

Kentucky Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in Kentucky during the 2007 calendar year are:

- ***The Kentucky Commonwealth Diploma***
- ***Kentucky Scholars.*** This program, part of the State Scholars Initiative currently and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:
 - Four credits of English (English I-V)
 - Three credits of math (including Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry)
 - Three credits of science (biology, chemistry, physics)
 - Three credits of social studies (chosen from U.S. History/1.0, World History/1.0, World Geography/1.0, Economics/0.5, Government/0.5)
 - Two credits of the same foreign language.
- ***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.
- ***Kentucky PreCollege Curriculum.*** This program requires:
 - English/Language Arts – 4 credits required – English I, English II, English III, English IV (or AP English)
 - Mathematics – 3 credits required – Algebra I, Algebra II
 - Science – 3 credits required – credits to include life science, physical science, and earth/space science (at least one lab course)
 - Social Studies – 3 credits required – From U.S. History, Economics, Government, World Geography and World Civilization
 - Health -- .5 credit required
 - Physical Education -- .5 credit required
 - History and Appreciation of Visual, Performing Arts – 1 credit required – History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts or another arts course that incorporates such content

- Foreign Language – 2 credits required – or demonstrated competency
- Electives – 5 credits required – (3 rigorous)
- ***High Schools That Work (HSTW) Award of Educational Achievement.*** Students must complete the HSTW-recommended curriculum in at least two of the three subject areas; complete a concentration in a career/technical field, mathematics/science, or the humanities; and meet all three of the performance goals on the HSTW assessment.
 - The recommended curriculum consists of:
 - English: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses
 - Math: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses, including Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, and a higher-level mathematics course, such as trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus, or Advanced Placement mathematics.
 - Science: Three or more credits in science, including at least two credits in college-preparatory biology, chemistry, anatomy/physiology, or physics/applied physics.
 - The concentrations consist of:
 - Career/Technical: Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in a career/technical field or major.
 - Mathematics/Science: Four college-preparatory courses each in mathematics and science. At least one higher-level course in either mathematics or science must be at the Advanced Placement level.
 - Humanities: Four college-preparatory courses each in English/language arts and social studies and four courses in an area of the humanities, such as foreign language, fine arts, or additional English and social studies courses. At least one course in either English or social studies must be at the Advanced Placement level.
 - Performance Goals:
 - The performance goals on the HSTW assessment are a 279 in reading, a 297 in mathematics, and a 299 in science on a scale of 0-500.