

# Commissioner's Preliminary Recommendation on Methodology for Calculating Uniform GPA

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- The methodology for calculating a uniform GPA for public university admissions will begin with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade on or after May 1, 2009. All academic courses in the Recommended High School Program shall be used in calculating the uniform GPA regardless of when the course was taken.
- On a 4.0 scale, a weight of 1.0 will be given to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and academic dual credit, including career-oriented, courses listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual (available online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1252.PDF>). In addition to the career-oriented courses listed in the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual, high school career and technical education (CTE) courses aligned with university programs of study will be counted.
- Pre-AP and pre-IB courses will be weighted at .50. Within four years, all pre-AP courses will be expected to meet Laying the Foundation (or comparable) standards and pre-IB courses will be expected to be part of an approved IB program. After four years, the weighting of pre-AP courses will be reviewed by the GPA Advisory Committee (referenced below) as appropriate.
- The Coordinating Board will establish a 15-member GPA Advisory Committee, which will include representatives from public education, higher education and the workforce sectors, to oversee implementation of the GPA standards, to develop a GPA conversion model, to assure rigor across all courses included in the GPA calculation and to make adjustments in the courses counted in the GPA calculation as curricula in high schools and universities change. Another key responsibility of the GPA Advisory Committee will be to ensure institutional compliance with Coordinating Board rules (§4.85) which specify requirements for dual credit courses.

## **Courses that are under consideration to be included in the uniform GPA calculation**

### **Social Studies – 3.5 CREDITS**

World History Studies (one credit)  
World Geography Studies (one credit)  
U.S. History Studies Since Reconstruction (one credit)  
U.S. Government (one-half credit)

### **English – 4 CREDITS**

English I, II, III, IV  
English I and II for Speakers of Other Languages (SOL) may be substituted for English I and II only for immigrant students with limited English proficiency

### **Mathematics – 4 CREDITS**

Algebra I, II, & Geometry. The fourth credit may be selected from the following: Mathematical Models with Applications, Pre-calculus, Independent Study in Mathematics, Advance Placement Statistics, Advanced Placement Calculus AB, Advanced Placement Calculus BC, IB Mathematical Studies, IB Mathematics Standard Level, IB Mathematics Higher Level, IB Advanced Mathematics Standard Level, AP Computer Science

### **Science – 4 CREDITS**

Biology, AP Biology, or IB Biology  
Integrated Physics and Chemistry  
Chemistry, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry  
Physics, Principles of Technology I, AP Physics, or IB Physics. A fourth credit from the courses listed in 19 TAC 112 approved for science credit, which includes the following: Astronomy, Aquatic Science, Environmental systems, Earth and Space Science, Advancement Placement courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C, and Environmental Science. The following health science technology education courses: Scientific Research and Design, Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems, Medical Microbiology and Pathophysiology, Principles of Technology 1 & 11 and Engineering.

### **Language Other than English – 2 CREDITS**

(must consist of Level I and Level II in the same language).

### **Fine Arts – 1 CREDIT**

A single year-long approved arts course from a fine arts discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art as listed in TAC 117.

### **College-Preparatory Electives – 3.5 CREDIT**

One year (two semesters), in addition to those required above, chosen from the following areas: Visual and Performing Arts (non-introductory level courses), History, Social Science, English, Advanced Mathematics, Science, and language other than English.

CTE Courses – Those courses with a “university” content connection such as Accounting maybe included in the GPA calculation.