

Minimum College Admission Standards

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Background

The HECB Education Committee and SBE Executive Committee met on June 2, 2010 to:

1. Explore ways for the two policy Boards to work together to keep the state moving forward on shared goals.
2. Consider ways to align high school graduation requirements and college admission requirements.

A second meeting was held August 24 to discuss **five general areas of interest** identified in the June meeting.

Five Areas of Common Interest

1. The courses required in the core curriculum to meet both high school graduation and college admission expectations.
2. A common set of credits required for high school graduation and college admission.
3. Possibility of counting high school courses to satisfy college entry requirements.
4. Possible demonstration of competency to satisfy requirements.
5. A common timeline for implementation.

SBE Provisional Standards

On September 15, 2010 the State Board of Education provisionally adopted revised graduation requirements for 2016.

- **Revised requirements exceed current HECB admission requirements**
- **Questions remain about funding**
- **Legislature must adopt standards**

What's Changed?

As approved by SBE 2010.09.15

Subject	2013	2016
English	3	4
Math	3	3
Science	2 (1 lab)	3 (2 labs)
Social Studies	2.5	3**
Arts	1	2 (1* in HSBP)
World Language	0	2*
Health & Fitness	2	Health .5, Fitness 1.5*
Occupational Education	1	1
Career Concentration		2*
Electives	5.5	2*
Total:	20	24

*Based on the high school and beyond plan, the following substitutions may be made: Arts-1 credit; World Languages-2 credits; Health/Fitness-1.5 credits of physical education (per law); Career Concentration-2 credits.

**Up to 2 credits could be waived by local administrators for students who have failed a class and taken the appropriate credit recovery classes to regain the credit.

Graduation Requirements Class of 2016

Career and College Ready As approved by SBE 2010.09.15

Mandatory		Student Choice	
Core Courses	Credits	HSBP*	Credits
English	4	Arts	2*
Math	3	World Languages	2*
Science	3	Fitness	1.5*
Social Studies	3	Career Concentration	2*
Art	1	Electives	2*
Occupational Ed.	1	Health	.5*
Health	.5		

 Meets or exceeds HECB minimum subject requirements

Summary 24 credits**

Culminating Project

At the end of 8th grade students would be automatically enrolled in a career or college program of study, one that prepares them for both career options and four-year public college admissions unless they substitute courses according to their HSPB.

* May substitute per HSPB.

** Up to two credits could be waived by local administrators for students who have failed a class and taken the appropriate credit recovery classes to regain the credit. Students must earn the designated credit in the mandatory subjects.

NOTE: Private schools must meet the state mandatory requirements. Private schools may elect to use career concentration and electives for their local requirements (RCW 298.195.010).

Automatic Enrollment

At the end of 8th grade, students would be enrolled in a high school program of study that would automatically include these prescribed subjects (unless substituted per the HSBP):

English — 4

Math — 3

Science — 3

Social Studies — 3

Health — .5

Fitness — 1.5*

Arts — 2

World Languages — 2

Career Concentration — 2

Occ. Ed — 1

Electives — 2

Total = 24

*Based on the high school and beyond plan, the following substitutions may be made: Arts-1 credit; World Languages-2 credits; Health/Fitness-1.5 credits of physical education (per law); Career Concentration-2 credits.

Improve alignment and college readiness

Improving alignment between high school and four-year public college admission requirements also requires changes in the minimum admission standards

- **Add a third credit in science.**
- **Add an additional credit of fine, visual, and performing art.***
- **Recommend a high school course of study that matches the revised state requirements.**

*Based on the high school and beyond plan, the following substitutions may be made: Arts-1 credit; World Languages-2 credits; Health/Fitness-1.5 credits of physical education (per law); Career Concentration-2 credits.

Emphasize competencies rather than defined “seat time;” allow for use of competency-based assessment in the admission process

- Express HECB support for the change in SBE requirements. Would not require a policy change in the minimum admission requirements.
- Allow courses to count “2 for 1” when the courses are meeting one academic requirement and one elective requirement.
- Support the use of competency-based assessment to meet requirements.
- Allow high school requirements to be met in middle school.

Additional “Housekeeping” Issues

- The final document outlining admission changes must provide a complete articulation of current policy.
- The approved policy must establish a timeline for implementation of changes.
- Change the requirement for three College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) courses per year to a ***recommendation*** of three CADR courses per year.
- Provide HECB staff the latitude to make specified modifications to the policy.
- Establish a standard mechanism for assessing applicability of courses offered through nontraditional means to satisfy CADR requirements (e.g., distance education, online courses).
- Replace language related to WASL substitution for first two years of English and math with appropriate language for the High School Proficiency Exam.

Other discussion items requiring further development

- Incorporate college readiness definitions in high school and college admission requirements.
- Allow for alternatives to Algebra II.
- Statewide implementation of SAT or ACT testing.
- Exemption from high school graduation and college admission standards for students who complete an International Baccalaureate or Cambridge diploma.

Proposed Changes to Minimum College Admission Requirements

Credit Requirements	Graduating Class of 2013 Minimum State High School graduation requirements	Higher Education Coordinating Board College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR)	Draft Proposed SBE and HECB Common Requirements ¹	
Subject Areas	Credits	Credits	Credits	
English	3	4	4	
Mathematics	2 3 for class of 2013 and beyond	3 Algebra 2 or Integrated III	3 Algebra 2, Integrated III, or higher level math	
Senior Year Math-Based Quantitative Course		1 Math or Algebra Based Science	1 ² Math or Algebra Based Science	
Science	2 one must be a lab	2 both lab science --1 algebra-based, 1 in biology, chemistry, or physics	3 2 lab science --1 algebra-based and 1 in biology, chemistry, or physics	
Social Sciences	2.5	3	3	
World Languages		2	2 ²	
Arts	1 Visual or performing arts	1 Fine, visual, or performing arts	2 ³ Fine, visual, or performing arts	
State Board of Education Additional Requirements				
Occupational Education	1		1	Electives <i>May include: remaining HS distribution courses, additional subject area courses, philosophy or non-doctrinal religion</i>
Career Concentration			2 ²	
Health & Fitness	2		2 ⁴	
Electives	5.5		2	
TOTAL CREDITS	20	15-16	24⁵ See comment⁶	

¹ SBE requirements are based on provisionally approved recommendations – September 15, 2010.

² Substitutions could be made to satisfy HS graduation requirements based on an approved High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP). The HSBP includes a Culminating Project.

³ HECB would allow additional coursework in academic areas to be used to substitute for fine, visual or performing arts. One credit may be substituted to satisfy HS graduation requirements based on HSBP.

⁴ Includes .5 credit of Health as a Core Course for HS graduation and 1.5 credits of Fitness that may be substituted based on the HSBP.

⁵ Up to 2 credits could be waived by local administrators for students who have failed a class and taken the appropriate credit recovery classes to regain the credit. Students must earn designated credits in mandatory subjects.

⁶ The HECB recommends a high school curriculum that is aligned to the SBE graduation requirements. Currently the HECB defines a set of minimum College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) that are typically met in high school. The CADRs include specific courses that are commonly required for Admission to all public four-year institutions in Washington; they are not designed to represent a complete high school curriculum. A recommended course of study that includes coursework beyond the CADRs provides students with better and more consistent information about what is required for a well-rounded and meaningful high school course of study that will serve them in any postsecondary endeavor.

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Questions and Feedback

More information is available at:

www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp

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