

**Indiana State Board of Education**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**REGARDING**  
**INDIANA’S HIGH SCHOOL COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**  
*February 2010*

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## **Indiana State Board of Education**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING**

## **INDIANA'S HIGH SCHOOL COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

### **General Information**

In February 2005, the Indiana State Board of Education adopted new course and credit requirements for earning a high school diploma. The requirements went into effect for students entering high school in fall 2006 and gave students the option of earning four diploma types:

- General
- Core 40
- Core 40 with Academic Honors
- Core 40 with Technical Honors

The requirements for each of these diplomas are attached. Reproducible copies of these requirements are available in various formats online at [www.doe.in.gov/core40](http://www.doe.in.gov/core40) and at [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org).

The Indiana General Assembly made completion of Core 40 a graduation requirement for all students beginning with those entering high school fall 2007. The legislation includes an opt-out provision for parents who determine that their student could benefit more from the General Diploma. The legislation also made Core 40 a minimum college admission requirement for the state's public four-year universities beginning in fall 2011.

### **Brief Background**

In 1994, Indiana's business, industry, labor, higher education, and K-12 communities came together to identify the courses necessary to provide the academic foundation for success in college and the workforce. This common set of courses was called Indiana Core 40, and currently more than 75% of Hoosier students graduate having completed Core 40 – of these students 32% complete additional requirements to graduate with Academic Honors.

The academic foundation necessary for success in college, the workforce, military training and apprenticeship programs have converged. Recognizing that all students need and deserve the academic preparation Core 40 provides, Indiana's Education Roundtable committed to putting policies and strategies in place to move more of Indiana's students out of the general diploma track and into the more rigorous Core 40 curriculum. After nearly two years of study, public input, and discussion, the Roundtable passed in fall 2004 a series of key resolutions emphasizing the important preparation for college and the workforce provided by Core 40.

The resolutions called for: (1) improving diploma requirements; (2) making Core 40 the default curriculum for all students with an opt-out provision; (3) adding a Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma; and (4) requiring Core 40 completion for admission to the state's four-year universities and to receive state financial aid to attend 4-year institutions.

The State Board of Education acted in February 2005 on the Roundtable's resolution to adopt improvements to the course and credit requirements for a high school diploma. These improvements went into effect with students entering high school in 2006 (Graduating Class of 2010). The Indiana General Assembly took action to make Core 40 the required curriculum for all students with an opt-out provision and a minimum requirement for admission to Indiana four-year public universities by passing legislation April 2005. This action became effective for students entering high school in 2007 (Graduating Class of 2011).

## All Diploma Types

1	When did the most recent diploma changes go into effect?	<p>Indiana's new graduation requirements went into effect with students entering high school in fall 2006 (Graduating Class of 2010).</p> <p>Statutory requirements making Core 40 the required (default) curriculum went into effect with students entering high school in fall 2007 (Graduating Class of 2011).</p> <p>Statutory requirements that make Core 40 (or documented equivalent) required for admission to public four-year universities in Indiana begin in fall 2011.</p>
2	May schools add conditions or courses to the state's requirements for earning a specific diploma (i.e. Core 40, Core 40 w/ Technical Honors, Core 40 w/ Academic Honors, General Diploma)?	<p>No. These are state determined diplomas. Schools may not make it more difficult for a student to complete any diploma (including the Honors diplomas) than what is required by the state. However, a local school corporation may have additional local requirements that apply to all four diplomas (including the General diploma) and all students.</p>
3	Has the definition of "credit" been changed?	<p>Yes. Beginning with students entering high school in fall 2006, a "credit" means satisfactory completion of a course that meets the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The course is an approved course under 511 IAC 6.1-5.1.</li> <li>(2) The course is consistent with the Indiana academic standards.</li> <li>(3) The course includes:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) a minimum of two hundred fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week for one (1) semester for a school operating on a traditional schedule;</li> <li>(B) a minimum of eighty-five (85) minutes of instruction per class period, <u>exclusive of passing time, for a school operating on a block schedule; or</u></li> <li>(C) a minimum of seventy (70) minutes of instruction per class period, <u>exclusive of passing time, for a school operating on a trimester schedule.</u></li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Schools on a block or trimester schedule no longer will need to seek alternate schedule approval. Since a reasonable amount of passing time may count in computing the minimum school day under IC 20-10.1-2-1, a reasonable amount of passing time also may be included in determining if a school that operates on a semester schedule meets the requirements for two hundred fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week. The minimum amounts of instruction that must be provided by schools that operate on a block or trimester schedule are exclusive of passing time.</p>
4	Are there additional means of earning "credit"?	<p>Yes. In February 2009, the Indiana State Board of Education approved waivers for the definition of "credit" without the submission of an application or waiver request, stated as follows:</p> <p>Schools may waive the definition of "credit" to the extent that students must complete a course that includes a minimum amount of instruction. This allows schools to award credit based on demonstration of proficiency against the academic standards in a course that meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The course is an approved course listed in 511 IAC 6.1-5.1, and the course complies with the approved course description.</li> <li>• For those courses for which Indiana Academic Standards are defined, the course is consistent with the defined standards.</li> <li>• The Board's proposed rule provides that the required proficiency is at or greater than that required to pass the Core 40 end-of-course assessment for those courses for which there is a Core 40 end of course assessment with identified passing scores.</li> </ul> <p>The Board's rules always have required students to be proficient before receiving credit, but the credit definition prevented a school from awarding credit until the student had been enrolled for a semester. This change replaces seat time with proficiency.</p>

