

Indiana State Board of Education
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
REGARDING
INDIANA’S NEW HIGH SCHOOL COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

June 2006

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Indiana State Board of Education

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INDIANA'S NEW HIGH SCHOOL COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

February 2006

General Information

The Indiana State Board of Education has adopted new course and credit requirements for earning a high school diploma. These new requirements go into effect for students entering high school in fall 2006. With these changes, students will have the option of earning four diploma types:

- General
- Core 40
- Core 40 with Academic Honors
- Core 40 with Technical Honors

The requirements for each of these diplomas are attached. Reproducible copies of these requirements are available in various formats online at www.doe.state.in.us/core40 and at www.learnmoreindiana.org.

The Indiana General Assembly has made completion of Core 40 a graduation requirement for all students beginning with those entering high school fall 2007. The legislation includes an opt-out provision for parents who determine that their student could benefit more from the General Diploma. The legislation also makes Core 40 a minimum college admission requirement for the state's public four-year universities beginning in fall 2011.

Brief Background

In 1994, Indiana's business, industry, labor, higher education, and K-12 communities came together to identify the courses necessary to provide the academic foundation for success in college and the workforce. This common set of courses was called Indiana Core 40, and currently more than 65% of Hoosier students graduate having completed Core 40 – of these students 29% complete additional requirements to graduate with Academic Honors.

The academic foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, military training and apprenticeship programs have converged. Recognizing that all students need and deserve the academic preparation Core 40 provides, Indiana's Education Roundtable committed to putting policies and strategies in place to move more of Indiana's students out of the general diploma track and into the more rigorous Core 40 curriculum. After nearly two years of study, public input, and discussion, the Roundtable passed in fall 2004 a series of key resolutions emphasizing the important preparation for college and the workforce provided by Core 40.

The resolutions called for: (1) improving diploma requirements; (2) making Core 40 the default curriculum for all students with an opt-out provision; (3) adding a Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma; and (4) requiring Core 40 completion for admission to the state's four-year universities and to receive state financial aid to attend 4-year institutions.

The State Board of Education acted in February 2005 on the Roundtable's resolution to adopt improvements to the course and credit requirements for a high school diploma. These improvements go into effect with students entering high school in 2006 (Graduating Class of 2010). The Indiana General Assembly took action to make Core 40 the required curriculum for all students with an opt-out provision and a minimum requirement for admission to Indiana four-year public universities by passing legislation April 2005. This action will affect students entering high school in 2007 (Graduating Class of 2011).

Frequently Asked Question Regarding All Diploma Types

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| 1 | When do the changes go into effect? | <p>Indiana's new graduation requirements go into effect with students who enter high school fall 2006 (Graduating Class of 2010).</p> <p>Statutory requirements that make Core 40 the required (default) curriculum go into effect with students who enter high school fall 2007 (Graduating Class of 2011).</p> <p>Statutory requirements that make Core 40 (or documented equivalent) required for admission to public four-year universities in Indiana begin fall 2011.</p> |
| 2 | May schools add conditions or courses to the state's requirements for earning a specific diploma (i.e. Core 40, Core 40 w/ Technical Honors, Core 40 w/ Academic Honors, General Diploma)? | No. These are state determined diplomas, however, a local school corporation may have additional local requirements that apply to all four diplomas and all students. |
| 3 | Has the definition of "credit" been changed? | <p>Yes. Beginning with students who enter high school in fall 2006, a "credit" will mean satisfactory completion of a course that meets the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The course is an approved course under 511 IAC 6.1-5.1. (2) The course is consistent with the Indiana academic standards. (3) The course includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) a minimum of two hundred fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week for one (1) semester for a school operating on a traditional schedule; <u>(B) a minimum of eighty-five (85) minutes of instruction per class period, exclusive of passing time, for a school operating on a block schedule; or</u> <u>(C) a minimum of seventy (70) minutes of instruction per class period, exclusive of passing time, for a school operating on a trimester schedule.</u> <p>Schools on a block or trimester schedule no longer will need to seek alternate schedule approval. Since a reasonable amount of passing time may count in computing the minimum school day under IC 20-10.1-2-1, a reasonable amount of passing time also may be included in determining if a school that operates on a semester schedule meets the requirements for two hundred fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week. The minimum amounts of instruction that must be provided by schools that operate on a block or trimester schedule are exclusive of passing time.</p> |
| 4 | Can a student earn additional credits for re-taking a course? | No. The only exception is if the official approved course description permits it. Official course descriptions can be found at http://doe.state.in.us/publications/courses.html and http://doe.state.in.us/publications/courses2.html . |
| 5 | Can pass/fail grades be used? | Pass/fail grades are not allowed for the Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, or Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas. |
| 6 | What changes have been made to Physical Education? | No changes have been made to the course. Students will still need to complete two semesters of Physical Education. Changes have been made to the number of credits awarded for this course. Beginning with students who enter high school fall 2006, a student who passes Physical Education will receive one credit each semester instead of one-half credit per semester. By passing two semesters of Physical Education, students will earn two credits. |
| 7 | May schools award high school credit for courses taken before Grade 9? | <p>It remains a local decision as to whether students are awarded high school credit for high school courses taken before Grade 9. No change was made to the existing rule regarding local decision-making in this area.</p> <p>Courses taught for high school credit in middle school must be equivalent to the high school course and cover the same Academic Standards. In addition, grades and credits for the course must be included on the student's high school transcript and factored into the cumulative GPA. These courses and credits may be used to fulfill the number of credits required for graduation.</p> |

