

E. Minimum Course Requirements for High School Graduation

1. For incoming freshmen prior to 2008-2009, the minimum course requirements for graduation shall be the following:

English	4 units
Shall be English I, II, and III, in consecutive order; and English IV or Business English.	
Mathematics	3 units
(Effective for incoming freshmen 2005-2006 and beyond.) All students must complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I (1 unit) or • Algebra I-Pt. 1 and Algebra I-Pt. 2 (2 units) or • Integrated Mathematics I (1 unit) The remaining unit(s) shall come from the following: Integrated Mathematics II, Integrated Mathematics III, Geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics. (Effective for incoming freshmen 1997-98 through 2004-2005) Shall be selected from the following courses and may include a maximum of 2 entry level courses (designated by E): Introductory Algebra/Geometry (E), Algebra I-Part 1 (E), Algebra I-Part 2, Integrated Mathematics I (E), Integrated Mathematics II, Integrated Mathematics III, Applied Mathematics I (E), Applied Mathematics II, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra I (E), Geometry, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics	
Science	3 units
Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit from the following physical science cluster: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I 1 unit from the following courses: Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated science elective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science • Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course. 	
Social Studies	3 units
Shall be American History, 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government, 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise; and 1 of the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History.	
Health Education	1/2 unit
Physical Education	1 1/2 units
Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
Electives	8 units
TOTAL	23 units

2. For incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond who are completing the Louisiana Core Curriculum, the minimum course requirements for graduation shall be the following:

English	4 units
Shall be English I, II, and III, and English IV or Senior Applications in English	
Mathematics	4 units
Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 1 and Algebra I-Pt. 2 (2 units) Geometry The remaining units shall come from the following: Algebra II, Financial Mathematics, Senior Applications in Math, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a math substitute.	
Science	3 units
Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit from the following physical science cluster: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Chemistry I, Physics I, Physics of Technology I 1 unit from the following courses: Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, Anatomy and Physiology, an additional course from the physical science cluster, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a science substitute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science • Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course. 	
Social Studies	3 units
Shall be American History, 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government, 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise; and 1 of the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History.	
Health Education	1/2 unit
Physical Education	1 1/2 units
Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of 4 units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
Electives	8 units
TOTAL	24 units

3. For incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond who are completing the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum, the minimum course requirements shall be the following:

English	4 units
Shall be English I, II, III, and English IV	
Mathematics	4 units
Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 2 Geometry Algebra II The remaining unit shall come from the following: Financial Mathematics, Senior Applications in Math, Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, or a locally-initiated elective approved by BESE as a math substitute.	
Science	4 units
Shall be the following: 1 unit of Biology 1 unit of Chemistry 2 units from the following courses: Physical Science, Integrated Science, Physics I, Physics of Technology I, Aerospace Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics II, Physics of Technology II, Agriscience II, Anatomy and Physiology, or a locally initiated elective approved by BESE as a science substitute. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may not take both Integrated Science and Physical Science • Agriscience I is a prerequisite for Agriscience II and is an elective course. A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's Area of Concentration for the 4th required science unit	
Social Studies	4 units
Shall be the following 1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise 1 unit of American History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP European History, Law Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or African American Studies. A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's Area of Concentration for the 4th required social studies unit.	
Health Education	1/2 unit
Physical Education	1 1/2 units
Shall be Physical Education I and Physical Education II, or Adapted Physical Education for eligible special education students. A maximum of four units of Physical Education may be used toward graduation. NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
Foreign Language	2 units
Shall be 2 units in the same foreign language or 2 Speech courses	
Arts	1 unit
1 unit Fine Arts Survey or 1 unit of Art (§2333), Dance (§2337), Music (§2355), Theatre Arts (§2333), or Applied Arts. A student completing a Career and Technical Area of Concentration may substitute a BESE/Board of Regents approved IBC-related course from within the student's area of concentration for the required applied arts unit.	
Electives	3 units
TOTAL	24 units

F. High School Area of Concentration

1. All high schools shall provide students the opportunity to complete an area of concentration with an academic focus and/or a career focus.

a. Incoming freshmen prior to 2008-2009 can complete an Academic Area of Concentration by completing the current course requirements for the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

b. Incoming freshmen in 2008-2009 and beyond can complete an Academic Area of Concentration by completing the course requirements for the LA Core 4 curriculum.

c. To complete a career Area of Concentration, students shall meet the minimum requirements for graduation including four elective primary credits in the Area of Concentration and two related elective credits, including one computer/technology course. Areas of Concentration are identified in the Career Options Reporting System with each LEA designating the Career and Technical Education Areas of Concentration offered in their school system each year. The following computer/technology courses can be used to meet this requirement.

Course	Credit
Computer/Technology Literacy	1
Computer Applications or Business Computer Applications	1
Computer Architecture	1
Computer Science I, II	1 each
Computer Systems and Networking I, II	1 each
Desktop Publishing	1
Digital Graphics & Animation	1/2
Multimedia Presentations	1/2 or 1
Web Mastering or Web Design	1/2
Independent Study in Technology Applications	1
Word Processing	1
Telecommunications	1/2
Introduction to Business Computer Applications	1
Technology Education Computer Applications	1
Advanced Technical Drafting	1
Computer Electronics I, II	1 each
Database Programming with PL/SQL	1
Java Programming	1
Database Design and Programming	1/2
Digital Media I, II	1 each

G. Academic Endorsement

1. Graduating seniors who meet the requirements for a standard diploma and satisfy the following performance indicators shall be eligible for an academic endorsement to the standard diploma.

