



## Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2011, 2012 and Beyond

Students who enter the ninth grade in the **fall 2007 and thereafter** must enroll in courses necessary to complete the *Recommended High School Program* or the *Distinguished Achievement Program* unless the student, parent, and a school counselor agree that the student should be permitted to take courses under the *Minimum High School Program*. Students should study the table below which outlines requirements for the *Recommended High School Program* and the *Minimum High School Program*. Then, using the list of course descriptions that follow, students should select and register for courses. Note that students graduating under the *Recommended High School Program* will need to schedule additional courses not required for the *Minimum High School Program*. These courses include Algebra II, Chemistry, World Geography, foreign language (two credits), fine arts (one credit), and three state-approved electives. Additionally, beginning with the Class of 2011, students must earn 26 total credits including four math and four science credits. Counselors at each high school will furnish all other information necessary for students to complete registration.

| Courses                      | Recommended High School Program                                     | Minimum High School Program           | Notes   |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| English                      | 4   | 4                                     |   |
| Advanced Academic Strategies | ½   | ½                                     | • One-half credit is required and may be taken in grade 8 or 9.   |
| or                           |   |                                       |   |
| Skills for Academic Success  | 1   | 1                                     | • One credit is required for all 9 <sup>th</sup> -grade students who did not pass all 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade core academic classes (language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies) and who have not met the state standards on all 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade reading, math, science, and social studies TAKS test.<br>• Beginning ESL students, intermediate ESL students, and special education students in need of in-class support are also recommended to take this year-long class.   |
| Mathematics                  | 4<br>Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and an additional math course | 3<br>must include Algebra I, Geometry | • Beginning with the Class of 2011, students will be required to complete 4 math credits for the Recommended Program.<br>• CFISD recommends that <u>all</u> students take 4 math courses in grades 9-12.<br>• Math Models with Applications may satisfy the requirement for the additional math credit only if taken <u>prior</u> to Algebra II.<br>• AP Computer Science may satisfy the requirement for the additional math credit only if taken after successful completion of Algebra II. The course will not count as both a 4 <sup>th</sup> math credit and the Technology Application required credit.<br>• Four mathematics courses will be included in a student's GPA calculation. If a student takes Algebra I in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and takes four math courses in grades 9-12, the 4 math courses taken in high school will be included in the student's GPA. But, if a student takes Algebra I in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and takes only three math courses in grades 9-12, the Algebra I course will be included in the student's GPA calculation. Algebra I taken at any time will carry L-level grade points. |

| Courses            | Recommended High School Program  | Minimum High School Program  | Notes  |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Science            | 4<br>Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or an additional science course<br>or<br>4<br>Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and an additional science course | 2<br>Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology<br>or<br>3<br>Biology, Chemistry, and Physics<br>or<br>1½ | • Beginning with the Class of 2011, students will be required to complete 4 science credits for the Recommended Program.<br>• CFISD recommends that <u>all</u> students take 4 science courses in grades 9-12.<br>• CFISD students in the Classes of 2011 and 2012 will take IP&C in either 8 <sup>th</sup> or 9 <sup>th</sup> -grade.<br>• Beginning in 2008-2009 (Class of 2013), IP&C will not be offered as a science course option for 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade students.<br>• Beginning in 2009-2010 (Class of 2013), students may be placed in either IP&C or Biology in grade 9 based on 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade state science assessment results and other academic criteria.<br>• Students without IP&C credit (due to moving in without IP&C or the phase out of IP&C) must take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to meet the Recommended Program's science requirements. The students may choose any additional science course to meet the 4 <sup>th</sup> required credit.<br>• Four science courses will be included in a student's GPA calculation. If a student takes IP&C in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and takes four science courses in grades 9-12, the 4 science courses taken in high school will be included in the student's GPA. But, if a student takes IP&C in 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and takes only three science courses in grades 9-12, the IP&C course will be included in the student's GPA calculation. IP&C taken at any time will carry L-level grade points. |
| U.S. History       | 1  | 1  |  |
| World History      | 1  | 1  |  |
| World Geography    | 1  |  |  |
| Government         | ½  | ½  |  |
| Economics          | ½  | ½  |  |
| Health             | ½  | ½  | • Health may be taken in any grade or taken through correspondence, summer school, or through credit-by-exam.  |
| or                 |  |  |  |
| Health Science     | 1  | 1  |  |
| Technology         |  |  |  |
| Physical Education | 1½   | 1½   | • Students may earn a maximum of two (2) credits in P.E. toward graduation—including athletics. Students enrolled in the regular physical education program must take Foundations of Personal Fitness.<br>• Approved substitutes include JROTC and Dance I. Students may also substitute the fall semester of marching band, color guard, cheerleading, and Dance II. A two- or three-period career and technology or co-op course may substitute for 1½ credits of physical education. Students may also meet the physical education requirement if they participate in a district-approved Olympic caliber, off-campus training program.<br>• Physical education credit may be earned through approved correspondence courses or the dual college credit program.  |

