

Indiana New Diploma Requirements Course Recommendations for 4-Year College-Bound Students

Considering new Indiana high school diploma requirements starting with the Class of 2029, minimum admission requirements have been reviewed from a variety of institutions to understand how diploma changes may affect both student preparation and admissibility. The intent of the recommendations below is to help students maximize their 4-year college preparation and admission opportunities; however, they do not necessarily reflect the requirements or expectations of every college/university.

NOTE: *Students/Families are encouraged to review admission requirements at colleges of interest throughout their high school career to ensure their course choices will prepare them appropriately.*

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>English Recommendation</p> <p>Choose English courses with realistic rigor and personal interest/strengths in mind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly all colleges require 4 full years of English credit, which matches the new Indiana high school diploma requirements.
<p>Math Recommendation</p> <p>Complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum, and prioritize completion of four years of math while in high school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many colleges specify Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II as minimum admission requirements. Many colleges/majors require or expect math course completion beyond Algebra II, for students to be competitive applicants. Many competitive majors (STEM, Engineering, Nursing/Pharmacy, Business) prefer or require completion of precalculus or calculus. NOTE: Personal Finance would not be considered a math credit for admission at most colleges.
<p>Science Recommendation</p> <p>Complete Biology I, Chemistry I, and at least two additional credits in natural/physical sciences. (Students considering Engineering and STEM-related majors are encouraged to complete a Physics course.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many colleges specify completion of Chemistry I as a minimum admission requirement. Many colleges require two years of lab science. NOTE: Computer Science credits may not count as science credits at many colleges, even though they are considered science credits in Indiana.
<p>Social Studies Recommendation</p> <p>Complete three years of social studies coursework to include: World History, United States History, United States Government, and Economics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many colleges specify World History or World Geography as a minimum admission requirement. Many colleges require 3 years of social sciences coursework. NOTE: World Language courses will not count as social sciences credit at most colleges.
<p>World Language Recommendation</p> <p>Prioritize completion of two years of the same world language coursework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many colleges require at least two years of world language coursework, and more selective colleges often expect/require three or more years. Many colleges prefer world language courses completed within the same language.

<p>Fine/Performing Arts Recommendation</p> <p>Prioritize completing two credits of fine/performing arts coursework as part of the personalized elective credits required to graduate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While one credit of fine/performing arts is required, some colleges may require or encourage the completion of two credits in fine/performing arts coursework for admission.
<p>Major/Career Related Electives Recommendation</p> <p>Complete advanced core coursework (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages) and/or career concentrator pathway courses to allow for exploration of future interests and fulfillment of personalized elective credits. Students can earn more than the minimum required credits during their high school career. This leaves room for completion of additional electives and/or an Honors Seal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students not completing an Honors Seal option, will need to complete a post-secondary readiness competency that could include completion of a three-course career concentrator pathway. • NOTE: Many colleges value coursework that aligns with major/career-related interests, however NOT as a replacement for core academic course completion and preparation.
<p>Additional Recommendations/Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many college representatives agree that completion of the Enrollment Honors Seal requirements will largely satisfy minimum admission requirements AND prepare students for success at the college level. Exceptions include highly selective programs/colleges that may expect students to complete additional and/or more rigorous coursework to remain competitive applicants for admission. • Students interested in pursuing varsity athletics in college (DI, DII, NAIA, etc.) should be familiar with minimum eligibility requirements established by the governing athletic organization. NOTE: Some courses that count toward the Indiana high school diploma may not satisfy athletic eligibility requirements. Prioritizing completion of recommended core course credits will maximize student athletic eligibility at the college level. • Course selection that combines a demonstration of interest and preparation for a particular major area of study is positively regarded by colleges. Examples include economics for business majors; physics for engineering majors, advanced math and science courses for STEM majors, art and music courses for fine/performing arts majors, etc. even if not required to earn an Indiana diploma. • Students interested in pursuing Military Academy/ ROTC programs in college should pursue the Enrollment Honors Seal instead of or in addition to the Enrollment Honors Seal, to maximize academic preparation and admission/selection opportunities. 	