

# Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program

## A Guide for Students and Parents

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[www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

## Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program Requirements

The Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program is a financial assistance program authorized by the 74<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 1995 (Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 56, Subchapter K) for students who graduate from high school in fewer than four years. This guide will help you understand student eligibility for state credit to be used toward tuition or tuition and mandatory fees at a public or private institution of higher education in Texas. This guide also includes graduation requirements for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) and Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

### Student eligibility

To be eligible for an award through the Early High School Graduation Scholarship program, a student must:

- (1) have graduated from high school:
  - (A) in not more than 41 consecutive months and successfully completed the recommended or advanced high school program established under TEC Section 28.025, if the person graduated on or after September 1, 2005;
  - (B) in not more than 45 consecutive months, with at least 30 hours of college credit, and successfully completed the recommended or advanced high school program established under TEC Section 28.025, if the person graduated on or after September 1, 2005; **or**
  - (C) in not more than 36 consecutive months after successfully completing the requirements for a high school diploma, if the person graduated before September 1, 2005;
- (2) have attended high school exclusively in one or more Texas public high schools; and
- (3) be a Texas resident as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

## **State credit for tuition or tuition and mandatory fees**

The amount of credit a student is eligible to receive varies depending on the number of months the student takes to graduate and the number of college credit hours the student has earned while in high school. A student who is eligible under the Early High School Graduation Scholarship program is entitled to a state credit to apply toward tuition or tuition and mandatory fees, as applicable, at a public or private institution of higher education in this state in the following amounts:

- (1) \$2,000 to apply toward tuition and mandatory fees if:
- the person successfully completed the recommended or advanced high school program established under TEC Section 28.025; and
  - graduated from high school on or after September 1, 2005, in 36 consecutive months or less

an additional \$1,000 to apply toward tuition and mandatory fees if:

- the person graduated with at least 15 hours of college credit;

- (2) \$500 to apply toward tuition and mandatory fees if:
- the person successfully completed the recommended or advanced high school program established under TEC Section 28.025; and
  - graduated from high school on or after September 1, 2005, in more than 36 consecutive months but not more than 41 consecutive months

an additional \$1,000 to apply toward tuition and mandatory fees if:

- the person graduated with at least 30 hours of college credit;

- (3) \$1,000 to apply toward tuition and mandatory fees if:
- the person successfully completed the recommended or advanced high school program established under TEC Section 28.025; and
  - graduated from high school on or after September 1, 2005, in more than 41 consecutive months but not more than 45 consecutive months with at least 30 hours of college credit; or

- (4) \$1,000 to apply only toward tuition if:
- the person graduated before September 1, 2005, after successfully completing the requirements for a high school diploma in not more than 36 consecutive months.

## **How to Receive the Early High School Graduation Scholarship**

The scholarship is awarded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The scholarship application may be accessed on the following website:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/0666.PDF>

The following pages outline the course requirements for graduation under the RHSP and the DAP. Graduation requirements can also be found in 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) which can be viewed on the following website: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/index.html>

# Graduation Requirements

## Discipline                      Recommended and Distinguished Achievement High School Programs

English Language Arts *	<b>Four credits:</b> <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 *	<b>Three credits</b> must consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Algebra I,</li><li>· Algebra II, and</li><li>· Geometry.</li></ul>
Science *	<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. <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. Students are encouraged to take courses in biology, chemistry, and physics.</li></ul>
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>
Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits *	<b>One-half credit</b>
Physical Education	<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>

\* College Board advanced placement, college-level concurrent/dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

## Discipline

## Recommended and Distinguished Achievement High School Programs

Languages Other Than  
English (LOTE) \*

**Two credits (Recommended Program)**

must consist of Level I and Level II in the same language.

**Three credits (Distinguished Achievement Program)**

must consist of Level I, Level II, and Level III in the same language.

Health Education

**One-half credit**

or Health Science Technology (one credit).

Fine Arts \*

**One credit**

which may be satisfied by:

- any of the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 117: Art, Level I; Art, Level II; Art, Level III; Art, Level IV; Dance, Level I; Dance, Level II; Dance, Level III; Dance, Level IV; Music, Level I; Music, Level II; Music, Level III; Music, Level IV; Theatre, Level I; Theatre, Level II; Theatre, Level III; or Theatre, Level IV.

Speech

**One-half credit:**

Communication Applications

Technology Applications \*

**One credit**, which may be satisfied by:

- the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 126: Computer Science I, Computer Science II, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics/ Animation, Multimedia, Video Technology, Web Mastering, or Independent Study in Technology Applications, or state-approved technology applications innovative courses;
- the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 120: Business Computer Information Systems I or II, Business Computer Programming, Telecommunications and Networking, or Business Image Management and Multimedia;
- the following courses in 19 TAC Chapter 123: Computer Applications, Technology Systems (modular computer laboratory-based), Communications Graphics (modular computer laboratory-based), or Computer Multimedia and Animation Technology; or
- 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 in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this paragraph. Students pursuing the 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 (relating to Credit by Examination).

\* College Board advanced placement, college-level concurrent/dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate courses may be substituted for requirements in appropriate areas.

**Discipline**

**Recommended and Distinguished Achievement  
High School Programs**

Elective Courses

**Three and one-half credits (Recommended Program)** 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 (Distinguished Achievement Program)**

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 credits  
for each program

**24**

# Distinguished Achievement Program - Advanced Measures

## Advanced Measures

In addition to completing the course requirements for graduation, students must complete advanced measures in order to graduate under the Distinguished Achievement Program.

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.

## Assessment requirements

In accordance with TEC, Section 39.025 students are required to perform satisfactorily on the secondary exit-level assessment instruments for English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science in order to qualify for a high school diploma. Students will be required to take TAKS tests based on the official classification given by the school district. While most high school juniors are not eligible to take the exit level TAKS until the spring of their junior year, students on an accelerated program will be allowed to test earlier.

## Course sequence

Courses may be sequenced in accordance with local district policy; however, prior to taking the exit level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) students must be given the opportunity to learn the following content:

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Content</b>
English Language Arts	English I English II English III
Mathematics	Algebra I Algebra II Geometry
Science	Biology Chemistry Physics
Social Studies	World Geography World History U. S. History Since Reconstruction