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| | | <p><u>Note regarding math:</u> Students who receive high school credits on their transcript for high school courses taken before Grade 9 must still complete either a mathematics or physics course in their junior or senior year. It is strongly recommended that all students take mathematics their senior year. Mathematics credits earned before Grade 9 for students earning a General Diploma do not subtract from the four math credits required for this diploma. Those four math credits must be completed in grades 9-12.</p> <p><u>Note regarding world languages:</u> Beginning with students entering high school in fall 2006, World Language credits earned before Grade 9 must appear on the high school transcript to count toward the World Language credits required for Core 40 with Academic Honors.</p> <p><i>For NCAA eligibility purposes, courses taken in the eighth grade may not be used to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements although a process to waive this rule is available.</i></p> |
| 8 | Do students still have to take science credits from multiple disciplines? | Yes. All students are required to earn science credits in more than one (1) of the major science discipline categories, which are life science, physical science, and earth and space science. |
| 9 | What is a career-academic sequence? | <p>Career-academic sequences are recommended for all students and are required for those students completing the General Diploma.</p> <p>A career-academic sequence encourages a student to select electives in a deliberate manner to take full advantage of career exploration and preparation opportunities while in high school. Career-academic sequences are flexible, defined by local school corporations, and designed to help students explore and prepare for specific career areas or groups of related occupations.</p> <p>Sample career-academic sequences may be found at: www.doe.state.in.us/octe/facs/CrrClstrGrid.html</p> |
| 10 | When is the career academic sequence requirement waived? | <p>Student's opting out of Core 40 before the end of Grade 11 are required to complete all requirements for the General Diploma including the career-academic sequence.</p> <p>Students opting out of Core 40 after their 11th grade year must complete all requirements for the General Diploma with the career-academic sequence requirement waived.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This waiver allows students who switch to the General Diploma curriculum at the end of their 11th grade year to graduate with their class. • This waiver allows out-of-state students who transfer to Indiana following the 11th grade year to graduate with their class. |
| 11 | What are the three new course options that are noted in the new requirements? | <p>The following courses and descriptions have been added:</p> <p>Geography and History of the World Students develop and use the six elements of geography to better understand current events and issues facing the world today. These elements are: The World in Spatial Terms, Places and Regions, Physical Systems, Human Systems, Environment and Society, and the Uses of Geography. Students will demonstrate an understanding of these elements of geography in a context of world history, primarily from the year 1450 to the present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prerequisite: None • A two (2) credit course <p>Note: This new two-semester course will be taught by a licensed world geography teacher. A draft version of the standards is available at http://mustang.doe.state.in.us/dg/standards/DL-GeoHistory.cfm. Voluntary professional development for teachers of this course will be offered by the Department of Education summer 2006.</p> <p>Career Exploration Internship The Career Exploration Internship course is a paid or unpaid work experience in the public or private sector that provides for workplace learning in an area of student career interest. During the work experience, students are exposed to all aspects of a particular industry or career cluster area by</p> |

