

THEIR FUTURE, SIMPLIFIED

MapMyGrad Toolkit
Winter 2020



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Your job, simplified.

Eighth grade is an exciting year, though it can also be an intense one for your students – and for you. Before your students enter ninth grade, they need to select an endorsement and create a graduation plan.

We know this can be a confusing or even frustrating process. But it doesn't have to be!

Unjumble the path to and through high school with MapMyGrad. On this interactive website, your students will find practical, simple information about the different endorsements, explore the endorsement that fits best, and understand how endorsements link to different careers. We include an informational brochure about MapMyGrad on the next two pages, which you can print out and have your students bring home.

Also check out our webinar on using MapMyGrad with students, which you can view here: <https://txoc.link/MapMyGradWebinar>.

MAP MY GRAD

by **TEXAS ON COURSE**



For Parents

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND ENDORSEMENTS, CAREERS, AND GRADUATION PLANS!

A free, interactive graduation planning tool, MapMyGrad provides everything you and your child need to choose an endorsement and start building a high school graduation plan.

HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

MapMyGrad helps middle school students zero in on their skills and interests and explore how to get to where they want to go after high school.

With the MapMyGrad GradPlanner, your child can start a graduation plan based on the courses and endorsements offered at their selected high school.

By spending some time with MapMyGrad, you'll be ready for productive conversations about your child's future with their counselor and teachers!

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FEATURES

With MapMyGrad, you and your child can



Find information about Texas endorsement requirements and career data.



Take a quick, fun quiz to find their best-fit endorsement.



Explore classes with MapMyGrad's Texas GradPlanner.



Bookmark their draft graduation plan or print a copy to discuss with their counselor.

Your child has a bright future ahead. Help them get started on their path to graduation and beyond.

Learn more and explore: texasoncourse.org/tools/mapmygrad

As Texas' definitive resource for college and career preparedness, Texas OnCourse equips middle and high school students for postgraduation success. With Texas OnCourse, all high school graduates, no matter where they come from or where they're headed, have a plan for what's next. Texas OnCourse is an initiative from the University of Texas at Austin, in partnership with the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. For more information, visit texasoncourse.org.



TEXAS ON COURSE

www.texasoncourse.org | Twitter: [@TexasOnCourse](https://twitter.com/TexasOnCourse) | info@texasoncourse.org

Dig into MapMyGrad with ten short activities.

Short on time? Have your students complete the activities from the 10 Ways for Students to Use MapMyGrad handout, found on the following pages.

This handout walks students through the MapMyGrad site. Students can complete the activities independently, in class, in an advisory period, or as homework. At the end of step 10, students will have created a personalized graduation plan to be saved and used for future reference.

10 WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO USE MAPMYGRAD

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO HELP CREATE A PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

This guide will walk you through the MapMyGrad site. At the end of step 10 you will have created a personalized graduation plan to be saved and used for future reference.

1) Create an account.

Creating an account with MapMyGrad means you can save graduation plans you create.

Step 1 – Go to mapmygrad.org.

Step 2 – Select Create an Account (or Sign In if you’ve already set up a Texas OnCourse account).

Don’t forget to record your username and password so you can remember for future use:

Username: _____

Password: _____

2) Find out what it takes to graduate in Texas.

Review the About menu, especially the items under The Basics. What’s one new piece of information you learned about graduation in Texas?

3) Learn about endorsements.

Read the endorsements page and click through all the endorsements. On the endorsements pages, you meet people in careers related to that endorsement. Who would you most like to meet in real life? What do they do that interests you?

4) Take the quiz.

By taking the MapMyGrad quiz, you can determine how your interests and abilities could help you decide which endorsement is a good fit. What do you think about your results? Do you want to take the quiz again?

5) Find your path.

In the Find Your Path menu, learn about the different jobs you can get and how they relate to each endorsement. Which one most appeals to you? Why?

6) Check out the roadmap to college.

Not all careers require a four-year degree, but most well-paying jobs require some sort of education after high school. If the career you chose requires a bachelor's degree or higher, check out the roadmap. Which step seems the most fun? Which seems the hardest?

7) Read the frequently asked questions.

