

Mississippi Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

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

- ***Mississippi Scholars.*** This program, part of the national State Scholars Initiative currently offered in Mississippi and twenty-one other States and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:
 - Four credits in English (English I, II, III and IV)
 - Three credits in mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry)
 - Three credits of science (one credit in Biology I; one credit in Chemistry I; one credit in Physics or one credit or two half credits from MDE-approved lab-based science courses)
 - Four credits in social studies (one credit each of World History and U.S. History, and ½ credits in World Geography, Mississippi Studies, U.S. Government, and Economics)
 - Two credits in a language other than English (Foreign Language I and II)
 - Completion of any remaining state-mandated high school graduation requirements.

- ***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.

- ***Mississippi Dual Enrollment Program of Study.*** This program of study requires a student to complete two dual enrollment/dual credit courses (3 semester hours per course) in the core academic subjects of English, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography with a grade of C or higher.