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| | | <p>rotating through various departments. In addition to their workplace learning, students participate in 1) regularly scheduled meetings with their supervising teacher, or 2) a regularly scheduled seminar with the supervising teacher, for the purpose of helping the student make the connection between academic learning and their work-related experiences. A learning agreement outlines the expectations of all parties – the student, parent, employer, and instructor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prerequisite: None • A two-four (2-4) credit course • This course may be taken for successive semesters to enable students to explore additional aspects of a career area. • Seventy-five (75) hours of experience at the worksite is required for one (1) credit. • It is recommended that this course be offered for two (2) credits in one (1) semester to enhance the learning experience. <p>Advanced Career-Technical Education, College Credit Advanced Career-Technical Education, College Credit is a title covering (1) any advanced career-technical education course offered for credit by an accredited postsecondary institution through an adjunct agreement with a secondary school or (2) any other postsecondary career-technical course offered for dual credit under the provisions of 511 IAC 6-10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prerequisite: Six (6) credits in career-academic sequence • A two (2) credit course |
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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Core 40 Diploma

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| 12 | What changes have been made to the requirements for a Core 40 Diploma? | <p>The Core 40 Diploma has been in place since 1994 and in 2005 68% of Indiana’s high school graduates earned this diploma. The changes in the requirements for a Core 40 Diploma are minimal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social studies credits must include two (2) credits in World History and Civilization or two (2) credits in Geography and History of the World (a new course). Students may not satisfy this requirement by taking one (1) credit in World History and Civilization plus one (1) credit in Geography and History of the World credit. The new Core 40 Diploma does not allow the one-semester Geography credit to count for the Core 40 social studies requirement, however, schools may still offer the one-semester Geography course for elective credit. 2. The new Core 40 Diploma requires students to take (5) five “directed elective” credits in any combination from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Languages • Fine Arts • Career - Technical 3. Students are required to take a mathematics or physics course during their junior or senior year. |
| 13 | Why are students <u>required</u> to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year? | <p>Students are required to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year because using mathematics throughout high school is important for success in college and the workforce. Students who do not continue learning and applying mathematics skills during high school often have to take remedial (high school) courses in college or spend unnecessary time being retrained by employers.</p> <p>In addition to taking a mathematics course, taking Physics I or a higher level physics course (not including Integrated Chemistry-Physics) fulfills this new requirement.</p> |
| 14 | Can a student taking physics during the junior or senior year count it as a math course? | No. Although physics courses contain significant mathematics content, they are considered science courses only and therefore cannot fulfill Core 40 math course requirements. |
| 15 | What is a “Directed Elective?” | <p>Directed electives give students opportunities to explore areas other than English, mathematics, social studies and science. Five (5) directed electives are required for the Core 40 diploma. Directed electives can be any combination of electives from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Languages • Fine Arts • Career - Technical |

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| 16 | What changes have been made to the health curriculum requirement? | <p>Changes to this requirement are being made in two steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The course title will be changed to Health and Wellness (anticipated action March 2006). 2. The standards for this course are currently being updated to include greater emphasis on lifelong health and wellness. The draft standards will be available on the Department of Education website for public review and comment Aug-Sept 2006 with anticipated adoption in October 2006. |
| 17 | Can a student graduate with less than Core 40? | <p>Current high school students and students who enter high school in the fall 2006 are encouraged to complete Core 40 but may earn a General Diploma.</p> <p>Beginning with students who enter high school in fall 2007 (graduating class of 2011), the completion of Core 40 becomes an Indiana graduation requirement. To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) meet to discuss the student's progress. • The student's career and course plan is reviewed. • The student's parent or guardian determines if the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum. • If the decision is made to opt-out of Core 40, the student is required to complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma and the career-academic sequence that the student will pursue is determined. |
| 18 | How is the opt-out process initiated? | <p>The opt-out process involves a meeting between the student's parent or guardian and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection). The opt-out process is initiated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian; • If the student does not pass at least three (3) courses required under the Core 40 curriculum; student's progress; or • If a student receives a score on the graduation examination that is in the twenty-fifth percentile or lower when the student takes the graduation examination for the first time. |
| 19 | What happens if the parent does not attend the opt-out meeting with the student and the student's guidance counselor? | <p>If the parent does not attend the opt-out meeting with the student and the student's counselor after receiving two (2) written requests to attend, the student and the student's counselor shall meet. The student's counselor shall make a recommendation to the student as to whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by continuing in the Core 40 curriculum or completing the general curriculum, and the student shall determine which curriculum the student will complete.</p> |
| 20 | Are special education students subject to the Core 40 graduation requirement? | <p>A decision with regard to whether a student who is a child with a disability (as defined in IC 20-35-1-2) is subject to the Core 40 graduation requirement shall be made in accordance with the student's individualized education program and federal law.</p> |

