



2022-2023 High School Course Planning Guide

This catalog is a guide based on information as it is known at the time of publication. Occasionally, changes occur due to action by the Texas Legislature, the Texas Education Agency, and/or the Texas State Board of Education. In addition, there could be changes that affect course offerings, grade point distribution, graduation requirements and students' class schedules after this catalog is printed. Courses listed in this catalog may not be available because of limited enrollment.

It is the policy of the Matagorda Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Matagorda ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504 Coordinator at 717 Wightman Street, Matagorda, Tx 77457 at 979-863-7693

How to Use the Course Planning Guide

Planning Your Course of Study

Planning a course of study during high school is an important step in planning for the future. The decisions made, along with the course of study pursued, will affect the plans for the future, including college and career readiness. Career goals may be reconsidered several times. The decisions made now, regarding both the course selections and the participation in activities, will impact options beyond high school. It is best to pursue a broad, well-rounded program of study that will provide preparation for a variety of opportunities, and Matagorda ISD offers students a variety of options. Students are encouraged to pursue a rigorous, challenging selection of courses best suited to each student's needs.

This guide provides a listing of courses, a guide for career planning, and general information about graduation plans and school policies.

Please use this guide throughout the year as a reference as plans for coursework and the future are being made. Counselors are available to answer any questions or concerns regarding the course planning process.

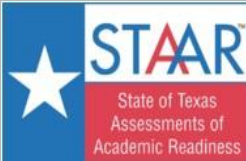
High School Students and Parents Steps to Prepare for Registration:

- √ Review graduation requirements in section "Graduation Requirements/Student Classification".
- √ Think about plans and career goals after high school. Decide which college and/or articulated credit opportunities to pursue in high school, see section "Ways to Earn College Credit in High School".
- √ Take advantage of ways to earn high school credits outside the normal school day, see section, "Alternate Ways to Earn High School Credit".
- √ Review the course offerings.
- √ Update your 4-year plan as needed.
- √ Choose courses for next year's schedule that support 4-year plan and career goals. Be sure prerequisite requirements are completed for selected courses.
- √ Complete the course selection process that was explained by campus counselor and submit it by the required deadline.

Graduation Requirements / Student Classification

Graduation Requirements

- ❑ A student must earn passing scores on five (5) STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) exams, in addition to earning all required course credits for the graduation plans to earn a diploma.
- ❑ Requirements of the Foundation High School Program (FHSP) can be found in section “Foundation High School Program (FHSP) + Endorsements”

	English Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
	English I English II	Algebra I	Biology	US History

Student Classification

The Foundation High School Program (FHSP) requires 22 credits and is the basis for our grade level classifications below. The FHSP + Endorsement requires a total of 26 credits and is the plan recommended for all students. Students may not be approved for a FHSP (22 credits) until after the sophomore year.

Students are classified based on the number of academic credits earned at the beginning of the school year. All students who have completed 8th grade enter high school as a freshman regardless of the number of high school credits they may have already earned through middle school, summer school, credit by exam and/or online learning.

	Grade	Classification	Credits	Additional Requirement
Grade Level Classification	9th	Freshman	0 - 5.5	
	10th	Sophomore	6 - 11.5	
	11th	Junior	12 - 17.5	enrolled in English 3
	12th	Senior	18+	enrolled in 4th English credit

December Graduation

December graduation applications may be obtained through the counselor’s office and must be completed and returned by the first Friday in May. Early graduates may participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the school year but will not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors. Early graduates’ GPAs and class ranks will be determined in the same manner as other graduating seniors.

The Foundation High School Program (FHSP) + Endorsement / Recognitions

Foundation High School Program (FHSP) The 22-credit FHSP is required for all endorsements.

English (4)	Mathematics (3)	Science (3)	Social Studies (3)	Languages other than English (2)	Fine Arts (1)	Physical Education (1)	Electives (5)
Must consist of English I, II, III (ESOL I & ESOL II may be substituted for English I & II for students with limited English proficiency), and an additional English course	Must include Algebra I, Geometry, and an additional/advanced math course beyond Algebra I	Must include Biology, one credit selected from IPC, Chemistry, or Physics, and one additional/advanced, lab-based science course	Must include World Geography or World History, US History, ½ credit Government, and ½ credit Economics	Must consist of 2 levels in the same language. <i>Note: PLTW AP Computer Science Principles & AP Computer Science A can satisfy LOTE requirement</i>	Choir, Band, Orchestra, Dance, Art, Theatre Arts, AP Music Theory or Floral Design	May include Athletics, PE courses, fall semesters of Marching Band or Color Guard, 1st year of Cheerleading, JROTC, Dance or Magic Belles	Any courses not being counted in one of the seven preceding categories

Additional Requirements for Endorsement

Mathematics (1) Algebra II or other advanced math credit dependent on endorsement	Science (1) Additional lab-based science course	Electives (2) Electives must be chosen from the 5 endorsement categories	Foundation + Endorsement (26 Credits)
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State Assessment Performance

In addition to the credit requirements as listed, students must meet passing standards on the following End-of-Course Exams: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology & United States History

Endorsements

Multidisciplinary Studies	Arts & Humanities	Business & Industry	Public Service	STEM
Allows a student to complete prescribed courses from each of the four foundation subject areas, AP courses from foundation subject areas or advanced courses within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas not in a coherent sequence	Art; Dance; Music; Theatre; Social Studies; Languages other than English	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communications; Business, Management & Administration; Finance; Hospitality & Tourism (Culinary Arts); Information Technology; Manufacturing; Marketing Sales & Service; Transportation & Logistics (Auto Technology); Advanced Broadcast Journalism, Newspaper or Public Speaking	Education & Training; Health Science; Law; Public Safety; Corrections & Security; Human Services; JROTC	Science, including computer science; Technology; Engineering & Mathematics (Algebra II, Chemistry & Physics are required for the STEM endorsement)

Recognitions

<p align="center">Distinguished Level of Achievement</p> <p>A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing all curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program, plus each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A fourth credit in mathematics, which must include Algebra II <input type="checkbox"/> A fourth credit in science <input type="checkbox"/> The requirements of at least one endorsement <p><i>A student must graduate with a Distinguished Level of Achievement to be considered for the Top 10% and eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university.</i></p>	<p align="center">Performance Acknowledgements</p> <p>A student may earn a performance acknowledgement in one or more of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> AP test score of 3 or above <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding performance on the PSAT, SAT or ACT <input type="checkbox"/> Completion of at least 12 hours' college coursework with final grades of A or B <input type="checkbox"/> Bilingualism & biliteracy <input type="checkbox"/> Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license
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Matagorda ISD Endorsement Options

Business & Industry	Multidisciplinary Studies	STEM
<p>A Business & Industry endorsement requires completion of the FHSP and one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A coherent sequence of 4 CTE credits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> at least 2 courses in the same career cluster; and <input type="checkbox"/> at least 1 advanced CTE course that is the 3rd course or higher in a sequence in one of the following career clusters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture & Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, A/V Technology & Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Business Management & Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality & Tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation, Distribution & Logistics <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Four (4) English Language Arts elective credits, including 3 levels in <u>ONE</u> of the following areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism - Newspaper or Yearbook or <input type="checkbox"/> Speech - Debate or Oral Interpretation <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A combination of courses selected from various categories within the Business & Industry endorsements to form a coherent sequence 	<p>A Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement requires completion of the FHSP and at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Four (4) additional/advanced courses, from within one endorsement area or from various endorsement areas, that prepare the student to either successfully enter post-secondary education without the need for remediation or successfully enter the workforce <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Four (4) credits in each of the four foundation subject areas of English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies, including a traditional English IV option (academic or Dual Credit) course, and Chemistry and/or Physics <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Four (4) credits in AP or Dual Credit courses selected from English Language Arts, math, science, social studies, LOTE, and/or Fine Arts <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please note: All 9th graders will begin on the multidisciplinary endorsement.</i></p>	<p>A STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) endorsement requires completion of the FHSP, including Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, and one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A coherent sequence of 4 CTE credits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> at least 2 courses in the same career cluster, and <input type="checkbox"/> at least 1 advanced CTE course that is the 3rd course or higher in a sequence related to science, technology, engineering, or math <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A coherent sequence of 4 credits in Computer Science or Computer Programming <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Successful completion of 2 additional math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Successful completion of 2 additional science credits beyond Biology, Chemistry, and Physics <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A cross-disciplinary study of science and math, including 3 credits from a combination of courses chosen from <u>up to 2</u> of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> STEM CTE career cluster courses <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> Math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite <input type="checkbox"/> Science courses beyond Chemistry and Physics

