

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Types of Diplomas

To meet the requirements for all diplomas, a student must have attained an approved attendance, conduct and subject matter record, which includes a completed graduation path.

The **Regular Diploma** shall be awarded to students who:

- Earn the specified 22 units of credit (24 for seven credit schools; 28 for eight credit schools) or satisfactorily completes an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Pass the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I and English II

The **Academic Honors Diploma** shall be awarded to students who:

- Earn the specified 22 units of credit (24 for seven credit schools; 28 for eight credit schools) in the Scholars Program
- Attain an 85-92 average for the high school career
- Pass the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I and English II

Special Note: The cumulative semester average will be calculated at the end of seven semesters and shall not be rounded.

The **Distinguished Scholars Diploma** shall be awarded to students who:

- Earn the specified 22 units of credit (24 for seven credit schools; 28 for eight credit schools) in the Scholars Program
- Attain a 93-100 average for the high school career
- Pass the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I and English II

Special Note: The cumulative semester average will be calculated at the end of seven semesters and shall not be rounded.

The **International Baccalaureate Diploma** shall be awarded to students who:

- Earn the specified 22 units of credit (28 for eight credit schools) in the Scholars Program
- Earn a minimum of 24 points on culminating examinations in six subject areas
- Complete three core components: Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge class and 150 hours of Creativity/Action/Service (CAS)
- Pass the TCAP Gateway Exams in Algebra I, Biology I and English II

The **Certificate of Attendance** shall be awarded to students who:

- Earn the specified 22 credits (24 for seven credit schools; 28 for eight credit schools)
- **Have not** passed the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I and/or English II

Special Note: Students receiving the Certificate of Attendance shall not be eligible to participate in Graduation Ceremonies but shall receive a certificate of attendance. This may affect college admissions.

The **Diploma of Specialized Education** shall be awarded to students who:

- Complete an Individualized Education Program
- Have not passed the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I, and/or English

Exchanging the Certificate of Attendance or the Specialized Diploma for a Regular Education Diploma

There are only two types of diplomas (*the certificate of attendance or the specialized education diploma*) that may be exchanged for a regular diploma.

To exchange a certificate of attendance:

- The individual must pass the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I, and/or English II.
- The individual must also earn the appropriate 22 units of credit (24 for seven credit schools; 28 for eight credit schools) to obtain a regular diploma.

To exchange a specialized education diploma:

- The individual must pass the TCAP Gateway exams in Algebra I, Biology I, and/or English II.
- The individual must also meet all the goals of his/her Individualized Education Program to obtain a regular diploma.

The **General Educational Development (GED)** test is no longer a means of exchanging a certificate of attendance or a specialized education diploma for a regular diploma.

No person may hold more than one certificate or diploma. A person must return the certificate of attendance or the diploma of specialized education before being awarded a regular diploma. This exchange shall be handled by the counselor at the high school where the certificate of attendance or the diploma of specialized education was awarded.

Requirements for a Regular High School Diploma

Core Courses	Credits Required
English	4
Math (including Algebra I)	3
Science (including both Biology and a physical science)	3
Social studies U.S. History – 1 credit Economics – ½ credit Government – ½ credit World Geography, World History, AP Human Geography, AP World History — 1 credit** AP European History, or Ancient History coupled with Modern History	3
Physical Education	1
Lifetime Wellness	1

University Path		Students choose one of these two paths or the dual path option.	Technical Path	
Course	Credits		Course	Credits
Foreign Language	2 (In the same language)		Technical Courses	4 (Focused on a technical area)
Visual or Performing Arts	1		Electives	3
Electives	4			
TOTAL	22		TOTAL	22

And . . .

In addition to meeting the core course and path requirements, all students must score “Proficient” on the following Gateway Exams: Algebra I, Biology I and English II.

- University Path students must receive credit in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
- Technical Path students can only receive credit for 1 course prior to Algebra I that satisfies the mathematics requirement.

*** Students are required to take one of these Social Studies courses. If a student chooses to take others, these courses would be electives.*

Requirements for a Scholars Program Diploma

To provide a more rigorous academic program for achievement-oriented and academically talented students in each school, the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Board of Education established the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Scholars Program for the pursuit and recognition of academic excellence. The Scholars Program provides for two levels of achievement: Academic Honors and Distinguished Scholar.

