



**FISD**  
 HIGH SCHOOL  
 ACADEMIC GUIDE  
 2016 - 17



**FRISCO ISD**  
 Frisco Independent School District  
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# Frisco ISD Mission Statement

**Our mission is to know every student by name and need.**

## **Belief System**

Education is a shared responsibility of students, school, home and community. With that as an essential principle, we believe that:

Every person can learn.

Each person is ultimately responsible for his/her own learning.

Learning is lifelong and unlimited.

Each person is unique.

Everyone has equal inherent worth and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

Everyone needs challenge and encouragement.

Imagination and creativity are vital.

Integrity is essential.

A safe and orderly environment is necessary for learning.

Meaningful relationships have profound lifelong impact.

There is always room for improvement.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Academic Guide has been developed to provide important information for students and their parents. It will assist you in making wise, informed decisions concerning programs and course choices throughout your high school years.

The goal of Frisco Independent School District is to prepare students as thoroughly as possible for the next phase of their lives. Whether the student seeks post-secondary education or immediate employment in the work force, this guide contains important information to help direct the student in making informed decisions throughout high school. Information on grade classifications, graduation programs and class rank are included in this guide.

## **DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER**

**Frisco Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs, including career and technology programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

*There are still clarifications being issued from the Texas Education Agency and the Texas State Board of Education, especially in the areas of assessment, accountability, and graduation plans. The information in this guide is accurate as of the time it went to print. This document will be updated as information becomes available.*

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## STUDENT INFORMATION

### Classification of Students

The following standards apply to grade classification. Standing is determined at the start of each school year. Classification is for the complete school year.

**Freshman:** A student entering high school for the first time or having fewer than 6 credits.

**To Become A Sophomore:** A student in the second year of high school who has earned a minimum of 6 credits will be classified as a sophomore.

**To Become A Junior:** A student in the third year of high school who has earned a minimum of 12 credits will be classified as a junior.

**To Become A Senior:** A student who has earned a minimum of 18 credits and who is enrolled in a program that will allow for graduation will be classified as a senior.

Students that are enrolled in the correct number of credits to graduate in the current school year may also be classified as a senior with principal approval.

### Class Loads

In order to qualify as a full time student Frisco ISD students must be enrolled in at least the equivalent of 6 credit classes each semester, 5 of which must be state credits. Since FISD high schools have an eight period schedule, early dismissal permits may be granted for 11th and 12th grade students if they are satisfactorily progressing toward graduation. All 9th and 10th grade students must be enrolled in eight class periods.

### **STAAR End of Course Exams (EOCs)**

Students in the class of 2015 and beyond will take STAAR End of Course (EOC) Assessments in accordance with state law. Satisfactory performance on all EOCs is a graduation requirement. Students not meeting satisfactory performance on EOCs will be given the opportunity to retest three times per year in accordance to the state testing calendar. A four-hour time limit applies to Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. A five-hour time limit applies to English I and English II.

### **Courses with STAAR EOC Assessments**

- English I & II
- Algebra I
- Biology
- U.S. History

### **Students:**

- STAAR EOC Students are:
  - Students in grades 6-8 taking an EOC assessed course (Algebra I, English I, English II, Biology, U.S. History) or
  - High School students taking an EOC assessed course

### **Middle School Students Enrolled in High School STAAR EOC Tested Courses**

Middle school students enrolled in high school EOC tested courses will only be required to take the EOC assessment for the courses that they are enrolled in.

### **Performance Labels**

The labels for the performance categories are:

- Level III: Advanced Academic Performance
- Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance
- Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

### **8th Grade STAAR**

8th grade students must meet Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance on both Math and Reading STAAR assessments. When students do not meet Level II within allowed retest windows, the Grade Placement Committee, along with the parent, student, and campus representatives will meet to determine a plan. The committee determines whether to place the student in 9th grade and to develop a plan for accelerated instruction during the next school year to ensure the student meets the standards set for each EOC. Students identified at risk of failing any EOC Assessment may be assigned to attend tutorials before or after school or they may be assigned to classes designed to better prepare them for success on EOCs.

### **Students Not Meeting Level II: Satisfactory Performance on EOCs**

- Additional academic support will be provided by the district for students failing to meet the Satisfactory Standard for each assessment.
- Parents and students will receive information regarding additional support and rest dates.
- Students may not be eligible for late arrival/early release as juniors and seniors if they have failed to meet the requirements of the STAAR assessment program.

**Special Note: Be advised that the laws for assessment and accountability will continue to be analyzed and interpreted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This document will be updated as new information is provided by TEA.**

## Grading System

Student academic evaluation is achieved through the use of a grading system. An average grade of 70 is required for successful completion of a course. The grading system of the Frisco Independent School District shall be in accordance with the following scale:

A - 90-100    B - 80-89    C - 70-79    F - Below 70

One-half credit may be earned in one semester. Students who fail one semester of a course may:

- Take the semester failed when offered to gain a passing grade.
- Be permitted to continue the course and by cumulative grade average pass the unit during the current school year.
- If the course is not a required course, the student may choose to take another elective.

Each teacher is required to effectively communicate their grading standards to students and parents. Grade reports are posted each six weeks, usually on the Friday following the end of the grading period. Progress reports to parents are posted at three-week intervals. All FISD secondary schools participate in the Home Access Center, a web-based communications system that allows parents and students to obtain information online regarding the student's current grades as well as assignment information. Students and parents will be given instructions regarding utilization of this system at the beginning of the year.