a. Students graduating prior to 2010-2011 shall complete an Academic Area of Concentration. Students graduating in 2010-2011 and beyond shall complete the following curriculum requirements:

English	4 units
English I, II, III, and IV	
Mathematics	4 units
Algebra I (1 unit) or Algebra I-Pt. 2 Geometry Algebra II The remaining unit shall come from the following Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability and Statistics, or Discrete Mathematics	
Science	4 units
1 unit of Biology 1 unit of Chemistry 1 unit of advanced science from the following courses: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, or Physics II 1 additional science unit	
Social Studies	4 units
1/2 unit of Civics or AP American Government and Politics 1/2 unit of Free Enterprise 1 unit of American History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, or AP European History 1 unit from the following: World History, World Geography, Western Civilization, AP European History, Economics, Law Studies, Psychology, Sociology, or African American Studies.	
Health Education	1/2 unit
Physical Education	1 1/2 units
NOTE: The substitution of JROTC is permissible.	
Foreign Language	2 units
Shall be 2 units in the same foreign language	
Arts	1 unit
1 unit Fine Arts Survey or 1 unit of Art (§2333), Dance (§2337), Music (§2355), Theatre Arts (§2333), or Applied Arts.	
Electives	3 units
TOTAL	24 units

b. Students shall pass all four components of GEE with a score of *Basic* or above, or one of the following combinations of scores with the English language arts score at *Basic* or above:

- i. one *Approaching Basic*, one *Mastery* or *Advanced*, *Basic* or above in the remaining two; or
- ii. two *Approaching Basic*, two *Mastery* or above.

c. Students shall complete one of the following requirements:

- i. Senior Project;
- ii. one Carnegie unit in an AP course with a score of three or higher on the AP exam;
- iii. one Carnegie unit in an IB course with a score of four or higher on the IB exam; or
- iv. three college hours of non-remedial, articulated credit in mathematics, social studies, science, foreign language, or English language arts.

d. Students shall meet the current minimum grade-point average requirement for the TOPS Opportunity Award.

e. Students shall achieve an ACT Composite Score of at least 23 or the SAT equivalent.

H. Career/Technical Endorsement

1. Students who meet the requirements for a standard diploma and satisfy the following performance indicators shall be eligible for a career/technical endorsement to the standard diploma.

a. Students graduating prior to 2010-2011 shall meet the current course requirements for the TOPS Opportunity Award or the TOPS Tech Award. Students graduating in 2010-2011 and beyond shall meet the course requirements for the Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum.

b. Students shall complete the career area of concentration.

c. Students graduating prior to 2009-2010 shall pass the English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies components of the GEE 21 at the *Approaching Basic* level or above. Students graduating in 2009-2010 and beyond shall pass all four components of the GEE with a score of basic or above OR one of the following combinations with the English language arts score at basic or above:

- i. one approaching basic, one mastery or advanced, and basic or above in the remaining two;
- ii. two approaching basic, two mastery or above.

d. Students shall complete a minimum of 90 work hours of work-based learning experience related to the student's area of concentration (as defined in the *LDE Diploma Endorsement Guidebook*) OR senior project related to student's area of concentration with 20 hours of related work-based learning and mentoring and complete one of the following requirements:

i. industry-based certification in student's area of concentration from the list of industry-based certifications approved by BESE; or

ii. three college hours in a career/technical area that articulate to a postsecondary institution, either by actually obtaining the credits and/or being waived from having to take such hours in student's area of concentration.

e. Students shall achieve a minimum GPA of 2.5.

f. Students graduating prior to 2008-2009 shall achieve the current minimum ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) for the TOPS Opportunity Award or the TOPS Tech Award. Students graduating in 2008-2009 and beyond shall achieve a minimum ACT Composite Score (or SAT Equivalent) of 20 or the State ACT average (whichever is higher) or the Silver Level on the WorkKeys Assessment.

I. A Louisiana state high school diploma cannot be denied to a student who meets the state minimum high school graduation requirements; however, in those instances in which BESE authorizes an LEA to impose more stringent academic requirements, a school system diploma may be denied.

J. Each school shall follow established procedures for special requirements for high school graduation to allow each to address individual differences of all students.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7; R.S. 17:24.4; R. S. 17:183.2; R.S. 17: 395.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 31:1291 (June 2005), amended LR 31:2211 (September 2005), LR 31:3070 (December 2005), LR 31:3072 (December 2005), LR 32:1414 (August 2006), LR 33:429 (March 2007), LR 33:432 (March 2007), LR 33:2050 (October 2007), LR 33:2354 (November 2007), LR 33:2601 (December 2007).

§2320. Senior Projects

A. A Senior Project is a focused rigorous independent learning experience completed during the student's year of projected graduation from high school.

B. Each LEA allowing students to complete a Senior Project in partial fulfillment of the requirements for an Academic Endorsement shall develop local policy for Senior Projects that includes these requirements.

1. Each student must choose a challenging topic of interest approved by their parents or guardians and the school-level Senior Project Committee.

2. Each student must have a Senior Project mentor.

3. Students must successfully complete the four components listed below with a score of Satisfactory or higher on each component. The components will be evaluated locally using rubrics provided by the DOE:

- a. research paper of 8 to 10 pages on an approved topic of the student's choice;
- b. product or service related to the research requiring at least 20 hours of work;
- c. portfolio that documents and reflects the Senior Project process;
- d. presentation to a panel of three to five adults from the community and school.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:7; R.S. 17:24.4; R.S. 17:183.2; R.S. 17:395.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 32:240 (February 2006).