

The Foundation High School Program

The new graduation plan for Texas students

Overview

- The new Texas graduation plan is designed to increase flexibility in choosing courses that will help each student succeed with future plans. These options affect students entering 9th grade in 2014-2015 and beyond.
- The Foundation High School Program (FHSP), along with EOC assessments, will make up the basic requirements for graduation. The FHSP requires students to complete a minimum of 22 credits including courses in English, Math, Social Studies, Science, World Languages, Fine Arts, and Physical Education.
- The Foundation High School Program PLUS Endorsement requires 26 credits. An endorsement is earned by completing the FHSP, taking a 4th math credit (to include Algebra II), taking a 4th science credit, a 4th social studies credit, and completing a coherent sequence of courses in an endorsement area.

English

- Students must earn 4 Credits:
 - English 1 (STAAR EOC)
 - English 2 (STAAR EOC)
 - English 3
 - English 4

Mathematics

- Students must earn 4 Credits:
 - Algebra 1 (STAAR EOC)
 - Geometry
 - An Advanced Math
 - An Advanced Math

Science

- Students must earn 4 Credits:
 - Biology (STAAR EOC)
 - An Advanced Science
 - An Advanced Science
 - An Advanced Science

Social Studies

- Students must earn 4 Credits:
 - World History
 - World Geography
 - US History (STAAR EOC)
 - Government (0.5)
 - Economics (0.5)

World Languages

- Students must earn 2 credits in same language
- Students may substitute 2 credits of computer programming language for a world language

Physical Education, Fine Arts, Speech

- Students earn:
 - One credit in PE
(can include athletics, and PE equivalents)
 - One credit in Fine Arts
(music, art, theatre arts)
 - One half credit in Communication Applications
(UT requirement)

FHSP Endorsement Options

- STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- Business and Industry
- Public Services
- Arts and Humanities
- Multidisciplinary Studies— *UT High School Endorsement Option*

UT High School

- UT High School offers the *Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement*
- To earn this endorsement, students must complete the Foundation Plan and earn four credits in each of the four core foundation areas including English 4, Chemistry/or Physics, social studies, and a 4th math including Algebra II.
- Students must earn a total of 26 credits

UTHS and *Performance Acknowledgments*

UTHS Students may earn *Performance Acknowledgments* on their diplomas and transcripts in multiple ways:

- Outstanding Performance in *Dual Credit Courses* by successfully completing 12 college hours of dual credit courses with a minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Outstanding performance in *Bilingualism and Biliteracy* in two or more languages by maintaining an 80% average in English Language Arts AND earning 3 credits in a world language with an 80% or better.
- Outstanding Performance on the *PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT, or ACT* by attaining scores of:
 - Combined 1250 on reading/math of SAT
 - Composite (without writing) of 28 on ACT

UTHS and *Distinguished Level of Achievement*

- Students may earn a *Distinguished Level of Achievement* by meeting the four requirements below. (The achievement will be noted on the diploma and the transcript)
- Successfully completing the Foundation Plan
- Earning at least one Endorsement (*Multidisciplinary Studies* for UTHS students)
- Completing four levels of science
- Completing four levels of Mathematics that includes Algebra II

Completing and signing the Personal Graduation Plan Selection Form

- *At the time of enrollment in UTHS, each student is sent a transcript and recommended sequence of courses.*
- HB5 mandates that all students complete and sign a Personal Graduation Plan Selection Form. The student chooses an endorsement and individual courses. After the student completes the form, the student, parent, and counselor sign the document.
- *The PGP selection form you have received is an interactive document. Please fill in the information, print the form and send that either by mail or electronically to diane.york@austin.utexas.edu*

FAQs

- Does every student have to graduate with an endorsement?
 - No. A student may opt out after the student's sophomore year.
 - Student and parent/guardian must sign a TEA opt out form after talking to the academic advisor.
 - All freshmen and sophomores start with the 26-credit plan.
- Can a student change endorsements?
 - Yes. UTHS currently offers the *Multidisciplinary Endorsement*. When UT High school adds new endorsements, or if a student moves to another school, the student may choose a different or additional endorsement.

Endorsement Opt-out Agreement

- Texas Education Code allows student to graduate under the FHSP without earning an endorsement.
- Opt out can only be done after student's sophomore year
- Student and parents must be notified of the benefits of graduating with an endorsement.
- Form is signed by student, parent, and counselor.

Questions?

- If you have questions about the Texas graduation requirements or your own personal graduation plan, please contact the Academic Advisor

diane.york@austin.utexas.edu

512-471-4808