5	Is there legislation from the General Assembly that defines alternate methods of earning credit?	<p>Yes. IC 20-36-5-1 defines five alternate methods of earning credits by students identified as "high ability:"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receiving a score that demonstrates proficiency on a standardized assessment of academic or subject area competence that is accepted by accredited postsecondary educational institutions.</li> <li>2. Receiving a high proficiency level score on an end of course assessment for a course without taking the course.</li> <li>3. Successfully completing a similar course at an eligible institution under the postsecondary enrollment program under IC 21-43-4.</li> <li>4. Receiving a score of three (3), four (4), or five (5) on an advanced placement examination for a course or subject area.</li> <li>5. Other methods approved by the state board.</li> </ol>
6	What changes have been made to Physical Education?	<p>No changes have been made to the course. Students still need to complete two semesters of Physical Education; however, changes were made to the number of credits awarded for this course. Beginning with students who entered high school in fall 2006, those who pass Physical Education receive one credit each semester instead of one-half credit per semester. By passing two semesters of Physical Education, students earn two credits.</p> <p>In 2009 the Indiana State Board of Education recommended flexibility in adapting the high school physical education requirement for students who demonstrate standards-based proficiency through other means.</p>
7	Are students allowed to graduate in less than 6 or 7 semesters?	<p>Yes. The Seven Semester Waiver Rule, 511 IAC 6-7-4, allows local school boards to waive the seven semester waiver requirement for some students.</p> <p>Also, IC 20-36-5-2, allows a student who is identified as high ability and, "who demonstrates proficiency in one (1) or more courses or subject areas under section 1 of this chapter may not be required to complete a minimum number of semesters to graduate or to receive an academic honors diploma." (See question 5 for section 1 of the legislation.)</p>
8	Can a student earn additional credits for re-taking a course?	<p>No. The only exception is if the official approved course description permits it. Official course descriptions can be found at <a href="http://www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html">http://www.doe.in.gov/publications/courses.html</a></p>
9	Can pass/fail grades be used?	<p>Pass/fail grades are not allowed for the Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, or Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas.</p>
10	May schools award high school credit for courses taken before Grade 9?	<p>It remains a local decision as to whether students are awarded high school credit for high school courses taken before Grade 9. No change was made to the existing rule regarding local decision-making in this area.</p> <p>Courses taught for high school credit in middle school must be equivalent to the high school course and cover the same Academic Standards. In addition, grades and credits for the course must be included on the student's high school transcript and factored into the cumulative GPA. These courses and credits may be used to fulfill the number of credits required for graduation.</p> <p><u>Note regarding math:</u> Students who receive high school credits on their transcript for high school courses taken before Grade 9 must still complete either a mathematics or physics course in their junior or senior year. It is strongly recommended that all students take mathematics their senior year. Mathematics credits earned before Grade 9 for students earning a General Diploma do not subtract from the four math credits required for this diploma. Those four math credits must be completed in grades 9-12.</p> <p><u>Note regarding world languages:</u> Beginning with students entering high school in fall 2006, World Language credits earned before Grade 9 must appear on the high school transcript to count toward the World Language credits required for Core 40 with Academic Honors.</p> <p><i>For NCAA eligibility purposes, courses taken in the eighth grade may not be used to satisfy the core-curriculum requirements although a process to waive this rule is available.</i></p>

