

Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter B. Graduation Requirements

§74.11. High School Graduation Requirements.

- (a) To receive a high school diploma, a student entering Grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter must complete the following:
- (1) in accordance with subsection (d) of this section, requirements of the Foundation High School Program specified in §74.12 of this title (relating to Foundation High School Program);
 - (2) testing requirements for graduation as specified in Chapter 101 of this title (relating to Assessment); and
 - (3) demonstrated proficiency, in Grade 8 or higher, as determined by the district in which the student is enrolled, in delivering clear verbal messages; choosing effective nonverbal behaviors; listening for desired results; applying valid critical-thinking and problem-solving processes; and identifying, analyzing, developing, and evaluating communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and professional presentations.
- (b) Beginning with students enrolled in Grade 12 during the 2021-2022 school year, each student in Grade 12 must complete and submit a free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) or a Texas application for state financial aid (TASFA) before graduating from high school.
- (1) A student may graduate under the Foundation High School Program without completing a financial aid application if:
 - (A) the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation submits a signed form, approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), indicating that the parent or other person declines to complete and submit the application or authorizes the student to school district or open-enrollment charter school fails to provide the form described by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection to the student or the student's parent or guardian.
 - (c) A school district shall clearly indicate the distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program, an endorsement, and a performance acknowledgment on the transcript or academic record. If the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student are advised by a school counselor of the specific benefits of graduating from high school with one or more endorsements; and

- (j) A student may not be enrolled in a course that has a required prerequisite unless:
 - (1) the student has successfully completed the prerequisite course(s);
 - (2) the student has demonstrated equivalent knowledge as determined by the school district; or
 - (3) the student was already enrolled in the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school and transferred to a Texas public school prior to successfully completing the course.
- (k) A district may exempt a student from a specific career and technical education (CTE) course prerequisite for a CTE course that satisfies a mathematics or science credit if the district determines the student is not using the course to complete a CTE program of study.
- (l) A district may award credit for a course a student completed without meeting the prerequisites if the student completed the course in an out-of-state, an out-of-country, or a Texas nonpublic school where there was not a prerequisite.
- (m) A district shall allow a student who successfully completes AP Computer Science A or IB Computer Science Higher Level to satisfy both one advanced mathematics requirement and one languages other than English requirement for graduation.
- (n) Each school district shall annually report to the TEA the names of the locally developed courses, programs, institutions of higher education, and internships in which the district's students have enrolled as authorized by the TEC, §28.002(g-1). The TEA shall make available information provided under this subsection to other districts. If a district chooses, it may submit any locally developed course for approval under §74.27 of this title as an innovative course.
- (o) Each school district shall annually report to the TEA the names of cybersecurity courses approved by the board of trustees for credit and the institutions of higher education in which the district's students have enrolled as authorized by the TEC, §28.002(g-3). The TEA shall make available information provided under this subsection to other districts. If a district chooses, it may submit any locally developed course for approval under §74.27 of this title as an innovative course.
- (p) A school district shall permit a student to comply with the curriculum requirements under the Foundation High School Program by successfully completing appropriate courses in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education (IHE). A student who has completed the core curriculum of an IHE in accordance with TEC, §61.822, as certified by the IHE in accordance with §4.28 of this title (relating to Core Curriculum):
 - (1) is considered to have earned an endorsement by successfully completing the appropriate courses for that endorsement;
 - (2) is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program; and
 - (3) is entitled to receive a high school diploma.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.11 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(4); 28.002; 28.018; 28.025; and 28.0256(a), (b), and (d).

Source: The provisions of this §74.11 adopted to be effective July 8, 2014, 39 TexReg 5149; amended to be effective August 22, 2016, 41 TexReg 5040; amended to be effective August 27, 2018, 43 TexReg 4190; amended to be effective November 24, 2019, 44 TexReg 7050; amended to be effective August 1, 2020, 45 TexReg 4178; amended to be effective August 1, 2021, 46 TexReg 3874; amended to be effective August 1, 2022, 47 TexReg 4502.

§74.12. Foundation High School Program.

- (a) Credits. A student must earn at least 22 credits to complete the Foundation High School Program.
- (b) Core courses. A student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.
 - (1) English language arts--four credits. Two of the credits must consist of English I and II. (Students with limited English proficiency who are at the beginning or intermediate level of English language proficiency, as defined by §74.4(d) of this title (relating to English Language Proficiency Standards), may satisfy the English I and English II graduation requirements by successfully completing English I for Speakers of Other Languages and English II for Speakers of Other Languages.) A third credit must consist of English III, a comparable Advanced Placement (AP) English language arts course that does not count toward another credit required for graduation, or a comparable International Baccalaureate (IB) English language arts course that meets all the requirements in §110.33 of this title (relating to English Language Arts and Reading, English III (One Credit), Beginning with School Year 2009-2010). A fourth credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:
 - (A) English IV;
 - (B) Independent Study in English;
 - (C) Literary Genres;
 - (D) Creative Writing;
 - (E) Research and Technical Writing;
 - (F) Humanities;
 - (G) Public Speaking III;
 - (H) Communication Applications, which must be combined with another half credit from the other courses listed in subparagraphs (A)-(G) and (I)-(S) of this paragraph;
 - (I) Oral Interpretation III;
 - (J) Debate III;
 - (K) Independent Study in Speech;
 - (L) Independent Study in Journalism;
 - (M) Advanced Broadcast Journalism III;
 - (N) Advanced Journalism: Newspaper III;
 - (O) Advanced Journalism: Yearbook III;
 - (P) a comparable Advanced Placement (AP)

