StateNotes

High School – Transitions to Postsecondary

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Alignment of High School Graduation Requirements and State-Set College Admissions Requirements

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A growing number of voices in both education and economic policy propose that in tomorrow's workforce, all students will need some postsecondary education, be it technical certification, an associate's degree, a 4-year degree, a master's degree or beyond. However, many students and their parents do not realize there is generally a gap between the number of Carnegie units – and the specific courses in those units – required for high school graduation and those required for admission to a 4-year college or university. In addition, high remediation rates among first-year students in both 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions suggest that existing state and local graduation requirements are not adequately aligned with postsecondary expectations.

Though some critics argue not all students should be expected to enroll in some form of postsecondary education after high school, consensus is building that the skills and knowledge necessary for success in entry-level positions in the workforce are in fact similar to those needed for success in entry-level postsecondary coursework.

The information below updates that in the National Association of System Heads (NASH) October 2002 report Aligning K-12 and Postsecondary Expectations: State Policy in Transition.

Table 1: State-Set High School Graduation Requirements and College Admissions Requirements

Currently 42 states and the District of Columbia have statewide high school graduation requirements. These are generally minimum graduation requirements to which local districts may add further requirements.

Twenty-five states have established statewide college admissions requirements for public colleges and universities. In 25 states and the District of Columbia, individual institutions set their own admissions requirements.

All courses are expressed in Carnegie units, with one unit equaling one year of study. High school graduation requirements reflect minimum requirements – for example, if a state offers a technical diploma whose unit requirements are less than that for a standard diploma, the table reflects the technical diploma requirements. An "n/s" indicates that a state does not specify the types of courses that must fulfill Carnegie unit requirements for high school graduation or college admissions, or does not set college admissions requirements (college admissions requirements are set by local institutions).

Text in black reflects high school graduation requirements for the class of 2006 and college admission requirements for entering college freshman fall 2006. Text in purple reflects future changes to high school graduation requirements and college admissions requirements.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
Alabama	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	n/s	n/s
	English 9, 10, 11, 12	n/s	Algebra I, geometry	n/s	Biology, physical science	n/s	Social studies 9, 10, 11, 12	n/s		n/s
Alaska	4	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s Eff. Class of 2009: .5 Alaska history	n/s	n/s	n/s
Arizona	4	4	2	4	2	3	2.5	2	n/s	2
	grammar and advanced grammar, writing, reading skills, composition and advanced composition, American literature, research methods and skills and literature; .5 to include speech/ debate	literature and substantial emphasis on grammar and composition, not to include journalism, business commun., speech	n/s	Algebra I and II, geometry and course w/ Algebra II as prereq.	n/s	3 lab in 3 areas chosen from chemistry, physics, earth science, or biology	1 world history/geography, 1.5 "essentials, sources and history of the" U.S. and AZ constitutions "and instruction in American institutions and ideals and" AZ history	1 U.S. history, 1 chosen from European or World History, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Government, Psychology, or Anthropology	n/s	same language
Arkansas	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s	emphasis on writing skills, not to include courses in	1 algebra, 1 geometry Eff. Class of 2009:	algebra I and II, geometry and adv. math course	1 biology, 1 physical science Eff. Class of 2010:	3 lab chosen from physical science, biology,	1 world history, 1 U.S. history, .5 civics or govt.	1 U.S. history (not incl. contemp. U.S. history),	n/s	n/s

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
		oral comm., journalism, drama or debate	4 (incl. 1 algebra, 1 geometry) Eff. Class of 2010: 4 math (Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and 1 above Algebra II)[1]		3 lab chosen from physical science, biology, chemistry or physics	chemistry or physics. Only 1 may be life science		1 world history (not incl. World Cultures, World Geography, or Global Studies), .5 civics or govt. (not incl. practical arts)		
California	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	2	n/s	2
	n/s	4 college-prep composition and literature	algebra	Algebra II and II, geometry	biological and physical sciences	2 lab – 1 bio. science and 1 phys. science	U.S. history and geography; world history, culture and geography; .5 U.S. gov't/civics; .5 economics	1 U.S. history or .5 U.S. history and .5 civics/U.S. govt, 1 world history, cultures and geography)	n/s	same language
Colorado	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s Eff. Fall 2008: 4	n/s	n/s Eff. Fall 2008: 3 (Algebra I and above) Eff. Fall 2010: 4 (Algebra I and above)	n/s	n/s Eff. Fall 2008: 3 (2 lab; natural/phys. science)	Eff. Class of 2007: .5 U.S. and CO govt.	n/s Eff. Fall 2008: 3 (1 U.S. or world history)	n/s	n/s Eff. Fall 2010: 2 (same language)
Connecticut	4	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	.5 civics/U.S. govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s
Delaware	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
District of Columbia	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3.5	n/s	2	n/s
	n/s	n/s	elementary algebra Eff. Class of 2008:	n/s	1 lab science	n/s	.5 D.C. history/govt, 1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., 1 world history, .5 world	n/s	n/s	n/s

[1] Eff. Class of 2010: Fourth unit math chosen from Transitions to College Math, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra II or an Advanced Placement math

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
			1 Algebra I and/or higher				geography			
Florida	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	2
	major concentration in composition and literature	3 w/substantl. writing	Algebra I	Algebra I and above	2 lab	2 w/substantial lab	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 economics, .5 U.S. govt.	n/s	n/s	same language
Georgia[2]	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	n/s	2
	.5 American lit./comp., grammar/ comp. to be incl. in all courses	4 w/emphasis grammar and usage, literature (American, English, World), and advanced composition skills	Algebra I	Algebra I and II, geometry	1 phys. science, 1 life science, OR 2 applied biology/chem.	3 lab: 1 life science, 1 phys. science	1 U.S. history, 1 world history or world geography, .5 economics	1 U.S. studies and 1 world studies	n/s	same language w/emphasis speaking, listening, reading, and writing
Hawaii	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	4	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s Eff. Class of 2010: 1 English Lang. Arts. 1, 1 English Lang. Arts 2	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s Eff. Class of 2010: .5 Modern History of Hawaii, .5 Participation in a Democracy	n/s	n/s	n/s
Idaho	4.5	4	2	3	2	3	2.5	2.5	n/s	n/s
	lang. study, comp., lit. May incl. .5 speech or debate	comp., lit.	from appl. math, bus. math, alg., geo., trig., calculus, statistics, discr. math	Applied Math I or Algebra I; geometry or Applied Math II or III; Algebra II	1 lab; instr. in applied sciences, earth, space, phys., life sciences	1 lab	1 govt, 1 U.S. history, .5 economics	U.S. govt., geography, U.S. history, world history, economics, psychology, sociology	n/s	n/s
Illinois[3]	3	n/s	2	n/s	1	n/s	2	n/s	n/s	n/s
	emphasis on	n/s	1 may be	n/s	n/s	n/s	1 U.S. history/govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s

[2] Georgia has 4 high school diploma paths: College Prep, College Prep with Distinction, Tech/Career Prep and Tech/Career Prep with Distinction. Graduation requirements in this table are for Tech/Career Prep program of study.