## GPA and RANK IN CLASS POLICY

Rank in class, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian determination shall be based on a weighted grade point average (GPA) system. Grade points shall be based on semester grades for courses taken in grades 9–12 and courses taken in middle school for high school credit. The GPA shall be computed to three decimal places. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades in the semester prior to graduation shall count as a semester grade for purposes of determining rank, honor graduate status, valedictorian, and salutatorian.

### GPA Exempt Courses for the class of 2017 and beyond

All high school credit courses taken during the regular school year shall count toward the GPA, except for the following: aide positions, peer tutoring, SAT-prep classes, college credits that are not dual credits, driver's education, credit by examination credits, and correspondence school courses. No credit or grade points shall be assigned for summer enrichment programs. Note - Successful completion of FISD Summer School courses may result in credit being awarded, but GPA will not be calculated for the summer school courses.

**Weighted Grades** All numeric grades shall be converted to a weighted scale (see chart). No grade points shall be awarded for any grade below a 70.

### Valedictorian and Salutatorian Requirements

Each district high school shall have a valedictorian and salutatorian. Candidates must be 8 semester graduates and in attendance at the awarding high school continuously, commencing with enrollment no later than the first day of the second six-week grading period of the student's junior year through graduation. The valedictorian shall be the eligible graduate with the highest GPA; the salutatorian shall be the eligible graduate with the second highest GPA.

**Ties** In case of a tie, the tie shall be broken with the following series of tiebreakers: Count the number of AP® classes taken (the highest number shall be declared valedictorian). If still tied, add to this count the number of Pre-AP courses taken. If still tied, add to this count the number of honors courses taken. If still tied, average the junior and senior years only

### Honor Graduates

Each level of Honor Graduates will be determined by the student's grade point average at the end of the fifth six weeks which will be no lower than 4.0 with no rounding. Three levels of Honor Graduates will be denoted: Summa Cum Laude – Top 10 graduates; Magna Cum Laude – Top 10 percent of graduates; and Cum Laude – Graduates with Grade Point Average of 4.0 or above.

**Transfer Students** All transferred credits will be calculated for GPA in accordance with FISD guidelines. Weighted GPA points for an advanced course will be awarded only if:

- the course is recorded as advanced on an official Academic Achievement Record (AAR)

and

- a comparable course was offered in FISD during the same school year.

Grade Point	AP/PAP	College Dual Credit	Regular
6.0	100		
5.9	99		
5.8	98		
5.7	97		
5.6	96		
5.5	95	100	
5.4	94	99	
5.3	93	98	
5.2	92	97	
5.1	91	96	
5.0	90	95	100
4.9	89	94	99
4.8	88	93	98
4.7	87	92	97
4.6	86	91	96
4.5	85	90	95
4.4	84	89	94
4.3	83	88	93
4.2	82	87	92
4.1	81	86	91
4.0	80	85	90
3.9	79	84	89
3.8	78	83	88
3.7	77	82	87
3.6	76	81	86
3.5	75	80	85
3.4	74	79	84
3.3	73	78	83
3.2	72	77	82
3.1	71	76	81
3.0	70	75	80
2.9	<70 no points	74	79
2.8		73	78
2.7		72	77
2.6		71	76
2.5		70	75
2.4		<70 no points	74
2.3			73
2.2			72
2.1			71
2.0			70
			<70 no points

## TRANSFER GRADES

### Transcripts from within the United States:

When a transcript is received from an accredited school within the United States, the list below will be used to determine the numerical equivalency to letter grades, when letter grades are all that is listed on the transcript. If a numerical range is listed on the transcript, the midpoint will be calculated and used.

91 for A-	81 for B-	71 for C-
95 for A	85 for B	75 for C
98 for A+	88 for B+	78 for C+

**(If prior district awarded credit for a D, a grade of 70 would be transferred.)**

### Transcripts from outside the United States:

Parents are responsible for providing a transcript translated into English. Transcripts that require translation into English will not receive a letter grade or numerical equivalency. A "P" for passing will be assigned to designate that credit was earned. The maximum number of transcribed courses per year is eight.

Accredited international schools that deliver the majority of the instruction in English and utilize an American-based curriculum, as well as Department of Defense schools, will be reviewed in the same manner as transcripts received from accredited schools from within the United States.

### Credit for Languages other than English:

If a student took courses in a native language in high school or middle school and the transcript includes credit for the courses labeled with the language, credit will be awarded. If there is no literature or language credit listed on the transcript, no LOTE credit can be awarded.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Academic All-Stars**

At the end of the fifth six weeks, students who have been enrolled in at least the minimum number of courses and attained a grade no lower than 90 on any **six weeks grade**, will be designated an “Academic All-Star.” A medal will be presented to these students at the awards assembly at the end of the school year. The semester grades for dual credit courses will be used and no points will be added for dual credit, honors or AP® courses.

### **Academic Letter Jackets**

FISD recognizes academic achievement through the awarding of Academic Letter Patch. While the student qualifies to purchase a jacket based on the criteria outline below, the patch is provided by the campus at no cost.

