

North Carolina Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

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

- ***The State Scholars Initiative requirements.*** This program, currently offered in North Carolina and twenty-one other States and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of math (including Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry);
 - Three years of lab science (biology, chemistry, physics);
 - Three-and-one-half years of social studies; and
 - Two years of a language other than English.

- ***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.

- ***North Carolina College/University Preparation Course of Study.*** This program requires:
 - Four English Language Arts Credits
 - Four Mathematics Credits (Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, and a higher-level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III, and a credit beyond Integrated Mathematics III)
 - Three Science Credits (A physical science course, biology, earth/environmental Science)
 - Three Social Studies Credits
 - One Health/Physical Education Credit
 - Two Second Language Credits (2 credits in the same language) or Demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English as determined by the LEA
 - Three Elective Credits