



WICHITA FALLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Updated 7/16/2018

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE



2018-2019



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For more information, visit www.wfisd.net, and click on **CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**.



WICHITA FALLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

FOCUS

In the *Strategic Plan* (2018) of the Wichita Falls Independent School District, our stated call to action is for all learners to develop into...

“ *resilient problem solvers, equipped and excited to create and contribute to a successful future.* ”

OUTCOMES

As a result, WFISD has pledged that all students will develop individualized student-driven plans for their academic and/or career pathways.

PURPOSE

Related to these goals, the purpose of the *Course Guide* is to assist students and their parents in planning the appropriate path that will lead from high school to life beyond. This includes information about district policies, graduation requirements, course options, and college preparation.

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Find out more about these topics on the indicated pages.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

DISCLAIMERS

Some courses listed in this guide may not actually be offered due to low enrollment. Because of scheduling conflicts and classes closing, a student may not be able to register for every course he/she plans to take during a semester. For this reason, the student should have in mind alternate courses in case the first choice is not available. Please note that all courses will not be offered every semester of every year—or even at every campus.

Also, understand that state laws and Board policies change periodically. In case of a conflict between legal requirements, Board policies, and information from the Course Guide, current provisions of Board policy or state law are to be followed.

SCHEDULING

Courses will be selected by the student with guidance from the counselor prior to semester registration. After registering for classes, the student will remain in his/her selected classes one semester. Changes will be made when scheduling errors are evident or classes must be adjusted for administrative purposes.

Regarding scheduling, keep in mind the following District policies:

- A student who is withdrawn from a class after the 9th week will receive an F in the course.
- A student may be changed from one level of a subject to another (such as from an advanced class to a regular class) any time, except during the last six weeks of each semester. Students must have permission from the principal or his/her designee before changing levels. Students moving into an advanced program class from a regular class will be required to do additional course work. The advanced program grade points will not be awarded to a student who enters or leaves an advanced program class after the first three weeks of a one or two semester course.

CREDIT AND GRADES

To receive credit for a course in grades 9-12, a student must have a semester grade of 70 or above, in addition to meeting all state and local requirements. Each semester counts as half ($\frac{1}{2} = 0.5$) of a unit of credit.

For all high school credit courses, the semester grade will be computed by making each six-weeks grade equal to three-tenths of the semester grade and the score on the semester exam equal to one-tenth of the semester grade. Or,

$$\text{Semester grade} = \frac{3 \times (\text{First 6-weeks grade}) + 3 \times (\text{Second 6-weeks grade}) + 3 \times (\text{Third 6-weeks grade}) + \text{Exam}}{10}$$

If a student is exempt from taking a semester exam in a course, then the semester grade is simply the average of the three six-weeks grades. Or,

$$\text{Semester grade} = \frac{(\text{First 6-weeks grade}) + (\text{Second 6-weeks grade}) + (\text{Third 6-weeks grade})}{3}$$

EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Students in grades 11-12 can be exempt from semester exams in specific high school courses, if the following conditions are met:

- The student entered high school during or before August of 2016. (In the 2018-2019 school year, this includes traditional 11th or 12th graders.)
- The student has no outstanding fines or fees owed to the school.
- The student has not been placed in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) during the semester.
- The student's grade and attendance in the course meet one of the criteria listed below.

Semester Average		Attendance
70–74	AND	0 absences
75–79	AND	1 or fewer absences
80–89	AND	2 or fewer absences
90–100	AND	3 or fewer absences

Regardless of grades and attendance, a student will be required to take all semester exams if, during the semester, the student...

- Accumulates ≥ 20 tardies, or ≥ 6 class cuts
- Is suspended, or placed in ISS 2 or more times

Source: WFISD Board Policy EIAA(REGULATION)

Students should always check with their teachers to make sure that all of the requirements have been met for exemptions from semester exams.

Note that in 2018-2019, first- and second-year high school students (in grades 9-10) will be required to take all semester exams.

CLASSIFICATION

All high school students are classified as members of a particular class as of the first day of each school year. However, students who have not been promoted to a higher grade due to lack of credits may be eligible for reclassification at the end of the first semester.

Classes are defined as follows:

Class	Credits Earned	Years of High School Completed*
Freshmen	0 – 4.5 credits	
Sophomore	5 – 9.5 credits	1 year
Junior	10 – 14.5 credits	2 years
Senior	15 or more credits	3 years

*Here, 1 year = two semesters in which the student has met 90% attendance in each credit class

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

Students in WFISD have many options for academic advancement, specifically for earning college credit while still in high school. For example, we offer courses in line with the **Advanced Placement (AP)** program and with the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** diploma program (DP).

Program	Advanced Placement (AP)	International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program
Description	<p>“Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses offered in high school. They can give your child a taste of what college is like and can help him or her stand out on college applications.”</p> <p>http://apcentral.collegeboard.com</p>	<p>“The IB Diploma Program (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced program of education... designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students.”</p> <p>http://www.ibo.org</p>
Availability	AP Courses are offered at Rider HS and Wichita Falls HS	IB DP Courses are offered only at Hirschi HS.
Benefits	Earning college credit saves time and money. Also, the rigorous coursework prepares students for other academic challenges in college.	Earning college credit saves time and money. Also, the rigorous coursework prepares students for other academic challenges in college.
Courses	Academic classes in English, math, science, social studies, world languages, and fine arts.	Academic classes in English, math, science, social studies, world languages, and fine arts.
Exam	Students take AP exams at the end of the school year (May).	Students take IB DP exams at the end of the school year (May).
Cost	Students pay \$40 for each AP exam (which is less than half the cost). (WFISD pays for the rest.)	WFISD pays for the cost of the IB exams; but each student pays \$40 toward the Diploma Program’s candidate fee.
Credit	Students “pass” AP exams with scores of 3, 4, or 5 (on a 5-point scale).	Students “pass” IB exams with scores of 4, 5, 6, or 7 (on a 7-point scale).
Transferability	Acceptance of credit depends on the institution and the exam grade. Check with each college’s admissions office.	Acceptance of credit depends on the institution and the exam grade, but extends to international schools. Also, students completing the full Diploma Program are guaranteed 24 college credits at public Texas colleges.
Getting in	AP courses have open enrollment; but typically students take honors courses to build prerequisite skills.	IB DP courses have open enrollment; but typically students take honors courses to build pre-requisite skills.
Instructor	High school teachers of AP classes must meet certain training requirements, and must submit a syllabus to the College Board for approval.	High school teachers of IB DP classes must meet certain training requirements, and must work within an IB school officially sanctioned by the IBO.
Grading (in High School)	Students get traditional grades for each six-weeks period; but these grades have <u>no effect</u> on college credit (which is based entirely on the AP exam).	Students get traditional grades for each six-weeks period; but these grades have <u>no effect</u> on college credit (which is based entirely on the IB exam).
GPA (in High School)	<p>Like other honors courses, AP and IB DP courses are awarded grade points on a 5-point scale.</p> <p><u>AP, IB & Honors Courses</u></p> <p>A⁺ (95-100) = 5.0 A⁻ (90-94) = 4.5 B⁺ (85-89) = 4.0 B⁻ (80-84) = 3.5 C⁺ (77-79) = 3.0 C⁻ (75-76) = 2.5</p> <p>Note that only certain AP courses will count toward class rank GPA. For more information, see the section on GPA and class rank (page 8), or refer to WFISD policies EIC(LOCAL) and EIC(REGULATION).</p>	<p><u>Regular Courses (for comparison)</u></p> <p>A⁺ (95-100) = 4.0 A⁻ (90-94) = 3.5 B⁺ (85-89) = 3.0 B⁻ (80-84) = 2.5 C⁺ (77-79) = 2.0 C⁻ (75-76) = 1.5</p>