[3] Most Illinois public universities require 4 units English, 3 units mathematics, 3 units science, 3 units social studies, but differ in the courses that may/must fulfill these unit requirements. Some state universities require foreign language, while others treat foreign language as an elective.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	reading and writing skills, may incl. .5 oral commun. Eff. Class of 2010: 3 + 2 writing intensive courses[4] Eff. Class of 2011: 4 + 2 writing intensive courses		related to computer technology Eff. Class of 2009: 3 Eff. Class of 2010: 3, incl. 1 Algebra I and 1 w/geometry content		Eff. Class of 2011: 2		Eff. Class of 2009: 1 U.S. history or 1 combination U.S. history/U.S. govt.			
Indiana[5]	4	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	n/s	n/s
	3 English lang. arts, must provide balance of writing, reading, listening, speaking, grammar, literature and media studies Eff. Class of 2011: 4 (balance of literature, composition and speech)	n/s Eff. Class of 2011: 4 (balance of literature, composition and speech)	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 1 Algebra I or Integrated Math I Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 Algebra I, 1 Algebra II, 1 geometry or Integrated Mathematics I, ,II, III)	n/s Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 Algebra I, 1 Algebra II, 1 geometry or Integrated Mathematics I, ,II, III)	2 lab; content from more than 1 of life, physical, earth and space science Eff. Class of 2010: Must incl. Biology I Eff. Class of 2011: 3 lab (1 biology 1 chemistry, physics or integrated chemistry-physics; and 1 Core 40 science)	n/s Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 biology 1 chemistry, physics or integrated chemistry-physics; and 1 Core 40 science)	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt. Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics, 1 world history and civ. or 1 geography and history of the world	n/s Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics, 1 world history and civ. or 1 geography and history of the world	n/s	n/s
Iowa[6]	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	1.5	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	.5 U.S. govt., 1 U.S. history and instruction in Iowa	n/s	n/s	n/s

[4] One writing-intensive course must be in English; the other may be English or any other subject. Writing-intensive courses may be counted towards completion of other graduation requirements.
[5] Eff. Class of 2011, all students will be expected to complete the Core 40 graduation requirements reflected in this table.
[6] Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and Northern Iowa University require 4 units English, 3 years math, and 3 years science, but differ in the courses that may fulfill these requirements. The universities also differ in the number of units of social studies and foreign language required for admission.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
							govt.			
Kansas	4	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s Eff. Class of 2009: Must incl. reading, writing, literature, comm. and grammar	4 w/substl., recurrent practice in writing, extensive reading of significant literature, & significant experience in viewing, speaking, and listening	n/s Eff. Class of 2009: 3, incl. algebraic and geometric concepts	3 at and above Algebra I	1 lab Eff. Class of 2009: 3, (1 lab) incl. physical, biological, and earth and space	Biology, advanced biology, chemistry, earth/space science, and/or physics; 1 chemistry or physics	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., course on KS govt./history Eff. Class of 2009: 3 "history and govt.": world history, U.S. history, U.S. govt., concepts of economics and geography and course on KS govt./history	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 chosen from world history, world geography, or international relations. 1 chosen from psychology, economics, civics, history, current social issues, sociology, anthropology, and/or race and ethnic group relations	n/s	n/s
Kentucky	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	2[7]
	English I, II, III, IV	English I, II, III and IV or AP English	Algebra I, geometry Eff. Class of 2012: Algebra I, II, geometry	Algebra I, II, geometry	incl. life, physical, earth/space science Eff. Class of 2012: 3 lab, incl. biological, physical, earth and space science, and unifying concepts	1 lab; to include physical science, life science, and earth/space science	to incorporate U.S. history, economics, govt., world geography, world civ.	from U.S. history, economics, government, world geography, and world civilization	n/s	same language
Louisiana	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	2
	English I, II, III and English IV or Business	English I, II, III, IV	max. of 2 intro. courses[8]	Algebra I, II and choice of geo., trig.,	1 biology, 1 from phys. sciences	1 biology, 1 chemistry, 1 from regents	1 U.S. history, .5 civics, .5 free enterprise, and 1	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, world	n/s	same language

[7] This requirement may be waived if a student has been diagnosed as having a learning disability that "precludes the student from successfully completing a foreign language course"; demonstrates "linguistic competence and awareness of a foreign language equivalent to two (2) years of high school language" or completes 2 units of English as a Second Language (ESL).

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	English		Eff. Class of 2009: Algebra I	calculus, or approved math substitute	cluster, 1 unit from state list[9]	list[10]	chosen from world history, world geography or western civ.	geography or western civ.; 1 civics and free enterprise or 1 civics		
Maine	4	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	n/s	n/s
	reading comp., lit., written, listening and oral commun. skills, structure and usage of the English language, research and reporting skills	n/s	n/s	n/s	1 lab	n/s	1 U.S. history/govt, Maine studies	n/s	n/s	n/s
Maryland	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	listening and speaking, reading and literature, written composition and use of language	n/s	1 algebra, 1 geometry	n/s	1 biology, 2 lab in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science	n/s	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, 1 local/state/nat'l govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s
Massachusetts	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s	2
	n/s	n/s	n/s	Algebra I, II, and geometry or trig.	n/s	2 lab	U.S. history/civics	1 U.S. history	n/s	same language
Michigan	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s

[8] Introductory courses are Introductory Algebra/Geometry, Algebra I – Part 1, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Mathematics I and Algebra I. Other (non-introductory) courses that may complete this requirement are Algebra I – Part 2, Integrated Mathematics II and III, Applied Mathematics II and III, geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I and II, pre-calculus, calculus, probability and statistics, and discrete mathematics.

[9] Physical sciences cluster includes physical science, integrated science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I. Third science unit must be chosen from aerospace science, Biology II, Chemistry II, earth science, environmental science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated science elective. Students may not take both integrated science and physical science.

[10] Third unit science for postsecondary admissions to be chosen from Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	U.S. and Michigan history and civics	n/s	n/s	n/s
Minnesota	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	2
	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 4	comp. and literature	n/s 3, incl. algebra, geometry, statistics and probability	2 algebra, 1 geometry	n/s 3, incl. 1 biology	1 year bio. science, 1 year phys. science	n/s 3.5, incl. U.S. history, geography, govt./citizenship, world history, .5 economics	1 U.S. history and geography	n/s	same language
Mississippi	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s	4 w/substantl. commun. skills components (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking) Eff. Fall 2010: 4 (n/s)	Algebra I and 1 higher course[11] Eff. Class of 2009: 4 (Algebra I and 1 higher course) Eff. Class of 2012: 4 (Algebra I and 2 higher courses)	Algebra I, II and geometry Eff. Fall 2010: 4 (Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and 1 unit comparable rigor and content)[12]	Biology I Eff. Class of 2012: 4 (1 lab, Biology I)[13]	2 lab; choice of biology, chemistry physics "or any other science course with comparable rigor and content" Eff. Fall 2010: 4 (Biology I, Chemistry I and 2 units comparable rigor and content)[14]	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 MS Studies Eff. Class of 2012: 4 (above + .5 geography, .5 economics)	1 U.S. history, 1 world history w/ substan. geography, .5 govt. and .5 economics or geography Eff. Fall 2010: 4 (world history, U.S. history, introduction to world geography, U.S. govt., economics, MS Studies)	n/s	n/s
Missouri[15]	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	n/s	n/s
	grammar, composition, speaking, lit. appreciation, interpreting/	2 must emphasize composition and writing; 1 may be	n/s Eff. Class of 2010: 3	algebra and higher	n/s Eff. Class of 2010: 3	1 lab; choice of biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. history, .5 govt. Eff. Class of 2010: 3	U.S. history, .5 govt.	n/s	n/s