Course Planning Worksheet

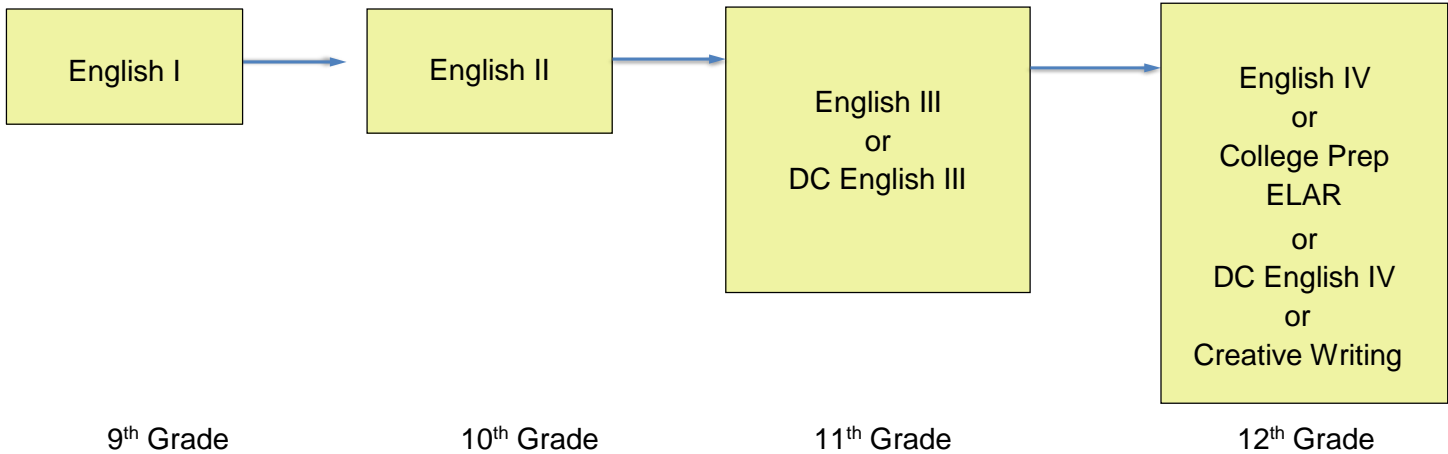
As courses are selected for the upcoming year, students and parents will also want to think about the courses that will be required through graduation. Though courses may change slightly, this page is provided for students and parents to look at not only planned courses for the upcoming year, but anticipated courses for the remainder of the student's high school experience. This worksheet can be revisited each year the student begins the registration process.

9th Grade - Freshman				10th Grade - Sophomore			
	Course	Course Number	Credit		Course	Course Number	Credit
1.				1.			
2.				2.			
3.				3.			
4.				4.			
5.				5.			
6.				6.			
7.				7.			
Total Credits Earned				Total Credits Earned			

11th Grade - Junior				12th Grade - Senior			
	Course	Course Number	Credit		Course	Course Number	Credit
1.				1.			
2.				2.			
3.				3.			
4.				4.			
5.				5.			
6.				6.			
7.				7.			
Total Credits Earned				Total Credits Earned			

All freshman (9th grade) students will take a dual credit class in Fine Arts through WCJC. The DC class will be paid for by the district.

English Language Arts and Reading Course Sequence

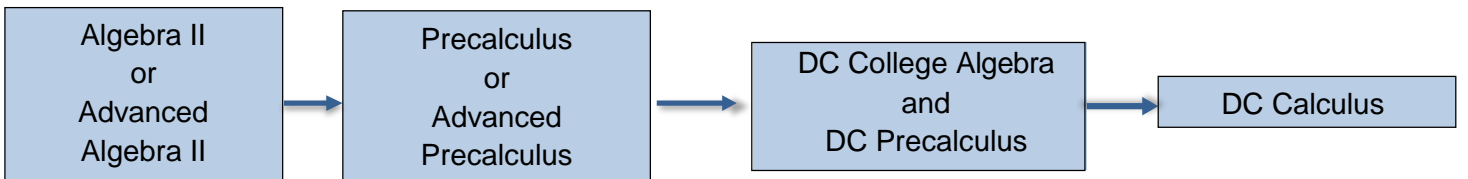
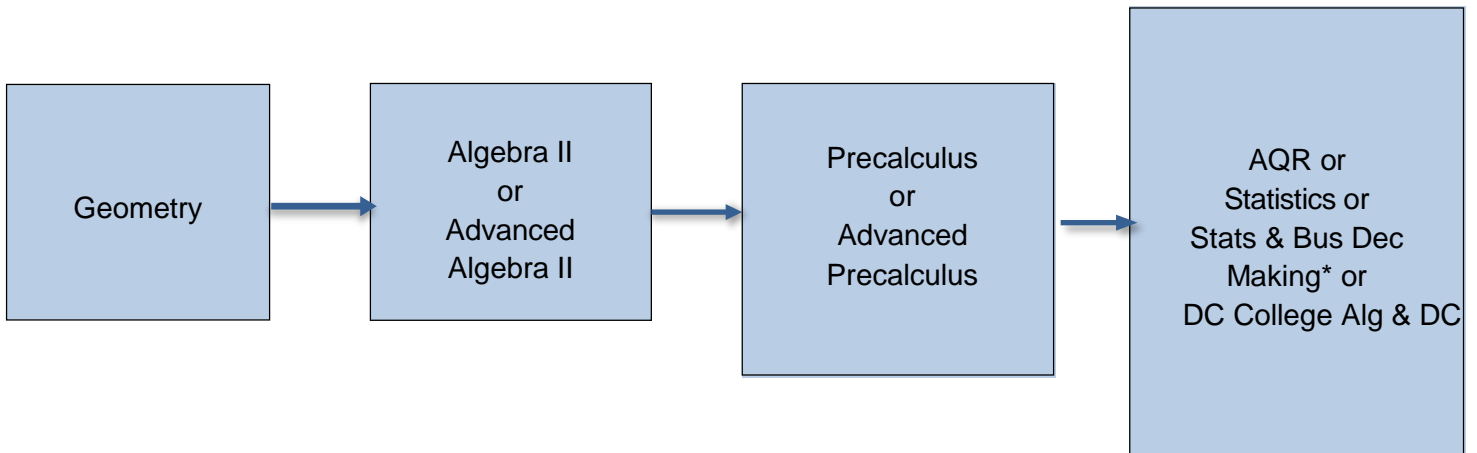
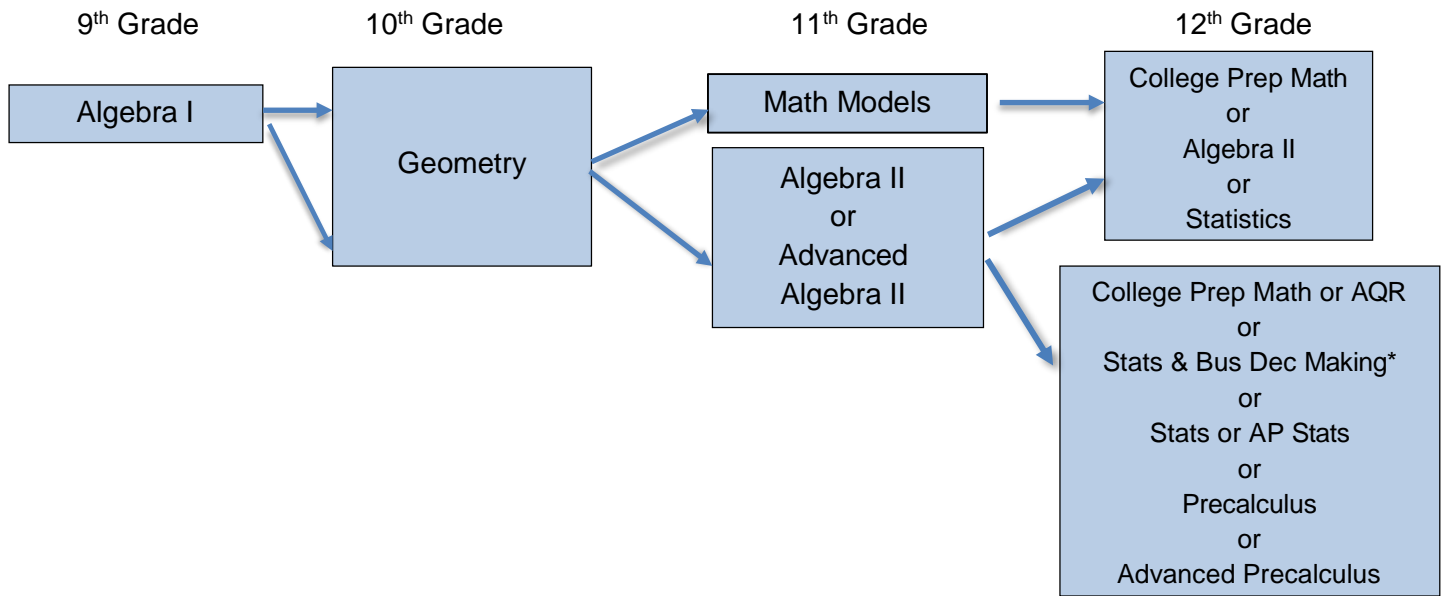