Objectives

- To provide more opportunities for **in-depth** study in all subject areas
- To strengthen academic skills
- To intensify academic achievement
- To improve scores on college admission tests
- To increase options for university admissions, college majors and careers

Admission Policy

A student choosing to participate in the Scholars Program should be willing to engage in the rigorous high school curriculum required by the Scholars Program to receive either an Academic Honors Diploma, Distinguished Scholars Diploma or an International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Curriculum

The curriculum requirements for Academic Honors, Distinguished Scholar or IB Diplomas are those prescribed by the State Department, the IB organization and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. Students must score "Proficient" on the following Gateway Exams: Algebra I, Biology I and English II.

Students shall:

Earn eight (8) credits of Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in any subject.

- Six (6) of eight (8) credits must be honors level or above.
- Two (2) of the 8 credits must be Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB). One of the two IB/AP classes must be in the junior or senior year.
- Two of the Honors, AP or IB credits must be in the junior year **and** two in the senior year.

Special Note: The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 85 with no rounding.

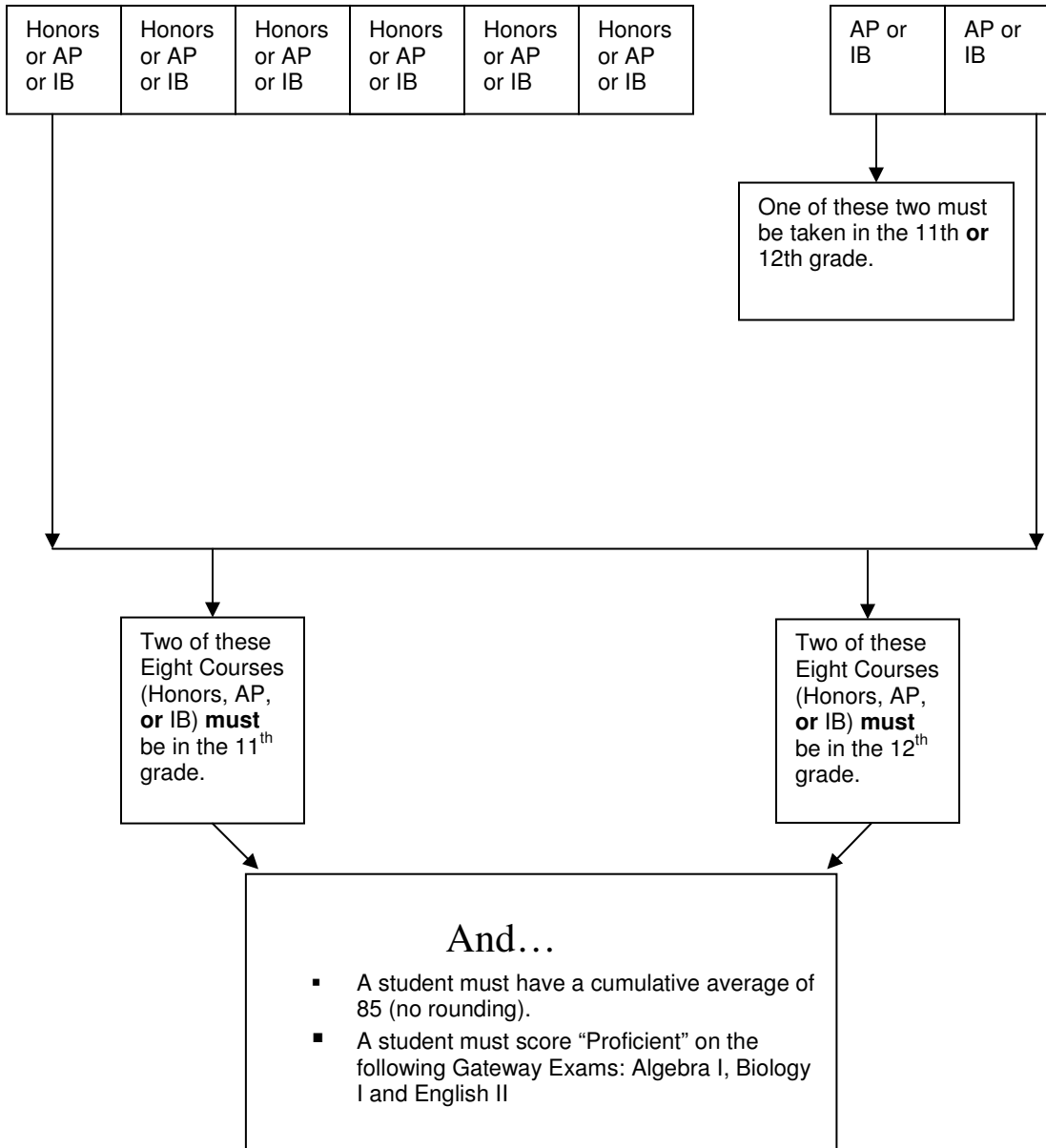
Scholars Designation/Grades

The averages for Academic Honors and Distinguished Scholar shall be computed from seven semesters. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian shall have earned the highest cumulative grade point averages among the students in the Scholars Program. The overall cumulative average for Distinguished Scholar shall be 93-100 (*no rounding*). The overall grade average for Academic Honors shall be 85-92 (*no rounding*). These Scholars designations shall be noted on the student's transcript and diploma. In computing numerical grades for Advanced Placement or an IB course, five points will be added to the numerical nine weeks and examination grades. In computing numerical grades for honors courses, three points will be added to the numerical nine weeks and examination grades. Any student who takes AP or IB examination(s) and pass(es) (*AP score of three or above or IB score of four or above*) will be reimbursed for the cost of the examination(s) by Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

Students who take the Scholars Program curriculum and fail to achieve an average of 85 will have "Scholars Program" stamped on their cumulative record and transcript and will receive a regular diploma.

The Minimum Requirements for a Student wanting to earn a Scholars Diploma

The student must earn eight credits in either Honors *or* Advanced Placement *or* International Baccalaureate courses in any subject.



The Requirements for a Scholars Program Diploma