In addition to the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, high school students can also gain college hours by taking dual credit courses through Vernon College.

DUAL CREDIT (Wichita Falls ISD & Vernon College)

REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to enroll in a dual credit class must:

- Be classified as a junior or senior (in 11th or 12th grade).
- Be recommended by their principal or designee.
- Meet requirements for admission to Vernon College.
- Apply through the College and Career Advisor's office at the High School.
- Have passed all portions of required state assessments.
- Satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements.
 - Before taking College Algebra, students must be TSI clear in math. (See below.)
 - Before taking any other dual credit college course, students must be TSI clear in English (or Reading and Writing). (See below.)

TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative is a state law designed to ensure that each student taking college level academic coursework is "college ready." According to the law, students can demonstrate "college readiness" by meeting one of the criteria in the table below.

	Math	All other courses
SAT	SAT Math ≥ 530	SAT EBRW ≥ 480
ACT	Composite ≥ 23 ... <u>and</u> Math ≥ 19	Composite ≥ 23 ... <u>and</u> English ≥ 19
TSI	TSI Math ≥ 350	TSI Reading ≥ 351 TSI Writing ≥ 340 Essay ≥ 4

TSI TESTING

Students can sign up for TSI Testing through the campus College & Career Advisors. Each test typically takes a couple of hours, and must be taken on a computer.

Test Topics:

- Math – Elementary and intermediate algebra, functions; geometry and measurement; data analysis, statistics, and probability
- Reading – Literary analysis, main idea and supporting detail, inferences in a text or texts, author's use of language
- Writing – Essay revision, agreement, sentence structure, sentence logic

For a set of sample questions, access:

<https://goo.gl/aF3yT7>

COLLEGE CREDIT

Credits earned through Vernon College will transfer to any other Texas public college or university. Public institutions of higher education in Texas are required, by state law, to accept college-level courses in transfer from another state public college as credit for either a core course or an elective.

However, private and out-of-state colleges do not have to follow these rules. Each has different policies for accepting credit from a public Texas institution like Vernon College.

Do you have questions about how a specific private/ out-of-state college accepts dual credit hours?

The best thing to do is contact the registrar or admissions office of the intended university. Then ask how the school accepts credits earned through Vernon College. Also, information about transfer credits can often be found on the university's website.

Generally, most post-secondary educational institutions require a grade of "C" or better to accept credit in transfer. Many colleges and universities will not admit a student with a college course GPA that is less than 2.0.

GRADES AND GPA

The grade a student receives for a dual credit course is reflected on the college transcript and the high school transcript, as well. In other words, the numerical grade for a dual credit course is the **same** for both college and high school.

However, dual credit courses do receive additional grade points, which affect a student's high school GPA and class rank.

For the Class of 2019 (and beyond):

Grade points will be assigned as follows:

Numerical Grade	Advanced Course	Dual Credit Course	Regular Course
95-100	5.0	4.5	4.0
90-94	4.5	4.0	3.5
85-89	4.0	3.5	3.0
80-84	3.5	3.0	2.5
77-79	3.0	2.5	2.0
75-76	2.5	2.0	1.5
72-74	2.0	1.5	1.0
70-71	1.5	1.25	1.0
< 70	0	0	0

For more information on GPA, see the section on GPA and class rank (page 8), or refer to WFISD policies EIC(LOCAL) and EIC(REGULATION).

DUAL CREDIT (continued)

COST

Tuition, fees, scholarships, and financial aid are subject to change each year. The information below applies only to the 2018-2019 school year.

Tuition. For dual credit courses, Vernon College charges \$95 per credit hour. Since a typical college course consists of 3 hours, tuition for these courses is $3 \times \$95 = \285 . No other fees are added.

Subsidies. However, the Wichita Falls ISD subsidizes this tuition for our dual credit students. Specifically WFISD pays \$160 for each 3-hour course.*

Pay. This means that **students are expected to pay \$125 per 3-hour course (each semester).**

Lab courses. Some courses cost more.
Biology (4 hours) – Students pay \$168 per semester
EMT Course (5 hours) – Students pay \$210 per semester

***Exceptions.** WFISD does NOT subsidize tuition for:

- Courses taken during the summer.
- Any college courses not approved by the District.
- Any college course that does not earn original credit for an appropriate corresponding HS course.

However, in these cases, Vernon College will honor the discounted tuition cost of \$95 per credit hour. So, a 3-hour course will cost the student \$285, even without subsidies.

Textbooks. Students are responsible for the purchase/rental of their own college textbooks. The cost of textbooks for dual credit courses varies widely from course to course. Used books are available for some courses...but not all.

Other scholarships. For students for whom these payments are a financial burden, other scholarships may be available. Apply through the College and Career Advising office at your home campus.

For more detailed information, find the WFISD *Dual Credit Guidebook* at www.wfisd.net/Page/13753.

UT OnRAMPS

Another option through which high school students can earn college credit is the OnRamps dual-enrollment program through the University of Texas at Austin. Currently, WFISD offers the following course through UT OnRamps.

Discipline	College Course Title	HS Course Credit	Campus
Geoscience	Earth, Wind, and Fire: Intro to Geoscience	Earth & Space Science	Rider HS

For more information, visit <https://onramps.utexas.edu/>.

EXTERNAL CREDIT

In some cases, students may want to advance academically by earning credit for high school courses through alternate means or outside of the traditional school day.