[11] Courses higher than Algebra I: geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus, AP Calculus AB or BC, discrete mathematics, probability and statistics and AP statistics.
[12] Math unit of comparable rigor and content chosen from Advanced Algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus, AP Calculus AB or BC, discrete mathematics, probability and statistics or AP Statistics.
[13] Allowable lab-based courses: physical science, Chemistry I or II, AP Chemistry, Physics I or II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism or AP Physics C – Mechanics
[14] Science units of comparable rigor and content chosen from physics, physical science, Biology II, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, botany, microbiology, or human anatomy and physiology.
[15] Missouri requires a 16-unit core curriculum for admission to a public 4-year college and a 17-unit core curriculum to apply to the University of Missouri. Units in this table reflect the 16-unit curriculum.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	using technical manuals and other forms of written commun. Eff. Class of 2010: 4	speech or debate								
Montana[16]	4	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s	written and oral commun. skills and literature	n/s	Algebra I, II and geometry	n/s	2 lab, 1 must be earth science, biology, chemistry or physics	n/s	global studies (world history, world geography), U.S. history, govt., economics, American Indian history or other courses	n/s	n/s
Nebraska	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Nevada	4	4	3	3	2	3	2	3	n/s	n/s
	reading, composition, writing	Emphasis on composition, rhetoric, and American, English and world literatures	n/s	algebra and higher[17]	n/s	2 lab; biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. govt., 1 U.S. history	world history and geography, U.S. history, economics, government, or law	n/s	n/s
New Hampshire	4	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	2.5	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	1 biological sciences, 1 physical sciences	n/s	1 U.S. and NH history and government, .5 business/economic	n/s	n/s	n/s

[16] The requirements in this table are for students who attain a minimum score on the math portion of the ACT, SAT or CLEP. Students who do not meet the test requirement must complete a 4th unit of math beyond Algebra II or Integrated Math III and a 3rd year of science but are not required to complete the 2 units of foreign language. Content that may fulfill the English, science and social studies unit requirements vary slightly for students who do not attain the minimum ACT, SAT or CLEP score. A third set of course requirements applies to students who attain a minimum score of 3 on specified AP math and science exams.

[17] Algebra or higher level mathematics, including first- and second-year algebra, geometry, analytic geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, probability and statistics and other advanced mathematics

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
							ed., 1 social studies elective			
New Jersey	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	U.S. history and civics, NJ history	n/s	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 1	n/s
New Mexico	4	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	major emphasis on grammar and literature	n/s	1 Algebra I or higher	n/s	1 lab Eff. Class of 2009: 3, incl. 1 lab	n/s	U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, govt. and economics Eff. Class of 2009: 3.5 (above + .5 NM history)	n/s	n/s	n/s
New York	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	4	n/s	1	n/s
	n/s	n/s		n/s	1 life sciences, 1 physical sciences; 1 lab	n/s	1 U.S. history, .5 participation in govt., .5 economics	n/s	n/s	n/s
North Carolina[18]	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	n/s	2
	English I, II, III, IV	emph. grammar, comp., literature	Algebra I	choice of 1 of 3 course seq.[19]	biology, 1 physical science, earth/environ. science	1 lab; 1 life or bio. science, 1 phys. science	civics and economics, U.S. history, world history	1 U.S. history	n/s	n/s
North Dakota	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	Algebra I and above	n/s	3 lab, incl. 1 unit each in 2 or more of biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science	n/s	may not include consumer education, cooperative marketing, orientation to social science, and	n/s	n/s

[18] North Carolina does not have a standard diploma path but requires students to choose from the career preparation, college technical preparation, college/university preparation and occupational courses of study. The requirements in this table reflect the career prep course of study.
[19] Student must complete one of the following sequences: (1) Algebra I, II, geometry and 1 unit beyond Algebra II; (2) Algebra I, II, and 2 units beyond Algebra II; or (3) Integrated Math I, II, III and 1 unit beyond Integrated Math III.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
								marriage/ family		
Ohio	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	1 biological sciences, 1 physical sciences	n/s	.5 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s
Oklahoma	4	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	n/s	n/s
	1 grammar/comp. 3 other[20] Eff. Class of 2010: 4 (incl. grammar, composition, lit. "or any English course approved for college admission" reqts.	grammar, composition and literature	Algebra I and above Eff. Class of 2010: 3 (limited to Algebra I, II, geometry, trig., Math Analysis, calculus, AP Statistics, or any math "above Algebra I and approved for college admission" reqts.	Algebra I and above	1 Biology I, 2 life, physical or earth science or tech. w/content/rigor equal to or above Biology I Eff. Class of 2010: 3 lab (biology, chemistry, physics or any lab "equal to or above biology and approved for college admission" reqts.	2 lab; biology, chemistry, physics or any lab science certified by school district; may not include gen. science courses	1 U.S. history, .5-1 U.S. govt., .5 OK history, .5-1 other courses with content/rigor equal to or above U.S. history, U.S. govt. and OK history Eff. Class of 2010: 3 (1 U.S. history, 2 from history, govt., geography, economics, civics or non-Western culture)	1 U.S. history, 2 from economics, geography, govt., civics, and non-Western culture	n/s	n/s
Oregon	3	4	2	3	2	2	3	3	n/s	2
	1 written comp. Eff. Class of 2010: 4	English language, literature, speaking and listening, and writing, w/ emphasis on and frequent practice in writing expository	n/s Eff. Class of 2010: 3	Algebra I and 2 adv. math[21]	n/s	year each in 2 fields chosen from biology, chemistry, physics, or earth and physical science	Incl. history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance)	Must include analysis of societal issues and events	n/s	same language or demonstrate proficiency

[20] Other: may include but not limited to American literature, English literature, world literature, advanced English courses, or other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above grammar and composition.

[21] Advanced math: geometry (deductive or descriptive); advanced topics in algebra, trigonometry, analytical geometry, finite mathematics, advanced applications, calculus, and probability and statistics, or courses that integrate topics from two or more of these areas.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
		prose during all 4years								
Pennsylvania	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rhode Island	4	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 4[22]	n/s	2 lab Eff. Class of 2008: 3	n/s	n/s	n/s	same language	n/s
South Carolina	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	2
	n/s	2 strong grammar and comp., 1 English lit., 1 American lit.[23]	n/s	Algebra I, II and geometry	n/s	3 lab; 2 from different subjects chosen from biology, chemistry, physics, 1 biology, chemistry, physics or other science course for which bio. and/or chem. Is a prereq.	1 U.S. history/Constitution, .5 economics, .5 U.S. govt., 1 other social studies	1 U.S. history	n/s	same language
South Dakota	4	4	2[24]	3	2[25]	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	1.5 writing, .5 speech, 1.5 literature, incl. .5 American literature Eff. Class of 2010: 4, incl. 1.5 writing, 1 lit., .5 American	major emphasis on grammar, comp. or literary analysis; may include 1 debate	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 3, incl. 1 Algebra I Eff. Class of 2010: 3, (1 Algebra I, 1 Algebra II, 1	algebra and above	2 lab Eff. Class of 2008: 2 lab Eff. Class of 2010: 3 lab (incl. biology and chemistry or physics)	3 lab; biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 geography Eff. Class of 2010: 3 (above + .5 world history)	may include history, economics, sociology, geography, govt., American Problems, etc.	n/s	n/s

