

**Arkansas**  
**Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study**

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

- ***The Arkansas Academic Challenge Core Curriculum***
- ***Arkansas 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 units of English
  - Three units of math
  - Three units of science
  - Minimum state requirements for social studies
  - Finish the balance of state mandated high school graduation requirements
  - Earn grade of “C” or above in all courses and achieve 95% or better attendance record (average over 4 years)
  - Finish high school in 8 consecutive semesters
- ***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.
- ***Arkansas Coursework Option.*** This program requires passing grades in the following:
  - Four units of English;
  - Three units of math (at least one (1) in algebra or its equivalent and one (1) unit of geometry or its equivalent. All units must build on the base of algebra and geometry base knowledge and skills. A two-year algebra equivalent and a two-year geometry equivalent may be counted as two units of the three (3) unit requirement.);
  - Three units of science (at least one (1) in biology or its equivalent and one (1) in a physical science);
  - Three units of social studies (at least one (1) unit of world history, one (1) unit of U.S. history, and one half (1/2) unit of civics or government); and
  - Complete the balance of state mandated high school graduation requirements.