- **Credit by Exam (CBE).** If a student has had no prior instruction in a particular course, he/she can take an exam to earn credit for the class. By state regulations, students must score at least 80 to earn credit through exam, and may only use tests from specific, approved providers:

Texas Tech University: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/programs/testing/institutional/>

University of Texas at Austin: https://highschool.utexas.edu/credit_by_exam

For more information about the possibility of scheduling an exam, contact:

Ward Roberts, Director of Innovation & Advanced Academics, (940) 235-1021, ext. 15009

- **Correspondence Courses.** It is also possible for students to earn high school credit through correspondence courses, either taken through the mail or online. Courses must be approved by the district beforehand, through the high school guidance office. In most cases, there are fees associated with these courses, which are the responsibility of the student and family. (WFISD does not subsidize costs for correspondence courses.) In addition, credit is contingent upon completing all coursework and passing related exams with a score of 70 or better. Correspondence courses taken during a student's Senior year must be completed by the first Monday in May.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) AND CLASS RANK

Class rank is determined by a student's grade point average (GPA). In addition to deciding each class's valedictorian and salutatorian, class rank is also used to determine automatic admission to any Texas public college or university. Specifically, students are eligible for automatic admission if their grade point averages earn them a spot in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class (or, the top 7 percent for admission to the University of Texas at Austin).

For more information, see Texas Education Code (TEC), §51.803, or Title 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §5.5(e).

Below is a summary of the policies used in Wichita Falls ISD regarding GPA and class rank. For a more detailed description, see Board policies EIC, online at <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/1228?filter=EIC>.

GRADE POINTS

Grade points are based on semester grades, according to the chart below.

Score range	100-95	94-90	89-85	84-80	79-77	76-75	74-72	71-70	≤ 69
Letter Grade	A+	A–	B+	B–	C+	C–	D+	D–	F
Advanced	5	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	0
Dual Credit	4.5	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1.25	0
Regular	4	3.5	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	1	0
Modified	3	2.5	2	1.5	1	1	0	0	0

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (INITIAL)

For each student, the initial GPA is the average of the grade points earned from all the semester grades earned by the student. The initial GPA includes **every course** taken for high school credit (or, every course that shows up on the student's high school academic record). There are no exclusions for courses taken off-campus, earned by correspondence, or completed during middle school.

CLASS RANK GPA

Students with the highest initial grade point averages graduate at the top of the class. However, rank is not based on this initial GPA alone. All the students who have an initial GPA of 4.0 or above will be ranked according to a Class Rank Grade Point Average. The **Class Rank GPA** will be based on a limited number of courses:

- English I, English II, English III, English IV
- Geometry, Algebra II, and two additional math credits
- Biology, Chemistry or IPC, Physics or AP Physics 1 or Principles of Technology, and two additional science credits
- World Geography, US History, Government, Economics, and one additional social studies credit
- Two advanced levels of the same language other than English (either Spanish II and III; or French II and III)

Thus, the Class Rank GPA is determined based on a total of 38 semester grades (8 from English, 8 from Mathematics, 10 from Science, 8 from Social Studies, and 4 from LOTE.)

Class Rank GPA includes additional math, science, and social studies credits. Options for these additional courses are listed in policy EIC(REGULATION), as follows.

Math	Science	Social Studies
<p>The two additional math credits can come from any combination of these courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precalculus ▪ IB Math Studies ▪ Independent Study (with College Algebra) ▪ AP Calculus ▪ AP Statistics ▪ IB Calculus (SL) ▪ Advanced Quantitative Reasoning (AQR) ▪ Algebraic Reasoning ▪ Math Models <p>By the end of his/her senior year, if a student is scheduled to complete <i>more than two math courses</i> from this list above, then the student will be allowed to select the two additional math courses that will count in the final calculation of class rank GPA.</p>	<p>The two additional science credits can come from any combination of these courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IB DP Biology (year 1) ▪ IB DP Chemistry (year 1) ▪ IB DP Biology (year 2) ▪ IB DP Chemistry (year 2) ▪ AP Biology ▪ AP Physics 2 ▪ AP Environmental Science ▪ AP Chemistry ▪ AP Physics C ▪ Anatomy & Physiology ▪ E&SS (with dual Earth Wind & Fire) ▪ Earth & Space Science ▪ Environmental Systems ▪ Advanced Animal Science ▪ Forensic Science <p>By the end of his/her senior year, if a student is scheduled to complete <i>more than two science courses</i> from this list above, then the student will be allowed to select the two additional science courses that will count in the final calculation of class rank GPA.</p>	<p>The additional social studies credit can come from any of these courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AP US History ▪ IB History of the Americas ▪ Dual Credit US History ▪ AP European History ▪ AP Human Geography ▪ Psychology & Sociology ▪ World History <p>By the end of his/her senior year, if a student is scheduled to complete <i>more than one social studies courses</i> from this list above, then the student will be allowed to select the additional social studies course that will count in the final calculation of class rank GPA.</p>

Notice that this list includes courses that are classified as regular, dual credit, and advanced.

TWO DIFFERENT GPAs - SAMPLE

Students will have both an initial GPA (which includes everything) and a Class Rank GPA (based only on 19 courses from the lists above). At the end of each semester, these measures can be computed separately. For example, suppose a student has the following semester grades at the end of her 9th grade year.

From 8 th grade:	Sem 1	Sem 2	GP 1	GP 2
▪ Algebra I (Pre-AP)	95	92	5.0	4.5
From 9 th grade:	Sem 1	Sem 2	GP 1	GP 2
▪ English I (Pre-AP)	97	98	5.0	5.0
▪ Geometry (Pre-AP)	88	93	4.0	4.5
▪ Biology (Pre-AP)	95	96	5.0	5.0
▪ World Geography (Pre-AP)	98	91	5.0	4.5
▪ Spanish I (Pre-AP)	94	93	4.5	4.5
▪ PE Athletics	100	100	4.0	4.0
▪ Principles of Human Services	97	95	4.0	4.0
▪ Choir	100	100	4.0	4.0

The student's initial GPA (at the end of 9th grade) would be the average of all the grade points earned from these 18 semester grades.

Here, this initial GPA would compute to:
 $80.5/18 = 4.4722$

However, for a preview of the student's Class Rank GPA, you would only use the semester grades for the courses listed above. This would include English I, Geometry, Biology, and World Geography. (Algebra I, Spanish I, and the other elective courses would not be included.) So, at this point, the student's tentative Class Rank GPA would be the average of the grade points earned from the 8 semester grades for these specific classes, which computes to $38/8 = 4.75$.

Of course, these GPA's will change as the student moves through high school, and will not be finalized until May of the student's Senior year.

TWO DIFFERENT GPAs - REASONING

- **What is the reasoning for having two different GPAs?**

An initial GPA is computed to make sure that students take all their courses seriously, and strive to do well on every grade that they earn.

However, over their four years of high school, students may take very different course loads. Some may strive to take as many science classes as possible; others may focus on fine arts. So, in determining class rank, the District looked for a way to compare students on a common set of standards—like apples to apples, instead of apples to oranges. This is why the Class Rank GPA analyzes only a limited set of courses. The goal is to compare students on courses that are alike rather than on standards that are different.

