Chapter 74. Curriculum Requirements

Subchapter B. Graduation Requirements

§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. Three of the credits must consist of English I, II, and III. (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.) After the successful completion of English I, II, and III, 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 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) an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) English language arts course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements);
(Q) after the successful completion of English I, II, and III, a locally developed English language arts course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(g-1);
(R) Business English; and
(S) a college preparatory English language arts course that is developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.014.
(2) Mathematics--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of Algebra I and Geometry.

(A) After the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry, the [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 courses or a credit selected from the courses listed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph:

(i) Mathematical Models with Applications;
(ii) Mathematical Applications in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources;
(iii) Digital Electronics;
(iv) Robotics Programming and Design; [and]
(v) Financial Mathematics ; [i]
(vi) Applied Mathematics for Technical Professionals;
(vii) Accounting II;
(viii) Manufacturing Engineering Technology II; and
(ix) Robotics II.

(B) After the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry, the [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 courses:

(i) Algebra II;
(ii) Precalculus;
(iii) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;
(iv) Independent Study in Mathematics;
(v) Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving;
(vi) Algebraic Reasoning;
(vii) Statistics;
(viii) an AP or IB mathematics course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title;
(ix) AP Computer Science;
(x) Engineering Mathematics;
(xi) Statistics and Business Decision Making;
(xii) Mathematics for Medical Professionals;
[xi] Statistics and Risk Management;]
(xiii) [xiii] Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science;
(xiv) [xiii] pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of Algebra II, a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this subparagraph; and
(xv) [xiii] after the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry, a locally developed mathematics course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.002(g-1).
(3) Science--three credits. One credit must consist of Biology or an AP or IB biology course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title.

(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) an AP or IB science course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title.

(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 and Space Science;

(vi) Environmental Systems;

(vii) an AP or IB science course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title;

(viii) Advanced Animal Science;

(ix) Advanced Plant and Soil Science;

(x) Anatomy and Physiology;

(xi) Medical Microbiology;

(xii) Pathophysiology;

(xiii) Food Science;

(xiv) Forensic Science;

(xv) Biotechnology I;

(xvi) Biotechnology II;

[(xv) Advanced Biotechnology;]

(xvii) Principles of Technology;

(xviii) Scientific Research and Design;

(xix) Engineering Design and Problem Solving;

(xx) Engineering Science;

[(xx) Principles of Engineering;]

[(xxi) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of physics, a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The TEA shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this clause; and]
a locally developed science course or other activity, including an
apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized
credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.002(g-1).

(C) Credit may not be earned for both physics and Principles of Technology to satisfy science
credit requirements.

(4) Social studies--three credits. Two of the credits must consist of United States History Studies
Since 1877 (one credit), United States Government (one-half credit), and Economics with
Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit). The additional credit
may be selected from the following courses:

(A) World History Studies; and

(B) World Geography Studies.

(5) Languages other than English (LOTE)--two credits.

(A) The credits may be selected from the following:

(i) any two levels in the same language; or

(ii) two credits in computer programming languages selected from Computer
Science I, II, and III.

(B) If a student, in completing the first credit of LOTE, demonstrates that the student is
unlikely to be able to complete the second credit, the student may substitute another
appropriate course as follows:

(i) Special Topics in Language and Culture;

(ii) World History Studies or World Geography Studies for a student who is not
required to complete both by the local district;

(iii) another credit selected from Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential
Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English); or

(iv) computer programming languages.

(C) The determination regarding a student's ability to complete the second credit of LOTE
must be agreed to by:

(i) the teacher of the first LOTE credit course or another LOTE teacher designated
by the school district, the principal or designee, and the student's parent or
person standing in parental relation;

(ii) the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee if the student
receives special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A; or

(iii) 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

(D) A student, who due to a disability, is unable to complete two credits in the same language
in a language other than English, may substitute a combination of two credits from
English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies or two credits in career and
technical education or technology applications for the LOTE credit requirements. The
determination regarding a student's ability to complete the LOTE credit requirements will
be made by:

(i) the student's ARD committee if the student receives special education services
under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A; or
(ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 United States Code (USC), §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.

(6) Physical education--one credit.

(A) The required credit may be selected from any combination of the following one-half to one credit courses:

(i) Foundations of Personal Fitness;
(ii) Adventure/Outdoor Education;
(iii) Aerobic Activities; and
(iv) Team or Individual Sports.

(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 policy, credit for any of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in the following activities:

(i) Athletics;
(ii) Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC); and
(iii) appropriate private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in physical education. Such approval may be granted under the following conditions.

(I) Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.

(II) Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

(D) In accordance with local district policy, up to one credit for any one of the courses listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be earned through participation in any of the following activities:

(i) Drill Team;
(ii) Marching Band; and
(iii) Cheerleading.
All substitution activities allowed in subparagraphs (B)-(D) of this paragraph must include at least 100 minutes per five-day school week of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Credit may not be earned more than once for any course identified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph. No more than four substitution credits may be earned through any combination of substitutions allowed in subparagraphs (B)-(D) of this paragraph.

