

Louisiana Believes

TOPS Core Curriculum

For students graduating 2018 and thereafter

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Objective:

The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of the changes in the TOPS Core Curriculum for Louisiana students graduating in 2018 and thereafter.

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ACT 359

- ACT 359 takes effect with the graduating class of 2018. This legislation ensures that students going to four-year colleges have taken a college preparatory curriculum while in high school and have every chance possible to receive TOPS.
- Additionally, it creates incentives for students to take more rigorous **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/Board of Regents approved AP, IB, GT, and dual enrollment courses** by giving courses approved by the state additional weight in the calculation of the TOPS GPA.

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English Requirements

| ENGLISH = 4 Units | Courses |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Unit | English I |
| 1 Unit | English II |
| 1 Unit from the following: | English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance) |
| 1 Unit from the following: | English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance) |

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Math Requirements

| MATH = 4 Units | Courses |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Unit | Algebra I |
| 1 Unit | Geometry |
| 1 Unit | Algebra II |
| | (Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence) |
| 1 Unit from the following: | Algebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL |

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Science Requirements

| SCIENCE = 4 Units | Courses |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 Unit | Biology I |
| 1 Unit | Chemistry I |
| 2 Units from the following: | Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II |

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Social Studies Requirements

| SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 Units | Courses |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Unit from the following: | U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB History |
| ½ Unit from the following: | Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States |
| ½ Unit from the following: | Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics |
| | (One unit of Civics may be substituted for the two ½ units above) |
| 2 Units from the following: | Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics |

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Foreign Language Requirements

| Foreign Language* = 2 Units | Courses |
|---|---|
| <i>*Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include the following:</i> | Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, and IB Spanish V |

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Arts Requirements

| ART = 1 Unit | Courses |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Unit from the following: | Performance course in Music, Dance or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III and IV; Talented Art I, II, III and IV; Talented Music I, II, III and IV; Talented Theater Arts I,II, III and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV; or IB Theatre I |

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Beginning with the students entering the 9th grade in 2014-2015 and graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, the calculation of the TOPS Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will use a five – (5.00) point scale for grades earned in the following **BESE/Board of Regents approved courses** used to complete the TOPS Core Curriculum:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Gifted and Talented
- Dual Enrollment

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Currently, the LDOE, Board of Regents, LOSFA, and the key stakeholders are working collaboratively to designate the courses that will be calculated on the five- (5.00) scale. For such courses, the following quality points will be assigned:

- *Letter Grade "A" = 5 quality points*
- *Letter Grade "B" = 4 quality points*
- *Letter Grade "C" = 3 quality points*
- *Letter Grade "D" = 2 quality points*
- *Letter Grade "F" = 0 quality points*

Note that students earning credit in courses graded on the five (5.00) point scale may earn a grade point average on the TOPS Core Curriculum that exceeds 4.00.

NEXT STEPS

For more information on the TOPS Core Curriculum and/or weighted GPA course recommendations, please email Ken.Bradford@La.Gov.

For a copy of the TOPS Core Curriculum presentation, please send your request to Tristen.Guillory@La.Gov.