Another benefit of using a separate GPA for class rank is that top students can take “regular” elective courses, such as athletics, fine arts (band, choir, etc.) and CTE (career and tech) courses, without having to worry about any adverse effects on GPA and rank.

TWO DIFFERENT GPAs - REPORTING

- **Which GPA—the initial, or the Class Rank GPA—will be reported on college applications?**

For students with an initial GPA below 4.0, the Class Rank GPA does not apply, and is not calculated. For these students, only the initial GPA appears on transcripts used for applications.

For students with an initial GPA of 4.0 or above, the Class Rank GPA is recorded on transcripts for use in college applications, according to the timeline below.

Through the end of 10th grade (June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial GPA appears on official transcripts (as computed by Skyward). • At the end of each semester, lead counselors can run reports based on Class Rank GPA, and share tentative ranks with top students; however, these are unofficial.
Middle of 11th grade (January)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial GPA is computed by Skyward. • For any student with an initial GPA of 4.0 and above, lead counselors will manually overwrite (in Skyward) the initial GPA with the Class Rank GPA and its associated rank. For these students, the Class Rank GPA now appears on official transcripts.
End of 11th grade (June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial GPA is computed by Skyward. When recalculated, it will replace any overwritten GPAs. • Once again, for any student with an initial GPA of 4.0 and above, lead counselors will manually overwrite (in Skyward) the initial GPA with the Class Rank GPA and its associated rank. For these students, the Class Rank GPA now appears on official transcripts.
Middle of 12th grade (January)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial GPA is computed by Skyward. When recalculated, it will replace any overwritten GPAs. • Once again, for any student with an initial GPA of 4.0 and above, lead counselors will manually overwrite (in Skyward) the initial GPA with the Class Rank GPA and its associated rank. For these students, the Class Rank GPA now appears on official transcripts.
Last six-weeks of 12th grade (May)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselors from all three high schools gather to complete and double-check the final calculation of Class Rank GPA, taking into consideration exclusions based on additional math, science, and social studies courses.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian and salutatorian will be the students with the two highest Class Rank Grade Point Averages, as calculated during May of their 12th grade year. To be eligible for recognition as the valedictorian or salutatorian for a campus, a graduating spring senior must meet the following criteria:

- The student must be graduating in the spring (May/June).
- The student must have been enrolled at the campus at the end of the student’s junior year.
- The student must have been enrolled at the campus for the entire senior year.

BREAKING A TIE

After final calculations of Class Rank GPA are complete, if two students have the same Class Rank GPA and are tied for valedictorian, then the weighted *Grade Point Equivalent (GPE)* score will be used to calculate their rankings. The *GPE* score is determined by analyzing numerical semester grades in courses that the students have in common. These grades for identical courses will be placed into two categories:

- Semester grades for AP or IB Diploma Program courses
- Semester grades for pre-AP or IB Pre-DP courses

Each grade in these two categories is given a scale score, according to the chart found in Policy EIC(LOCAL).

The student having the largest total *GPE* score will be the valedictorian. The student with the second highest score will be the salutatorian. If two students tie with the highest *GPE* score, co-valedictorians will be named, but no salutatorian will be recognized.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Students in good standing with a final GPA of 3.5 or above can be considered “honor graduates,” and receive special recognition during graduation.

As determined by the Final Class Ranking GPA Formula, the ten highest-ranking students (or “top ten”) will also receive special recognition during graduation.

GRADUATING EARLY

Some students complete their graduation requirements before the spring semester of their senior year (such as in December at mid-term). These students are not eligible to be valedictorian or salutatorian. However, early graduates are eligible to be recognized as honor graduates (if the student’s GPA is 3.5 or above). Also, early graduates ranked in the top 10% of their class are still entitled to automatic college admission (described above).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For students in Texas, graduation plans are defined by 19 TAC (Texas Administrative Code), Chapter 74, Subchapter B. Periodically, these rules are reviewed and revised by the Texas State Board of Education. As changes occur, this Course Guide will be updated with new information regarding graduation plans.

The chart below describes the graduation requirements for current high school students (who entered high school in or after August of 2014).

Courses	Foundation
English	4 credits <input type="checkbox"/> English I <input type="checkbox"/> English II <input type="checkbox"/> English III <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced English
Mathematics	3 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Math
Science	3 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Biology <input type="checkbox"/> IPC or Advanced Science <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Science
Social Studies	3 credits <input type="checkbox"/> World Geography or World History <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History <input type="checkbox"/> Government (½ unit) <input type="checkbox"/> Economics (½ unit)
Fine Arts	1 credit <input type="checkbox"/> _____
World Language (or substitute)	2 credits <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2
Physical Education	1 credit <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Electives	5 credits <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Total:	22 credits

Endorsements
Choose 4 additional credits
STEM <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Math or 1 CTE Math <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Science or 1 CTE Science <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 2: _____
Business and Industry <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Math or 1 CTE Math <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Science or 1 CTE Science <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 2: _____
Arts and Humanities <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Math or 1 CTE Math <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Science or 1 CTE Science <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 2: _____
Public Service <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Math or 1 CTE Math <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Science or 1 CTE Science <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 2: _____
Multidisciplinary Studies <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Math or 1 CTE Math <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Science or 1 CTE Science <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Elective 2: _____
26 total credits

For more information on the five endorsements, see **page 19**.

Information for ALL graduation plans:

END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS

To graduate, in addition to course requirements, students must also pass the state's End-of-Course (EOC) exams in English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History.

For more information, visit the Texas Education Agency website:

<http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to complete 1 credit of physical education or a physical education substitute for graduation. To meet this requirement, students may be classified on the basis of health as unrestricted, restricted, and adapted and remedial instruction.

The following course/activities can substitute for physical education (PE) requirements:

- Athletics
- JROTC
- Off-campus physical education
- Drill team
- Marching band
- Cheerleading

Also, additional core subjects and academic electives may be substituted for PE, based upon:

- a) the physical activity involved in the courses listed for this purpose in state rules [See Board Policy EIF(LEGAL)];
- b) determination of an ARD or 504 committee due to disability; or
- c) the judgment of a committee convened with persons "with appropriate knowledge" about the student.

Please see your counselor for more information.

Note: Students can only earn up to 4 state graduation credits in PE or PE substitutes.

COURSE INFORMATION

The high schools in Wichita Falls ISD offer hundreds of state-approved courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, career and technical education, athletics, and other electives. Here's a *sample* listing.



