

Montana Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in Montana during the 2005 or 2006 calendar years are:

- ***A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.*** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, Geometry, or Data Analysis and Statistics);
 - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - One year of a foreign language.

- ***Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.*** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.

- ***Montana Rigorous Core.*** This program requires:
 - Four credits of English (Written and oral communication skills, literature; a college-prep composition or research-writing course is recommended);
 - Four credits of math (Algebra I, II geometry (or the sequential content equivalent of these courses, i.e., three levels of Integrated Mathematics. A course beyond Algebra II or beyond Integrated Math III (such as Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Computer Math, Integrated Math IV). All with grades of C or better);
 - Three credits of science (general, physical or earth science; biology; chemistry or physics);
 - Three credits of social studies (Global studies (world history, world geography), American history, government, economics, American Indian history or other third-year courses. (Recommendation: one half year or more of other courses such as psychology, humanities);
 - Three credits of electives (Recommendations: 2 years of a second language, music, fine arts, speech/debate, career and technical education (such as information technology, computer science)).