

TOPS CORE CURRICULUM

TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards For High School Graduates of 2027¹

The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Core Curriculum is one component of the requirements to qualify for the TOPS scholarship. The curriculum outlined on this flyer is used to qualify for the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award and consists of 19 units.^{2,3}

ENGLISH = 4 UNITS

Units	Courses
1 Unit	English I
1 Unit	English II
1 Unit from the following	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature and Performance)
1 Unit from the following	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature and Performance)

MATH = 4 UNITS

Units	Courses
1 Unit	Algebra I
1 Unit	Geometry
1 Unit	Algebra II
	Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence
1 Unit from the following	Algebra III; Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, Differential Calculus I, Integral Calculus I, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics, Statistical Reasoning, or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL; AP Pre-calculus; AP Computer Science A ⁴

SCIENCE = 4 UNITS

Units	Courses
1 Unit	Biology I
1 Unit	Chemistry I
2 Units from the following:	Earth Science; Environmental Science or Environmental Awareness; Physical Science or Principles of Engineering; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II or AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II or AP Biology or IB Biology II or Human Anatomy and Physiology

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(Available 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on
Monday – Friday)

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SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 UNITS

Units	Courses
1 Unit from the following:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1 Unit from the following:	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States
2 Units from the following:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography or Physical Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics; AP Psychology, or African American History

FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR COMPUTER SCIENCE = 2 UNITS

Units	Courses
2 Units from the following:	Foreign Language, both units in the same language, which may also include the following AP and IB courses: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, IB Spanish V, Mandarin Chinese I-IV, Hindi I – IV, Portuguese I-IV, Vietnamese I-IV
OR	
2 Units from the following:	Computer Science, AP Computer Science A ⁴ , Computer Coding as a Foreign Language I, Computer Coding as a Foreign Language II

ART = 1 UNIT

Units	Courses
1 Unit from the following:	Performance course in Music, Dance or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV; IB Theatre I, Drafting, Media Arts I - IV; Photography I, Photography II, Digital Photography, Digital Image & Motion Graphics, Digital Storytelling, Engineering Design & Development, Sound Design

¹ 2028 Graduates and thereafter have a different TOPS Core Curriculum than previous graduates. Please see the TOPS Core Curriculum Flyer for 2028 Graduates and thereafter.

² **GIFTED COURSES:** Any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a "Gifted Course" and shall fulfill the core curriculum. **Some, but not all, Gifted Courses will be graded on a 5-point scale for determining the TOPS Core Curriculum GPA.** Courses to be graded on a 5-point scale are approved by BESE in consultation with the Louisiana Board of Regents. See footnote 3 for a link to the core curriculum courses and which of those courses will be graded on 5.0-point scale.

³ The calculation of the TOPS Core Curriculum grade point average (GPA) will use a 5-point scale for grades earned for **certain designated courses** in: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Gifted, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and Articulated offered for college credit by the Louisiana School for the Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA). For those designated courses, five quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "A," four quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "B," three quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "C," two quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "D," and zero quality points will be assigned to a letter grade of "F." Only designated courses will be graded on 5-point scale. The courses currently designated to be calculated on the 5-point scale can be viewed at <https://mylosfa.la.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/tops-university-course-requirements.pdf>.

⁴ AP Computer Science A may be used for one of the following: a math credit or a foreign language credit. It may not be used for both.

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