Earn eight (8) credits of Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in any subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six (6) of eight (8) credits must be honors level or above. Two (2) of the 8 credits must be Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB). One of the two IB/AP classes must be in the junior or senior year. Two of the Honors, AP or IB credits must be in the junior year and two in the senior year. <u>Special Note: The student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 85 with no rounding.</u>	Credits Required
English	4
Math (Algebra I, II and Geometry <i>or</i> Geometry, Algebra II and one advanced math course)	3
Science (including Biology and a Physical Science)	3
Social Studies U.S. History (Honors or IB/AP) – 1 credit Economics – ½ credit Government – ½ credit World Geography, World History, AP World Geography, AP World History, AP European History or Ancient History coupled with Modern History _____ — 1 credit*	3
Physical Education	1
Lifetime Wellness	1

University Path			Technical Path	
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Course	Credits		Course	Credits
Foreign Language	2 (In the same language)	Students choose one of these two paths or the dual path option.	Career & Technical Courses	4 (Focused on a technical area)
Visual or Performing Arts	1		Electives	3
Electives	4			
TOTAL	22		TOTAL	22

And . . .

In addition to meeting the core course and path requirements, all students must score “Proficient” on the following Gateway Exams: Algebra I, Biology I and English II.

* Students are required to take one of these Social Studies courses. If a student chooses to take others, these courses would be electives.

Sample Four-Year Programs

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry
Physical Science	Biology I	Chemistry I	Physics I
Foreign Language I	Foreign Language II	Elective	Elective
Physical Education	Lifetime Wellness	Elective	Elective
Visual Arts I	World Geography	U.S. History	Government/Economics

**Sample Dual Path
Business Technology Emphasis**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry
Physical Science	Biology I	Chemistry I	Physics I
Foreign Language I	Foreign Language II	U.S. History	Physical Education
Lifetime Wellness	World History	Art I	Government/Economics
Computer Applications	Integrated Input Technologies	Webpage Design – Site Designer	Network Essentials

**Sample Scholars Program
Students Who Enter with High School Credits Earned in Middle School in
Algebra I and Physical Science**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I - Honors	English II - Honors	English III - Honors	English IV - AP
Geometry - Honors	Algebra II – Honors	Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry	Calculus AB - AP
Biology I - Honors	Chemistry I	Physics I	Physics - AP
Foreign Language I	Foreign Language II	Foreign Language III	Foreign Language - AP
Physical Education	Lifetime Wellness	Elective	Elective
Visual Arts I	European History - AP	U.S. History - AP	Government/Economics