Juniors and Seniors in FISD may earn this recognition by meeting the following standards:

- The student must earn a cumulative 4.5 or higher weighted grade average for a minimum of 4 semesters of high school course work. Only juniors and seniors are eligible under this criterion.
- All classes that count for class rank will be considered.
- At least 1 of those four semesters must be completed at an FISD high school.
- Students who have less than a 4.5 weighted grade average after 4 semesters, but whose cumulative grade average improves to a 4.5 or higher at the end of any subsequent semester may apply for the award at the end of that semester.
- Jackets will be ordered during the same time period as athletic letter jackets. Students attaining the necessary standard at the end of the second semester of any year will order their jacket the following year.
- Students may receive only one letter jacket during their high school career.
- Students who believe they are eligible must complete an Application for Academic Letter through the Registrar’s Office.

### **Changing Class Schedules**

Students pre-enroll in the spring semester for the upcoming school year, and the master schedule will be based on that information. Students will be able to see and change their course requests through April 15, 2016, by contacting their counselor. Following this deadline, only program changes will be allowed through the second week of each semester.

Pre AP/AP® classes are the only classes that may be dropped at the end of the 1st six weeks grading period of a course or at the end of the semester. This change will occur only if the teacher, student and parent concur on the change. If consensus is not achieved, the issue will be referred to the Campus Intervention Team.

### **Community Service Program**

The purpose of the program is to promote volunteer service to the school and community. Students who complete all requirements of the program will be recognized at their graduation ceremony by a colored cord and recognition in the graduation program.

Students wishing to participate should complete 100 hours of service, either individually or as part of a group project. All documented volunteer hours will be accepted including required hours completed for other organizations. The hours must be completed in grades 9-12 (hours completed during the summer following the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will also be accepted).

Students must complete documentation as required by their individual high school. Check with your counselor to see the required methods for your campus. Hours should be turned in no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the student intends to graduate. Undocumented hours will not be accepted.

### **Community Service Guidelines:**

- Volunteer work done for a non-profit organization geared towards improving the community (Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Frisco Family Services, etc.).
- Volunteer work done as part of a civic, religious, school, charity or community organization geared towards improving the community or school (Rotary Club, NHS, Frisco Family Services, etc.).
- Work performed by a religious organization must be work that could be performed by a non-religious organization.
- Must be completed outside the school day.

### **Examples of Activities for which Community Service hours may not be awarded:**

- Babysitting for a neighbor without being paid.
- Tutoring your little brother (tutoring others may count if arranged through the NHS or the counseling department).

## **Credit by Exam**

### **High School Credit by Examination - Without Prior Instruction**

High school students who wish to earn credit for a course in which they have had no prior formal instruction may test through credit by exam. Examinations for Grade 9-12 are criterion-referenced tests from Texas Tech University, University of Texas, or the testing instruments approved by the Superintendent or designee. Student must demonstrate 80% or higher mastery on the exam in order to earn credit. Courses taken for high school credit will not be computed in class rank. Students are encouraged to review the course study guide on the university website. If a student fails to achieve the designated score for a subject before the beginning of the school year in which the student would ordinarily be required to enroll in that subject, the student must satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit. *\*\*\*Due to changes in exams for acceleration, §74.24 of 19 TAC, an EOC assessed course must now be validated to meet more rigorous requirements. Since there is not currently an assessment that meets the new validation criteria instituted by The Texas Education Agency for an EOC assessed course, we cannot offer an exam for acceleration for EOC tested subjects at this time.*

**Texas Tech University** [www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview)

**University of Texas** [www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit](http://www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit)

Applications are available from the high school counselor and must be returned to the counselor for processing. Parents should be aware that there are no exceptions available for students to test for acceleration and plan accordingly. Students may test at any time during the testing window, but must be registered by the test application deadline. The application deadline and testing window will be determined at the start of each school year and can be found at :

<http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/departments/Testing/FriscoISDOnlineCreditbyExamination-HighSchool.htm>

For students who move to the Frisco community at the start of the school year, every effort will be made to provide an opportunity for students to test during the second or third week of school, if the course credit is necessary for first semester course scheduling. There is no charge for testing. Students who register for an examination and do not take the examination will be assessed a fine equivalent to the cost of procuring the examination. Exam results will be mailed to the counselor after scoring is completed.

Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit by exam may not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines. See the following link for specific information:

[https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)

### **Credit by Examination- With Prior Instruction**

Students, under certain circumstances, may be able to take credit by exam for a course in which they have had prior instruction but did not receive credit. This option must be approved by the campus principal (or designee). This option generally applies to students who have not earned credit due to extenuating circumstances such as a family move, illness, etc. To be eligible for a credit by exam, a student must have had prior instruction in the course. It also may apply to students who were home schooled or attended a non-accredited private school and need state approved credit. Students who attended school in a foreign country which was taught in a language other than English may also qualify to test that language (French, Spanish, German) with prior instruction. Students are encouraged to review the admission requirements for universities before choosing the credit by exam option. Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit by exam may not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines. See the following link for specific information:

[https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)

**Texas Tech University** [www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/cbereview)

**University of Texas** [www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit](http://www.utexas.edu/cee/dec/k16/index.php?page=credit)

Students must demonstrate 70% or higher mastery on the exams. Applications are available from the school counselor. There is a fee of \$45-\$50 (depending on exam) for each semester exam. Students may test at any time during the testing window, but must be registered by the test application deadline. The application deadline and testing window will be determined at the start of each school year and can be found at : <http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/departments/Testing/FriscoISDOnlineCreditbyExamination-HighSchool.htm>

