

Graduation and Endorsement Pathways

Elgin ISD Graduation Ceremony Participation and Diploma Requirements

Per FMH (LOCAL), to be eligible to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies, a student shall meet all state and local graduation requirements, including all applicable state testing.

In order to graduate from Elgin High School, students complete:

- The Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
- Pass all required state assessments (STAAR EOC Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, US History)
- Demonstrate proficiency in verbal and non-verbal communications as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as specified in TEC §74.38 and the required instruction on proper interaction with peace officers as specified in TEC §74.39

In addition, students have the unique opportunity to:

- Enhance their diplomas by earning the Distinguished Level of Achievement category, providing them with additional financial aid and college selection options
- Include Performance Acknowledgements that demonstrate outstanding achievement in several specific circumstances

A decision about participation in the ceremonies and arrangements for ordering cap and gown must be made prior to the last day of the first semester. It is the responsibility of the student to attend graduation rehearsal, pick up cap and gown, and invitations at the designated times. Students who graduate early and wish to participate in graduation exercises will be required to abide by the same school rules and regulations as other students. Diplomas shall be awarded at the end of the school year.

Foundation Graduation Program with Endorsements

To receive a high school diploma, students must complete the requirements of the Foundation High School Program with Endorsements. Under this program, students must earn at least 26 credits, including at least four credits from their chosen endorsement. Students are able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area. Students must select an endorsement in the ninth grade. Students may change their endorsement at any time prior to the end of their third year. Districts and charters are not required to offer all endorsements.

A student may earn any of the following endorsements:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Multidisciplinary Studies
- Public Services
- STEM

Additional information regarding endorsements can be found in the *Chart - Elgin ISD Graduation Requirements Summary* and the Endorsement Pathways for Graduation section of the course guide.

Distinguished Level of Achievement

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing the curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement, including four credits in science and four credits in mathematics to include Algebra II.

Performance Acknowledgements

Students can earn one or more Performance Acknowledgements, in addition to any graduation program they follow, for any of the areas listed below. Please talk to your school counselor for specific guidelines for each category.

- Dual credit course
- Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam performance
- Bilingualism and bi-literacy
- Earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license
- PSAT, ACT-PLAN, SAT, or ACT score

Early Graduation

Students who anticipate completing high school in fewer than four years must file an application for early graduation with the counselor's office. The application should be completed and filed by the end of the student's fall semester of their sophomore year. Students graduating early may participate in graduation ceremonies only if all graduation requirements are completed prior to the graduation ceremony. Students may not be ranked higher than 3rd in the senior class rank.

Transcript of Credits

Many schools and colleges require students to submit a copy of their high school record before entering. If students plan to move to another school district, students should request the registrar send the transcript to the new school at the time of withdrawal. If a student plans to attend college, the transcript should be requested early enough for receipt by the required college deadline. Transcripts will be sent only by request. Students under the age of 18, who want their test scores sent to a college, must have a parent signature of approval.

NCAA Guidelines

All high school athletes wishing to compete in college athletics must register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Center. Information about eligibility can be found in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.eligibilitycenter.com. Students who are interested in attending college on athletic scholarships should carefully select high school courses that qualify under the National Collegiate Athletic Association guidelines.

Chart – Elgin ISD Graduation Requirements Summary

	Foundation Graduation Program ¹	Foundation Graduation Program with Endorsements	Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) ²
English Language Arts	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV 	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV 	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV
Mathematics	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Advanced math course 	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Two advanced math courses 	4 Credits ³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Advanced math course
Science	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Advanced science course 	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Physics advanced science course 	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Physics advanced science course
Social Studies	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography World History US History US Government (0.5) and Economics (0.5) 	4 Credits ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography World History US History US Government (0.5) and Economics (0.5) 	4 Credits ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Geography World History US History US Government (0.5) and Economics (0.5)
Languages Other than English (LOTE)	2 credits ⁵ In the same language or computer programming language	2 credits ⁵ In the same language or computer programming language	2 credits ⁵ In the same language or computer programming language
Fine Arts	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	5 credits Including Speech (0.5)	7 credits Including Speech (0.5)	7 credits Including Speech (0.5)
Endorsements		Successful completion of courses required for student selected endorsement	Successful completion of courses required for student selected endorsement
Total Credits Required	At least 22	At least 27	At least 27

¹Foundation Graduation Program is only granted by permission of administration after student’s 10th grade year

²Distinguished Level of Achievement is EISD’s default graduation plan and is required for automatic college admission under the Texas Top 10% provisions

³EISD expects students to complete four years of math while in high school, even if students earn high school math credit in middle school

⁴While the state only requires three social studies credits, EISD recommends four social studies credits under these graduation plans

⁵A student who successfully completes a dual language immersion program in accordance with TEC 74.12(b)(5)(F) at an elementary school may satisfy one credit required in LOTE. The second credit of LOTE must be in the same language as the dual language immersion program.

Automatic Admission to a Texas Public University

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §51.803, a student is eligible for automatic admission to a Texas college or university as an undergraduate student if the applicant earned a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's high school graduating class-top six percent for admission to the University of Texas at Austin-and the applicant:

1. Earned the Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) under the Foundation High School Program; or
2. Satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent.

To qualify for automatic admission an applicant must:

1. Submit an application before the deadline established by the college or university to which the student seeks admission;
2. Meet all curriculum requirements for admission established by the college or university to which the student seeks admission; and
3. Provide a high school transcript or diploma that indicates, not later than the end of the student's junior year, whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements of the DLA under the Foundation High School Program.