English Language Arts and Reading Course Information

Course	Service ID	HS Course #	HS Credit	Prerequisites	Notes/Recommendations
English I	03220100	21100	1.0	Grade 8 ELAR	MHS: G/T Identified or Meets or Masters Performance Level on Grade ELAR 8 Spring STAAR
English II	03220107	21200	1.0		
English III	03220300	21300 21300 B - Blended	1.0		
English III / Fall	03220300	11302	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	
DC English III / Spring	03220300	11312	0.5		

Math Course Sequence

English IV	03220400	21400 21400 B - Blended	1.0	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	
College Prep ELAR DC	CP110100	21419	1.0	English I, English II, English III, English I & II EOC completed	Senior level course for students who didn't meet college readiness
DC English IV Lang & Comp / Lit & Comp	A3220100 / A3220200	21420	1.0	English I, II & III	G/T Identified or Meets or Masters Performance Level on English I and II Spring EOC
Creative Writing	03221200	21565	1.0	English I, II & III	Course will satisfy the fourth ELAR credit
Reading	03270700	21570	1.0		Not open for students to choose during pre-registration; students are "hand-scheduled" into this course
Practical Writing	03221300	21560	1.0		
ESOL I / ESOL II	03200600/ 03200700	21545 /21550	1.0/1.0		



Accounting II and Statistics & Business Decision Making are CTE courses that satisfy a high school math credit for graduation requirement for students in the corresponding

Math Course Information

Course	Service ID	HS Course #	HS Credit	Prerequisites	Notes/Recommendations
Algebra I	03100500	22109	1.0	Grade 8 Math	
Geometry	03100700	22200	1.0	Algebra I	Can be taken concurrently with Algebra I
Algebra II	03100600	22300	1.0	Algebra I	
Advanced Algebra II	03100600	22310	1.0	Algebra I	Algebra I and Geometry completion prior to enrollment
Math Models with Applications	03102400	22600	1.0	Algebra I	Algebra I and Geometry completion prior to enrollment
Precalculus	03101100	22405	1.0	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II	
Statistics	03102530	22450	1.0	Algebra I	Senior level course
College Prep Math	CP111200	22520	1.0	Algebra I, Geometry, 3rd Math Credit Algebra I EOC	Senior level course for students who do not meet college readiness. Automatic enrollment in course.
DC College Algebra / MHS	03102500	12803 12813	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	Senior level course with successful completion of Algebra II
DC PreCalculus	03102500	12503	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	Senior level course with successful completion of Algebra II
DC Calculus / UTPB	A3100101	12506	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	Junior or senior level course with successful completion of Algebra II

Required Notification Regarding Algebra II

The 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, passed SB 232 requiring school districts, not later than September 1 of each school year, to notify by regular mail or email the parents or guardians of each student enrolled in grade nine or above that state graduation requirements do not require a student to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the Foundation High School Program. The notification must explain that if a student does not complete an Algebra II course, a student will not be eligible for—

- automatic college admission or
- certain financial aid including:
 - the TEXAS grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 56; and
 - the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program under Subchapter P, Chapter 56.

This notification requirement applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Visit https://tea.texas.gov/Academics/Graduation_Information/ for sample language that may be used when providing notification.