## **Credit Recovery Guidelines**

The goal of the Frisco ISD Credit Recovery Program is to assist students deficient in credits while at the same time preserving the integrity of the FISD diploma. FISD will ensure that every student has the opportunity to acquire the credits necessary to earn a diploma. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of their progress toward a diploma and to take full advantage of the assistance available. Students who may potentially be candidates for athletic scholarships should be advised that credits earned through credit recovery may not qualify for minimum core course requirements under NCAA guidelines. See the following link for specific information: [https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA\\_EMS/NCAA.jsp](https://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)

**First year students:**

First year high school students who fail a course may recover credit through the following options:

1. Correspondence
2. Credit by Examination
3. Summer School
4. Online courses (with prior approval of principal or designee)
5. Repeating the class during the school day
6. Night school
7. Credit recovery course during the school day (not available first-year high school students). Students must first demonstrate effort to recover credit through an option listed above before enrollment in a school day program will be considered. An exception will be made only in extenuating circumstances (i.e. extended illness, homelessness, teen parent, students new to FISD) as determined by the Campus Intervention Team and the campus principal).

**Fifth year students:**

Fifth year students will be referred to the Student Opportunity Center to complete graduation requirements.

**The following information pertains to all grade levels:**

- Any cost associated with Credit Recovery option will be the responsibility of the student and parent.
- Transportation to and from the Student Opportunity Center for students attending the SOC credit recovery program full time during the school day will be provided by the district. Parents and student will be responsible for transportation for all other credit recovery classes taken at the SOC.
- Seniors planning to participate in graduation must provide proof of credit earned and recorded at least 5 school days before graduation. All other students must provide proof of credit prior to the start of the following school year in order to receive credit that would result in promotion to the next grade level. Reclassification is only done each year prior to the start of the school.
- Students must seek prior approval from appropriate campus staff before enrolling in any of the credit recovery options.
- Students should refer to existing guidelines for details regarding correspondence, credit by exam, summer school, night school or online courses.
- Final decisions regarding placement in credit recovery rest with the campus principal.
- Correspondence courses do not require previous instruction. Frisco ISD recognizes and utilizes correspondence courses primarily from the University of Texas and Texas Tech University. Students who wish to have more information should contact their counselor.

**Dual Credit Courses**

Qualified Juniors or Seniors with an A/B grade point average may be enrolled concurrently with an FISD high school and Collin College for specified classes noted in the FISD Course Catalog. Students in dual credit classes will earn both high school and college credit. Admission requirements include successful completion of the Texas Success Initiative Examination (TSI) or proof of exemption from TSI. Students are responsible for paying the tuition, books and fees. Transportation is not provided to or from classes. Students must meet admissions requirements and secure their high school counselor's approval for the dual credit courses selected. See counselors for details. Additionally, if a student does not achieve a passing grade of 70 or above in the first semester of the dual credit course, the student will be required to discontinue the dual credit course and take the subsequent semester of the course at their high school campus.

**Early Graduation**

Students interested in early graduation should see their counselor. All high school students who apply to graduate early must complete the requirement for one of the Frisco ISD Graduation Plans unless the student, the student's parent/guardian and a school administrator agree in writing that there are extenuating circumstances or extreme hardships. If an agreement is reached, then the student will be allowed to graduate under the Minimum High School Program or the Foundation Program and will adhere to the requirements outlined in Education Code 28.025(b), (b-7). A declaration of intent to graduate early must be filed after May 1 of the second year of high school but prior to September 1 of the third year. Requests made after May 1 will be considered for approval by the Superintendent or his designee.

### **Course Enrollment - Grade Level Requirements and Prerequisites**

Enrollment is limited by grade levels listed. Students must be classified in the appropriate grade in order to sign up for a course. The prerequisite listed must be met and passed for each course. Please note grade and prerequisites with each course description. The course catalog is available at <http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/parentsstudents/highschoolcourseacademiccatalogs.htm>.

### **Late Arrival or Early Release**

Juniors and seniors who are on track for graduation with regard to both credit and EOC requirements may sign up for either late arrival or early release. Students who opt for either must have transportation and may not be on campus when they are not scheduled in a class. Any student unable to leave campus immediately after their last class will not be permitted to have early release.

### **Online courses through TxVSN (Texas Virtual School Network)**

Students may continue attaining high school credit through online courses from TxVSN or by taking and passing Credit by Exams (CBE's). See page #10 for exceptions.

### **Official Transcripts**

Official transcripts are free for current students and \$5 for alumni. Unofficial transcripts are free and the number is unlimited. Transcripts should be requested at [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com).

### **Special Education**

Students experiencing difficulties in school may be referred for services in special education. Before a student can receive special education and/or related services for the first time, an initial evaluation must be conducted. Decisions regarding the provision of special education services are made by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If a student is determined to be eligible for services in accordance with the Texas Education Agency guidelines, an individualized education plan is developed. Instruction that is designed to meet a student's unique educational needs may be provided in a variety of settings. Instructional settings may include (a) general education classroom with accommodations, (b) general education classroom with support, (c) resource classroom, (d) self-contained classroom, or (e) a separate campus. Related services necessary for the student to benefit from special education may also be provided.

### **Top 10% Program (Excluding University of Texas at Austin)**

Top students are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas. Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75th legislature in 1997, students who are in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.\*

To be eligible for automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his/her class at a public or private high school in Texas on the recommended, distinguished achievement program, or distinguished level of achievement.
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline. Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline. Application deadlines are FIRM deadlines. A student missing a deadline is usually denied admission.

