

Freshman 101- Important Stuff to Know



1. Graduation & 4-Year Plans

- The Foundation + Endorsement with the Distinguished Level of achievement is our default graduation plan.
 - This plan requires a minimum of 26 credits, a completed endorsement, and Algebra II.
 - Your required foundation courses include:
 - 4 English credits
 - 4 Math credits (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, and an advanced Math)
 - 4 Science credits (Biology, 1 lab based science (IPC, Chemistry, or Physics), and 2 advanced Sciences)
 - 3-4 Social Studies credits (World Geography or World History, US History, Government/Economics)
 - 1 Fine Arts credit
 - 1 PE/Athletic credit
 - 2 World Language credits
 - 7 electives (including your endorsement electives)
 - Five endorsement options are available:
 - STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) *(requires Chemistry, Physics, and Algebra II)
 - Business & Industry
 - Public Services
 - Arts & Humanities
 - Multidisciplinary* *(requires Chemistry or Physics, and 4 Social Studies credits)
 - You can earn more than one endorsement. (LHS plans will include a 4th SS credit to ensure the Multi.Disc. 4x4)
 - Performance Acknowledgements are outstanding achievements that you complete throughout your high school career. These acknowledgements are documented on your transcript. A few examples include dual credit courses, AP scores of 3 or higher, IB scores of 4 or higher, exemplary scores on ACT & SAT exams, or earning an industry certification.
- ***To be competitive for admissions to selective colleges/universities, 4 credits in Social Studies and more than 2 credits in World Languages is often recommended. Please look into admissions requirements for prospective colleges/universities for more information as you plan classes for graduation.

2. Credits

- You earn a credit in each course that you pass (1/2 credit per semester).
- You can earn up to 8 credits per year.
- If you fail a required class (core or endorsement), you will lose the credit and must make up the course to recover the credit.
- Total credits earned determine what grade you are in. Promotion requirements are: Sophomore=5, Junior=10, Senior=15.
- If you fail a semester of a year-long class, you have the opportunity to recover that credit if your year-long average (semester 1 + semester 2) is 70% or higher.
- If you are absent more than 10% of a semester in any class, your credits can be denied.

3. Testing

- You must pass 5 STAAR EOC tests in order to graduate high school.
 - English 1 (9th grade)
 - Algebra 1 (8th or 9th grade)
 - Biology (9th grade)

- English 2 (10th grade)
- US History (10th or 11th grade)

Freshman 101- Important Stuff Continued...

4. GPA and Rank

- Grade Point Average (GPA) is a calculation used to determine student rankings in the class. Class rank and GPA are also important for college admissions. It is a cumulative reflection of your academic performance.
- Your GPA includes all high school credit bearing courses, including Algebra or World Language earned prior to 9th grade.
- GPA is calculated by adding grade points for each semester course then dividing by the total number of semester courses. GPA and Ranks are calculated each semester (September & January).
- Grade weight shall be applied to semester grades in eligible courses only in the core areas of English, math, science, and social studies. Only AP, IB, Pre-AP, Pre-IB, On Ramps, and dual credit courses in the four core subject areas are eligible for weight to be added.
- Weight will be applied to maximum of 8 (highest) semesters per eligible core subject area. See Lubbock ISD Course Offerings Book for more details and local policy.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher is required to graduate with Honors; 4.0 or higher is required to graduate with High Honors. This is calculated at the end of the 3rd nine weeks of senior year.
- Grade points are assigned to semester numerical values using the following grade point scale:

Grade	Weighted	Unweighted
97 and above	5.0	4.0
93–96	4.8	3.8
90–92	4.6	3.6
87–89	4.4	3.4
83–86	4.2	3.2
80–82	4.0	3.0
77–79	3.8	2.8
73–76	3.6	2.6
71–72	3.4	2.4
70	3.0	2.0
Below 70	0	0

5. Top 10%

- ✓ One of the reasons class rank is important is because if you graduate in the top 10% of your class, you are eligible for assured admissions to any public university in the state of Texas, except for UT at Austin, which requires top 6%-8% for assured admissions (depending on your graduating year). Currently, it is at 6%. Students must graduate under the distinguished grad. plan in order to be eligible for top 10% assured admissions.

6. PSAT

- The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) helps students prepare to take the SAT during the junior year.
- If a student scores high enough on the PSAT or SAT, they can use those test scores to be exempt from English or Math STAAR EOC exams if a student is not successful on passing the first attempt of the EOC exam.

- LISD pays for all Freshmen and Sophomores to take the PSAT and all Juniors to take the SAT during the school day. Juniors may opt into the PSAT in order to attempt to qualify for National Merit.
- You can create a College Board account (www.collegeboard.org) and link your scores to Khan Academy to create individualized test review at no cost. Research shows that students who spend time practicing on Khan Academy will have scores significantly increase in subsequent administrations.
- Students begin taking SAT and ACT during their junior year. Universities will use these scores for admissions and often for scholarship awards.

7. Financial Aid Graduation Requirement

Effective with the Class of 2022, all seniors must complete a financial aid form as part of graduation requirements per TEC 28.0256. If students are unable to complete the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) or the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA), they can speak with their counselor about completing an opt-out form in place. This graduation requirement will take place during senior year.

8. Endorsement Selection and Planning

The chart below entails the sequence or pathway of courses required to meet each endorsement. All students will be set up to earn at least one endorsement, but the ability to earn multiple is an option.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)	Business & Industry	Public Services	Arts & Humanities	Multidisciplinary
<p>Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics, and:</p> <p>A. Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) that consist of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course (level 3 or 4). The courses may be selected from all CTE career clusters. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the STEM career cluster; or</p> <p>B. Four credits in a coherent sequence in computer science selected from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science III • AP Computer Science Principles • AP Computer Science A • IB Computer Science SL or HL • Digital Forensics <p>C. Three credits in mathematics by successfully completing Algebra II and two additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; or</p> <p>D. Four credits in science by successfully completing Chemistry and Physics and two additional science courses; or</p> <p>E. In addition to Algebra II, Chemistry and Physics, three additional credits in a coherent sequence from (A), (B), (C), or (D) consisting of no more than two of the categories.</p>	<p>A. Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) that consist of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course (level 3 or 4). The courses may be selected from all CTE career clusters. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following career clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources • Architecture & Construction • Arts, Audio/Video Production & Communications • Business Marketing & Finance • Hospitality & Tourism • Information Technology • Manufacturing • Transportation, Distribution & Logistics; or <p>B. Four English credits to include three levels in one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Speaking • Debate • Advanced Journalism: Newspaper • Advanced Journalism: Yearbook <p>C. Four credits in a coherent sequence from (A) or (B) above</p>	<p>A. Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in career and technical education (CTE) that consist of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course (level 3 or 4). The courses may be selected from all CTE career clusters. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following career clusters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & Training • Health Science • Human Services • Law and Public Service; or <p>B. Four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)</p>	<p>A. Five social studies credits; or</p> <p>B. Four levels of the same language in a World Language; or</p> <p>C. Two levels of the same language in a World Language and two levels of a different language in a World Language; or</p> <p>D. Four credits in a coherent sequence by selecting courses in one or two disciplines in fine arts from art, dance, music, or theatre; or</p> <p>E. Four English elective credits selected from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English IV • Independent Study in English • Creative Writing • Research & Technical Writing • Humanities • AP English Literature & Composition • AP English Language & Composition • IB Language Studies A1 HL 	<p>A. Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence; or</p> <p>B. Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics; or</p> <p>C. Four credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, world languages or fine arts</p>

Helpful links to learn more about graduation requirements, college & career readiness, and financial aid:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/graduation-information>