Required By State Notification Regarding Algebra II

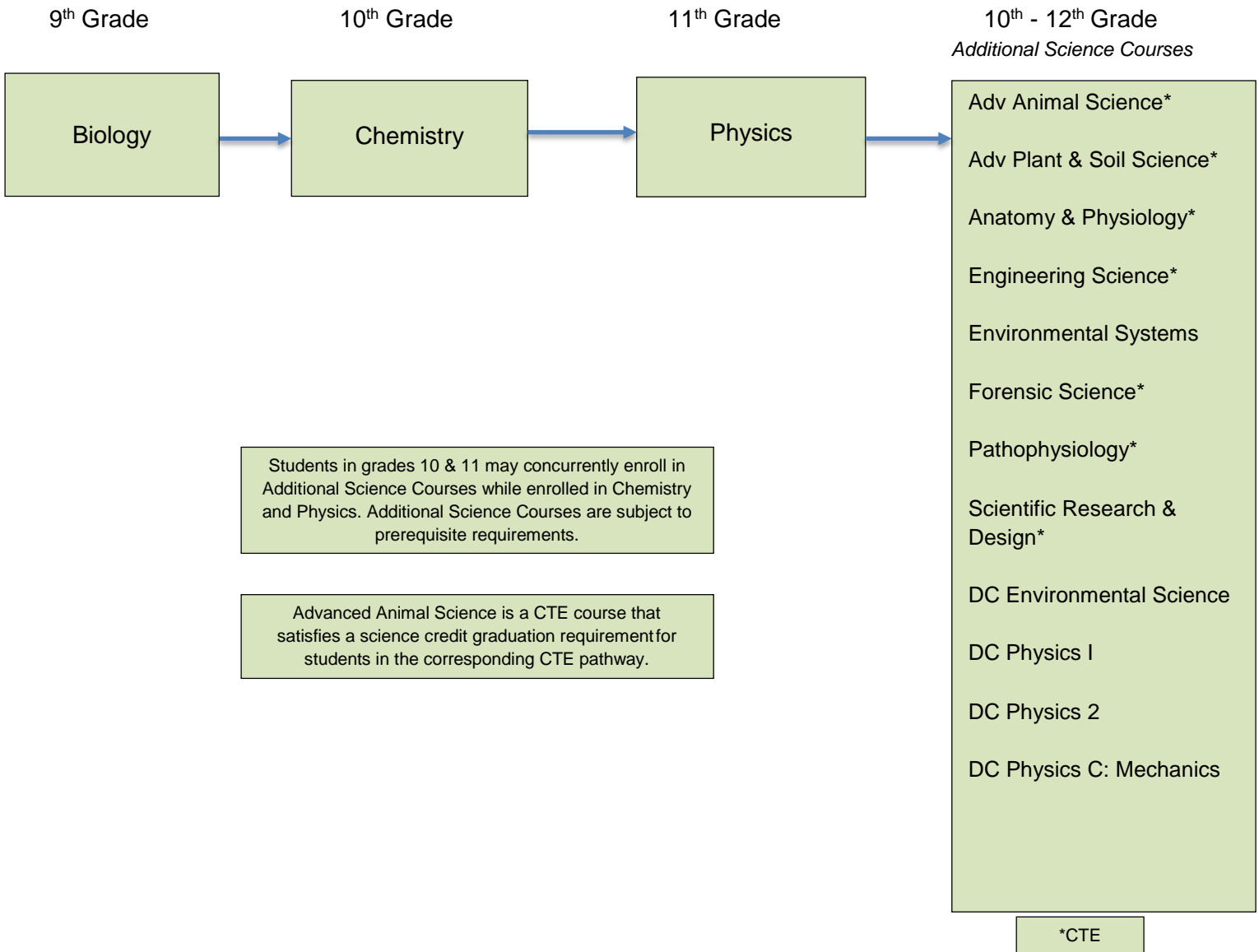
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- automatic college admission or
- certain financial aid including:
 - the TEXAS grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 56; and
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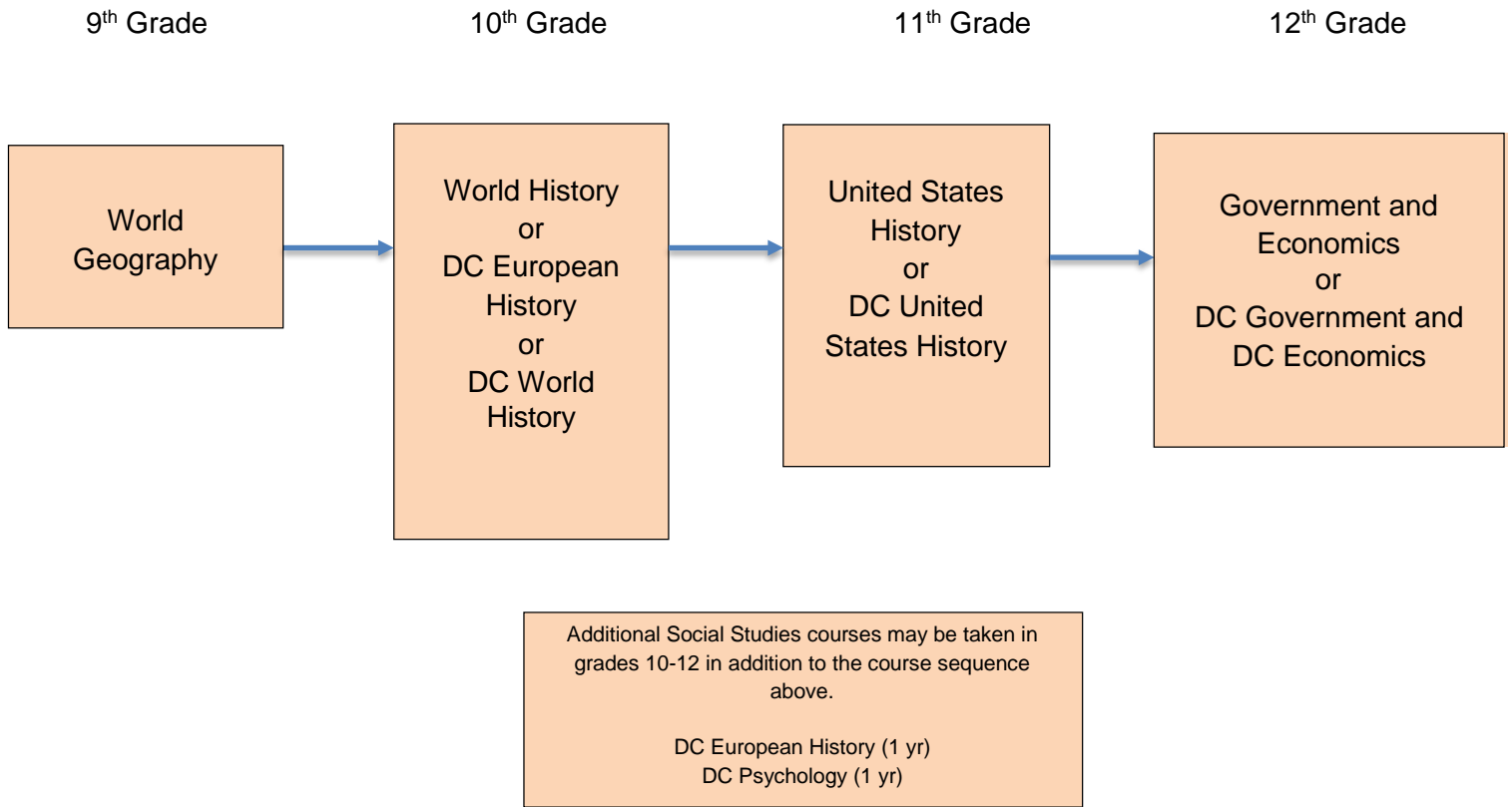
Science Course Sequence



Science Course Information

Course	Service ID	HS Course #	HS Credit	Prerequisites	Notes/Recommendations
Biology	03010200	23100	1.0	Grade 8 Science	MHS: Meets or Masters Performance Level on 8 th Grade Science STAAR
Chemistry	03040000	23205	1.0	Biology, Algebra I	BHS: Concurrent enrollment in 2 nd year of math and Meets or Masters Performance Level on Biology EOC
Physics	03050000	23305	1.0	Biology, Algebra I	Recommended for 11 th graders
Environmental Systems	03020000	23500	1.0	Biology and Chemistry or Biology and Physics	Recommended for 11 th or 12 th graders
DC Astronomy	03060100	23325	1.0	Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Recommended for 12 th graders
DC Physics C: Mechanics (Sem 1)	A3050006	23321	1.0	Biology, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Precalculus, AP Physics I	Concurrent enrollment in DC Calculus Note: These courses are calculus-based and equivalent to a first-year college physics course for engineering majors.
DC Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism (Sem 2)	A3050005	23322	1.0	AP Physics C: Mechanics	
DC Environmental Science	A3020000	23515	1.0	Biology, Chemistry	
Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)	03060201	23200	1.0	Biology	*** Not open for students to choose during pre-registration; students are "hand-scheduled" into this course

Social Studies Course Sequence



Social Studies Course Information

Course	Service ID	HS Course #	HS Credit	Prerequisites	Notes/Recommendations
World Geography Studies	03320100	24100	1.0		
DC Human Geography	A3360100	24600	1.0		MHS: Meets or Masters Performance Level on previous Reading STAAR
World History Studies	03340400	24200	1.0	World Geography	
DC Psychology - BHS	A3350100	14504 / 14505	1.0		
United States History	03330100	24300	1.0		MHS: Prior completion of DC level SS course
DC United States History / TC	03340100	14302 / 14312	0.5 / 0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	
Government	03330100	14400 14400B - Blended	0.5	United States History	
DC Government	A3330100	14415	0.5		
DC Government / TC	03330100	14402	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	
DC Government / UTPB	03330100	14403	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	
Economics	03310300	14405 14405B - Blended	0.5	United States History	
DC Economics / TC	03310300	14441	0.5		
DC Principles of Microeconomics	03310300	14461	0.5	Must apply and meet college admission requirements	

Endorsements

The next several pages will provide students and parents information about the various endorsements and options under each endorsement.

Multidisciplinary Course Sequences

All students entering 9th grade will begin on the multidisciplinary endorsement.

4x4 SEQUENCE

Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC SEQUENCE

Four credits in advanced placement, or dual credit from ELSR, mathematics, science, social studies, LOTE, or fine arts.