ENGLISH

English I
English II
English III
English IV
AP English (III, IV)
IB DP English (III, IV)
Dual Credit English
Journalism
Newspaper I, II, III
Yearbook I, II, III



MATH

Algebra I
Algebra II
Geometry
Math Models
Pre-calculus
AP Statistics
AP Calculus
IB Math Studies
IB Math SL/HL
College Algebra



WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Spanish IV
AP/IB Spanish
French I
French II
AP/IB French



SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography
World History
US History
US Government
Economics
Psychology/Sociology
IB History of the Americas
AP/DC US History
AP/DC Government
AP/DC Economics
AP Human Geography
AP European History



SCIENCE

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
IPC
Environmental Systems
Earth & Space Science
Forensic Science
Anatomy & Physiology
AP/IB Biology
AP/IB Chemistry
AP Physics
AP Environmental Science



FINE ARTS

Band
Choir
Orchestra
Guitar
Piano
Dance
Theatre
Technical Theatre
Art
AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
AP Art History



CAREER & TECH

Principles Classes

- Industrial Trades
- Public Service
- AV Production
- Information Technology
- Business, Marketing & Finance
- Health Science
- Ag Science

Welding
Construction Technology
Architectural Design
Automotive Technology
Collision Repair
Graphic Design
Global Business
Computer Maintenance
Engineering/Robotics

Health Science Practicum
Law Enforcement
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts
Instructional Practices
Counseling & Mental Health

...and many more!

For more detailed information (course descriptions, prerequisites, etc.), visit the District website, and click on the campus course lists. See: <http://www.wfisd.net/Page/13753>

COURSE SEQUENCES/ENDORSEMENTS

On the pages that follow, find information about the sequence of courses you can take...

- In the **foundation academic** areas, to meet requirements and prepare for college; and
- In the **endorsement** areas, to satisfy graduation plans and explore career opportunities.

FOUNTAION: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: COURSE SEQUENCE

All graduation plans require 4 years of high school English courses. In addition, students must pass the state's English I and English II EOC exams to earn a diploma. However, there are a few different course sequences for English Language Arts courses in high school, depending on a student's graduation plan, endorsements, or post-secondary interests.



Who	Students on the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement (Classes of 2018 and beyond)		
	The standard sequence also satisfies requirements under the Foundation plan—specifically, English IV is required for a Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement, and recommended with Arts & Humanities.	Under the Foundation plan, students who have taken journalism classes during their sophomore and junior years may substitute the Newspaper III or Yearbook III for English IV.	Under the Foundation plan, students may also substitute the Business English CTE course for English IV.
Grade			
9	English I	English I, and Journalism I	English I
	↓	↓	↓
10	English II	English II, Newspaper I or Yearbook I	English II
	↓	↓	↓
11	English III	English III, Newspaper II or Yearbook II	English III
	↓	↓	↓
12	English IV	Newspaper III or Yearbook III	Business English

Who	Advanced students (seeking college credit while in high school)		
	Students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program (DP) must complete the upper-level DP English courses. These programs will prepare students for the Formal and Informal IB Internal Oral Assessments required as part of the program.	Advanced students may also take courses leading to AP exams at the 11 th and 12 th grades. AP English courses are often recommended for college-bound students with a planned major of English or pre-law, or who plan on attending an out-of-state university.	Students may also take dual credit English classes for college credit instead of English III-IV. Dual credit English is often recommended for students who plan to attend college in Texas but NOT major in English or pre-law (such as math or science majors).
Grade			
9	Honors English I	Honors English I	English I
	↓	↓	↓
10	Honors English II	Honors English II	English II
	↓	↓	↓
11	DP English III (Junior Language A-1)	AP English III (Language and Composition)	Dual Credit English Composition, Semester I (1301) & II (1302)
	↓	↓	↓
12	DP English IV (Senior Language A-2)	AP English IV (Literature and Composition)	Dual Credit British Literature, Semester I (2322) & II (2323)

Students also have the opportunity to take several electives in English Language Arts:

- Creative Writing
- Professional Communications
- Debate I, II, III
- Oral Interpretation I, II, III
- Journalism I
- Yearbook I, II, III
- Newspaper I, II, III



Note: Taking 4 or more of these courses (including a level III course in Newspaper or Yearbook) meets the requirements for an endorsement in Business and Industry.

FOUNDATION: MATHEMATICS: COURSE SEQUENCE

In high school, to graduate with an endorsement, all students are required to take at least 4 credits of math to include Algebra I and Geometry. In addition, students must pass the Algebra I EOC exam to earn a diploma. However, there are several different course sequences for mathematics courses in high school, depending on a student's graduation plan, endorsements, or post-secondary interests.



Who	Students on the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement (Classes of 2018 and beyond)		
	In most cases, students will take the standard sequence of math courses.	For students who struggle to pass the Algebra I EOC exam, the Math Models course is recommended.	To prepare for college, advanced students can enroll in Honors courses (from Algebra I through Precalculus).
Grade			
9	Algebra I	Algebra I	Honors Algebra I
10	↓ Geometry	↓ Math Models	↓ Honors Geometry
11	↓ Algebra II	↓ Geometry	↓ Honors Algebra II
12	↓ Precalculus, or other advanced math course	↓ Algebra II	↓ Honors Precalculus

Note: Algebra II is a required course for all students who pursue the STEM endorsement.

Who	Advanced students (seeking college credit while in high school)				
	Any HS	Rider & WFHS		Hirschi	
	One option for students planning to attend a Texas college is to take Dual Credit College Algebra as a senior.	College-bound students who take Algebra I in middle school can ultimately take AP classes. (Also good for those seeking a STEM endorsement.)	In some cases, advanced students may be allowed to "double up" on Geometry and Algebra II.	IB Diploma candidates can take the Math Studies course as a senior. (It is also possible to take this course instead of Precalculus.)	IB Diploma candidates who double-up in math (or have 2 math credits from middle school) can take the Math HL course (over 2 years).
Grade					
8	Advanced Math 8	Honors Algebra I	Honors Algebra I	Honors Algebra I	Honors Algebra I
9	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II
10	↓ Honors Geometry	↓ Honors Algebra II	↓ Hon. Precalculus	↓ Honors Algebra II	↓ Hon. Precalculus
11	↓ Honors Algebra II	↓ Hon. Precalculus	↓ AP Calculus	↓ Hon. Precalculus	↓ IB Math HL (Yr. 1)
12	↓ Dual Credit College Algebra	↓ AP Calculus and/or AP Statistics	↓ AP Statistics	↓ IB Math Studies	↓ IB Math HL (Yr. 2)

FOUNDATION: SCIENCE: COURSE SEQUENCE

All high school students are required to take Biology, and must pass the state's Biology EOC exam in order to graduate. To graduate with an endorsement, every student must also take three additional science credits; however, several different course sequences are available in high school science, depending on a student's graduation plan, endorsements, or post-secondary interests.