[22] Fourth unit can be "math-related, such as computer programming, physics or accounting.'
[23] This criterion may be met by completion of College Preparatory English I, II, III, IV
[24] South Dakota requires 5 units of math and lab science that include at least 2 units each of math and lab science. Eff. Class of 2010, state will have 3 diploma options. Requirements in this table reflect the "advanced" (middle of 3) graduation requirements.
[25] See above

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	lit., .5 speech		geometry)							
Tennessee[26]	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	Algebra I, Mathematics for Technology I or Integrated Mathematics I	n/s	3 lab; 1 Biology I, Biology for Technology or equivalent	n/s	U.S. history, world history/world geography, economics, govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s
Texas[27]	4	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	English I, II, III and choice of 4th course	n/s	Algebra I, geometry Eff. Class of 2008: 3 (1 Algebra I, 1 Algebra II, 1 geometry)	n/s	biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry Eff. Class of 2008: 3, incl. 1 biology[28] Eff. Class of 2011: 4[29]	n/s	1 World History Studies or World Geography Studies, 1 U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics Eff. Class of 2008: 4, incl. 1 World History Studies, 1 World Geography Studies, 1 U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics	n/s	n/s Eff. Class of 2008: 2 (same language)	n/s
Utah	3	n/s	2	n/s	2	n/s	2.5	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	1 Elem. Algebra or Applied Math I and 1 geometry or Applied Math II	n/s	chosen from earth systems science, biological science, chemistry, physics	n/s	.5 Geography for Life, .5 World Civilizations, .5 U.S. govt. and citizenship, 1 U.S. History	n/s	n/s	n/s

[26] Tennessee does not have a "standard" diploma path. Requirements in this table reflect "Technical Preparation Curriculum" option.
[27] Texas currently has three diploma options. Pre-2008 requirements in this table reflect "minimum high school program" option. Eff. Class of 2008, all students will be expected to complete the "recommended" (middle of 3) graduation requirements.
[28] Biology credit must be chosen from biology, AP Biology or IB Biology. Eff. Class of 2008: Remaining 2 science units must be chosen from Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC); Chemistry, AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry; and Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics or IB Physics.
[29] This requirement will go into effect only if the state board, on or prior to August 1, 2007, "determines that sufficient funding has been appropriated by the legislature to implement" the requirement. 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 74.61lists the courses from which a student would select the fourth science unit, if sufficient funding is appropriated.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
Vermont	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Virginia	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
	n/s	n/s	at or above algebra; 2 from Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II or above algebra and geometry	n/s	3 lab; from 2 or more disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry or physics	n/s	U.S. and VA history, U.S. and VA govt. and 1 world history/geography	n/s	n/s	n/s
Washington	3	4	2	3	2	2	2.5	3	n/s	2
	n/s	3 lit. and comp.	n/s	algebra, geometry and advanced math	1 lab	1 lab (biology, chemistry, physics, or principles of technology) Eff. Fall 2010: 2 lab, incl. 1 algebra-based biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. history and govt., .5 WA history and govt., 1 Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems	n/s	n/s	same language
West Virginia[30]	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	English 9, 10, 11, 12	incl. grammar, composition, literature	Algebra I and 1 higher Eff. Class of 2009: 4 (incl. Algebra I and 1 higher)	Algebra I and 1 higher Eff. Fall 2008: 4 (3 Algebra I and higher)	Coordinated and Thematic Science (CATS) 9, CATS 10, and 1 higher than CATS 10 Eff. Class of 2009: 3 (CATS 9 and 2 above)	2 lab; 2 from CATS 10, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and other courses w/ strong lab orientation Eff. Fall 2008: 3 lab	U.S. to 1900, World Studies to 1900 and Twentieth/Twenty-First Centuries	incl. U.S. history	n/s	n/s Eff. Fall 2008: 2 same language

[30] Eff. Class of 2008, state will not have "standard" diploma but three pathways: "entry," "skilled" and "professional". "Skilled" and "professional" pathways have more rigorous requirements in mathematics, science and foreign language.

State	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
Wisconsin	4	4	2	3	2	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	written commun., oral commun., grammar and usage of the Eng. lang., and lit.	n/s	incorporate arithmetic and elements of geometry and statistics	n/s	incorporate biological and physical sciences	n/s	state and local govt.	n/s	n/s	n/s
Wyoming	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
	n/s	3 with substantial writing[31]	n/s	Algebra I and II and geometry	n/s	1 physics, chemistry or college-prep physical science; 2 any combo biological, life, physical or earth science	history, U.S. govt and economic systems and institutions	3 "cultural context" from behavioral or social sciences, visual or performing arts, humanities or earth/space sciences	n/s	n/s

Table 2: Alignment Between High School Graduation and College Admissions Course Requirements: Classes of 2006 and 2007

[31] Speech and other communication-based courses with substantial writing components may meet this requirement. English requirement may also be met by completing three units in English/communication/language arts, plus 2 units same foreign language.

Legend
Δ = Full alignment (number and topics of courses required for high school graduation and college admissions are aligned OR high school requirements exceed or are more specific than postsecondary requirements)
X = Partial alignment (number of courses required for high school graduation and college admissions are aligned but topics of courses for college admissions exceed or are more specific than high school requirements)
A = No alignment (number of courses for high school graduation are not aligned with those for college admissions or no requirements exist for both high school graduation and state-set college admissions)

Subject is marked as "no alignment" if there are not state-set high school graduation requirements and/or statewide college admissions course requirements.

State	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Foreign Language
Alabama	A	A	A	A	A
Alaska	A	A	A	A	A
Arizona	X	A	A	X	A
Arkansas	X	A	X	Δ	A
California	A	A	X	Δ	A
Colorado	A	A	A	A	A
Connecticut	A	A	A	A	A
Delaware	A	A	A	A	A
District of Columbia	A	A	A	A	A
Florida	X	X	Δ	Δ	A
Georgia	X	A	X	Δ	A
Hawaii	A	A	A	A	A
Idaho	Δ	A	A	Δ	A
Illinois	A	A	A	A	A
Indiana	A	A	A	A	A
Iowa	A	A	A	A	A
Kansas	X	A	A	X	A
Kentucky	Δ	X	X	Δ	A
Louisiana	X	X	X	Δ	A
Maine	A	A	A	A	A
Maryland	A	A	A	A	A
Massachusetts	A	A	A	A	A
Michigan	A	A	A	A	A
Minnesota	A	A	A	A	A