Languages Other than English, Multiple Languages, Social Studies Option Course Sequence

Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Level 1

French 1
26210

German 1
26410

Spanish 1
26110

Level 2

French II
26220

German II
26420

Spanish II
26120

Level 3

French III
26230

German III
26430

Spanish III
26130

Spanish III DC

Level 4

DC French IV 26240

DC German IV 26440

DC Spanish IV 26140

Spanish IV DC/UTPB
16140

DC Spanish V 26150

Multiple Language Sequence

Two or more courses in two languages other than English.

French & German French & Spanish German & Spanish

Social Studies Sequence

A total of five Social Studies credits.

Consult Social Studies Courses for available sequences.

Computer Science Sequence Accepted for LOTE

DC Computer Science Principles – PLTW (Level 1)

DC Computer Science – PLTW (Level 2)

Additional High School Course Information

High School Miscellaneous Elective Courses

Course Name	Course Number / # of Semesters / Credit	Grade Level	Notes
Career Prep I: 12701300 Career Prep II: 12701400	27505 / 2 semesters / 2 credits 27525 / 2 semesters / 2 credits	11, 12	Career Prep provides an opportunity for students in specific CTE career pathways to participate in a learning experience that combines classroom instruction with paid industry employment experience.
Advanced Journalism Newspaper 03230140	21650 / 2 semesters / 1 credit	9, 10, 11, 12	MHS Journalism or Teacher Approval
Professional Communications 13009900	17282 / 1 semester / 0.5 credit	9, 10, 11, 12	MHS
Personal Financial Literacy 03380082	17035 / 1 semester / 0.5 credit	9, 10, 11, 12	MHS
Health 03810100	19210 / 1 semester / 0.5 credit	9, 10, 11, 12	MHS

High School Physical Education Courses

One credit of physical education is required for graduation. Matagorda ISD has developed a policy to allow students to participate in an off campus commercially - sponsored activity. Parents must apply to the district for approval. Also, students may be allowed to substitute one of the following physical activities for the required credits: marching band or color guard during the fall semester, Magic Belles, dance, cheerleading, athletics, or JROTC. (See Alternate Ways to Earn Credit.)

Course Name	Course Number / # of Semesters / Credit	Grade Level	Notes
Aerobic Activities PES00054	25950 / 2 semesters / 1 credit	9, 10, 11, 12	MHS
These must be approved by the district and the form must be submitted.			

High School Athletics

(Athletics can be used to satisfy the physical education requirement for

- Students enrolling on a UIL Athletic Team are expected to enroll for one year unless they are a senior who will not participate in the 2nd semester.
- UIL rules prohibit students from being enrolled in more than 1 period of athletics.
- Note: Varsity and Sub Varsity designate the class period that you are in and not necessarily the team that you will be assigned to for practice and competition.

FOOTBALL			GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL			Cross Country (Boys/Girls)		
Course Name	Grade	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Course Number	Course name	Grade	Course Number
Varsity	09	25011	Varsity	09	25411	Varsity	09	25261/ 25251
	10	25012		10	25412		10	25262/ 25252
	11	25013		11	25413		11	25263/ 25253
	12	15011/ 15012		12	15411/ 15412		12	25264/ 25254
Sub Varsity	09	15031/ 15032	Sub Varsity	09	15431/ 15432	Track (CO-ED)		
	10	25032		10	25432	Course Name	Grade	Course Number
	11	25033		11	25433	Varsity	09	25651
							10	25652
	12	25034		12	25434		11	25653
							12	25654
BOYS' BASKETBALL			GIRLS' BASKETBALL			Golf (Boys/Girls)		
Course Name	Grade	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Course Number	Course Name	Grade	Course Number
Varsity	09	25061	Varsity	09	25461	Varsity	09	25161/ 25611
	10	25062		10	25462		10	25162/ 25612
	11	25063		11	25463		11	25163/ 25613
	12	25064		12	25464		12	25164/ 25614
Sub Varsity	09	25081	Sub Varsity	09	25481			
	10	25082		10	25482			
	11	25083		11	25483			
	12	25084		12	25484			

Course Designations / Course Load / Extracurricular Activities

Course Designations

Courses are divided into the following designations:

- Skills-Based**—Skills-based courses provide students with the opportunity to take subjects designed for specific learning needs.
- Regular**—Academic courses provide students with the opportunity to take subjects that will advance learning in basic subject areas. These courses provide on-grade level instruction in all Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills as outlined in the state board approved well-balanced curriculum.
- Dual Credit**—Dual credit courses provide students the opportunity to earn college credit through concurrent enrollment at a local college or university. Dual credit options include Temple College (including Wharton County Junior College or Ranger College
- OnRamps** – Dual enrollment courses provide students the opportunity to earn college credit and high school credit at the same time. These courses are offered through UT. Prerequisites must be met in order to be enrolled.
- Honors**—According to the College Board Advanced Placement Program, Honors curriculum is one that is different in pace, depth, breadth, and/or complexity. All students are taught in accordance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.
- Advanced Placement**—AP courses allow students the opportunity to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. AP courses prepare students for College Board Advanced Placement Tests. See additional information on the Advanced Placement Program on page 10.
- Local Credit**—This is a course in which a student participates but may not receive state credit towards graduation (P.E. after 4.0 credits, Athletics after 4.0 credits, all Aide classes, Cheerleading after 1.0 credit)

Gifted & Talented Program

Gifted and Talented students can progress beyond the regular school curriculum. Students at the high school level are provided services through designated honors and advanced placement courses. Courses are offered in five academic areas: math, science, social studies, language arts, foreign language, and two elective areas in art and music.

Students may be nominated for the gifted and talented program at any time by teachers, counselors, parents or other interested persons. Criteria to identify gifted and talented students shall be established in the board-approved program for the gifted and talented. Written parental consent shall be obtained before any special testing or individual assessment is conducted as part of the screening and identification process. A selection committee shall evaluate each nominated student according to the established criteria and shall select those students for whom gifted program placement is the more appropriate educational setting.

Assessment tools may include, but are not limited to, the following: achievement and ability tests, behavioral checklist completed by teachers and parents, teacher nominations based on classroom observations, student/parent conferences, student work products (if available) and an interview.

Parents and students shall be notified in writing upon selection of the student for the gifted and talented program. Participation in the program or services provided for gifted students is voluntary. The district shall obtain written permission of the student and parent before a student is placed in the gifted program.

Course Load

- 9th, 10th, & 11th grade students are required to take 7 credit courses each semester.
- Generally, seniors are required to take a minimum of 6 credit courses each semester.
- Students with “off campus” period designations are required to be off campus during those periods.
- Students in a career prep class are required to take a minimum of 4 classes each semester in addition to the career prep class.
- Students who wish to gain position or try out for membership in any extracurricular activity must be currently enrolled in Matagorda ISD.

Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and strict academic standards for participation exist across the state; Matagorda ISD, in compliance with state law and the UIL, reinforces this with the “**No Pass-No Play**” rule. In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities following the initial six-week period of the school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70.

Waiver of Suspension

However, this suspension may be waived by a principal if the class failed is identified as an advanced placement, honors, or college dual credit class.

Traditional Ways to Earn High School Credit

General Information about Credits

Awarding of Credit

High school graduation course credit may be earned only if the student receives a grade equivalent to or higher than 70 on a 100-point scale, based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of each course. A student who successfully completes only one semester of a two-semester course is awarded partial credit. However, for full year courses required for graduation, students must earn the remaining credit through a credit recovery method.

Denial of Credit

Students must be in attendance at least 90% of the time a class is in session to receive credit per Texas Education Code 25.092. When attendance falls below 90% of the days the class is offered, after consideration of absences labeled as due to extraordinary circumstances, the student and parent(s) shall be notified in writing. The principal and/or campus Attendance Review Committee shall hear all cases where a student's attendance has fallen below 90% and an appeal has been filed in writing. To receive credit, the principal and/or Attendance Review Committee may assign one or more alternative learning activities to make up work missed or credit lost.