11	Do students still have to take science credits from multiple disciplines?	Yes. All students are required to earn science credits in more than one (1) of the major science discipline categories, which are life science, physical science, and earth and space science.
12	What is a career-academic sequence?	<p>Career-academic sequences are recommended for all students and are required for those students completing the General Diploma.</p> <p>A career-academic sequence encourages a student to select electives in a deliberate manner to take full advantage of career exploration and preparation opportunities while in high school. Career-academic sequences are flexible, defined by local school corporations, and designed to help students explore and prepare for specific career areas or groups of related occupations.</p> <p>Recommended career-academic sequences may be found at:  <a href="http://www.doe.in.gov/octe/facs/CrrClstrGrid.html">http://www.doe.in.gov/octe/facs/CrrClstrGrid.html</a></p>
13	When is the career academic sequence requirement waived?	<p>Students opting out of Core 40 before the end of Grade 11 are required to complete all requirements for the General Diploma including the career-academic sequence.</p> <p>Students opting out of Core 40 after their 11th grade year must complete all requirements for the General Diploma with the career-academic sequence requirement waived.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This waiver allows students who switch to the General Diploma curriculum at the end of their 11th grade year to graduate with their class.</li> <li>• This waiver allows out-of-state students who transfer to Indiana following the 11th grade year to graduate with their class.</li> </ul>

## ***The Core 40 Diploma***

14	What changes have been made to the requirements for a Core 40 Diploma?	<p>The Core 40 Diploma has been in place since 1994 and in 2009 75% of Indiana’s high school graduates earned this diploma. The changes in the requirements for a Core 40 Diploma are minimal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social studies credits must include two (2) credits in World History and Civilization <b>or</b> two (2) credits in Geography and History of the World (a new course). Students may <u>not</u> satisfy this requirement by taking one (1) credit in World History and Civilization plus one (1) credit in Geography and History of the World credit. The new Core 40 Diploma does not allow the one-semester Geography credit to count for the Core 40 social studies requirement; however, schools may still offer the one-semester Geography course for elective credit.</li> <li>2. The Core 40 Diploma requires students to take (5) five “directed elective” credits in any combination from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Languages</li> <li>• Fine Arts</li> <li>• Career and Technical Education</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Students are required to take a mathematics or physics course during their junior or senior year.</li> </ol>
15	Why are students <u>required</u> to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year?	<p>Students are required to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year because using mathematics throughout high school is important for success in college and the workforce. Students who do not continue learning and applying mathematics skills during high school often have to take remedial (high school) courses in college or spend unnecessary time being re-trained by employers.</p> <p>In addition to taking a mathematics course, taking Physics I, or a higher level physics course (not including Integrated Chemistry-Physics) fulfills this requirement.</p>