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma

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| 21 | What changes were made to the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma? | <p>The following additional requirement was added:</p> <p>Students earning the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma must complete <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two (2) Advanced Placement courses and corresponding AP exams - Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in six (6) college credits - One Advanced Placement course and corresponding AP exam and academic transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in three (3) college credits - Score 1200 or higher combined SAT math and critical reading* - Score a 26 composite ACT - An International Baccalaureate Diploma. <p><i>* SAT score requirements will be modified to include the addition of the writing section.</i></p> |
| 22 | Are the options in the Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors affordable for school systems and low-income students? | <p>Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning July 1994, all schools were required to offer Advanced Placement (AP) math and science courses for students who qualify (IC 20-10.1-22.2-5). The Indiana General Assembly has provided funding to support these courses and pay for exams. • School corporations receive \$900 per Academic Honors Diploma recipient. By law, the money must be used only for expenses "directly related to the school corporation's academic honors diploma program" or "the school corporation's program for high ability students. Schools have been receiving this funding since 1998. <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the Indiana General Assembly is providing funding for AP exams in math (Calculus and Statistics), and science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Environmental Science). Additionally, Title I funds are available for low-income students to take any AP exam. • Both College Board and ACT provide no-cost assessments for low-income students to take the SAT and ACT, respectively. |
| 23 | Do students have to earn a certain score on the AP test if they choose that option for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma? | <p>No. Since seniors receive the results of their AP exams in the summer following their senior year requiring a certain score for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma is not possible. Students choosing this option are required to take the AP exam, but are not required to earn a certain score because of the timing of these tests.</p> |
| 24 | When will the noted adjustment to the SAT benchmark score be made? | <p>The State is waiting on the College Board for additional information and anticipates that the new benchmark score will be identified fall 2006. The current SAT benchmark score (1200) is based on the SAT consisting of math and critical reading (verbal) with a maximum composite score of 1600.</p> <p>Adjustment to this benchmark score may be made to reflect the new SAT test consisting of math, critical reading, and writing. The new SAT was administered for the first time in March 2005 with a maximum composite score of 2600.</p> |

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| 25 | What are “academic, transferable dual high school/college courses” as referred to in the requirements for a Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma? | <p>“Academic” refers to courses that typically are taken by college students in their first two years of study. These courses generally are liberal arts courses that are taken by all college students regardless of college major or course of study.</p> <p>“Transferable” refers to the ability of a specific course to be accepted for credit at <u>any</u> Indiana public college or university. In order for a course to be transferable, it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply toward meeting the degree requirements of the institution offering the course in the same way as the on-college campus course; and • Transfer to the other Indiana public colleges and universities, in the same way as the on-college campus course. <p>Action by the 2005 General Assembly requires the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in consultation with the Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC), to establish a statewide Core Transfer Library by July 1, 2007. The Core Transfer Library will consist of 70 college courses (each course will transfer in and apply toward meeting the general education degree requirements in the same way as the receiving college's equivalent course). Courses in the Library will emphasize the most frequently taken college courses and will be drawn primarily from liberal arts coursework, but also include introductory courses in technical, professional, and occupational fields. The Commission and STAC have already identified and are now updating the course equivalencies for 39 of the 70 courses in the Core Transfer Library. The Commission and STAC are working to identify and complete the work on the remaining 31 courses in the Library no later than July 1, 2007.</p> |
| 26 | What mathematics courses can a student take to fulfill the two (2) additional Core 40 math credits required for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma? | <p>Currently courses that will meet this requirement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probability and Statistics; • Discrete Mathematics; • Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry; • Calculus AB, Advanced Placement; • Calculus BC, Advanced Placement; • Statistics, Advanced Placement; and • Advanced Mathematics, College Credit |