Local Credit

Local credit courses DO NOT count towards required state graduation credits.

Original Credit / Recovery Credit

Original credit is earned when a student takes a course for the first time and successfully meets the course requirements to earn a passing semester or year average. Recovery credit is earned when a student retakes a course for which credit was not awarded the first time because of a failing semester/year average. The recovery may occur by retaking the entire course in its standard format or by retaking it in an alternate format.

High School Credit Courses in Middle School **(Original Credit)**

Students can select courses that yield high school credit during middle school. High school credit courses taken in middle school will become a permanent part of the student's high school transcript for credit purposes, but will NOT be calculated in student's Grade Point Average.

Fall and Spring Semesters, Grades 9-12 **(Original Credit and Credit Recovery)**

Students can earn all 26 required graduation credits for the Foundation High School Plan + Endorsement by successfully completing required courses during the normal school day.

Summer School

Campuses may offer both recovery and accelerated summer school for those students who qualify. Dates will be announced near the end of the school year. All class offerings are dependent upon final student counts and pre-registration. Tuition may be charged for accelerated summer school classes.

The **recovery summer school** program is for students who have unsuccessfully attempted a subject during the regular school year. Students cannot receive credit for recovery summer school unless they have previously attempted the class. Students may complete one semester or two semesters of the entire year of a course, which they did not successfully complete during a preceding school year.

Accelerated summer school is for students who wish to take selected classes during the summer term to provide more opportunities in their schedules during the regular school year. Course listings of the course offerings will be available through the office near the end of the school year. Students will be asked to pay tuition and registration fees and any applicable lab and/or supply fees.

Alternate Ways to Earn High School Credit

Blended Learning

Blended learning combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. The course delivery allows students flexibility in the amount of time they are in class by including a self-paced online component. Matagorda ISD will offer a blended learning experience in Government/Economics or English IV for seniors and English III for juniors. Please contact your school counselor for an application if interested in this type of experience.

Correspondence Courses

Correspondence courses offer an alternate way of earning high school credit. These courses are offered through the University of Texas or Texas Tech University. The course must include the state required essential knowledge and skills, and the correspondence grade must be received by December prior to June graduation if that course is to count toward high school graduation. Course grades for courses that are part of a sequence must be received by the first Monday in August to ensure the next course in the sequence can be taken in the fall. However, grades earned in correspondence courses are not used in computing grade point average or class rank. Students are responsible for all registration fees and materials. Website for Texas Tech: www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/high_school.php Website for UT Austin: <https://extendedcampus.utexas.edu/>

Credit by Acceleration

Credit by Acceleration (CBA) allows students to accelerate and earn credit for a particular course without formal instruction. The district will offer CBA for all academic courses. The exams will be offered at least three days during each of these four testing windows: January 1 to March 31, April 1 to June 30, July 1 to September 30, and October 1 to December 31. Students who score 80% mastery (or greater) on each examination will be given credit for the course tested. Grades earned through credit by acceleration are not used when computing a student's Grade Point Average or class rank.

Credit by Articulation

Students planning to attend a **community college or technical college** can obtain college credit by taking certain high school courses. Credit by Articulation allows students to earn college credit for courses that cover the same material learned in high school. Career and technical courses may count toward a certificate or an Associate Degree. Some courses may earn students articulated credit statewide. In order to receive college credit through articulation, a student must:

- complete a planned series of high school courses at the required grade level and receive the minimum high school grade each college requires (Some colleges require a high school grade of 80 or 85.),
- successfully complete one semester of coursework at the college (grade of C or above),
- meet other requirements as specified by the college, such as passing a college test in that subject, and
- present a high school transcript to the college and fill out a Credit by Articulation form at the college.

Once the previously mentioned criteria are met, credit received for high school course(s) will appear on the college transcript.

Credit by Exam

Students may register for Credit by Exam (CBE) or Credit by Acceleration (CBA) through the University of Texas (https://highschool.utexas.edu/credit_by_exam) or Texas Tech University (www.depts.ttu.edu/ttuisd/supplemental.php). Scores on CBE and CBA exams may NOT be used to gain eligibility for extracurricular activities, in computing grade point average, or class rank. A student may attempt Credit by Exam who has had sufficient prior formal instruction as determined by the school on the basis of a review of the student's educational records.

Students enrolled in BISD must:

- have an average grade of 50 in each subject area in which CBE is being attempted,
- pass the state approved exam as defined in BISD policy with a grade of 80 to earn course credit, and
- not request re-examination on the denied course in the same school-year cycle in which the credit was denied.

Students in a non-public school education setting must:

- submit the course curriculum for which prior seat time is being claimed. A curriculum review committee will review the submitted materials to determine if they match the course curriculum as aligned with TEKS and EOC.
- take the state-approved exam for the course(s) for which credit is sought and pass with a grade of 80. If this grade is not attained, credit for the course is denied. The student may not request re-examination on the denied course in the same school-year cycle in which the credit was denied.

Pending the state-certified exam results, the campus administrator will decide probationary placement.

Administrator permission must be received before exam is taken.

Students are responsible for registration and payment of the exam

Alternate Ways to Earn High School Credit (cont'd)

Off-Campus Physical Education Classes

Physical Education is designed to promote self-confidence, social skills and safety awareness in students by developing knowledge of lifetime fitness through various activities and skills.

Local Policy: The district has developed the following policy allowing students to participate in an off-campus commercially sponsored activity instead of the campus physical education class. This policy reflects Texas Administrative Code 74.11 Subchapter (D) for receiving physical education credit through off-campus commercial programs. The parent must apply to the district for approval, and such approval may be granted under the following conditions:

- Olympic-level participation and/or competition that include a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intense, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent or designee 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.
- Private or commercially sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent or designee 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.
- Students/parents are responsible for all payments for off campus physical education classes.

Certification of Program

Before qualifying, local policy requires that the following information be provided to the superintendent or designee to certify the activity in which the student will participate:

- Type of activity
- Attendance requirements
- Qualification of coach
- Information concerning the health benefits and the rigor of the activity

Texas Virtual School Network- TxVSN

Senate Bill 1788, passed by the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, established a state virtual network to provide supplemental, online courses for Texas students. Courses are provided by Texas school districts, open enrollment charter schools, Education Service Centers, and institutions of higher education. All high school courses offered through the TxVSN are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as well as the iNACOL National Standards of Quality for Online Courses. All high school courses are led by an instructor who is Texas-certified in the course subject area and grade level and has completed professional development on effective online instruction. Students may request to take an online course for high school credit, provided the course is part of the student's normal course load. The course must be necessary and required for high school graduation and not offered on campus. Students may take a maximum of two online courses per semester. Payment for courses taken through TxVSN will be the responsibility of the student. Courses taken through TxVSN will not count toward the Grade Point Average. Students interested in taking online courses must consult their counselor. Both the counselor and the principal must approve the online course request. For more information about the TxVSN, please see www.txvsn.org.

Miscellaneous Alternate Ways to Earn Credit

Physical Education Credit:

In addition to the regular course work, credit by exam/acceleration, and summer school, students may earn high school credit in other non-traditional ways. Approval for these types of credit must be obtained before a class is started.

- Applied music:** credit for taking private music lessons and performing recitals outside of school. Student must first register through the counselor.
- Physical Education Credit:** one credit required for all graduation plans. Students may be allowed to substitute the following courses for the required credit:
 - Marching Band & Color Guard (PE waiver will be given for Fall semester only)
 - Cheerleading (PE credit for the first year, all other credits will be local credits)
 - Athletics offered during the school day (PE credit for the first year), may receive up to 4 state PE credits

Ways to Earn College Credit in High School

Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) program sponsored by the College Board enables students to complete college-level courses while they are in high school. Courses that are designated AP follow specific curricula approved by the College Board and differ from the academic courses in those same subjects. An AP course is like a first-year college course because of the subject matter studied and because each student is expected to assume the responsibility to complete assignments in a manner requested by the instructor. Upon successful completion of the AP level course, the student receives high school credit and the appropriate higher-level grade-point according to the grading scale.