Who	Students on the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement (Classes of 2018 and beyond)		
	In most cases, students will take the standard sequence of science courses.	For students who struggle to pass the Biology EOC exam, it is recommended to take IPC and Environmental Systems.	To prepare for college, advanced students can enroll in honors courses, then choose from several advanced courses as a senior.
Grade			
9	Biology	Biology	Honors Biology
10	↓ Chemistry	↓ IPC	↓ Honors Chemistry
11	↓ Physics, or PT Physics	↓ Environmental Systems	↓ Honors Physics
12	↓ Earth and Space Science, or other advanced science course	↓ Earth and Space Science, or other advanced science course	↓ Anatomy & Physiology, or Forensic Science

Note: Both Chemistry and a Physics course are required for any student who pursues the STEM endorsement.

Who	Advanced students (seeking college credit while in high school)			
	Rider & WFHS		Hirschi	
	College-bound students at Rider and WFHS can take Advanced Placement (AP) courses during their 11 th and 12 th grade years and take exams to earn college credit in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science.		IB Diploma candidates can take either two years of advanced Chemistry, or two years of advanced Biology courses. Either path allows students to test at the HL level in science.	
Grade				
9	Honors Biology	Honors Biology	Honors Biology	Honors Biology
10	↓ Honors Chemistry	↓ Honors Chemistry	↓ Honors Chemistry	↓ Honors Chemistry
11	↓ AP Physics 1	↓ Honors Physics	↓ Physics, and IB Chemistry (Year 1)	↓ Physics, and IB Biology (Year 1)
12	↓ AP Physics 2, or AP Physics C	↓ AP Biology, and/or AP Chemistry, and/or AP Env. Science	↓ IB Chemistry (Year 2)	↓ IB Biology (Year 2)

Students at Rider are also able to take a dual credit course in conjunction with the University of Texas called *Earth Wind & Fire* (GEO302E) while enrolled in high school Earth and Space Science.

FOUNDATION: SOCIAL STUDIES: COURSE SEQUENCE

In Social Studies, all students are required to take US History, Government and Economics, and additional classes. In addition, students must pass the state's US History EOC exam in order to graduate. There are a several different course sequences for social studies courses in high school, depending on a student's graduation plan, endorsements, or post-secondary interests.



Who	Students on the Foundation Plan with an Endorsement (Classes of 2018 and beyond)		
Grade	Students who entered high school in 2014 or later are required to take only 3 credits of social studies.	Students who pass the US History EOC may be allowed to take Government/Economics as 11 th graders. (This is still under discussion.)	Students on the Foundation Plan who are unsuccessful on the US History EOC may be scheduled into World History for re-test prep.
9	World Geography	World Geography	World Geography
10	↓ US History	↓ US History	↓ US History
11	↓ [none]	↓ Government/Economics	↓ World History
12	↓ Government/Economics	↓ [none]	↓ Government/Economics

Who	Advanced students (seeking college credit while in high school)		
	Rider & WFHS		Hirschi
Grade	Students on the Foundation Plan are not required to take the World History course. Instead, "honors" US History is offered (culminating with an EOC in grade 10).	Other AP and dual credit courses are offered to upperclassmen, including courses such as AP Human Geography and AP European History.	IB Diploma candidates must take two years of advanced history to test at the HL level in this area.
9	Honors World Geography	Honors World Geography	Honors World Geography
10	↓ Honors US History	↓ Honors US History	↓ Honors US History
11	↓ AP US History	↓ AP Human Geography, AP European History, AP US History or	↓ IB History of the Americas (Year 1)
12	↓ AP Government/ AP Economics	↓ Dual Credit US History, AP Govt/AP Economics or Dual Credit Govt/Econ	↓ IB History of the Americas (Year 2) (counts as Govt/Econ)

In addition to the courses listed, social studies electives are also offered in Psychology and Sociology.

ENDORSEMENTS: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY: COURSE SEQUENCES

To complete an endorsement in Business and Industry, students have several different options:

- Industrial Trades
- Agricultural Science
- Communication
- Business
- Information Technology
- Journalism

Business and Industry Endorsement – Industrial Trades				
Grade	Welding	Manufacturing	Construction	Architecture
9	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Architecture ↓
10	*Intro to Welding ↓	*Intro to Welding ↓	*Principles of Construction ↓	*Architecture Design I ↓
11	*Welding I ↓	*Precision Metal Manufacturing I ↓	*Construction Technology ↓	*Interior Architecture & Design ↓
12	*Welding II + Lab, <u>or</u> *Practicum in Manufacturing	*Precision Metal Manufacturing II + Lab (at Vernon College)	*Construction Tech II, <u>or</u> *Practicum in Construction	*Architectural Design II

Grade	Electrical Technology	Building Maintenance	Automotive Technology	Auto Collision Repair
9	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓	Principles of Industrial Trades ↓
10	*Electrical Technology I ↓	*Plumbing I ↓	*Automotive Basics ↓	*Basic Collision Repair & Refinishing ↓
11	*Electrical Technology II ↓	*Principles of Construction, <u>and</u> *Electrical Technology I ↓	*Automotive Tech I: Maintenance & Light Repair ↓	*Collision Repair ↓
12	*Practicum in Construction	*Building Maintenance Technology I	*Auto Tech II: Automotive Service + Lab, <u>or</u> *Practicum	*Practicum in Transportation Systems

Business and Industry Endorsement – Agricultural Science			
Grade	Ag Mechanics	Animal Science	Plant Science
9	Principles of Agricultural Science ↓	Principles of Agricultural Science ↓	Principles of Agricultural Science ↓
10	*Ag Mechanics & Metal Technology ↓	*Livestock Production, <u>with</u> *Equine Science [½], <u>and</u> *Small Animal Management [½] ↓	*Principles of Floral Design, <u>or</u> *Horticulture Science ↓
11	*Ag Structures Design & Fabrication, <u>and</u> *Ag Equipment Design & Fabrication ↓	*Vet Medical Applications, <u>and</u> *Advanced Animal Science ↓	*Greenhouse Operations & Production ↓
12	*Ag Power Systems + Lab	*Practicum in Ag	*Practicum in Ag



*Courses offered at the Career Education Center (CEC) may cover multi-period blocks to include transportation time.