\*See <http://bealonghorn.utexas.edu/> for information regarding UT admission.

\*\*Students deficient in admission requirements MAY be required to take enrichment courses before being admitted.

\*\*\*The law states that class rank shall be based on the end of 11th grade, middle of 12th grade, or at high school graduation, whichever is most recent when the application is completed.

### **TSI**

TSI is a state-mandated placement test for Texas public colleges and universities. Effective in the fall 1998, the Texas Legislature requires that all first-time college students take the TSI test prior to the first day of college classes. TSI is given six to eight times a year. Students may be exempt from TSI with an:

- ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the mathematics and English tests or;
- SAT score of 1070 in critical reading and math combined with a minimum of 500 on each of the mathematical and critical reading tests

For more information on TSI, contact your college or university.

### **TEXAS Grant**

The state legislature established the TEXAS (Towards Excellence, Access and Success) Grant to make sure that well-prepared high school graduates with financial need could go to college.

For more information: <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=458>

## **FAFSA**

Students in their final year of high school should be reminded of how important it is to apply for financial aid early in their final year and each following year, as long as they are in post-secondary education or training. There are many merit scholarships available to students through the completion of the FAFSA application at [www.FAFSA-application.com](http://www.FAFSA-application.com).

## **ACT and SAT**

Registration packets for the SAT® and ACT® should be completed online at: ACT - [www.ACTStudent.org](http://www.ACTStudent.org) / SAT - [www.SAT.org](http://www.SAT.org). Students should see their counselor for help in determining which test to take. Students should plan to take their admissions test in the spring of their junior year. Information about registration, dates, and cost can be obtained at [www.SAT.org](http://www.SAT.org) and [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org).

Register online at: [www.SAT.org](http://www.SAT.org) [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT®)

School codes are as follows:

CHS 442-633	FHS 442-635	LHS 445-579	WHS 442-602
HHS 442-488	LSHS 442-638	IHS 442-626	RHS 442-627
LTHS 440-001			

## **PSAT/NMSQT**

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a multiple choice standardized test administered by the College Board and National Merit Scholars Corporation (NMSC).

## **Free SAT and ACT Prep:**

Students have access to free online practice tests for the SAT at <https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice> and <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> and at <http://actstudent.org/onlineprep/> for ACT.

## **AP® Exam Dates**

Advanced placement exams are administered the first two weeks of May. Please see [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for more specific information.

## **PRE-AP and Advanced Placement Program**

### **What is the Pre-AP/AP® Program?**

The Pre-AP/AP® Program allows students to participate in college preparatory courses and college level courses while still in high school. Secondary schools and colleges cooperate in this program to give students the opportunity to show mastery in college level courses by taking AP® exams in May of each school year. With successful completion of an AP® exam, many colleges will issue college credit.

### **What are the advantages of my student taking Pre-AP/AP® courses?**

The main advantage of taking a Pre-AP/AP® course is better preparation for college. Students who take AP exams may receive college credit while still in high school, saving both time and money. Because the AP® curriculum is standardized across the nation, colleges and universities look favorably on students who have completed this course work, as they understand the depth and breadth of these challenging courses. Selected universities may expect to see AP® course work on a transcript. Students planning to apply to highly competitive colleges and universities are encouraged to take full advantage of Pre-AP and AP® course offerings.

### **Who can enroll in a Pre-AP/AP® course?**

Any student can enroll in a Pre-AP or AP® course. Students should consider their grades in prior course work, teacher recommendations and achievement levels on PSAT, or other standardized tests when making decisions on the Pre-AP and AP® program. Counselors can help students make informed decisions on the appropriate level course work, but admission is open to any student who chooses to take a Pre-AP or AP® class. **Students are cautioned to choose their classes carefully and to pay attention to their overall class load and extra-curricular load.**

## Pre-AP and AP® courses offered at FISD High Schools

### Pre-Advanced Placement

English 1  
English 2  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Spanish 2  
Spanish 3  
French 2  
French 3  
Geometry  
Algebra 2  
Pre-Calculus  
Algebra I (for class of 2018 & beyond)  
Art I (for class of 2018 & beyond)  
Comp Science (for class of 2018 & beyond)  
GT Humanities I  
Chinese 3

### Advanced Placement

English Language and Composition  
English Literature and Composition  
World History  
United States History  
United States Government and Politics  
Macroeconomics  
European History  
Human Geography  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics 1 and 2  
Physics C: Mechanics  
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism  
Environmental Science  
GT Humanities II  
Chinese Language & Culture

Art History  
Studio Art: 2-D Design  
Studio Art: 3-D Design  
Studio Art: Drawing  
Music Theory  
Computer Science A  
Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Statistics  
French Language & Culture  
Spanish Literature & Culture  
Spanish Language & Culture  
Psychology  
AP Seminar  
AP Research (beginning 17-18)

Pre-AP and AP® course availability at each high school will be based on student enrollment numbers in the course.

### **Gifted and Talented Program**

The high school gifted student is served through GT Humanities I/ Pre-AP English I in ninth grade and GT Humanities II/ AP World History in tenth grade. Specific subject advanced placement courses and fine arts electives also provide challenge and enrichment for these students. Presentation and research projects are important components of advanced classes. In addition, gifted and advanced eleventh and twelfth grade students may interview and apply for the Independent Study and Mentorship Program (ISM).