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma

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| 27 | What are the requirements for the new Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma? | <p>In addition to meeting the Core 40 requirements, students who earn the Core 40 with Technical Honors must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all requirements for Core 40. • Complete a career-technical program (related sequence of 8-10 career-technical credits) • Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma. • Have a grade point average of “B” or above. • Complete state recognized certification requirements* by completing <u>two</u> of the options below, one of which must be A or B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Take WorkKeys, an industry-driven assessment, and score at or above a designated level on each of the three core readiness subject areas (mathematical reasoning, reading for information, and locating information) B. Technical, transferable dual high school /college credit courses resulting in 6 college credits** C. Professional career internship or cooperative education** D. A state approved industry recognized certification** <p>*Anticipated—State Board action to be complete fall 2006. **Must be in the career-technical program area of study.</p> |
| 28 | May a student complete both the Core 40 with Academic Honors and the Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas? | Yes. |

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the General Diploma

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| 29 | What changes were made to the requirements for a General Diploma? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biology I is required. 2. Five (5) flex credits are required in any combination from the list provided in Question 13. 3. The completion of a career-academic sequence is required. (See Question 14). |
| 30 | What are "Flex Credits" as required for the General Diploma?" | <p>Flex credits are required for the General Diploma and must be selected from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional courses to extend the career-academic sequence • Courses involving workplace learning, which may include the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Career Exploration Internship (new course) - Professional Career Internships - Business Cooperative Experiences - Cooperative Family & Consumer Sciences - Industrial Cooperative Training - Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education - Marketing Field Experience • Advanced Career-Technical Education, College Credit (new course) • Additional courses in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, world languages, and fine arts |

Frequently Asked Questions about the Core 40 College Admissions Requirement

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| 31 | Is Core 40 an admissions requirement to attend a public four-year university in Indiana? | <p>Yes. The Indiana General Assembly passed a law in 2005 that makes Core 40 (or documented equivalent) a minimum requirement for admission to Indiana four-year public universities effective fall 2011. This is consistent with the first class required to complete Core 40 as a high school graduation requirement.</p> <p>Most Indiana public four-year universities already expect Core 40 completion as a minimum admissions requirement</p> <p><i>(Note: Core 40 is considered the minimum - universities may have additional admissions requirements.)</i></p> <p>Students not completing Core 40, but wishing to attend a public four-year university need to prove they are prepared to succeed in credit bearing college coursework. They can do this by applying for acceptance as a transfer student upon successful completion of at least twelve (12) credit hours of college-level courses with at least a "C" average or the equivalent in each course.</p> |
| 32 | Is Core 40 required for admission to the state's 2-year colleges? | <p>No. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and Vincennes University remain open-door institutions. However, both institutions strongly recommend Core 40 as the best preparation for success in their programs. College-level work is rigorous and the technical and professional programs offered at these institutions also demand students have the solid reading, writing, math and science preparation provided by Core 40.</p> |