Business and Industry Endorsement – Arts, AV Production, and Communication		
Grade	AV Production	Graphic Design
9	Principles of Arts, AV Production	Principles of Arts, AV Production
	↓	↓
10	Animation + Lab	Animation + Lab
	↓	↓
11	*AV Production I + Lab	*Graphic Design and Illustration I + Lab
	↓	↓
12	*AV Production II + Lab	*Graphic Design and Illustration II + Lab

Business and Industry Endorsement–Business, Marketing, and Finance		
Grade	Business	Marketing
9	Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance	Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance
	↓	↓
10	Professional Communications, <i>and/or</i> Business Info Management (BIM) 1	*Advertising & Social Media Marketing
	↓	↓
11	*BIM 2	*Advanced Marketing
	↓	↓
12	*Global Business [½] <i>and</i> *Virtual Business [½]	*Practicum in Marketing Dynamics, <i>or</i> *Entrepreneurship

Business and Industry Endorsement		
Grade	Information Technology	Journalism
9	Principles of Information Technology	Journalism I
	↓	↓
10	Computer Programming	Newspaper I, <i>or</i> Yearbook I
	↓	↓
11	*Computer Maintenance + Lab	Newspaper II, <i>or</i> Yearbook II
	↓	↓
12	*Networking + Lab	Newspaper III, <i>or</i> Yearbook III



*Courses offered at the Career Education Center (CEC) may cover multi-period blocks to include transportation time.

ENDORSEMENTS: PUBLIC SERVICES: COURSE SEQUENCES

To complete an endorsement in Public Services, students have several different options:

- Health Science
- Education and Training
- Human Services
- Law Enforcement
- ROTC
- Hospitality
- Cosmetology

Public Services Endorsement – Health Science			
Grade	Nursing	Other Health Careers	
9	Principles of Health Science	Principles of Health Science	Principles of Health Science
10	↓ Medical Terminology	↓ Medical Terminology	↓ Medical Terminology
11	↓ *Health Science Theory + Lab (CNA)	↓ Medical Microbiology (*), <u>and/or</u> Anatomy and Physiology	↓ Medical Microbiology (*), <u>and/or</u> Anatomy and Physiology
12	↓ *Practicum in Health Science (Nursing)	↓ *Practicum in Health Science (Options: EMT, or PT/OT Prep)	↓ *Pharmacology, <u>or</u> *Health Informatics

Public Services Endorsement			
Grade	Education & Training	Human Services	Law Enforcement
9	Principles of Public Services	Principles of Public Services	Principles of Public Services
10	↓ Child Development	↓ Child Development	↓ Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
11	↓ *Instructional Practices	↓ *Counseling and Mental Health	↓ Forensic Science, <u>and</u> *Law Enforcement I
12	↓ *Practicum in Education and Training	↓ *Practicum in Human Services	↓ *Law Enforcement II, <u>and</u> *Correction Services

Grade	Cosmetology	Hospitality	ROTC
9	Principles of Public Services	Principles of Public Services	ROTC I
10	↓ *Introduction to Cosmetology	↓ Intro to Culinary Arts	↓ ROTC II
11	↓ *Cosmetology I <u>and</u> Principles of Cosmetology Design and Color Theory	↓ *Culinary Arts	↓ ROTC III
12	↓ *Cosmetology II + Practicum	↓ *Advanced Culinary Arts	↓ ROTC IV



*Courses offered at the Career Education Center (CEC) may cover multi-period blocks to include transportation time.

ENDORSEMENTS: STEM: COURSE SEQUENCES

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. To earn an endorsement in this area, students must take Algebra II, Chemistry, and Physics—and complete additional requirements, as described below.

STEM Endorsement—Science				
Students can earn an endorsement in STEM by completing a total of 5 science credits, which must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics.				
Grade	Rider & WFHS	Or students can take advanced courses in the life sciences.	Hirschi	Any HS
	Students can take advanced courses in Physics and Chemistry.		Students in the IB program can choose to take advanced Biology or Chemistry.	There are many other science courses that can satisfy the STEM requirements.
9	Honors Biology	Honors Biology	Biology	Biology
10	↓ Honors Chemistry	↓ Honors Chemistry	↓ Chemistry	↓ Chemistry
11	↓ AP Physics 1	↓ Honors Physics	↓ Physics, and either IB Biology (year 1) <u>or</u> IB Chemistry (year 1)	↓ Physics
12	↓ AP Physics 2 or AP Physics C, and AP Chemistry	↓ AP Biology, and Anatomy & Physiology	↓ IB Biology (year 2) <u>or</u> IB Chemistry (year 2)	↓ Any 2 courses: Earth & Space Science, Forensic Science, AP Environmental Science, etc.

STEM Endorsement—Engineering	
Grade	Students who took Algebra I in 8 th grade
9	Principles of Applied Engineering
10	↓ *Robotics I
11	↓ *Engineering Design and Problem Solving
12	↓ *Robotics II

STEM Endorsement—Mathematics			
Students can earn an endorsement in STEM by completing a total of 5 math credits, which must include Algebra II and two courses beyond.			
Grade	Students who took Algebra I in 8 th grade can take AP or IB classes in 12 th grade.	Otherwise, to complete 5 math credits, students may have to double-up (or, take two math classes during the same year).	
	9	Geometry	Algebra I
10	↓ Algebra II	↓ Geometry <u>and</u> Algebra II	↓ Geometry
11	↓ Precalculus	↓ Precalculus	↓ Algebra II
12	↓ AP Calculus <u>or</u> AP Statistics; or IB Math Studies <u>or</u> IB Math HL	↓ AP Calculus <u>or</u> AP Statistics; or IB Math Studies <u>or</u> IB Math SL/HL	↓ Precalculus, <u>and</u> AP Statistics

*Courses offered at the Career Education Center (CEC) may cover multi-period blocks to include transportation time.

ENDORSEMENTS: ARTS & HUMANITIES ENDORSEMENT: COURSE SEQUENCES

Students can earn an endorsement in Arts and Humanities by taking additional social studies or foreign language courses, or by completing 4 credits in band, choir, theatre, or the visual arts.

Arts & Humanities Endorsement					
Grade	Social Studies		LOTE (Languages Other Than English)		
	Students can take a total of 5 credits in social studies.	Advanced courses are also available to complete these 5 credits.	Students can take 4 levels of the same language.		Or, students can take 2 levels of two different languages.
9	World Geography	World Geography	Spanish I	French I	A total of 4 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish I & II and/or French I & II and/or Latin I & II
10	↓ US History	↓ US History	↓ Spanish II	↓ French II	
11	↓ World History, <u>and</u> Psychology/Sociology	↓ AP/Dual US History, <u>and</u> AP European History	↓ Spanish III	↓ French III	
12	↓ Government/Economics	↓ AP/Dual Govt/Econ	↓ Spanish IV	↓ French IV	

Arts & Humanities Endorsement				
	Students can complete 4 courses of instrumental music.	Students can complete 4 courses of choral music.	Students can complete 4 courses in Theatre Arts.	Students can complete 4 courses in the visual arts.
9	Band I, or Orchestra I	Men's/Girls' Choir	Theatre Arts I	Art I
10	↓ Band II, or Orchestra II	↓ A Cappella Choir I	↓ Theatre Arts II	↓ Art II
11	↓ Band III, or Orchestra III	↓ A Cappella Choir II	↓ Theatre Arts III	↓ Art III
12	↓ Band IV, or Orchestra IV	↓ A Cappella Choir III	↓ Theatre Arts IV	↓ Art IV
	Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jazz Band Guitar I, II, III, IV Piano I, II AP Music Theory 	Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocal Ensemble Music Appreciation 	Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Theatre Theatre Production 	Other options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Photography Art Ceramics AP Studio Art AP Art History

Students can also earn an endorsement in Arts and Humanities by completing 2 credits in each of two areas in the fine arts. (For example, 2 credits in Band and 2 credits in Theatre Arts.)