16	Can a student taking physics during the junior or senior year count it as a math course?	No. Although physics courses contain significant mathematics content, they are considered science courses only and therefore, cannot fulfill Core 40 math course requirements.
17	What changes have been made to the health curriculum requirement?	<p>Changes to this requirement were made in two steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The course title was changed to Health and Wellness.</li> <li>2. The standards for this course were updated to include greater emphasis on lifelong health and wellness. The standards are available on the Indiana Department of Education website at <a href="http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/PrintLibrary/health.shtml">http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/PrintLibrary/health.shtml</a></li> </ol>
18	Can a student graduate with less than Core 40?	<p>Current high school students and students who entered high school beginning in fall 2006 are encouraged to complete Core 40 but may earn a General Diploma.</p> <p>Beginning with students who entered high school in fall 2007 (graduating class of 2011), the completion of Core 40 becomes an Indiana graduation requirement. To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) meet to discuss the student's progress.</li> <li>• The student's career and course plan is reviewed.</li> <li>• The student's parent or guardian determines if the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum.</li> <li>• If the decision is made to opt-out of Core 40, the student is required to complete the course and credit requirements for a general diploma and the career-academic sequence that the student will pursue is determined.</li> </ul>
19	How is the opt-out process initiated?	<p>The opt-out process involves a meeting between the student's parent or guardian and the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection). The opt-out process is initiated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian;</li> <li>• If the student does not pass at least three (3) courses required under the Core 40 curriculum; or</li> <li>• If a student receives a score on the ISTEP+ Algebra I or English 10 Graduation Examination that is in the twenty-fifth percentile or lower when the student takes the assessment for the first time.</li> </ul>
20	What happens if the parent does not attend the opt-out meeting with the student and the student's guidance counselor?	<p>If the parent does not attend the opt-out meeting with the student and the student's counselor after receiving two (2) written requests to attend, the student and the student's counselor shall meet. The student's counselor shall make a recommendation to the student as to whether the student will achieve greater educational benefits by continuing in the Core 40 curriculum or completing the general curriculum, and the student shall determine which curriculum the student will complete.</p>
21	Are special education students subject to the Core 40 graduation requirement?	<p>A decision with regard to whether a student who is a child with a disability (as defined in IC 20-35-1-2) is subject to the Core 40 graduation requirement shall be made in accordance with the student's individualized education program and federal law.</p>

## **The Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma**

22	What changes were made to the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma?	<p>The following additional requirement was added:</p> <p>Students earning the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma must complete <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete AP courses (4 credits) and corresponding AP exams</li> <li>• Complete IB (Higher Level) courses (4 credits) and corresponding IB exams</li> <li>• Earn a combined score of 1200 or higher on the SAT critical reading and mathematics</li> <li>• Score a 26 or higher composite on the ACT</li> <li>• Complete dual high school/college credit courses from an accredited postsecondary institution (6 transferable college credits)</li> <li>• Complete a combination of an AP course (2 credits and corresponding exam) or an IB Standard Level course (2 credits and corresponding exam) and dual high school/college credit course(s) from an accredited postsecondary institution (3 transferable college credits)</li> </ul>
23	What courses can fulfill the two Core 40 fine arts credits for the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma?	<p>Only courses with a number code between 4000 and 4272 can satisfy the requirement for the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma of 2 fine arts credits.</p>
24	Are the options in the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma affordable for school systems and low-income students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning July 1994, all schools were required to offer Advanced Placement (AP) math and science courses for students who qualify (IC 20-10.1-22.2-5). The Indiana General Assembly has provided funding to support these courses and pay for exams.</li> <li>• School corporations receive \$900 per Academic Honors Diploma recipient. By law, the money must be used only for expenses “directly related to the school corporation’s academic honors diploma program” or “the school corporation’s program for high ability students.” Schools have been receiving this funding since 1998.</li> <li>• Currently, the Indiana General Assembly is providing funding for state accredited secondary schools to cover 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP exams in math (Calculus and Statistics), and science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Environmental Science). Additionally, Title I funds and federal grants funds are available for low-income students to take any AP exam.</li> <li>• Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University offer dual credits free of charge to students completing the dual credit college courses on the high school campus. Other institutions may also have this arrangement with high schools, and the information would be available by contacting a specific high school.</li> <li>• Both College Board and ACT provide no-cost assessments for low-income students to take the SAT and ACT, respectively.</li> <li>• Since fall 2008, the state has paid the cost for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in state accredited schools to take the PSAT. This test can predict student success in AP courses through expanded use in the schools of AP Potential™.</li> </ul>
25	Do students have to earn a certain score on the AP test if they choose that option for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma?	<p>No. Since seniors receive the results of their AP exams in the summer following their senior year requiring a certain score for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma is not possible. Students choosing this option are required to take the AP exam, but are not required to earn a certain score because of the timing of these tests.</p>