State	English	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Foreign Language
Mississippi	X	X	X	X	A
Missouri	A	A	X	A	A
Montana	X	A	X	A	A
Nebraska	A	A	A	A	A
Nevada	X	X	A	A	A
New Hampshire	A	A	A	A	A
New Jersey	A	A	A	A	A
New Mexico	A	A	A	A	A
New York	A	A	A	A	A
North Carolina	X	A	X	Δ	A
North Dakota	A	A	A	A	A
Ohio	A	A	A	A	A
Oklahoma	X	Δ	X	Δ	A
Oregon	A	A	X	X	A
Pennsylvania	A	A	A	A	A
Rhode Island	A	A	A	A	A
South Carolina	X	X	X	Δ	A
South Dakota	X	A	A	Δ	A
Tennessee	A	A	A	A	A
Texas	A	A	A	A	A
Utah	A	A	A	A	A
Vermont	A	A	A	A	A
Virginia	A	A	A	A	A
Washington	A	A	X	A	A
West Virginia	X	Δ	X	Δ	A
Wisconsin	Δ	A	A	Δ	A
Wyoming	X	X	X	Δ	A
Totals	A=33 X=15 Δ=3	A=42 X=7 Δ=2	A=35 X=15 Δ=1	A=33 X=4 Δ=14	A=51 X=0 Δ=0

Future Alignment of High School Graduation Requirements and College Admissions Requirements

Although no state's current standard high school graduation requirements are fully aligned with college admissions requirements, several states have recently enacted policies creating aligned high school graduation/college admissions requirements, to go into effect with a future graduating high school class.

While each state will recognize the aligned graduation requirements as the standard diploma requirements, provisions are in place to allow a student, parent and school counselor to agree that a lower-level curriculum is most appropriate for the student. It is hoped, however, that few students will elect to complete the lower-level curricula in these states.

The states:
Indiana: 2005 legislation and state board activity: (1) require all students to complete the state's Core 40 curriculum, effective with the class of 2011 (the Core 40 has been an optional curriculum since the 1994-95 school year); and (2) mandate that all state institutions require Indiana residents to complete the Core 40 curriculum or its equivalent as a prerequisite for general admission as a freshman.
Oklahoma: Effective with the class of 2010, students must complete English, math, science, social studies and other (choice of foreign language or computer science) requirements aligned with admissions requirements to Oklahoma public colleges and universities.
South Dakota: Effective with the class of 2010, the "advanced" graduation requirements will become the standard graduation requirements in the state. These requirements are aligned with admission requirements to state postsecondary institutions. The "distinguished" curriculum requirements (which require an additional year of advanced math and science and 2 years of foreign language) are aligned with prerequisites for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

Table 3: Alignment of Honors/College Prep Diploma/Endorsement Requirements and College Admissions Requirements

It may come as a surprise that out of the 25 states that make available an honors or college prep diploma or endorsement, only 4 states – **California**, **Georgia**, **Kentucky** and **Missouri** – currently align the requirements for this diploma/endorsement with the college admissions requirements in their state. (This number will increase to 5 states effective with the class of 2008 [**West Virginia**], 6 effective with the class of 2010 [**South Dakota**] and 7 effective with the class of 2011 [**Indiana**].) Part of this lack of alignment between honors/college prep diploma requirements and college admission requirements is due to the fact that:

- In 5 states – California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington State and Wyoming, attainment of the honors/college prep diploma or endorsement is based on student **test scores** rather than completion of Carnegie units beyond those required for a standard high school diploma. California has two honors/college prep diploma options, one of which is test-based. Delaware's honors/college prep diploma option affects only the classes of 2006 and 2007. These 5 test-based honors/college prep diploma policies are not included in the table below.
- In Hawaii and Louisiana, the honors/college prep diploma or endorsement is based on **additional requisites** beyond the standard curriculum (i.e., a senior project), but students are not required to complete more Carnegie units than for the standard diploma.
- Seven states – Alabama, Indiana (until fall 2011), New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia – do not set statewide college admissions requirements (individual institutions set their own admission requirements).

Note: Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and, effective with the class of 2008, West Virginia, do not have "general track" or standard diploma pathways. For example, the Georgia state board eliminated the general track in 1994. The graduation requirements below for these states reflect the honors/college prep diploma pathways.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
Alabama	Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	2	n/s
		English 9, 10, 11, 12	n/s	Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, 1 add'l math credit	n/s	1 biology, 1 physical science, 2 add'l science credits	n/s	n/s	n/s	same language	n/s
Arkansas	College Preparatory Core Curriculum[32]	4	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	n/s
		emphasis on writing skills (not to include courses in oral comm.)	emphasis on writing skills, not to include courses in oral comm., journalism, drama or debate	Algebra I, II, geometry	algebra I and II, geometry and adv. math course	2 lab from biology, chemistry, physics	3 lab chosen from physical science, biology, chemistry or physics. Only 1 may be life science	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 civics or U.S. govt.	1 U.S. history (not incl. contemporary U.S. history), 1 world history (not incl. World Cultures, World Geography, or Global Studies), .5 civics or govt. (not incl. practical arts)	same language	n/s
California	A-G Curriculum	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
		4 college-prep composition and literature	4 college-prep composition and literature	Algebra II and II, geometry	Algebra II and II, geometry	2 lab – 1 bio. science and 1 phys. science	2 lab – 1 bio. science and 1 phys. science	1 U.S. history or .5 U.S. history and .5 civics/U.S. govt, 1 world history, cultures and	1 U.S. history or .5 U.S. history and .5 civics/U.S. govt, 1 world history, cultures and	same language	same language

[32] Students must complete this curriculum or technical preparation curriculum to qualify for valedictorian, salutatorian, or honor graduate of a public high school or to qualify for membership in the National Honor Society or its equivalent.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
								geography)	geography)		
Florida	3-Year Standard College Preparatory Program[33]	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
		major concentration in composition and lit.	3 w/substantl. writing	Algebra I and higher that qualify for univ. admission	Algebra I and above	2 lab	2 w/substantial lab	1. U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics	n/s	same language	same language
Georgia (1)	College Preparatory Program[34]	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2
		.5 American lit./comp., grammar/comp to be incl. in all courses	w/emphasis grammar and usage, literature (American, English, World), and advanced composition skills	Algebra I, II, geometry and add'l course[35]	Algebra I and II, geometry	3 lab; 1 phys. science, 1 life science, 1 add'l science	2 lab: 1 life science, 1 phys. science	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 govt., .5 Principles of Econ./Bus./Fr Enterprise	1 U.S. studies and 1 world studies	same language	same language w/emphasis speaking, listening, reading, and writing
Georgia (2)	College Preparatory with Distinction (CP+) Program	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2
		.5 American lit./comp., grammar/comp to be incl. in all courses	w/emphasis grammar and usage, literature (American, English, World), and advanced composition skills	Algebra I, II, geometry and add'l course	Algebra I and II, geometry	3 lab; 1 phys. science, 1 life science, 1 add'l science	2 lab: 1 life science, 1 phys. science	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, .5 govt., .5 Principles of Econ./Bus./Fr Enterprise	1 U.S. studies and 1 world studies	same language	same language w/emphasis speaking, listening, reading, and writing