## Graduation Program For Senior Class 2016 - 2017

AREA	MINIMUM PLAN	RECOMMENDED PLAN	DISTINGUISHED PLAN
ENGLISH	4 Units • English I • English II • English III • English IV	4 Units • English I • English II • English III • English IV	4 Units • English I • English II • English III • English IV
MATH	3 Units • Algebra I • Geometry • 3rd Year Math	4 Units • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II • 4th Year Math	4 Units • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II • 4th Year Math
SCIENCE	2 Units • IPC • Biology I	4 Units • IPC • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • 4th Year Science excluding IPC (IPC must be completed prior to Chemistry and Physics)	4 Units • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • 4th Year Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 Units World Geography*, World History*, U.S. History, Government and Economics	4 Units World Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government and Economics	4 Units World Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government and Economics
FINE ARTS	1 Unit Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, Digital Graphic & Animation or Elements of Floral Design	1 Unit Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, Digital Graphic & Animation or Elements of Floral Design	1 Unit Art, Music, Theater, Dance Band, Orchestra, Digital Graphic & Animation or Elements of Floral Design
SPEECH	.5 Units Professional Communications	.5 Units Professional Communications	.5 Units Professional Communications
HEALTH	.5 Units	.5 Units	.5 Units
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	1 Unit Technology Applications (see course guide for options)	1 Unit Technology Applications (see course guide for options)	1 Unit Technology Applications (see course guide for options)
Foreign Language	None Required	2 Units of the same language Spanish, French, American Sign Language, or Chinese	3 Units of the same language Spanish, French, American Sign Language, or Chinese
Physical Education	1 Unit	1 Unit	1 Unit
Academic Electives	1 Unit*	N/A	N/A
Electives	8 Units	4 Units	3 Units
TOTAL	25 Units	26 Units	26 Units * plus advanced measures

**\*Minimum Plan =**

**Science-two credits.** The credits must consist of Biology and Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). A student may substitute a chemistry credit (Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry), or a physics credit (Physics, Principles of Technology, AP Physics, or IB Physics) and then must use the second of these two courses as the academic elective credit.

**Social Studies-three credits.** Two of the credits must consist of United States History Studies since 1877 (one credit), United States Government (one-half credit), and Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits (one-half credit). The final credit may be selected from the following courses; (a) World History Studies and (b) World Geography Studies.

**Academic Elective-one credit.** The credit must be selected from World History Studies, World Geography, or science course(s) approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) for science credit as found in Chapter 112 of the Texas Administrative Code. If a student elects to replace IPC with either Chemistry or Physics, the academic elective must be the other of these two science courses. A student may not combine a half credit of either World Geography with a half credit from another academic elective course to satisfy the academic elective credit requirement.

### **Important Information Regarding Graduation Programs:**

- Per state requirements, students are required to complete the Recommended Plan or Distinguished Achievement Plan. Students opting for the Minimum Plan will need the permission of their parent, counselor and administrator.
- Algebra I taken in middle school for high school credit will count as one of the four courses required for math.

### **Minimum High School Program (MHSP)**

- A student, the student's parent or other person standing in parental relation to the student, and a school counselor or school administrator must agree in writing signed by each party that the student should be permitted to take courses under the MHSP. A student must also satisfy one of three criteria in order to opt into the MHSP: be at least 16 years of age; have completed two credits required for graduation in each subject of the foundation curriculum; or have failed to be promoted to Grade 10 one or more times.
- If an admission, review, and dismissal committee makes decisions that place a student with a disability on a modified curriculum in a subject area, the student will be automatically placed in the minimum high school program.
- A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness may substitute an academic elective credit (English Language Arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) for the physical education credit requirement.

### **Recommended High School Program (RHSP)**

- Students on the RHSP may take IPC as one of the science credits if IPC is successfully completed prior to chemistry and physics. Students on the RHSP must complete a biology credit, a chemistry credit, and a physics credit.
- A student who is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a P.E. course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner may still earn a RHSP diploma if the student demonstrates proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills that do not require physical activity as part of a modified P.E. course.

### **Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)**

- Students must complete three credits of the same foreign language.
- IPC is not an option for science credit.
- Students must complete four advanced measures from any combination listed below:
  - o Original research/project
  - o Test performance on AP® exams or PSAT
  - o Dual Credit course work in which a grade of B or higher is earned
  - o Articulated coursework in which a grade of B or higher is earned
- A student who is unable to comply with all of the requirements for a P.E. course due to a physical limitation certified by a licensed medical practitioner may still earn a DAP diploma if the student demonstrates proficiency in the relevant knowledge and skills that do not require physical activity as part of a modified P.E. course.

### **Foundation High School Plan (25 credits)**

**This option is the minimum graduation plan available and replaces the current Minimum High School Program. However, it is not available until after the completion of the sophomore year. Changing to this graduation plan will require parent and administrative approval in writing. Parents and students need to understand graduating on this plan may not meet college or**

## Graduation Program for Senior Class of 2018 and Beyond

House Bill 5 was signed into law in the summer of 2013 and one of its provisions was to change high school graduation plans for all students who enter high school during the 2014-15 school year and thereafter. The bill provides more flexibility for high school students to pursue either higher education or a career. Generally speaking, House Bill 5 established a single graduation program, the Foundation High School Program (FHSP). Students will also have the opportunity to build on the FHSP by earning Endorsements, Performance Acknowledgements, and a Distinguished Level of Achievement. Students will need to declare their preferred endorsement area, in writing, by the beginning of their 9th grade year. Students should see their counselors if they wish to change their endorsements.