Changes to the Graduation Qualifying Exam Requirement

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| 33 | What changes have been made to the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) Requirement? | <p>Legislation passed in 2005 and clarified in legislation passed in 2006 immediately adds a “Work-readiness Waiver” (retroactive July 1, 2005) and eliminates the Core 40 Waiver beginning July 1, 2011.</p> <p>With these changes, there are the following four ways to meet the GQE Requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passing the Mathematics and English/Language Arts portions of the ISTEP+/GQE; or 2. Fulfilling the requirement for the Core 40 Waiver (until July 1, 2011); or 3. Fulfilling the requirements for a GQE “Evidence-based” Waiver (see below); or 4. Fulfilling the requirement for a GQE “Work-readiness” Waiver (see below). <p><u>GQE “Evidence-based” Waiver</u> <i>(No change to current waiver provision)</i></p> <p>A student who does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination may be eligible to graduate if the student does all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Takes the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one (1) time every school year after the school year in which the student first takes the graduation examination; (2) Completes remediation opportunities provided to the student by the student's school; (3) Maintains a school attendance rate of at least ninety-five percent (95%) with excused absences not counting against the student's attendance; (4) Maintains at least a "C" average or the equivalent in the courses comprising the credits specifically required for graduation by rule of the state board; (5) Otherwise satisfies all state and local graduation requirements; and (6) Obtain a written recommendation from a teacher of the student in each subject area in which the student has not achieved a passing score on the graduation examination. The written recommendation must be concurred by the principal of the student's school and be supported by documentation that the student has attained the academic standard in the subject area based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (A) tests other than the graduation examination; or (B) classroom work. <p><u>GQE “Work-readiness” Waiver</u> <i>(New waiver provision)</i></p> <p>A student who does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination may be eligible to graduate if the student does all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Takes the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one (1) time every school year after the school year in which the student first takes the graduation examination; (2) Completes remediation opportunities provided to the student by the student's school; (3) Maintains a school attendance rate of at least ninety-five percent (95%) with excused absences not counting against the student's attendance; (4) Maintains at least a "C" average or the equivalent in the courses comprising the credits specifically required for graduation by rule of the state board; (5) Otherwise satisfies all state and local graduation requirements; and (6) Complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma, including the career academic sequence; a workforce readiness assessment; and, at least one (1) career exploration internship, cooperative education, or workforce credential recommended by the student's school. |
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Additional questions?

We will attempt to update this Q&A on a regular basis. Please let us know if you have additional questions at www.doe.state.in.us/htmls/forms/core40.html.

INDIANA CORE40 Your Academic Edge

Indiana's Core 40 curriculum helps you make the most of your high school years by providing the academic foundation you will need to succeed in college, apprenticeship programs, military training and the workforce. Here are some of the benefits of Core 40:

- **Challenging Courses = Big Rewards.** Students who take strong academic courses in high school are more likely to enroll in college and earn a degree. That's important, because higher education pays: On average, college graduates earn more than a million dollars more over a lifetime than those with only a high school education. High school graduates earn 42 percent more than high school dropouts. Core 40 pays.
- **More Career Options.** Good jobs require education beyond high school. That means if you want a job that will support you and your future family, provide health benefits and offer a chance for advancement, you'll need to complete a two- or four-year degree, apprenticeship program, military training, or workforce certification. If you are planning to go directly to work after high school graduation, you will still need to be prepared for training and retooling throughout your lifetime. Core 40 gives you more options — and more opportunities — to find a career with a real future.
- **What Employers and Training Programs Want.** Employers, apprenticeship programs and the military all agree — they expect you to arrive with essential skills, including speaking and writing clearly, analyzing information, conducting research, and solving complex problems. The expectations are the same: You need Core 40.
- **Preparation for College Success.** It's not just about getting in — it's about finishing. To succeed in college-level work, students need to complete Core 40 in high school. Anything less may mean taking remedial (high school) coursework in college, which means it will take you longer to finish and will cost you more in college tuition. It also means you'll have a greater chance of dropping out before you get your degree. That's why Core 40 is a college admissions requirement: In fall 2011 you won't be able to start at a four-year public Indiana college without Core 40 (or a documented equivalent). Most private colleges require students to have at least this level of high school academic preparation. Core 40 is your best preparation for success.
- **Money for College.** The Core 40 diploma can help you earn money for college. Indiana students who complete a Core 40 diploma and meet other financial aid and grade requirements can receive up to 90 percent of approved tuition and fees at eligible colleges. Core 40 with Academic Honors graduates can receive up to 100 percent and some colleges also offer their own scholarships specifically for students who earn this diploma.

Succeeding With Core 40

Core 40 becomes Indiana's required high school curriculum in fall 2007. Students entering high school at that time will be expected to complete Core 40 as a graduation requirement.

By providing all Indiana students a balanced sequence of academically rigorous high school courses in the core subjects of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies; physical education/health and wellness; and electives including world languages, career/technical, and fine arts, the Core 40 requirement gives all our students the opportunity to compete with the best. That's great news for Indiana students.

To graduate with less than Core 40, a student must complete a formal opt-out process involving parental consent. See your school counselor for full details. For more information about Core 40 and your career and course plan, see your counselor and visit Learn More Resource Center at www.learnmoreindiana.org.