[33] These requirements not aligned with college admission requirements because high school program requires 3 electives (not specified), while college admissions require 4 electives from specified disciplines.
[34] Georgia does not have a "general" diploma track but offers two college prep curricula: the College Preparatory (CP) Program and the College Preparatory with Distinction (CP+) Program
[35] Additional course chosen from College Preparatory Mathematics or Advanced Mathematics categories or statistics.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
Hawaii	Board of Education Recognition Diploma (eff. Class of 2010)	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	4	n/s	n/s	n/s
		English Language Arts 1 and 2	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	.5 Modern History of Hawaii, .5 Participation in a Democracy	n/s	n/s	n/s
Indiana (1)	Core 40 (current)[36]	4	n/s	3-4[37]	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
		Literature, composition, speech Eff. Class of 2010: Balance of literature, composition, speech	n/s	Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, 1 add'l unit[38] or Integrated Math I, II, III	n/s	3 lab: 1 Biology I, 1 Chemistry I, Physics I or integrated chemistry/ physics, 1 add'l unit[39]	n/s	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 world history and civ. or world geography, .5 economics, .5 add'l social studies course Eff. Class of 2010: 1 U.S. history, 1 world history and civ. or 1 geography and history of the world, .5 U.S. govt., .5	n/s	n/s	n/s

[36] The Class of 2010 will be the last to complete the Core 40 curriculum as an "advanced" curriculum option. Eff. Class of 2011, the Core 40 will become the default high school curriculum.
[37] Student who completed course equivalent to high school Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I prior to entering high school and is placed in high school Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics II must complete only 3 units math while in high school.
[38] Fourth unit of math credit chosen from pre-calculus/trigonometry, AP Calculus, discrete mathematics, probability and statistics, or AP statistics.
[39] Third unit science chosen from chemistry, physics, earth/space science, advanced biology, advanced chemistry, advanced physics or advanced environmental science.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
								economics			
Indiana (2)	Academic Honors Diploma (current)[40]	4	n/s	3-4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3 or 4	n/s
		Literature, composition, speech	n/s	incl. geometry, Algebra II (or integrated math I and II), and upper-level math course	n/s	3 lab: 1 Biology I, 1 Chemistry I, Physics I or integrated chemistry/ physics, 1 add'l unit[41]	n/s	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., courses w/ major emph. economics and geography or world history	n/s	3 same language or 2 each 2 languages[42]	n/s
Indiana (3)	Core 40 with Academic Honors (eff. Class of 2010)	4	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3-4	n/s
		Balance of literature, composition, speech	Eff. Class of 2011: 4 (Balance of literature, composition, speech)	Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, or Integrated Math I, II, III and 1 add'l Core 40 math course	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II or integrated math I, II, III)	3 lab: 1 biology, 1 chemistry, physics or integrated chemistry-physics, 1 add'l Core 40 science course	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (3 lab: 1 biology, 1 chemistry, physics or integrated chemistry-physics, 1 add'l Core 40 science course)	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics, 1 world history and civ. or 1 geography and history of the world	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics, 1 world history and civilization or 1 geography and history of the world)	3 same language or 2 each 2 languages	n/s
Indiana (4)	Core 40 with Technical Honors (eff. Class of 2010)	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	n/s	n/s
		Balance of literature, composition,	Eff. Class of 2011: 4	Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II,	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (Algebra I,	3 lab: 1 biology, 1 chemistry,	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (3 lab: 1	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5	Eff. Class of 2011: 3 (1 U.S.	n/s	n/s

[40] The Class of 2009 will be the last eligible to earn the academic honors diploma. Eff. Class of 2010, this diploma will be replaced by the Core 40 diploma with academic honors and the Core 40 diploma with technical honors.
[41] Third unit science chosen from chemistry, physics, earth/space science, advanced biology, advanced chemistry, advanced physics or advanced environmental science.
[42] Student who completed equivalent of Level I foreign language course prior to high school and is placed in Level II high school foreign language must complete only 2 units in that language or 1 unit in that language and 2 in another.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
		speech	(Balance of literature, composition, speech)	or Integrated Math I, II, III	geometry, Algebra II or integrated math I, II, III)	physics or integrated chemistry-physics, 1 add'l Core 40 science course	biology, 1 chemistry, physics or integrated chemistry-physics, 1 add'l Core 40 science course)	economics, 1 world history and civ. or 1 geography and history of the world	history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics, 1 world history and civilization or 1 geography and history of the world)		
Kentucky	Commonwealth Diploma[43]	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
		English I, II, III, IV	English I, II, III and IV or AP English	Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II	Algebra I, II, geometry	1 lab; life science, physical science, earth/space science	1 lab; to include physical science, life science, and earth/space science	from U.S. history, economics, government, world geography, and world civilization	from U.S. history, economics, government, world geography, and world civilization	same language	same language
Louisiana	Academic Endorsement	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	2
		English I, II, III and English IV or Business English	English I, II, III, IV	max. of 2 intro. courses[44] Eff. Class of 2009: Algebra I	Algebra I, II and choice of geo., trig., calculus, or approved math substitute	1 biology, 1 unit from phys. sciences cluster, 1 unit from state list[45]	1 biology, 1 chem., 1 choice	1 biology, 1 chemistry, 1 from regents list[46]	1 U.S. history, 1 world history, world geography or western civ.; 1 civics and free enterprise or 1 civics	n/s	same language
Missouri	College Preparatory	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	n/s	n/s

[43] Districts elect to participate. Participating districts must provide opportunities for students to take Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and exams in specified subject areas.

[44] Introductory courses are Introductory Algebra/Geometry, Algebra I – Part 1, Integrated Mathematics I, Applied Mathematics I and Algebra I. Other (non-introductory) courses that may complete this requirement are Algebra I – Part 2, Integrated Mathematics II and III, Applied Mathematics II and III, geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I and II, pre-calculus, calculus, probability and statistics, and discrete mathematics.

[45] Physical sciences cluster includes physical science, integrated science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I. Third science unit must be chosen from aerospace science, Biology II, Chemistry II, earth science, environmental science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated science elective. Students may not take both integrated science and physical science.

[46] Third unit science for postsecondary admissions to be chosen from Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II or Physics for Technology.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
	Studies Certificate[47]										
		2 must emphasize composition or writing; 1 may be speech or debate	2 must emphasize composition and writing; 1 may be speech or debate	algebra and above, incl. Algebra II	algebra and higher	1 lab; 2 from biology, chemistry or physics	1 lab; choice of biology, chemistry or physics	U.S. history, .5 govt.	U.S. history, .5 govt.	n/s	n/s
Nevada	Advanced Diploma	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	n/s	n/s
		reading, composition, writing	Emphasis on composition, rhetoric, and American, English and world literatures	n/s	algebra and higher[48]	n/s	2 lab; biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. govt., 1 U.S. history, 1 social studies	world history and geography, U.S. history, economics, government, or law	n/s	n/s
New York	Regents Diploma with an Advanced Designation[49]	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s
		n/s	n/s	Math A, Math B, or Course I, II, III or Math A and Course III (regents exams)[50]	n/s	Life science, physical science Regents exams[51]	n/s	1 U.S. history, .5 economics, .5 Participation in Govt.	n/s	Regents exam[52]	n/s
North Carolina[53]	College/University Preparation Course of Study	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	2

[47] Awarded in addition to the regular high school diploma.
[48] Algebra or higher level mathematics, including first- and second-year algebra, geometry, analytic geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, probability and statistics and other advanced mathematics
[49] A student may also earn a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors by scoring an average of 90% or above on all Regents exams required for the diploma.
[50] To earn a standard Regents diploma, students must pass the Mathematics A Regents exam.
[51] For standard Regents diploma student must complete one Regents exam in science. Advanced designation requires passing two Regents exams in science, one in life science and one in physical science.
[52] Standard Regents diploma requires passage of one unit of foreign language and does not require comprehensive exam in foreign language.
[53] North Carolina does not have a "standard" diploma track but offers four courses of study: career preparation, college technical preparation, college/university preparation and occupational (for certain students with disabilities).