26	What are “academic, transferable dual high school/college courses” as referred to in the requirements for a Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma?	<p>“Academic” refers to courses that typically are taken by college students in their first two years of study. These courses generally are liberal arts courses that are taken by all college students regardless of college major or course of study.</p> <p>“Transferable” refers to the ability of a specific course to be accepted for credit at <u>any</u> Indiana public college or university. In order for a course to be transferable, it must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply toward meeting the degree requirements of the institution offering the course in the same way as the on-college campus course; and</li> <li>• Transfer to the other Indiana public colleges and universities, in the same way as the on-college campus course.</li> </ul> <p>Action by the 2005 General Assembly required the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in consultation with the Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC), to establish a statewide Core Transfer Library by July 1, 2007. (<a href="http://www.transferin.net/index.aspx">http://www.transferin.net/index.aspx</a>) The Core Transfer Library consists of 70 college courses (each course transfers in and applies toward meeting the general education degree requirements in the same way as the receiving college’s equivalent course). Courses in the Library emphasize the most frequently taken college courses and are drawn primarily from liberal arts coursework, but also include introductory courses in technical, professional, and occupational fields. The Commission, STAC, and the Indiana Dual Credit Advisory Council, established fall 2009, continue to work to advance state-level policies that support a streamlined and affordable system of dual credit enrollment, completion, and transfer for Indiana students.</p>
27	What mathematics courses can a student take to fulfill the two (2) additional Core 40 math credits required for the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma?	<p>Courses that will meet this requirement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probability and Statistics;</li> <li>• Discrete Mathematics;</li> <li>• Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry;</li> <li>• Calculus AB, Advanced Placement;</li> <li>• Calculus BC, Advanced Placement;</li> <li>• Statistics, Advanced Placement; and</li> <li>• Advanced Mathematics, College Credit</li> </ul>

### **The Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma**

28	What are the requirements for the new Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma?	<p>In addition to meeting the Core 40 requirements, students who earn the Core 40 with Technical Honors must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete all requirements for Core 40.</li> <li>• Complete a career-technical program (8 or more related credits) .</li> <li>• Earn a grade of “C” or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.</li> <li>• Have a grade point average of “B” or better.</li> <li>• Recommended: Earn 2 additional credits in mathematics and 4-8 credits in World Languages for four year college admission..</li> <li>• Complete <u>two</u> of the following, one must be A or B:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Score at or above the following levels on WorkKeys: Reading for Information - Level 6; Applied Mathematics - Level 6; Locating Information - Level 5</li> <li>B. Complete dual high school/college credit courses in a technical area (6 college credits)</li> <li>C. Complete a Professional Career Internship course or Cooperative Education course (2 credits)</li> <li>D. Complete an industry-based work experience as part of two-year career technical education program (minimum 140 hours)</li> <li>E. Earn a state-approved, industry-recognized certification</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
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29	May a student complete both the Core 40 with Academic Honors and the Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas?	Yes.
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### **The General Diploma**

30	What changes were made to the requirements for a General Diploma?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biology I is required.</li> <li>2. Five (5) flex credits are required in any combination from the list provided in Question 13.</li> <li>3. The completion of a career-academic sequence is required. (See Question 14).</li> </ol>
31	What are "Flex Credits" as required for the General Diploma?"	<p>Flex credits are required for the General Diploma and must be selected from the following list:</p> <p>Additional courses to extend the career-academic sequence  Courses involving workplace learning, which may include the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Career Exploration Internship (new course)</li> <li>- Professional Career Internships</li> <li>- Business Cooperative Experiences</li> <li>- Cooperative Family &amp; Consumer Sciences</li> <li>- Industrial Cooperative Training</li> <li>- Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education</li> <li>- Marketing Field Experience</li> <li>- Advanced Career-Technical Education, College Credit (new course)</li> <li>- Additional courses in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, world languages, and fine arts</li> </ul>