This combination could also include 2 credits from other areas of performing arts:

- Dance I, II, III



ENDORSEMENTS: MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Students can also earn an endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies by completing courses in one of the categories below.

- 4-by-4.** Four credits in English (to include English IV), four credits in math, four credits in social studies, and four credits in science (to include chemistry and/or physics)
- Advanced.** Four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit courses.
- Workforce.** Four advanced career courses (CTE) that may not be in a coherent sequence (nor even in the same career cluster).



WICHITA FALLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

COLLEGE PREPARATION

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

As WFISD students prepare to graduate high school, a central mission of the District is helping these young adults transition to a trade school, junior college, or university. However, each institute of higher learning has different guidelines for acceptance and enrollment.

Because of such a wide variation in the entrance requirements of various colleges, it is difficult to list exactly what courses or scores a student will need for acceptance into college. Students should check with each school to get specific information regarding procedures for accepting students, awarding scholarships, and determining financial aid.

COUNSELORS' OFFICE

The campus guidance counselors provide the best help for students in planning for their future. Specifically, the WFISD counselors can:

- Schedule students into the right courses to meet requirements for graduation
- Assist in the process of applying for admission into college
- Inform students about financial aid and scholarships
- Set up parent conferences to discuss student's needs, test scores, and plans beyond graduation
- Coordinate visits with recruiters from colleges, trade schools, or the military

TIMELINE

The following timeline will help students understand the steps to take before graduation.

Grade (year)	Activities
8 (Junior High)	From career fields that interest you, select an endorsement (or, 4-year academic program) for high school. Talk to current high school students to find out about what you can expect from high school courses.
9 (Freshman)	Review your four-year academic plan with your counselor. Participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Study hard so you don't get behind in your classes. Begin to develop a list of all your activities, awards, and honors.
10 (Sophomore)	<i>August:</i> Check in with your counselor to make sure you are on track with graduation requirements. <i>October:</i> Take the PSAT . On the test form, check the box for information from colleges. <i>October/November:</i> Attend College Night at Region 9 ESC.
11 (Junior)	<i>September:</i> Register for the PSAT. Review test format and content with practice problems. <i>October:</i> Take the PSAT . Contact colleges that interest you for information about application for admission. <i>October/November:</i> Attend College Night at Region 9 ESC. <i>April/May/June:</i> Register for (and take) the SAT or ACT .
12 (Senior)	<i>September/October:</i> Review each college's entrance requirements. Apply online. Prepare a resume and admissions essay. Ask teachers for recommendations. <i>October/November:</i> Attend College Night at Region 9 ESC. <i>November/December:</i> Visit college campuses. Apply for college admissions and scholarships. Request and send transcripts as needed. Meet deadlines! <i>January:</i> Complete financial aid applications. File your FAFSA (for federal aid). <i>March/April:</i> Look for acceptance letters. Choose a college! Finalize plans for housing, aid, scholarships. <i>May:</i> Notify counselor of college choice & scholarships. Request a final transcript.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

As part of the college admissions process, students typically take either the ACT or SAT exam. While different schools require various scores on these tests, most follow a simple rule: *The better your score, the more likely you are to be accepted, and to receive scholarships.*

Test	PSAT (NMSQT)	SAT	ACT
Purpose	Provides firsthand practice for the SAT. Also, through the PSAT, students gain access to college and career planning tools, and get a chance to qualify for National Merit scholarships (grade 11).	Measures your critical reasoning and verbal abilities. If you're good at word problems and thinking through solutions, this test might be right for you.	Measures what you've learned so far in school. So, if you've earned high grades and have a knack for spitting out that information, this test might be right for you.
Website	collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10	collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat	act.org
Total Time	165 minutes (2 hrs 45 min)	180 minutes (3 hours)	175 minutes (2 hrs 55 min)
Sections	Reading – 47 questions Writing – 44 questions Math – 48 questions	Reading – 52 questions Writing & Language – 44 questions Writing Skills – 58 questions	English – 75 questions Math – 60 questions Reading – 40 questions Science – 40 questions
Score	Maximum score = 1520 (760 for R/W, 760 for Math)	Maximum score = 1600 (800 on R/W, 800 on Math)	Maximum score = 36
Cost	\$16*	\$46*	\$46*
	Register through your campus. In some cases, WFISD may pay all or part of PSAT registration costs. Contact a counselor for more details.	Register for these exams through their respective websites. The registration fee for taking the ACT or SAT exam may be waived for certain students who qualify based on income or other family/home situations. Contact the college & career facilitator for more details.	

*Prices subject to change.

TSI READY: TESTING REQUIREMENTS

By law, a student seeking to enter a Texas institution of higher education must meet the standards of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI). These standards can be met in several ways.

A student can be considered “college ready” in each subject (and thus exempt from TSI requirements) by meeting one of the following criteria:

	English (Reading/Writing)	Mathematics
ACT	English \geq 19, <u>AND</u> Composite \geq 23 or	Mathematics \geq 19, <u>AND</u> Composite \geq 23 or
SAT	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing \geq 480 or	Mathematics \geq 530 or
TSI	TSI Reading \geq 351 TSI Writing \geq 340 Essay \geq 4	TSI Math \geq 350

Source: Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter C

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available to help qualified students pay for education beyond high school. Generally, there are four major types of financial aid available to students:

- Scholarships – awards based on merit (based on academics or some other area of talent)
- Grants – awards based on financial need which do not need to be repaid
- Loans – funds borrowed through a bank, college, or lending institution, to be repaid with interest
- Work Study – jobs for the student to earn money toward education, coordinated through the college's financial aid office

Campus counselors will be able to help students and families in finding financial aid for college. In addition, many financial aid resources can be found online.

Financial aid information: www.finaid.org

A resource for all types of financial aid (from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)

Student financial assistance info: www.ed.gov

Homepage with links to information on financial aid through grants and loans (from US Department of Education)

Online scholarship service: www.salliemae.com

Extensive planning for paying for college with an individualized planning folder (from Sallie Mae)

Texas resources: www.thecb.state.tx.us, www.collegeforalltexas.com

Each homepage provides links to an array of information on financial aid (from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)