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
		English I, II, III, IV	emph. grammar, comp., literature	Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, higher course for which Algebra II is prereq.[54]	choice of 1 of 3 course seq.[55]	biology, physical science, earth/ environ. science	1 lab; 1 life or bio. science, 1 phys. science	civics and economics, U.S. history, world history	1 U.S. history	same language	n/s
Ohio	College Preparatory Curriculum[56]	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3-4	n/s
		n/s	n/s	Algebra I, II, geometry	n/s	must "develop the concepts for physical, life, and earth and space sciences"	n/s	n/s	n/s	3 same language or 2 each 2 languages	n/s
Oklahoma	Certificate of Distinction[57]	4	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	2	n/s
		n/s	grammar, composition and literature	n/s	Algebra I and above	n/s	2 lab; biology, chemistry, physics or any lab science certified by school district; may not include	n/s	1 U.S. history, 2 from economics, geography, govt., civics, and non-Western culture	same language	n/s

[54] Alternatively, students may complete Integrated Mathematics I, II, III and one course beyond Integrated Mathematics III.
[55] Student must complete one of the following sequences: (1) Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry and 1 unit beyond Algebra II; (2) Algebra I, II, and 2 units beyond Algebra II; or (3) Integrated Math I, II, III and 1 unit beyond Integrated Math III.
[56] Students must meet eight of nine criteria to complete the college preparatory curriculum: (1) Earn 4 units English; (2) Earn 3 units math, including Algebra I, II and geometry or a 3-year equivalent sequence of courses; (3) Earn 3 units of science "which develop the concepts for physical, life, and earth and space sciences"; (4) Earn 3 units social studies; (5) Earn either 3 units one foreign language or 2 units each in 2 foreign languages; (6) Earn 1 unit fine arts; (7) Earn either 1 unit business/technology and 2 additional units English, math, science, social studies, foreign language or fine arts or 3 units from one of these 6 subjects (and no business/technology); (8)Maintain a minimum 3.5 g.p.a. on a 4-point scale up to the last grading period of the senior year; or (9) Earn a composite score of 27 on the ACT or composite score of 1210 on the SAT. In other words, a student could complete the College Preparatory Curriculum without having met one of the above requirements in English, math, science, social studies or foreign language.
[57] Districts are not mandated to issue the certificate of distinction, though the requirements for the certificate are set forth at the state level.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
							gen. science courses				
South Dakota	Distinguished High School Program[58]	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	2	n/s
		1.5 writing, .5 lit., .5 American lit., .5 speech	major emphasis on grammar, comp. or literary analysis; may include 1 debate	1 Algebra I, 1 Algebra II, 1 geometry	algebra and above	3 lab; biology and chemistry or physics	3 lab; biology, chemistry or physics	1 U.S. history, .5 U.S. govt., .5 geography, .5 world history	may include history, economics, sociology, geography, govt., American Problems, etc.	same language	n/s
Tennessee[59]	University Preparation Curriculum	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	2	n/s
		n/s	n/s	1 Algebra I, Math for Technology II or Integrated Math I	n/s	3 lab; 1 Biology I, Biology for Technology or equiv.	n/s	U.S. history, world history/world geography, economics and govt.	n/s	same language	n/s
Texas	Distinguished Achievement High School Program	4	n/s	3	n/s	3	n/s	4	n/s	3	n/s
		English I, II, III, IV	n/s	Algebra I, II, geometry	n/s	1 biology, 2 from any of 3 areas[60] Eff. Class of 2011: 4[61]	n/s	1 World History Studies, 1 World Geography Studies, 1 U.S. History Studies	n/s	same language	n/s

[58] Effective with the Class of 2010, South Dakota offers three diploma paths: Standard, Advanced and Distinguished. Both the Advanced and Distinguished diploma requirements are aligned with postsecondary admission requirements in the state. Completing the Distinguished program is one of the requirements to be eligible for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

[59] Tennessee does not offer a "standard" diploma pathway. All students must complete a 14-unit core curriculum and an additional 6 units in either the "university preparation curriculum" or the "technical preparation curriculum."

[60] Not more than 1 unit may be completed in any of the three areas: (1) Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC); (2) Chemistry, AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry; (3) Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics or IB Physics.

[61] This requirement will go into effect only if the state board, on or prior to August 1, 2007, "determines that sufficient funding has been appropriated by the legislature to implement" the requirement. 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 74.61lists the courses from which a student would select the fourth science unit, if sufficient funding is appropriated.

State	Name of honors/ college prep diploma or endorsement	English		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies		Foreign Language	
		High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission	High School Graduation	College Admission
								Since Reconstruc., .5 U.S. govt., .5 economics			
Virginia	Advanced Studies Diploma	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	4	n/s	3-4	n/s
		n/s	n/s	at or above algebra; 3 from Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II or above algebra and geometry	n/s	4 lab; from 2 or more disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry or physics	n/s	U.S. and VA history, U.S. and VA govt., 2 world history/ geography	n/s	3 same language or 2 each 2 languages	n/s
West Virginia	Professional Pathway (eff. Class of 2008)	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	n/s
		English 9, 10, 11, 12	incl. grammar, composition, literature	Algebra I and 3 higher	Algebra I and 1 higher Eff. Fall 2008: 4 (Algebra I and 2 higher)	Coordinated and Thematic Science (CATS) 9, CATS 10, 2 above CATS 10 Eff. Class of 2009: 4 (CATS 9, 3 courses above CATS 9)	2 lab; 2 from CATS 10, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and other courses w/ strong lab orientation Eff. Fall 2008: 3 lab	United States to 1900, World Studies to 1900, Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, civics/govt.	incl. U.S. history	same language	n/s

Sources:
Alabama: High school graduation requirements: ALA. ADMIN. CODE R. 290-3-1-.02, ALA. CODE § 16-6B-2; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
Alaska: High school graduation requirements: ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 4, § 06.075; College admissions requirements: Each institution within the University of Alaska system appears to set its own freshman admissions requirements.
Arizona: High school graduation requirements: ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE R7-2-302.04; College admissions requirements: Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual, Policy 2-102 (see beginning page 15)