### **The Core 40 College Admissions Requirement**

32	Is Core 40 an admissions requirement to attend a public four-year university in Indiana?	<p>Yes. The Indiana General Assembly passed a law in 2005 that makes Core 40 (or documented equivalent) a minimum requirement for admission to Indiana four-year public universities effective fall 2011. This is consistent with the first class required to complete Core 40 as a high school graduation requirement.</p> <p>Most Indiana public four-year universities already expect Core 40 completion as a minimum admissions requirement</p> <p><i>(Note: Core 40 is considered the minimum - universities may have additional admissions requirements.)</i></p> <p>Students not completing Core 40, but wishing to attend a public four-year university need to prove they are prepared to succeed in credit bearing college coursework. They can do this by applying for acceptance as a transfer student upon successful completion of at least twelve (12) credit hours of college-level courses with at least a "C" average or the equivalent in each course.</p>
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33	Is Core 40 required for admission to the state's 2-year colleges?	No. Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana and Vincennes University remain open-door institutions. However, both institutions strongly recommend Core 40 as the best preparation for success in their programs. College-level work is rigorous and the technical and professional programs offered at these institutions also demand students have the solid reading, writing, math and science preparation provided by Core 40.
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## ***Changes to the Graduation Qualifying Exam Requirement***

34	What changes have been made to the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE) Requirement?	<p>Legislation passed in 2005 and clarified in legislation passed in 2006 immediately adds a "Work-readiness Waiver" (retroactive July 1, 2005) and eliminates the Core 40 Waiver beginning July 1, 2010.</p> <p>With these changes, there are the following four ways to meet the GQE Requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Passing the ISTEP+: Algebra I Graduation Exam and the ISTEP+: English 10 Graduation Exam (effective with the graduating class of 2012; or</li> <li>2. Fulfilling the requirement for the Core 40 Waiver (until July 1, 2010); or</li> <li>3. Fulfilling the requirements for a GQE "Evidence-based" Waiver (see below); or</li> <li>4. Fulfilling the requirement for a GQE "Work-readiness" Waiver (see below).</li> </ol> <p><u>GQE "Evidence-based" Waiver</u> <i>(No change to current waiver provision)</i></p> <p>A student who does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination may be eligible to graduate if the student does all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Takes the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one (1) time every school year after the school year in which the student first takes the graduation examination;</li> <li>(2) Completes remediation opportunities provided to the student by the student's school;</li> <li>(3) Maintains a school attendance rate of at least ninety-five percent (95%) with excused absences not counting against the student's attendance;</li> <li>(4) Maintains at least a "C" average or the equivalent in the courses comprising the credits specifically required for graduation by rule of the state board;</li> <li>(5) Otherwise satisfies all state and local graduation requirements; and</li> <li>(6) Obtain a written recommendation from a teacher of the student in each subject area in which the student has not achieved a passing score on the graduation examination. The written recommendation must be concurred by the principal of the student's school and be supported by documentation that the student has attained the academic standard in the subject area based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) tests other than the graduation examination; or</li> <li>(B) classroom work.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><u>GQE "Work-readiness" Waiver</u> <i>(New waiver provision)</i></p> <p>A student who does not achieve a passing score on the graduation examination may be eligible to graduate if the student does all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Takes the graduation examination in each subject area in which the student did not achieve a passing score at least one (1) time every school year after the school year in which the student first takes the graduation examination;</li> <li>(2) Completes remediation opportunities provided to the student by the student's school;</li> <li>(3) Maintains a school attendance rate of at least ninety-five percent (95%) with excused absences not counting against the student's attendance;</li> <li>(4) Maintains at least a "C" average or the equivalent in the courses comprising the credits specifically required for graduation by rule of the state board;</li> <li>(5) Otherwise satisfies all state and local graduation requirements; and</li> <li>(6) <b>Completes the course and credit requirements for a general diploma, including the career academic sequence; a workforce readiness assessment; and, at least one (1) career exploration internship, or cooperative education, or workforce credential recommended by the student's school.</b></li> </ol>
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## ***Additional questions?***

For a complete list of the Core 40 and Honors Diploma requirements go to [http://www.doe.in.gov/core40/diploma\\_requirements.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/core40/diploma_requirements.html).