Effective beginning with students who enter high school in 2007–08

| Course and Credit Requirements | |
|--|---|
| English/ Language Arts | 8 credits |
| | Credits must include literature, composition, and speech |
| Mathematics | 6 credits |
| All students are required to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year. | 2 credits: Algebra I* 2 credits: Geometry* 2 credits: Algebra II* <i>(*or complete Integrated Math series I, II, and III for 6 credits.)</i> |
| Science | 6 credits |
| | 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: any Core 40 science course |
| Social Studies | 6 credits |
| | 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World |
| Directed Electives | 5 credits |
| | World Languages Fine Arts Career/Technical |
| Physical Education | 2 credits |
| Health and Wellness | 1 credit |
| Electives* | 6 credits <small>(Career Academic Sequence Recommended)**</small> |
| 40 Total State Credits Required | |

* Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years.

** All students are strongly encouraged to complete a Career Academic Sequences (selecting electives in a deliberate manner) to take full advantage of career exploration and preparation opportunities.

Schools may have additional local graduation requirement that apply to all students.

Effective beginning with students who enter high school in 2007–08

CORE40 with Academic Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

For the **Core 40 with Academic Honors** diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits.
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of “B” or above.
- Complete one of the following:
 - Two Advanced Placement courses and corresponding AP exams
 - Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits
 - One Advanced Placement course and corresponding AP exam and academic transferable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in 3 college credits
 - Score 1200 or higher combined SAT math and critical reading***
 - Score a 26 composite ACT
 - An International Baccalaureate Diploma.

***SAT requirements will be modified with the addition of the writing section.

CORE40 with Technical Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

For the **Core 40 with Technical Honors** diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Complete a career-technical program (related sequence of 8-10 career-technical credits)
- Earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of “B” or above.
- Complete state recognized certification requirements* by completing two of the options below, one of which must be A or B:
 - A. Take WorkKeys, an industry-driven assessment, and score at or above a designated level on each of the three core readiness subject areas (mathematical reasoning, reading for information, and locating information)
 - B. Technical, transferable dual high school /college credit courses resulting in 6 college credits**
 - C. Professional career internship or cooperative education**
 - D. A state approved industry recognized certification**

*Anticipated—State Board action to be complete fall 2006.

**Must be in the career-technical program area of study.

Effective beginning with students who enter high school in 2007–08

Indiana General High School Diploma

Beginning with students who enter high school in 2007–2008, the completion of Core 40 becomes an Indiana graduation requirement. Indiana’s Core 40 curriculum provides the academic foundation all students need to succeed in college and the workforce.

- To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:**
- The student, the student’s parent/guardian, and the student’s counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) meet to discuss the student’s progress.
 - The student’s career and course plan is reviewed.
 - The student’s parent/guardian determines whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum.
 - If the decision is made to opt-out of Core 40, the student is required to complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma and the career/academic sequence the student will pursue is determined.

Course and Credit Requirements

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| English/Language Arts | 8 credits |
| | Credits must include literature, composition and speech |
| Mathematics | 4 credits |
| | 2 credits: Algebra I or Integrated Mathematics I 2 credits: any math course |
| Science | 4 credits |
| | 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: any science course <i>(must come from either physical science or earth and space science)</i> |
| Social Studies | 4 credits |
| | 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: any social studies course |
| Physical Education | 2 credits |
| Health and Wellness | 1 credit |
| Career Academic Sequence* | 6 credits |
| Flex Credit | 5 credits |
| | To earn 5 Flex Credits a student must complete one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional courses to extend the career academic sequence • Courses involving workplace learning, which may include the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Career exploration internship ○ Professional career internship ○ Business cooperative experiences ○ Cooperative family and consumer sciences ○ Industrial cooperative education ○ Interdisciplinary cooperative education ○ Marketing field experience • High school/college dual credit courses • Additional courses in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language Arts ○ Social Studies ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ World Languages ○ Fine Arts |
| Electives** | 6 credits |

40 Total State Credits Required

*Career Academic Sequence – Selecting electives in a deliberate manner to take full advantage of career exploration and preparation opportunities.
 ** Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years. Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students.