A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) or a course that is offered for credit as provided by the TEC, §28.002(g-1), for the physical education credit requirement. The determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

(i) the student's ARD committee if the student receives special education services under the TEC, Chapter 29, Subchapter A;

(ii) the committee established for the student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC, §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.

Fine arts--one credit.

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) Principles and Elements of Floral Design;

(ix) Digital Art and Animation; and

(x) 3-D Modeling and Animation.

In accordance with local district policy, credit may be earned through participation in a community-based fine arts program not provided by the school district in which the student is enrolled. The district must apply to the commissioner of education for approval of such programs, which may be substituted for state graduation credit in fine arts. Approval may be granted if the fine arts program provides instruction in the essential knowledge and skills identified for a fine arts course as defined by Chapter 117, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to High School).

Elective courses--five credits. The credits must be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.11(g), (h), or (i) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements) or from a locally developed course or activity developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.002(g-1), for which a student may receive credit and that does not satisfy a specific course requirement.
Substitutions. No substitutions are allowed in the Foundation High School Program, except as specified in this chapter.

§74.13. Endorsements.

(a) A student shall specify in writing an endorsement the student intends to earn upon entering Grade 9.

(b) A district shall permit a student to enroll in courses under more than one endorsement before the student's junior year and to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated. This section does not entitle a student to remain enrolled to earn more than 26 credits.

(c) A student must earn at least 26 credits to earn an endorsement.

(d) A school district may define advanced courses and determine a coherent sequence of courses for an endorsement area, provided that prerequisites in Chapters 110-118, 126, 127, and 130 of this title are followed.

(e) To earn an endorsement a student must demonstrate proficiency in the following.

(1) The curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program as defined by §74.12 of this title (relating to Foundation High School Program).

(2) A fourth credit in mathematics 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) Algebra II;

(B) Precalculus;

(C) Advanced Quantitative Reasoning;

(D) Independent Study in Mathematics;

(E) Discrete Mathematics for Problem Solving;

(F) Algebraic Reasoning;

(G) Statistics;

(H) an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate [Baccalaureate] (IB) mathematics course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements);

(I) AP Computer Science;

(J) Engineering Mathematics;

(K) Statistics and Business Decision Making;

(L) Mathematics for Medical Professionals;

[(4K) Statistics and Risk Management;]

(M) [4L] Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science;

(N) [4M] pursuant to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of Algebra II, a mathematics course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this subparagraph; and

(O) [4N] after the successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry, a locally developed mathematics course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.002(g-1).
(3) A student may complete a course listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection before or after completing a course listed in §74.12(b)(2)(A) of this title.

(4) The fourth mathematics credit may be a college preparatory mathematics course that is developed and offered pursuant to the TEC, §28.014.

(5) 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;

(D) Astronomy;

(E) Earth and Space Science;

(F) Environmental Systems;

(G) an AP or IB science course in accordance with §74.11(h) of this title;

(H) Advanced Animal Science;

(I) Advanced Plant and Soil Science;

(J) Anatomy and Physiology;

(K) Medical Microbiology;

(L) Pathophysiology;

(M) Food Science;

(N) Forensic Science;

(O) Biotechnology I;

(P) Biotechnology II;

[(O) Advanced Biotechnology;]

(Q) [PQ] Principles of Technology;

(R) [QR] Scientific Research and Design;

(S) [RS] Engineering Design and Problem Solving;

(T) Engineering Science;

[(S) Principles of Engineering;]

(U) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(b-5), after the successful completion of physics, a science course endorsed by an institution of higher education as a course for which the institution would award course credit or as a prerequisite for a course for which the institution would award course credit. The TEA shall maintain a current list of courses offered under this subparagraph;

(V) a locally developed science course or other activity, including an apprenticeship or training hours needed to obtain an industry-recognized credential or certificate that is developed pursuant to the TEC, §28.002(g-1);

(W) pursuant to the TEC, §28.025(c-3), a student pursuing an arts and humanities endorsement who has the written permission of the student's parent or a person standing in parental relation to the student may substitute a course that is not being used to satisfy another specific graduation requirement selected from:
(i) Chapter 110 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading);

(ii) Chapter 113 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies) or Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits);

(iii) Chapter 114 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Languages Other Than English); or

(iv) Chapter 117 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Fine Arts); and

credit may not be earned for both physics and Principles of Technology to satisfy science credit requirements.

(6) Two additional elective credits that may be selected from the list of courses specified in §74.11(g), (h), or (i) of this title (relating to High School Graduation Requirements).

(f) A student may earn any of the following endorsements.

(1) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A student may earn a STEM endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section, including Algebra II, chemistry, and physics or Principles of Technology and:

(A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in career and technical education (CTE) that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education), Chapter 127 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career Development), or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from Chapter 130, Subchapter O, of this title (relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) or Career Preparation I or II and Problems and Solutions in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title if the course addresses a STEM-related field; or

(B) a coherent sequence of four credits in computer science selected from the following:

(i) Fundamentals of Computer Science; or

(ii) Computer Science I; or

(iii) Computer Science II; or

(iv) Computer Science III; or

(v) Digital Forensics; or

(vi) Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science; or

(vii) Game Programming and Design; or

(viii) Mobile Application Development; or

(ix) Robotics Programming and Design; or

(x) Independent Studies in Technology Applications; or

(xi) AP Computer Science; or

(xii) AP Computer Science Principles; or

(xiii) IB Computer Science, Standard Level; or

(xiv) IB Computer Science, Higher Level; or
(C) three credits in mathematics by successfully completing Algebra II and two additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite by selecting courses from subsection (e)(2) of this section; or

(D) four credits in science by successfully completing chemistry, physics, and two additional science courses by selecting courses from subsection (e)(5) of this section; or

(E) in addition to Algebra II, chemistry, and physics, a coherent sequence of three additional credits from no more than two of the categories or disciplines represented by subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of this paragraph.

(2) Business and industry. A student may earn a business and industry endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:

(A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title, Chapter 127 of this title, or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following:

(i) Chapter 130, Subchapter A, of this title (relating to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources); or

(ii) Chapter 130, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Architecture and Construction); or

(iii) Chapter 130, Subchapter C, of this title (relating to Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications); or

(iv) Chapter 130, Subchapter D, of this title (relating to Business Management and Administration); or

(v) Chapter 130, Subchapter F, of this title (relating to Finance); or

(vi) Chapter 130, Subchapter I, of this title (relating to Hospitality and Tourism); or

(vii) Chapter 130, Subchapter K, of this title (relating to Information Technology); or

(viii) Chapter 130, Subchapter M, of this title (relating to Manufacturing); or

(ix) Chapter 130, Subchapter N, of this title (relating to Marketing); or

(x) Chapter 130, Subchapter P, of this title (relating to Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics); or

(xi) Career Preparation I or II and Problems and Solutions in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title if the course addresses a career from a field listed in clauses (i)-(x) of this subparagraph; or

(B) four English credits by selecting courses from Chapter 110 of this title to include three levels in one of the following areas:

(i) public speaking; or

(ii) debate; or

(iii) advanced broadcast journalism; or

(iv) advanced journalism: newspaper; or

(v) advanced journalism: yearbook; or

(vi) advanced journalism: literary magazine; or

(C) four technology applications credits by selecting from the following:

(i) Digital Design and Media Production; or
(ii) Digital Art and Animation; or
(iii) 3-D Modeling and Animation; or
(iv) Digital Communications in the 21st Century; or
(v) Digital Video and Audio Design; or
(vi) Web Communications; or
(vii) Web Design; or
(viii) Web Game Development; or
(ix) Independent Study in Evolving/Emerging Technologies; or
(D) a coherent sequence of four credits from subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of this paragraph.

(3) Public services. A student may earn a public services endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:
(A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The courses may be selected from Chapter 130 of this title, Chapter 127 of this title, or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following:
   (i) Chapter 130, Subchapter E, of this title (relating to Education and Training); or
   (ii) Chapter 130, Subchapter G, of this title (relating to Government and Public Administration); or
   (iii) Chapter 130, Subchapter H, of this title (relating to Health Science); or
   (iv) Chapter 130, Subchapter J, of this title (relating to Human Services); or
   (v) Chapter 130, Subchapter L, of this title (relating to Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security); or
   (vi) Career Preparation I or II and Problems and Solutions in Chapter 127, Subchapter B, of this title if the course addresses a field from a cluster listed in clauses (i)-(v) of this subparagraph; or
(B) four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

(4) Arts and humanities. A student may earn an arts and humanities endorsement by completing the requirements specified in subsection (e) of this section and:
(A) five social studies credits by selecting courses from Chapter 113 of this title or Chapter 118 of this title (relating to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits); or
(B) four levels of the same language in a language other than English by selecting courses in accordance with Chapter 114 of this title; or
(C) two levels of the same language in a language other than English and two levels of a different language in a language other than English by selecting courses in accordance with Chapter 114 of this title; or
(D) four levels of American sign language by selecting courses in accordance with Chapter 114 of this title; or
(E) a coherent sequence of four credits by selecting courses from one or two categories or disciplines in fine arts from Chapter 117 of this title or innovative courses approved by the commissioner; or
(F) four English credits by selecting from the following:
(i) English IV; or
(ii) Independent Study in English; or
(iii) Literary Genres; or
(iv) Creative Writing; or
(v) Research and Technical Writing; or
(vi) Humanities; or
(vii) Communication Applications; or
(viii) AP English Literature and Composition; or
(ix) AP English Language and Composition; or
(x) IB Language Studies A1 Higher 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 postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence; or
(B) four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics; or
(C) four credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts.

(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.