The endorsement areas are:

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Industry
- Multidisciplinary
- Public Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

NOTE: To earn the STEM endorsement students MUST take Algebra II, Chemistry & Physics in concert with other Foundation + Endorsement Program requirements

FISD offers courses to meet endorsements in all areas. There are specific course requirements in the foundation curriculum based on the Endorsement selected; however, most students meet the requirement of multiple endorsements without making a special effort to do so. Electives should be selected that will best prepare the student for post-secondary work.

A student may elect to graduate without an endorsement under the high school foundation program with school administrator approval after the student's sophomore year. The student and the student's parent or guardian must be advised by the school counselor of the benefits of graduating with one or more endorsement and the student's parent or guardian must file written permission with the high school allowing the student to graduate without an endorsement.

**It is important to note that the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency will release additional clarifications. That information will be incorporated into this guide when available. Therefore contents in this guide are subject to change according to changes from either entity and the most recent information will be posted in this document or on the FISD website.**

***The default for all FISD students beginning with the class of 2018 will be the Distinguished Level of Achievement.***

***More specific information about the graduation programs and the endorsements may be found at:***

<http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/departments/GuidanceCounseling/graduationplans2018.htm>

## Foundation High School Program (FHSP) (25 credits)

This option is the minimum graduation program available and replaces the current Minimum High School Program. However, it is not available until after the completion of the sophomore year. Changing to this graduation program will require parent and administrative approval in writing. Parents and students need to understand graduating on this program may not meet college or university entrance requirements.

## Foundation High School Program + Endorsement (26 credits)

This graduation program replaces the previous Recommended High School Program. Endorsements are described in detail in the “Frisco ISD Graduation Guide for the Class of 2018 & Beyond” – available at:  
<http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/departments/GuidanceCounseling/graduationplans2018.htm>

This guide includes: core course requirements by endorsement, sample four-year graduation programs, and Frisco ISD course offerings by endorsement. The curriculum requirements for earning an endorsement require a student to meet and exceed the Foundation Program and successfully completing the following:

- The curriculum requirements for one or more Endorsement(s) to include a coherent sequence of courses that are content specific to the chosen endorsement
- Additional coursework to include:
  - Four credits in mathematics
  - Four credits in approved science courses

## Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) (26 credits)

The Distinguished Level of Achievement (DLA) replaces the current Distinguished Achievement Plan as the highest graduation program in the state of Texas for students entering high school in 2014-2015. The FHSP+Endorsement with DLA is the default for all FISD students.

**In order to be considered for Top Ten Percent Automatic Admission in Texas Public Universities, graduates MUST earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement diploma.**

A student may earn a Distinguished Level of Achievement by successfully completing the curriculum requirements that meet and exceed the Foundation Program and successfully completing the following:

- The curriculum requirements for one or more Endorsement(s) to include a coherent sequence of courses that are content specific to the chosen endorsement
- Additional coursework to include:
  - Four credits in mathematics, including Algebra II
  - Four credits in approved science courses

**The only difference between the FHSP+Endorsement Program and the DLA is the requirement that Algebra II must be one of the four credits in mathematics.**

## Graduation Program For Senior Class 2018 AND BEYOND

SUBJECT AREA	FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (May only be selected at the conclusion of the 10th grade year)	FHSP+ENDORSEMENT OR DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT
ENGLISH	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> <li>• English III</li> <li>• English IV</li> </ul>	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> <li>• English III</li> <li>• English IV</li> </ul>
MATH	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• 3rd Credit of Math*</li> </ul> <p>(*If Math Models is taken, the class must be successfully completed after taking Algebra I AND prior to taking Algebra II)</p>	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> <li>• Geometry</li> <li>• Algebra II (Required for Distinguished Level of Achievement)***</li> <li>• 4th Credit of Math *</li> </ul> <p>(*If Math Models is taken, the class must be successfully completed after taking Algebra I AND prior to taking Algebra II)</p>
SCIENCE	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• An additional credit must be selected from the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> IPC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One additional science credit may be selected from the course catalog</li> </ul>	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• An additional credit must be selected from the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> IPC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two additional science credits may be selected from the course catalog</li> </ul>
SOCIAL STUDIES	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• World History</li> <li>• U.S. History</li> <li>• Economics (.5 credit)</li> <li>• US Government (.5 credit)</li> </ul>	4 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Geography</li> <li>• World History</li> <li>• U.S. History</li> <li>• Economics (.5 credit)</li> <li>• US Government (.5 credit)</li> </ul>
FINE ARTS	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Arts (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Arts (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>
SPEECH	.5 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Communications</li> </ul>	.5 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Communications</li> </ul>
HEALTH	.5 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> </ul>	.5 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> </ul>
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Applications (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology Applications (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2 Credits from the Same Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• American Sign Language</li> </ul>	2 Credits from the Same Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• American Sign Language</li> </ul>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Education (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>	1 Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Education (see course catalog for options)</li> </ul>
ELECTIVES	5.0 Credits (see course guide for options)	4.0 Credits (see course catalog for options)
TOTAL	25 CREDITS	26 CREDITS (4 credits must be in a coherent sequence and content specific to an endorsement area.)