| Courses  | Recommended High School Program | Minimum High School Program | Notes  |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Languages other than English (Foreign Language)        | 2                               |                             | • Students may take any two levels of the same foreign language to meet the requirements for the Recommended High School Program. Foreign language credits earned in middle school will count toward this requirement.   |
| Speech   | ½                               | ½                           | • These courses meet the requirement: Communication Applications (½), Debate I (1), Oral Interpretation I (1), or Public Speaking-Video Production I (1).<br>• Beginning with the Class of 2011, Debate III and Independent Study in Speech (4 <sup>th</sup> year of Debate) will earn K-level credit.   |
| Fine Arts  | 1                               |                             | • Approved fine arts courses include art, music, Dance II-IV, or theatre courses.<br>• Dance II will meet the fine arts requirement with a PE waiver for the fall semester.  |
| Technology Applications (Computer course)              | 1                               | 1                           | • Courses which meet the one-credit technology application requirement include: Computer Science I, K, Computer Science AP-A, Business Computer Information Systems I, Business Computer Information Systems Career Preparation or Microsoft Office Specialist, Business Multimedia, Journalism I/Desktop Publishing, Computer Applications-Drafting, Art II Electronic Multimedia, Video Technology I, or Web Mastering. Students must earn one full credit in the same course to meet this requirement.<br>• Beginning with the class of 2011, AP Computer Science may count as a 4 <sup>th</sup> math credit after successful completion of Algebra II. The course will not count as both a 4 <sup>th</sup> math credit and the Technology Application required credit. |
| Academic Elective: World Geography or Science Elective |                                 | 1                           |  |
| Electives  | 3                               | 3 to 5                      | • Must be state-approved courses.  |
| <b>Total State Credits Required</b>                    | <b>26</b>                       | <b>22</b>                   |  |

### Distinguished Achievement Program

Students desiring to earn the Distinguished Achievement Program transcript must complete the requirements for the Recommended High School Program plus **one additional credit in languages other than English (foreign language)** and any combination of four advanced measures selected from the following options:

- A score of three or above on The College Board Advanced Placement Examination.
- A grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit, including tech-prep programs and dual credit courses.
- Original research/project conducted under the direction of mentor(s) reported to an appropriate audience and judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project. Original research may not be used for more than two measures.
- A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition in one of these ways: (1) Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, (2) National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Black Students, or (3) National Hispanic Scholar Program. *Note: The PSAT score may only count as one advanced measure, regardless of the number of honors received by the student.*

**Note:** Math Models with Applications and AP Computer Science may not serve as math credits on the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP). Additionally, Integrated Physics and Chemistry may not serve as a science credit on the DAP. (The State Board of Education granted a one-year exemption for students who took Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IP&C) in the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade in the 2006-2007 school year. The Class of 2011 may use IP&C as a science credit for the Distinguished Achievement Program.)

### Testing Requirements for Graduation

In addition to meeting specific course requirements listed previously, as mandated by Texas law, students must pass all sections of the Exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The testing occurs in grades 9, 10, and 11 as described below. Students must pass the Exit-level tests to receive a high school diploma.

**Grade 9:** Students take TAKS tests in reading and mathematics.

**Grade 10:** Students take TAKS tests in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students who do not demonstrate mastery on one or more sections of the tenth-grade TAKS exam may be required to take additional academic courses designed to help them overcome deficiencies prior to taking the Exit-level TAKS in grade eleven.

**Grade 11:** Exit-level TAKS – The TAKS tests are designed to measure academic skills, higher-order thinking skills, and problem-solving in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The Exit-level tests will cover material from the following academic subjects.

- ♦ English language arts, including at least English III and writing
- ♦ Mathematics, including at least Algebra I and geometry
- ♦ Social Studies, including early American history, United States history, and content common to World Geography and World History
- ♦ Science, including at least Biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry

Students who do not demonstrate mastery on one or more sections of the Exit-level TAKS may take the failed section as often as it is given.

Special education students will take the TAKS, TAKS-Accommodated, TAKS-Modified, TAKS-Alternate, or may be exempt from this requirement as determined by the student's ARD committee.

### Graduation Requirements for Students in Special Education

Graduation requirements for students in special education are determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee. Special education students will take the TAKS, TAKS-Accommodated, TAKS-Modified, TAKS-Alternate, or may be exempt from this requirement as determined by the student's ARD committee.

Students who receive special education services, enter ninth-grade in the fall of 2004 and thereafter, and complete the same credit, assessments, and curriculum requirements (i.e., no content modifications) as students in general education may graduate under the Minimum, Recommended, or the Distinguished Achievement Programs. On the other hand, students who receive special education services with modifications in state assessments and/or curriculum (e.g., are enrolled in co-teach, resource, adaptive behavior, and/or life skills) will qualify to graduate under the Minimum High School Program only.

### State Programs Supporting Texas Students

The State of Texas has developed several programs to encourage students to pursue a strong academic high school program which will adequately prepare them for further study and to face challenges in the twenty-first century work place. These programs focus on admissions, grants, tuition exemptions, and financial aid, which will enable well-prepared, eligible students to attend public and non-profit institutions of higher learning in the State of Texas. **Some programs specify that students must graduate under the Recommended High School Program.**

- ♦ Top Ten Percent Admissions
- ♦ Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant Programs
- ♦ Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)
- ♦ Early High School Graduation Scholarships
- ♦ Other Texas Financial Aid Programs
- ♦ General Information

Texas Financial Aid Information Center  
Toll free: (877) 782-7322  
1-888-311-8881 to get financial aid questions answered

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Web Address: [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us)

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation  
Web Address: [www.AdventuresInEducation.org](http://www.AdventuresInEducation.org)

Exemption Information  
1-800-242-3062, ext. 6387 (unmanned)

Tract sheet and links to other sources  
Web Address: [www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com)