lang Studies A1 Higher Level
   - Independent Study in English
   - Literary Genres
   - Research and Technical Writing
   - Communication Applications

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Allows a student to select courses from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement

Must complete one of the following:
1. Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education w/o remediation from w/in one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence.
2. Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and Chemistry and/or Physics.
3. Four credits in advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts

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PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students can also earn a performance acknowledgement for dual credit, bilingualism and biliteracy, AP or IB exams, PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT or ACT testing, or certifications and licensures.

DUAL CREDIT	Successful completion of: 1. At least 12 hours of college academic courses, including those taken for dual credit as part of the Texas core curriculum, and advanced technical credit courses, including locally articulated courses, with a grade of the equivalent of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 or 2. An associate degree while in high school
BILINGUALISM AND BILITERACY	Demonstrate proficiency in accordance with District grading policy in two or more languages by: 1. Complete all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; and 2. Satisfy one of the following: • Completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or • Demonstrate proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; or • Complete at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; or • Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods: ›› Score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; or ›› Score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for a higher-level languages other than English course; or ›› Performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy, an English language learner must also have: a) Participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; and b) Scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).
AP TEST OR IB EXAM	Earn a: 1. Score of 3 or above on a College Board advanced placement examination 2. Score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate examination
PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT, ACT	Earn a: 1. Score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation 2. College readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subject tests on the ACT-PLAN® examination 3. Combined critical reading and mathematics score of at least 1250 on the SAT®; or 4. Composite score on the ACT® examination of 28 (excluding the writing subscore)
CERTIFICATION OR LICENSE	Earn a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license with: 1. Performance on an examination or series of examinations sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification, or 2. Performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession