

Massachusetts
Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

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

- ***The Massachusetts Certificate of Mastery***
- ***Massachusetts Scholars.*** This program, part of the national State Scholars Initiative 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.
- ***Massachusetts Board of Higher Education Admissions Criteria.*** This program requires:
 - Four credits of English;
 - Three credits of math (Algebra I and II and geometry or trigonometry, or comparable coursework);
 - Three credits of science (including 2 lab sciences);
 - Two credits of social studies (including 1 course in U.S. History); and
 - Two years of foreign language (2 years in the same language).