

Choosing your Courses, Endorsement, and Planning for Life

Foundation Plan
22 Credits
Only Available After the 10th
Grade

Foundation with An
Endorsement
26 Credits
SWISD Default

Selecting Courses—House Bill 5 was passed by the Texas Legislature to give students the options to pursue an endorsement based on their interests and possible careers. Students must choose an endorsement upon entering 9th grade, but they may change it at any time during high school. This is great for students but it also requires students to give some serious thought to their choices. **Students should select the most challenging core courses to allow them the most flexibility if they should decide to change endorsements.**

When selecting courses and an endorsement; students should consider the following questions:

- Which subjects do I enjoy and/or am I interested in?
- Am I challenging myself academically?
- What is my goal for the end of high school?
- Are my study habits good or do I need to improve?
- What do my teachers recommend?
- Which combination of courses will give me a strong foundation and keep as many doors open as possible?
- What are the course requirements for the post-high school institutions I am interested in?

The Foundation Plan with Endorsements has many options—

- You may pursue an endorsement AND participate in co-curricular electives. (Such as Band, Athletics, etc.)
- You may earn more than one Endorsement.
- You may change your endorsement at any time, but the closer one gets to graduation the fewer options exist to change your endorsement **and** graduate on time.
- Take P-AP, Advanced Placement, or Dual Credit courses to increase your post –secondary opportunities
- Some additional courses may be required for students who do not successfully complete their STAAR EOC exams.

The Key to Pursuing the Endorsement you desire is

PLANNING!

Begin with the End in Mind

www.tea.state.tx.us/graduation.aspx

Distinguished—
Eligible for Top 10% Admission

- Complete at least one endorsement
- 4th Math to include Alg 2
- 4th Science Credit

Performance
Acknowledgements

- In Dual Credit Courses
- In bilingualism and biliteracy
- On an AP exam
- On the PSAT, SAT, or ACT
- For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

Checklist for
Post-Secondary
Training/Education

Testing

- PSAT
- SAT / ACT
- Advanced Placement

Post-Secondary Preparation

- Higher Ed Developmental Courses
- Dual Credit
- Advanced Placement

Post-Secondary Applications

- Apply Texas Application
- Common Application
- Community College
- Military Recruiter
- Technical School

Financial Aid

- FAFSA
- Scholarships
- Community College
- Military Recruiter
- Technical School

Financial Aid

- FAFSA
- Scholarships