When the student takes the AP exam and scores in an acceptable range, advanced college placement and/or college credit or both may be awarded upon college entrance by the accepting institution. The purpose of an AP course is to prepare the student to take the exam; therefore, each student enrolled in an AP course is encouraged to take the AP exam. All state-supported Texas universities are now required to accept AP scores of a 3 or higher. **All other credit and score requirements are at the university's discretion.**

AP Exam - The examinations for all AP courses are given on designated national test dates during May of each year. The cost of these exams is the student's responsibility. Fee reductions may be applied to the total cost for students on free and reduced lunch. In addition, students may also be required to purchase an AP study guide. All information and registration dates are available through the counselors' office. Students should review their college selection's policy regarding the awarding of credit, placement and grades on the basis of AP exam scores. Students can check their college's course listing and use the Texas Common Numbering System to make sure these courses are accepted by the college they wish to attend.

Honors/AP Exit Policy - Schedule changes from Honors and AP courses will be allowed for students until the 8th day of class for the 1st semester. After the 8th day, students must wait until the end of the 4th week to drop a Honors or AP course. Honors or AP incentive points will not transfer to the new course. Students will have one more opportunity to drop the course following the completion of the 1st semester, and between the 1st and 10th day of class for the 2nd semester. Any class changes may affect the student's entire schedule and courses sought will be subject to availability of space.

Dual Credit and OnRamps

Dual Credit and OnRamps are early admission programs for high school that allow students to earn college credit through identified high school courses. Students interested in enrolling in these courses must adhere to the deadlines set forth by the college governing the course.

Students must apply for admission, and document eligibility for courses selected. The district will pay for one college credit per semester for each student. Students who make below a "C" for college credit may be required to reimburse the school for the costs. After failing 2 college classes the student must wait one full year before attempting another college class.

Texas Success Initiative

TSI Assessment

Students attending Texas public institutions of higher education must follow the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). The law requires all entering college students to be assessed for college readiness in mathematics, reading, and writing unless the student qualifies for an exemption. Each student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard of the assessment instrument must be advised regarding developmental education necessary to ensure readiness to perform college level academic coursework and will be placed in a developmental program designed to help the student reach that goal.

TSI Exemptions

Students may be exempt from the TSI Assessment if they have one of the following:

- PSAT/NMSQT minimum score of 460 on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, a minimum score of 510 on mathematics, or
- ACT composite score of 23 or higher, with English and math individual scores greater than or equal to 19, or
- SAT minimum score of 480 of Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, a minimum score of 530 on mathematics test
- EOC minimum score of 4000 on English II, a minimum score of 4000 on Algebra I and successful completion of Algebra II high school course with 70 or higher

All MISD 8th grade students will take the TSI during the spring.

Preparing for College

NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association

Many college sports are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting and financial aid. If a student is planning to enroll in college as a freshman and wishes to participate in Division I or Division II sports, he/she must be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will analyze academic information and determine if the student meets the NCAA's initial eligibility requirements. Students wanting to participate in Division I or Division II sports should start the certification process early, usually by the end of their junior year. In order to be certified, students must complete the registration packet, have their transcript and SAT/ACT scores sent to the NCAA, and pay a fee. It is the student's responsibility to submit the registration packet. Additional information may be found at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Note: Students planning to participate in Division III, Junior College or NAIA are not required to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Web Links for SAT, ACT, Common Application, Apply Texas, FAFSA & more

The following is a partial listing of websites that students may find valuable during high school. MISD does not recommend or endorse any websites. They are provided only as an informational tool.

www.collegeboard.org	SAT registration, college and financial aid information	www.actstudent.org	ACT registration, college and financial aid information
www.commonapp.org	Common Application	www.applytexas.org	ApplyTexas (Texas Common Application)
www.fafsa.ed.gov	Free Application for Student Financial Aid	www.fastweb.com	Scholarship search information
www.collegefortexans.com	Grant, Scholarship and early graduation information	www.eligibilitycenter.org	NCAA information
Texas OnCourse	Planning calendars, college search process	www.fastweb.com	Scholarship search information
www.achievetexas.com	Career Information (Note: requires extension)		

Testing

MISD provides the opportunity for a student to take various standardized tests needed for the college process and to evaluate a student's future career planning. Some of these tests require registration and payment of a fee. Future College Board revisions may result in additional testing availability.

PSAT (8th Grade, Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors)

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a Pre-SAT. It provides practice for the upcoming SAT exam and gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students applying to college. For juniors, it is the only way to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.

SAT and/or ACT (Juniors and Seniors)

The SAT or ACT is required by most colleges and universities for acceptance and financial aid. Initial testing should occur during the junior year, but each of these tests may be retaken as often as needed.

See the counselor's office for a schedule of test dates, or go to www.collegeboard.org to register for the SAT, or www.actstudent.org to register for the ACT.

Preparing for College (cont'd)

Testing (cont'd)

Students with Disabilities

Students may apply for testing accommodations through College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) or ACT's Request for ACT Special Testing. Please refer to the counselor for information on how to apply, preferably during the freshman year. A student's qualification will cover all College Board testing programs for as long as the student remains with MISD, unless the school indicates that the accommodations have changed. ACT testing is done on a test-by-test basis.

To be **eligible**, the student must:

- have a disability that necessitates testing accommodations,
- have documentation on file at his/her high school that supports the need to request accommodations and meets the Guidelines for Documentation,
- receive the requested accommodations, due to the disability, for school-based tests for four months.

Please Note: All decisions regarding accommodations are made by College Board or ACT.

If students are eligible, they will qualify for accommodations on the following tests: *PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, SAT Program (Reasoning Tests and Subject Tests), Advanced Placement Program tests, ACT, and possibly other local tests.

*PSAT/NMSQT eligibility enables the student to receive accommodations for SAT Center testing.

Students may request **accommodations** appropriate to their disability. The preference is to accommodate the student in the same manner used for school-based tests. However, when that is not possible, accommodations can still be provided to meet the need. Accommodations may include extended time for testing, photo-enlarged test, larger print, Braille, audio cassette, reader, writer, and/or computer for writing. However, these accommodations may not be available for every test. The student must contact the SSD Coordinator in advance to arrange for the needed assistance. Students who currently use

Grading and Class Rank System

Class Rank and Grade Point Average (GPA)

The grade point average is the average of grades in specific core subjects (English, mathematics, science, social studies and languages other than English), and additional AP course offerings and dual credit/OnRamps offerings listed below. The weighted GPA is used to create class ranking. Course classifications considered for grade point averages and class ranking purposes are regular academic, pre-advanced placement/honors, dual credit, OnRamps, and advanced placement. Class rank is calculated based on student's entity (school) enrollment.

SUBJECTS	DUAL CREDIT and ONRAMPS	HONORS/ Pre-AP	REGULAR
ENGLISH	Dual Credit English III Dual Credit English IV Dual Credit Humanities	Pre-AP English I Pre-AP English II	English I English II English III English IV Creative Writing
MATHEMATICS	Dual Credit College Algebra Dual Credit Precalculus OnRamps Precalculus Dual Credit Calculus Dual Credit Statistics	Pre-AP Geometry Honors Algebra II Honors Precalculus	Geometry Accounting II Algebraic Reasoning Algebra II Adv Quantitative Reasoning Math Models w/Applications Precalculus Statistics College Prep Math
SCIENCE	Dual Credit Anat. & Phys. Dual Credit Biology {I & II} Dual Credit Biotech Dual Credit Chemistry {I & II} Dual Credit Genetics Dual Credit Microbiology	Pre-AP Biology Pre-AP Chemistry	Physics Biology IPC Chemistry Anat. & Phys Env Systems Adv Plant Soil Science Adv Animal Science Forensic Science Astronomy Pathophysiology
SOCIAL STUDIES	Dual Credit US History Dual Credit Government Dual Credit Economics Dual Credit MacroEconomics Dual Credit MicroEconomics Dual Credit Psychology Dual Credit Sociology		World Geography World History US History Government Economics Psychology Personal Financial Literacy Special Topics in SS - Cold War Special Topics in SS - Holocaust
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH {LOTE}	Dual Credit Spanish III Dual Credit Spanish IV	Pre-AP Spanish II Pre-AP Spanish III Pre-AP French II Pre-AP French III Pre-AP German II Pre-AP German III	Spanish II Spanish III French II German II
ADDITIONAL COURSES*	Dual Credit EMT Dual Credit Engineering Dual Credit Computer Science/Programming	Please see EIC Local for board policy related to courses used for purpose of GPA and class rank. If there is disparity between Course Planning Guide and EIC Local, board policy prevails.	