Arkansas: High school graduation requirements: 005 19 CARR 007, 005 15 CARR 013; College admissions requirements: Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Core for Unconditional Admission
California: High school graduation requirements: CAL. EDUC. CODE § 51225.3, 51224.5; College admissions requirements: Cal. Admin. Code tit. 5, § 40601, 40753, CSU admissions Web page, UC admissions Web page
Colorado: High school graduation requirements: CO Const. Art. IX, § 15, COLO. REV. STAT. ANN. § 22-1-104; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database, Colorado Commission on Higher Education Admission Standards Policy, updated February 2, 2006
Connecticut: High school graduation requirements: CONN. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 10-221a; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
Delaware: High school graduation requirements: Code Del Regs. 14 100 6.0, 14 505; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
District of Columbia: High school graduation requirements: D.C. MIN. REGS. tit. 5, § 2203. College admissions requirements: The District of Columbia does not appear to have district-wide admissions requirements.
Florida: High school graduation requirements: FLA. STAT. ANN. § 1003.43, § 1003.429; College admissions requirements: Florida Board of Regents Rules, Chapter 6C-6
Georgia: High school graduation requirements: GA. COMP. R. & REGS. r. 160-4-2-.47; College admissions requirements: Georgia Board of Regents Policy Manual Section 402.0101
Hawaii: High school graduation requirements: Hawaii State BOE Policy 4540; College admissions requirements: Board of Regents policies, Chapter 5, Section 5-11
Idaho: High school graduation requirements: IDAPA 08.02.03, § 105; College admissions requirements: University of Idaho Web site (same requirements to enter Boise State University, Idaho State University, Lewis-Clark State College or the University of Idaho)
Illinois: High school graduation requirements: 105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 5/27-22, ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 23, § 1.440; College admissions requirements: State Universities in Illinois – At a Glance, by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
Indiana: High school graduation requirements: IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 511, r. 6-7-6.1, r. 6-7-6.5, r. 6-7.1-4 through 6-7.1-7, IND. CODE ANN. § 20-12-17.5, § 20-10.1-16-13, § 20-32-4-1, Core 40 document; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database, IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 511, r. 6-7.1-5, IND. CODE ANN. § 20-12-17.5
Iowa: High school graduation requirements: IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 281-12.3(5), 12.5(5); College admissions requirements: Iowa Board of Regents Policy 6.01 and Iowa Board of Regents document "Building Your Future"
Kansas: High school graduation requirements: KAN. ADMIN. REGS. 91-31-21, 91-31-35; College admissions requirements: Kansas Board of Regents *Policy and Procedures Manual*, July 1995, page 45 and Kansas Board of Regents Qualified Admissions Web page
Kentucky: High school graduation requirements: 704 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 3:305; College admissions requirements: 13 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 2:020
Louisiana: High school graduation requirements: LA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 28, part CXV, § 2319; College admissions requirements: Louisiana Board of Regents Public University Minimum Admissions Criteria
Maine: High school graduation requirements: ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20, § 4722; College admissions requirements: According to a system spokesperson, each institution within the state system sets its own freshman admissions requirements.
Maryland: High school graduation requirements: MD. REGS. CODE tit. 13A, § 03.02.04; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
Massachusetts: High school graduation requirements: MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. Ch. 69, § 1D; College admissions requirements: Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Admissions Standards for the Massachusetts State Colleges and University
Michigan: High school graduation requirements: MICH. COMP. LAWS ANN. § 380.1166, 380.1278; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database

Minnesota: High school graduation requirements: MINN. STAT. § 120B.021, 120B.024; College admissions requirements: Minnesota State Colleges & Universities Web site
Mississippi: High school graduation requirements: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*, Revised September 2005, Appendix A-1, A-2, A-3; College admissions requirements: Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi Policies and Bylaws, amended through February 15, 2006 § 601.02
Missouri: High school graduation requirements: Graduation Handbook, MO. CODE REGS. ANN. tit. 5, § 50-345.300; College admissions requirements: Missouri Department of Higher Education Web site
Montana: High school graduation requirements: MONT. ADMIN. R. 10.55.905; College admissions requirements: Montana University System document
Nebraska: High school graduation requirements: NEB. ADMIN. CODE tit. 92, ch. 10, § 003, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-729; College admissions requirements: Nebraska does not appear to have statewide college admissions requirements at this time
Nevada: High school graduation requirements: NEV. ADMIN. CODE ch. 389, § 663 and 664; College admissions requirements: Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, chapter 16
New Hampshire: High school graduation requirements: N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. ED 306.23; College admissions requirements: New Hampshire does not appear to have statewide college admissions requirements at this time
New Jersey: High school graduation requirements: N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 6, § 8-5.1, N.J. STAT. ANN. § 18A:35-1 and -2; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
New Mexico: High school graduation requirements: N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-13-1.1; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
New York: High school graduation requirements: N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 8, § 100.5; College admissions requirements: New York State Education Department, Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) Institutional Accreditation Self-Study Guide, Standards: Administration
North Carolina: High school graduation requirements: N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 16, r. 6D.0503; College admissions requirements: University of North Carolina Board of Governors Policy Manual 700.1.1
North Dakota: High school graduation requirements: N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-21-.02.1, 15.1-21-02; College admissions requirements: North Dakota SBHE Policies, Section 402.2
Ohio: High school graduation requirements: OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.603, OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 3301-13-07; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
Oklahoma: High school graduation requirements: OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 70, § 11-103.6, § 11-103.6d, § 11-111; College admissions requirements: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Web page
Oregon: High school graduation requirements: OR. ADMIN. R. 581-022-1130, 2005 H.B. 3129 (not codified as of March 30, 2006); College admissions requirements: Oregon State Board of Higher Education admission policy, approved February 4, 2005
Pennsylvania: High school graduation requirements: 22 PA. CODE § 4.24; College admissions requirements: Pennsylvania does not appear to have statewide college admissions requirements at this time
Rhode Island: High school graduation requirements: R.I. CODE R. 08 050 001, The Rhode Island High School Diploma System; College admissions requirements: Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, Policies of Administrative Supervision, R.I.CODE R. 08 020 009
South Carolina: High school graduation requirements: 43 S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 259; College admissions requirements: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements
South Dakota: High school graduation requirements: S.D. ADMIN. R. 24:43:11:02, 24:43:11:04, 24:43:11:05, S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-33-19; College admissions requirements: South Dakota Board of Regents Policy Manual, Number 2:3
Tennessee: High school graduation requirements: TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0520-1-3-.05 and -.06; College admissions requirements: Rules of Tennessee Higher Education Commission section 1540-1-2-.12

Texas: High school graduation requirements: 19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 74.42 through .44, § 74.52 through .54, § 74.61 through .64; College admissions requirements: TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 51.803-51.805
Utah: High school graduation requirements: UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-700-6; College admissions requirements: Utah State Board of Regents R 461-3.2
Vermont: High school graduation requirements: Vt. Code R. 2120.8.2.1; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database
Virginia: High school graduation requirements: 8 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 20-131-50; College admissions requirements: VA. CODE ANN. § 23-9.6:1
Washington: High school graduation requirements: WASH. ADMIN. CODE 180-51-060, § 28A.655.061; College admissions requirements: Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board Web site
West Virginia: High school graduation requirements: W. VA. CODE ST. R. § 126-42-6; College admissions requirements: West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Procedural Rule, § 133-23-3
Wisconsin: High school graduation requirements: WIS. STAT. ANN. § 118.33, WIS. ADMIN. CODE § 18.03; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database, University of Wisconsin System Regent Policy Document 72-11
Wyoming: High school graduation requirements: WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-2-304, WY Rules and Regulations EDU GEN Ch. 31 s 9; College admissions requirements: ECS Postsecondary Governance Structures Database, University of Wyoming Web site

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