



TOPS Core Curriculum

For the Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards
For High School graduates of 2018 and thereafter

Units	Courses ¹
ENGLISH = 4 Units	
1 Unit	English I
1 Unit	English II
1 Unit from the following:	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1 Unit from the following:	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)
MATH = 4 Units	
1 Unit	Algebra I
1 Unit	Geometry
1 Unit	Algebra II
	(Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence)
1 Unit from the following:	Algebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL
SCIENCE = 4 Units	
1 Unit	Biology I
1 Unit	Chemistry I
2 Units from the following:	Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II
SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 Units	
1 Unit from the following:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
½ Unit from the following:	Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
½ Unit from the following:	Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics
	(one unit of Civics may be substituted for the two ½ Units above)
2 Units from the following:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics
Please see reverse side for continuation of TOPS Core Curriculum	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE = 2 Units	
	Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, and IB Spanish V
ART = 1 Unit	
1 Unit from the following:	Performance course in Music, Dance or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV; or IB Theatre I
TOTAL = 19 Units	

¹ **GIFTED COURSES:** Any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student’s Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a “Gifted Course” and shall fulfill the core curriculum.

Beginning with students entering the 9th grade in 2014 -2015 and graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, the calculation of the TOPS Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will use a five- (5.00) point scale for grades earned in certain Advanced Placement (AP) courses, International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, Gifted Courses, and Dual Enrollment courses used to complete the TOPS Core Curriculum. At this time, BESE and the Board of Regents have not designated the courses that will be calculated on the five- (5.00) point scale.¹ For such courses, five quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of “A”, four quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of “B”, three quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of “C”, two quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of “D”, and zero quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of “F”. Note that students earning credit in courses graded on the five (5.00) point scale may earn a grade point average on the TOPS Core Curriculum that exceeds 4.00.

¹ Courses approved for the five- (5.00) point scale will be noted in updates to this document.



This core curriculum is accurate as of the date of publication and includes courses listed in TOPS statute.

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