Once a student is admitted, a university may review a student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level course work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course(s) during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

Endorsement Pathways for Graduation

Endorsement Pathways allow students to study a particular field in depth and help to facilitate a seamless transition from secondary to postsecondary opportunities. Most endorsements require students to complete a coherent sequence of four or more credits in their chosen endorsement, including two in the same career cluster and at least one advanced course. Elgin Independent School District has created Endorsement Pathways to assist students and parents in selecting a coherent sequence of courses that meet the curriculum requirements for each endorsement.

The Endorsement Pathway charts show different paths a student may follow to earn an endorsement. Students should select one path to follow to ensure their sequence of courses meets graduation requirements for an endorsement. Please refer to course descriptions and prerequisites to verify selections.

To earn most endorsements, students must complete:

- a coherent sequence of four or more credits in their chosen endorsement
- at least two courses within the same career cluster
- at least one advanced level course

Arts & Humanities Endorsement Pathways

Course descriptions and additional course offerings are listed under Fine Arts, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and Social Studies sections of the Elgin High School Curriculum.

Arts & Humanities	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Dance¹	Dance I	Dance II	Dance III	Dance IV
Instrumental	Band I	Band II	Band III	Band IV
Languages	Spanish I	Spanish II	PAP Spanish III	AP Spanish IV
Social Studies²	World Geography	World History	US History	Government/Econ
Theatre	Theatre Arts I	Theatre Arts II	Theatre Arts III	Theatre Arts IV
Visual Arts	Art I	Art II	Art III	Art IV or AP Art
Vocal	Choir I	Choir II	Choir III	Choir IV
Notes	¹ Dance 1 is a PE credit; students must complete at least one additional course within the Fine Arts offerings to earn an Arts & Humanities endorsement through the Dance pathway. ² Students must complete at least five social studies credits to earn an Arts & Humanities endorsement through the social studies pathway.			

Business & Industry Endorsement Pathways

Course descriptions and additional course offerings are listed under English Language Arts, Science, and Career, Technology, and Education sections of the Elgin High School Curriculum.

<i>Business & Industry</i>	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Industry Certification
Animal Science	Principles of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources	Livestock Production	Small Animal Management/Equine Science	Veterinary Medical Application	Certified Veterinary Assistant
Automotive	Automotive Basics	Automotive Technology I	Automotive Technology II	Practicum in Transportation	ASE Automotive
Business Management	Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance	Business Management	Global Business/Virtual Business	Practicum in Business Management	Google Cloud Certified Professional G Suite
Design & Multimedia Arts (EHS Yearbook)	Principles of Arts, Audio Video Technology, & Communications	Digital Design and Media Productions	Digital Art & Animation	Career Prep I for Design & Multimedia Arts	Adobe Photoshop
Digital Communications	Principles of Arts, Audio Video Technology, & Communications	Audio Visual Production I/Lab	Audio Visual Production II/Lab	Practicum Audio Visual Production	Adobe Certified Associate Premiere Pro
Plant Science	Principles of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources	Greenhouse Operation and Production	Horticultural Science & Floral Design	Advanced Plant and Soil Science	Texas State Floral Association certifications
P-TECH: Welding	PCC/EDU 1300 or POFT	College Courses in Welding	College Courses in Welding	College Courses in Welding	AWS D 1.1, D 9.1, Level I, Associate Degree
Welding	Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technology	Welding I	Welding II	Practicum in Manufacturing	AWS D1.1, D 9.1

Public Services Endorsement Pathways

Course descriptions and additional course offerings are listed under Special Program Courses, Science, and the Career, Technology, and Education sections of the Elgin High School Curriculum.

Public Services	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Industry Certification
Health Science	Principles of Health Science	Health Science Theory	Anatomy & Physiology	Pathophysiology or college course	EMT, Phlebotomy
Law Enforcement	Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	Law Enforcement I	Law Enforcement II	Forensic Science	Emergency Telecommunicator and Level II Security Guard Certificate
Military	Navy National Defense Cadet Corps I	Navy National Defense Cadet Corps II	Navy National Defense Cadet Corps III	Navy National Defense Cadet Corps IV	Not applicable
Teaching & Training	Principles of Education	Child Development	Instructional Practices	Practicum in Education & Training	Not applicable, membership in Grow Your Own Program

STEM Endorsement Pathways

Course descriptions and additional course offerings are listed under the Mathematics, Science, Technology Applications, and Career, Technology, and Education sections of the Elgin High School Curriculum.

STEM	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Industry Certification
Math¹	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus	Not applicable
Math & Science²	Geometry/ Biology	Algebra II/ Chemistry	Pre-Calculus/ Physics	Advanced Math & Advanced Science	Not applicable
Programming & Software Development (Swift coding)	Computer Science I	Computer Science II	AP Computer Science Principles or college courses	Mobile Application Development or college courses	SWIFT Apple Certification, CompTIA Security+
Science³	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science	Not applicable
Notes	¹ Students must also take Chemistry and Physics to earn a STEM endorsement. Students that take Algebra I in 9 th grade can still complete a STEM endorsement by taking Algebra I and Geometry in 9 th grade. ² Students must take three additional advanced courses from the math and science offerings ³ Students must also take Algebra II to earn a STEM endorsement.				

Multidisciplinary Endorsement Pathways

Course descriptions are listed throughout all sections of the Elgin High School Curriculum.

<i>Multidisciplinary</i>	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	Industry Certification
Advanced Placement	Advanced/AP courses	Advanced/AP courses	Advanced/AP courses	AP courses	Not applicable
Early College HS	PCC/EDU 1300	College Courses	College Courses	College Courses	Not applicable, Associates Degree