- Grades shall be given for every course every semester. Grade points shall be assigned depending on the course classification and the grade earned. (See Grade Point Average Explanation section based on year of graduation.)
- Class rank shall be based on the average of these grade points based on the numerical grade average.
- Class rank computed at the end of the junior year may be used for college application purposes until re-ranking occurs after the 1st semester of the senior year.
- Final class rank shall be determined at the end of the fourth six-week grading period of the senior year. Dual credit courses included in the fourth six-week grading period shall include the final grade for the course if a grade is received by May 15. That rank becomes a permanent record on the Academic Achievement Record (AAR); no re-ranking shall occur after graduation for transcript purposes.
- High school courses taken prior to 9th grade, courses for which a pass/fail grade is assigned, local credit courses, summer school courses taken for remediation or acceleration, dual credit courses not reflected on the student's

schedule during the fall or spring semester or taken during the summer, distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses or credit recovery or for remediation, Algebra I, first year foreign language, and credit by exam/acceleration are NOT used when calculating grade point. Please note: Dual credit weighting is dependent on the high school credit received and how it is calculated in GPA.

Grade Point Average Explanation for 2022 & Beyond Matagorda ISD

- Please see table below for Grade Point Average Explanation. This document is housed in [EIC Exhibit](#) in school board policy.

Skills-Based Courses		Regular Courses		Dual Credit & OnRamps Courses		AP Courses		Skills-Based Courses		Regular Courses		Dual Credit & OnRamps Courses		AP Courses	
Grade	Grade Point	Grade	Grade Point	Grade	Grade Point	Grade	Grade Point	Grade	Grade Point	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points	Grade	Grade Points
100	4.0	100	5.0	100	6.0	100	7.0	85	2.5	85	3.5	85	4.5	85	5.5
99	3.9	99	4.9	99	5.9	99	6.9	84	2.4	84	3.4	84	4.4	84	5.4
98	3.8	98	4.8	98	5.8	98	6.8	83	2.3	83	3.3	83	4.3	83	5.3
97	3.7	97	4.7	97	5.7	97	6.7	82	2.2	82	3.2	82	4.2	82	5.2
96	3.6	96	4.6	96	5.6	96	6.6	81	2.1	81	3.1	81	4.1	81	5.1
95	3.5	95	4.5	95	5.5	95	6.5	80	2.0	80	3.0	80	4.0	80	5.0
94	3.4	94	4.4	94	5.4	94	6.4	79	1.9	79	2.9	79	3.9	79	4.9
93	3.3	93	4.3	93	5.3	93	6.3	78	1.8	78	2.8	78	3.8	78	4.8
92	3.2	92	4.2	92	5.2	92	6.2	77	1.7	77	2.7	77	3.7	77	4.7
91	3.1	91	4.1	91	5.1	91	6.1	76	1.6	76	2.6	76	3.6	76	4.6
90	3.0	90	4.0	90	5.0	90	6.0	75	1.5	75	2.5	75	3.5	75	4.5
89	2.9	89	3.9	89	4.9	89	5.9	74	1.4	74	2.4	74	3.4	74	4.4
88	2.8	88	3.8	88	4.8	88	5.8	73	1.3	73	2.3	73	3.3	73	4.3
87	2.7	87	3.7	87	4.7	87	5.7	72	1.2	72	2.2	72	3.2	72	4.2
86	2.6	86	3.6	86	4.6	86	5.6	71	1.1	71	2.1	71	3.1	71	4.1

No grade points will be given for a grade below 70.

Final Grade System

MISD high schools are on a SEMESTER-GRADE SYSTEM. The final grade for the year is the average of the two (2) semester grades. A student must have a grade average of 70 for the year to pass and receive one full credit. One-half credit may be awarded on a semester basis.

- The following grading scale is used: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); F (69 and below -Failing)

Grading Policy – MHS

All Courses

Minor grades - 60% Major Grades - 40%

Examples of minor grades may include, but are not limited to, the following: homework, weekly notebook checks, pop quizzes, warm-ups, worksheets, vocabulary, short essays, presentations, cooperative learning group work, mini-assessments, etc.

Examples of major grades may include, but are not limited to, the following: projects, major papers, major tests, presentations, labs, unit tests, unit projects, 6-week tests, notebooks, etc.

Progress Reports will be issued every three weeks to every student. Academic courses will provide a minimum of 9 minor and 3 major grades in any 6-week grading period. Advanced and AP courses will provide a minimum of 6 minor and 3 major grades in a 6-week grading period. Dual credit students may access their grades through the university.

MISD Honor Graduates

Students whose class rank is within the top 15 percent of the graduating class shall be designated honor graduates. District honor graduates shall include the following:

- ❑ Students whose class rank is within the top **two percent** of the graduating class shall be designated summa cum laude graduates. **Summa cum laude** (with highest distinction) graduates shall wear a gold medal with a blue ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- ❑ Students whose class rank is within the **top three to five percent** of the graduating class shall be designated magna cum laude graduates. **Magna cum laude** (with great distinction) graduates shall wear a silver medal with a red ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- ❑ Students whose class rank is within the **top six to ten percent** of the graduating class shall be designated cum laude graduates. **Cum laude** (with distinction) graduates shall wear a bronze medal with a white ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- ❑ Students whose class rank is within the **top eleven to fifteen percent** of the graduating class shall be designated as graduating with **honors**. Graduates graduating with honors shall wear a bronze medal with a gold ribbon at the graduation ceremony.
- ❑ National Honor Society members wear gold cords and collars.

Top 10 Percent

According to the Texas Education Code (House Bill 588), students are admitted to any Texas state public college or university if they graduate in the top 10% of their class. * This applies to university admission but may not apply to the school of their preference according to their major. Students must apply no later than two years after they graduate from a Texas high school, and they must complete the application process before the deadline date established by their college of choice.

***Exception:** SB 175, passed by the 81st Legislature, modifies the top 10 percent admissions program for The University of Texas at Austin. Under the new law the University is to automatically admit enough students to fill 75% of available spaces set aside for Texas residents in an entering freshman class.

Using data from recent years, the University has determined that automatically admitting students in the **top 6%** of their high school class to the 2021 entering freshman class will fill 75% of available spaces for Texas applicants. As a result, **UT Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2021 summer/fall freshman applicants who rank within the top 6% of their high school class**, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review. *Note: Information is current as of time of publication. Please visit [UT Austin Freshman Admission](#) to view most up to date information.*

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

- ❑ No high school senior shall be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors who has not taken as many as four (4) academic courses each year of high school. Students must have been a registered full-time student at the same high school during the last four (4) semesters prior to graduation to be eligible. To be considered registered for a full semester, a student must enroll no later than the close of school on the tenth (10th) day of the beginning of the first semester.
- ❑ Final ranks, honor graduate designations, and valedictorian and salutatorian designations will be determined at the end of the second progress reporting period of the 4th marking period. That rank becomes a permanent record of the Academic Achievement Record (AAR); no re-ranking will occur after graduation.
- ❑ The student with the highest accumulated GPA is named the Valedictorian, and the student with the second highest accumulated GPA is named the Salutatorian.