- **Challenging Courses = Big Rewards.** Students who take strong academic courses in high school are more likely to enroll in college and earn a degree. That's important, because higher education pays: On average, college graduates earn more than a million dollars more over a lifetime than those with only a high school education. High school graduates earn 42 percent more than high school dropouts. Core 40 pays.
- **More Career Options.** Good jobs require education beyond high school. That means if you want a job that will support you and your future family, provide health benefits and offer a chance for advancement, you'll need to complete a two- or four-year degree, apprenticeship program, military training, or workforce certification. If you are planning to go directly to work after high school graduation, you will still need to be prepared for training and retooling throughout your lifetime. Core 40 gives you more options — and more opportunities — to find a career with a real future.
- **What Employers and Training Programs Want.** Employers, apprenticeship programs and the military all agree — they expect you to arrive with essential skills, including speaking and writing clearly, analyzing information, conducting research, and solving complex problems. The expectations are the same: You need Core 40.
- **Preparation for College Success.** It's not just about getting in — it's about finishing. To succeed in college-level work, students need to complete Core 40 in high school. Anything less may mean taking remedial (high school) coursework in college, which means it will take you longer to finish and will cost you more in college tuition. It also means you'll have a greater chance of dropping out before you get your degree. That's why Core 40 is a college admissions requirement: In fall 2011 you won't be able to start at a four-year public Indiana college without Core 40 (or a documented equivalent). Most private colleges require students to have at least this level of high school academic preparation. Core 40 is your best preparation for success.
- **Money for College.** The Core 40 diploma can help you earn money for college. Indiana students who complete a Core 40 diploma and meet other financial aid and grade requirements can receive up to 90 percent of approved tuition and fees at eligible colleges. Core 40 with Academic Honors graduates can receive up to 100 percent and some colleges also offer their own scholarships specifically for students who earn this diploma.

### **Succeeding With Core 40**

Core 40 became Indiana's required high school curriculum in fall 2007. Students entering high school are expected to complete Core 40 as a graduation requirement.

By providing all Indiana students a balanced sequence of academically rigorous high school courses in the core subjects of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies; physical education/health and wellness; and electives including world languages, career/technical, and fine arts, the Core 40 requirement gives all our students the opportunity to compete with the best. That's great news for Indiana students.

To graduate with less than Core 40, a student must complete a formal opt-out process involving parental consent. See your school counselor for full details. For more information about Core 40 and your career and course plan, see your counselor and visit Learn More Resource Center at <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

INDIANA  
**CORE40**

Course and Credit Requirements	
English/ Language Arts	<b>8 credits</b> Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.
Mathematics	<b>6 credits</b> 2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II <i>Or complete Integrated Math I, II, and III for 6 credits.</i> <i>All students must complete a math or physics course in the junior or senior year.</i>
Science	<b>6 credits</b> 2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics 2 credits: any Core 40 science course
Social Studies	<b>6 credits</b> 2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World
Directed Electives	<b>5 credits</b> World Languages Fine Arts Career-Technical
Physical Education	<b>2 credits</b>
Health and Wellness	<b>1 credit</b>
Electives*	<b>6 credits</b> <i>(Career Academic Sequence Recommended)</i>
<b>40 Total State Credits Required</b>	

Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students

\* Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years. All students are strongly encouraged to complete a Career Academic Sequence (selecting electives in a deliberate manner) to take full advantage of career exploration and preparation opportunities.

Effective beginning with students who enter high school 2006-07

**CORE40** with Academic Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

For the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages).
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following:
  - Complete AP courses (4 credits) and corresponding AP exams
  - Complete IB courses (4 credits) and corresponding IB exams
  - Earn a combined score of 1200 or higher on the SAT critical reading and mathematics
  - Score a 26 or higher composite on the ACT
  - Complete dual high school/college credit courses from an accredited postsecondary institution (6 transferable college credits)
  - Complete a combination of an AP course (2 credits and corresponding exam) or an IB Standard Level course (2 credits and corresponding exam) and dual high school/college credit course(s) from an accredited postsecondary institution (3 transferable college credits)

**CORE40** with Technical Honors *(minimum 47 credits)*

For the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Complete a career-technical program (8 or more related credits)
- Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Recommended: Earn 2 additional credits in mathematics and 4-8 credits in World Languages for four year college admission.
- Complete two of the following, one must be A or B:
  - Score at or above the following levels on WorkKeys: Reading for Information - Level 6; Applied Mathematics - Level 6; Locating Information - Level 5
  - Complete dual high school/college credit courses in a technical area (6 college credits)
  - Complete a Professional Career Internship course or Cooperative Education course (2 credits)
  - Complete an industry-based work experience as part of a two-year career-technical education program (minimum 140 hours)
  - Earn a state-approved, industry-recognized certification