## Graduation Program Worksheet 2016 - 2017

8th or Summer School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
	1. English I	1. English II	1. English III	1. English IV
	2. Algebra I or Geometry	2. Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II	2. Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	2. 4th Year Math
	3. World Geography	3. World History	3. US History	3. Government & Economics
	4. IPC or Biology	4. IPC, Biology, Chemistry or Physics	4. Biology, Chemistry or Physics	4. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or 4th Science
	5.	5.	5.	5.
	6.	6.	6.	6.
	7.	7.	7.	7.
	8.	8.	8.	8.

## Graduation Program Worksheet 2018 & Beyond

8th or Summer School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
	1. English I	1. English II	1. English III	1. English IV
	2. Algebra I or Geometry	2. Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II	2. Algebra II or Pre-Calculus	2. 4th Year Math
	3. World Geography	3. World History	3. U.S. History	3. Government & Economics
	4. IPC or Biology	4. IPC, Biology, Chemistry or Physics	4. Science	4. Science
	5.	5.	5.	5.
	6.	6.	6.	6.
	7.	7.	7.	7.
	8.	8.	8.	8.

# FRISCO ISD

## Distinguished Achievement Program for Class of 2016-2017

### **What is DAP?**

The Distinguished Achievement Program, or DAP, recognizes outstanding student performance that goes beyond what is typically expected of high school students. In addition to meeting the requirements of the recommended plan and completing a third year of a foreign language, DAP requires that students meet a combination of any four advanced measures. These advanced measures allow students to demonstrate performance at the college level or work equivalent to that done by professionals in the arts, sciences, business, industry or in community service. A student's transcript will not reflect DAP until after all 4 measures are completed.

### **The Advanced Measures**

Students must complete four advanced measures from any combination listed below:

- o Original research/project
- o Test performance on AP® exams or PSAT
- o Dual Credit course work in which a grade of B or higher is earned
- o Articulated coursework in which a grade of B or higher is earned

### **Original Research Project**

Independent Study and Mentorship (ISM) taught in FISD provides students with the opportunity to complete this measure.

- Under the direction of a mentor, the student conducts original research/product that is reported to an appropriate audience.
- The research/product is judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project.
- The research/product is related to the required curriculum set forth in the subject area TEKS.

### **Test Data**

- The student receives a score of 3 or above on any advanced placement exam.
- The student earns a PSAT score that qualified the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

### **AP® COURSE OFFERINGS**

AP Seminar  
AP Research (beginning 17-18)  
Art History  
Biology  
Calculus AB & BC  
Chemistry  
Chinese Language & Culture  
Computer Science A  
Economics - Macro  
English Language  
English Literature  
Environmental Science  
European History  
French Language & Culture  
Human Geography  
Music Theory  
Physics 1 & 2  
Physics C: Mechanics  
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism  
Psychology  
Spanish Language & Culture  
Spanish Literature  
Statistics  
Studio Art  
U.S. Government  
U.S. History  
World History

### **College Courses**

The student successfully completes a college dual, concurrent credit course, or technical dual credit course with a grade of B or better, or completes an articulated CTE course for articulated credit with a grade of B or better. These courses are subject to change each year. See your counselor for information on which classes count.

# STUDENT FEES

## ACADEMIC FEES

Teen Leadership I	Ropes Course	\$35 - not required of students that do not attend
Teen Leadership II	Ropes Course	\$35 - not required of students that do not attend
Credit Recovery	Night School	\$300

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## ACADEMIC EXTRA CURRICULAR COMPETITION FEES

Speech / Debate	For tournament, membership fees	Up to \$50 per student
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## FINE ARTS CURRICULAR FEES

Orchestra	Rental of school owned instruments	\$100
Marching Band	Instrument rental fee	\$100

**ESTIMATED FEES/COST  
ASSOCIATED WITH CTE COURSES**

Course	Fees/Costs
Adv Interior Design	\$25
Accounting I	\$40 Workbook
Accounting II	\$40 Workbook
Adv Horticulture & Floral Design	\$50
Ag Mechanics	\$30
Audio/Video Production	\$25
Child Guidance & Mgt	\$30
Correctional Services	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Culinary Arts I & Pract in Culinary Arts	\$40
Digital Graphics & Animation	\$25
Education & Training	\$25
Emergency Communications & Dispatch	\$50, \$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Fashion Design	\$25
Fashion Marketing	\$25
Floral Design	\$40
Food Science	\$25
Graphic Design & Illustration	\$25
Health Science	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Instructional Practice in Health Science	\$150-\$200 Certification Exams, Health Screenings
Interior Design	\$25
Introduction to Culinary Arts	\$50 ServSafe Exam, Lab Fees
Journalism/Photojournalism	\$50
Marketing Dynamics & Practicum in Mkt Dyn	\$30 DECA Dues
Mock Trial	\$10
PLTW - Pre-Engineering	\$5-\$10
Practicum in HS - Pharmacology	\$150-\$200 Certification Exams, Health Screenings
Practicum in HS - Specialized	\$100-\$150 Certification Exams, Health Screenings
Practicum in Law Enforcement	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Practicum in Local Government	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Security Services	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
Sports Management	\$30 DECA Dues
Survey of Law	\$5-\$10 CPR Certification
TV Broadcast	\$50
Wildlife Management	\$5-\$10 Hunting Safety Permit