- (2) Mathematics--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of Algebra I and Geometry.
 - (A) The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half

- (C) One credit of a two-credit IB mathematics course selected from Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics) may satisfy the additional mathematics credit.
- (3) Science--three credits. One credit must consist of Biology or a comparable AP or IB biology course.
 - (A) One credit must be selected from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i) Integrated Physics and Chemistry;
 - (ii) Chemistry;
 - (iii) Physics;
 - (iv) Principles of Technology; and
 - (v) a comparable AP or IB chemistry or physics course that does not count toward another credit required for graduation.
 - (B) The additional credit may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following laboratory-based courses:
 - (i) Chemistry;
 - (ii) Physics;
 - (iii) Aquatic Science;
 - (iv) Astronomy;
 - (v) Earth Systems Science;

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- (B) In accordance with local district policy, the required credit may be earned through completion of any Texas essential knowledge and skills-based course that meets the requirement in subparagraph (E) of this paragraph for 100 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per five-day school week and that is not being used to satisfy another specific graduation requirement.
- (C) In accordance with local district p-1.1 (e)4.8A2;()6.5 (w(nt)5.5 (.))Tm(d)-v -0.i63 (C))03 Tw -13.9721 6

- (ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code, Section 794) if the student does not receive special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A, but is covered by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or
 - (iii) a committee established by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge regarding the student if each of the committees described by clauses (i) and (ii) of this subparagraph is inapplicable. This committee shall follow the same procedures required of an ARD or a Section 504 committee.
- (7) Fine arts--one credit.
 - (A) The credit may be selected from the following courses subject to prerequisite requirements:
 - (i) Art, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (ii) Dance, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (iii) Music, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (iv) Music Studies;
 - (v) Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (vi) Musical Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (vii) Technical Theatre, Level I, II, III, or IV;
 - (viii) IB Film Standard or Higher Level;
 - (ix) Floral Design;
 - (x) Digital Art and Animation; and
 - (xi) 3-D Modeling and Animation.
 - (B)

- (5) The fourth mathematics credit may be satisfied with one credit of a two-credit IB mathematics course selected from Chapter 111 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics) that does not count toward another credit required for graduation.
- (6) An additional credit in science that may be selected from one full credit or a combination of two half credits from two different courses, subject to prerequisite requirements, from the following courses:
 - (A) Chemistry;
 - (B) Physics;
 - (C) Aquatic Science;

- (xiii) IB Language Studies A: Literature Higher Level; or
 - (xiv) IB Literature and Performance Standard Level.
- (5) Multidisciplinary studies. A student may earn a multidisciplinary studies endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:
- (A) four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or

- (i) accounting and financial services;
- (ii) agriculture business, leadership, and communications;
- (iii) agricultural technology and mechanical systems;
- (iv) animal science;
- (v) architectural drafting and design;
- (vi) automotive and collision repair;
- (vii) aviation maintenance;
- (viii) aviation pilots;
- (ix) business management;
- (x) carpentry;
- (xi) construction management and inspection;
- (xii) cosmetology;
- (xiii) culinary arts;
- (xiv) diesel and heavy equipment maintenance and commercial drivers;
- (xv) digital communications;
- (xvi) distribution, logistics, and warehousing;
- (xvii) drone (unmanned vehicle);
- (xviii) electrical;
- (xix) entrepreneurship;
- (xx) environmental and natural resources;
- (xxi) food science and technology;
- (xxii) graphic design and interactive media;
- (xxiii) HVAC and sheet metal;
- (xxiv) industrial maintenance;
- (xxv) information technology support and services;
- (xxvi) lodging and resort management;
- (xxvii) manufacturing technology;
- (xxviii) maritime;
- (xxix) marketing and sales;
- (xxx) masonry;
- (xxxi) oil and gas exploration and production;
- (xxxii) plant science;
- (xxxiii) plumbing and pipefitting;
- (xxxiv) printing and imaging;
- (xxxv) real estate;
- (xxxvi) refining and chemical processes;
- (xxxvii) retail management;

- (xxxviii) travel, tourism, and attractions; or
- (xxxix) welding;

(B)

- (x) law enforcement;
 - (xi) legal studies;
 - (xii) nursing science, if the mathematics and science requirements for the STEM are not met; or
 - (xiii) teaching and training; or
- (B) four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).
- (g) A course completed as part of the set of four courses needed to satisfy an endorsement requirement may also satisfy a requirement under §74.12(b) and (c) of this title and subsection (e)(2), (4), (5), and (6) of this section, including an elective requirement. The same course may count as part of the set of four courses for more than one endorsement.

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this §74.13 issued under the Texas Education Code, §§7.102(c)(4); 28.002; 28.018; and 28.025.

Source: The provisions of this §74.13 adopted to be effective July 8, 2014, 39 TexReg 5149; amended to be effective August 22, 2016, 41 TexReg 5040; amended to be effective August 28, 2017, 42 TexReg 3139; amended to be effective August 27, 2018, 43 TexReg 4190; amended to be effective August 1, 2019, 44 TexReg 3802; amended to be effective August 1, 2020, 45 TexReg 4178; amended to be effective August 1, 2022, 47 TexReg 4502; amended to be effective August 1, 2024 49 TexReg 5501.

§74.14. Performance Acknowledgments.

- (a) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:
 - (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.
- (b) A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's transcript for outstanding performance

