

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

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

- ***The Louisiana Academic Endorsement to the Standard Diploma***
- ***Louisiana State 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;
  - Two years of a language other than English;
  - One year of Fine Arts Survey; and
  - One-half year of Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer.
- ***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.
- ***Louisiana's TOPS/Regents High School Core Curriculum.*** This program requires:
  - Four years of English;
  - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and II);
  - Three years of Science (including Biology and Chemistry);
  - Three years of Social Studies, Civics and Free Enterprise;
  - One year of Fine Arts Survey (or performance, dance, theater, visual or student arts courses);
  - Two years of the same foreign language; and
  - One-half year of computer science course work.

- ***Standard Diploma with Career and Technical Endorsements, for those students who have completed the TOPS/Regents High School Core Curriculum.*** This program requires the same coursework as identified in the TOPS/Regents High School Core Curriculum, in addition to the Standard Diploma with Career and Technical Endorsements:
  - Four years of English;
  - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and II);
  - Three years of Science (including Biology and Chemistry);
  - Three years of Social Studies, Civics and Free Enterprise;
  - One year of Fine Arts Survey (or performance, dance, theater, visual or student arts courses);
  - Two years of the same foreign language; and
  - One-half year of computer science course work