Choose three questions from the FAQ page that you don't know the answer to. What three questions did you choose? Review the answers and summarize them.

8) Complete the Texas Grad Planner.

Where do you want to go to high school? What courses should you take?

9) Print out your Grad Plan and review it with your parent/guardian and counselor/adviser.

What questions do you have for each of them?

10) Keep a copy ready for your course registration for next year!

Hold on to the printed copy of your graduation plan so that you're prepared to register for your desired courses in high school!

Use our lesson plans for dynamic classroom activities.

If you have more time with students, we have included three lesson plans incorporating MapMyGrad from our Middle School Curriculum Guide. The full curriculum guide includes over 30 TEKS-aligned lessons in compliance with Texas Education Code 28.016, as well as implementation plans for a semester or full year. Download it at page.texasoncourse.org/middle-school-curriculum-guide-download.

Lesson 1.6: Find Your Path

Lesson Overview

This lesson is designed to explore the endorsements and how they relate to students' career interests.

Instructional Objectives

College and Career Readiness TEKS

§127.2(c)(2) – The student investigates career pathways in one or more of the 16 career clusters. The student is expected to:

- (A) research the academic requirements for one or more of the careers in an identified cluster.

§127.3(c)(2) – The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:

- (A) determine academic requirements for transitioning to high school; and
- (D) discuss the impact of effective college and career planning.

Time Required

2 class periods

Materials Required

For each student:

- Interests and Endorsements handout (following this lesson)
- Self-Portrait handout (following this lesson)

For the class:

- Computer lab or one laptop per group of two or three students
- Internet access

Procedures

1. The students will take the MapMyGrad interest quiz (tinyurl.com/MMGquiz). This quiz will suggest which endorsement they would be best suited to study in high school.
2. Have the groups follow the guided questions on the Interests and Endorsements handout.
3. Using the Self-Portrait handout, have the students create a character portrait of themselves as a high school student with notes and illustrations added about their endorsement, coursework, extracurriculars, etc.

Closure

Discuss high school endorsements with the students. Emphasize that they are still developing, and their opinions and interests will change over time. That's okay. They should explore their options at this early stage in middle school.

The students can organize their self-portraits by endorsement, so by the end of the week the students will see what everyone else is interested in, around the classroom. As students finish their portraits for homework, they can display the portraits in their endorsement area.

Handout: Interests and Endorsements

Write your answer from the MapMyGrad interest quiz and explain why you liked that answer best.

1. If you could be on a TV show, which would it be?
2. Would you rather...
3. If I wrote a "How To" book...
4. If you could be one of the following when you grow up...
5. If your Instagram account reflected...
6. If you could shadow an expert...

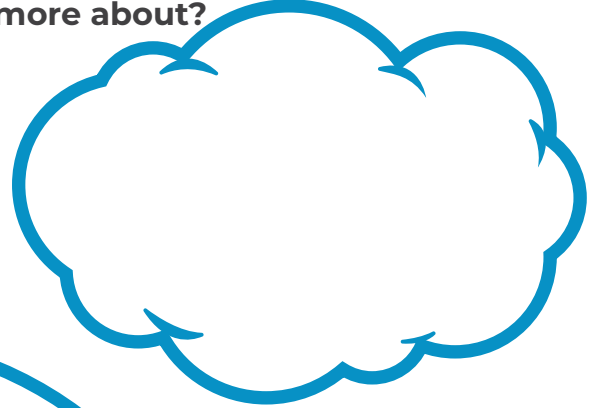
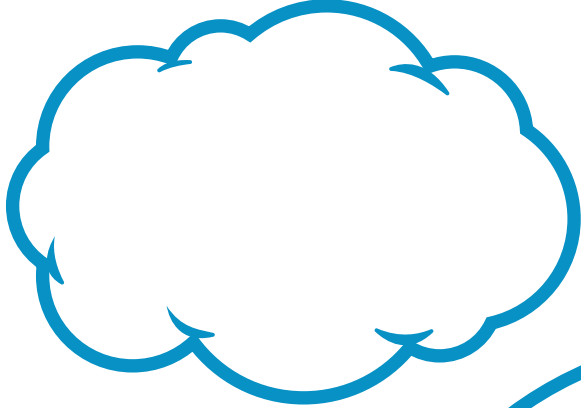
What were your results? Give a brief description.

Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

Handout: Self-Portrait

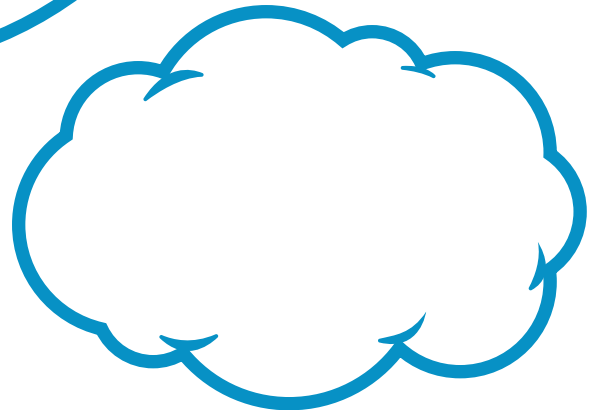
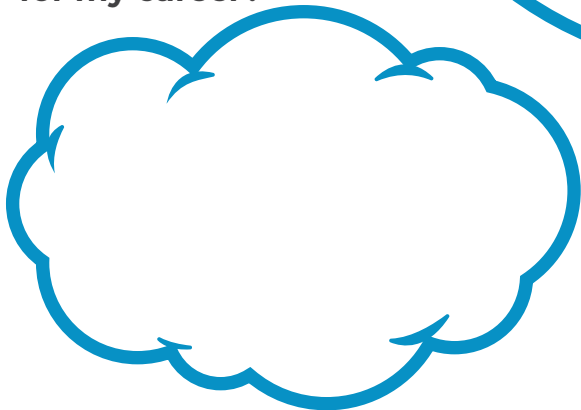
Where do I want to go?

What skills do I have now that I want to expand and learn more about?



What courses, tests, and paths are required for my career?

What things do I want for my future, and what financial planning do I need to do?



Lesson 2.2: The Foundation High School Program and High School Personal Graduation Plan

Lesson Overview

This lesson is designed to acquaint students with the idea of the foundation high school plan. Students will identify the differences between choosing courses for high school versus college and the impacts of their choices from secondary to postsecondary. Texas OnCourse has teamed up with Roadtrip Nation to interview real college students reflecting on this pivotal time in their lives.

Instructional Objectives

College and Career Readiness TEKS

§127.3(c)(2) – The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:

- (A) determine academic requirements for transitioning to high school;
- (B) explore opportunities for earning college credit in high school such as Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, dual credit, and local and statewide articulated credit;
- (D) discuss the impact of effective college and career planning;
- (E) demonstrate decision-making skills related to school and community issues, programs of study, and college and career planning; and
- (F) identify how performance on assessments such as the PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT®, ACT®, ASVAB®, and Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA®) impact personal academic and career goals.

§127.3(c)(3) – The student evaluates skills for personal success. The student is expected to:

- (A) use interpersonal skills to facilitate effective teamwork;
- (B) use problem-solving models and critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions;
- (C) use effective time-management and goal-setting strategies; and
- (D) identify skills that can be transferable among a variety of careers.

Cross-Disciplinary Standards

II.B. Writing across the curriculum

1. Write clearly and coherently using standard writing conventions.
2. Write in a variety of forms for various audiences and purposes.

II.C. Research across the curriculum

1. Understand which topics or questions are to be investigated.
2. Explore a research topic.
5. Synthesize and organize information effectively.

II.E. Technology

1. Use technology to gather information.
2. Use technology to organize, manage, and analyze information.
4. Use technology appropriately.

Time Required

2–3 class periods

Materials Required

For the classroom:

- Computer lab access or one laptop per group of three or four students
- Internet access

Procedures

1. Ask students to do a quick-write about what they know about their preferred endorsement. Ask them to list any courses they are excited to take in high school.
2. Next, have the students view either of these Roadtrip Nation/Texas OnCourse videos:
 - a. [Choosing Courses \[High School\]](https://youtu.be/Cs7Dv50dwVE) (youtu.be/Cs7Dv50dwVE)
 - b. [Choosing Courses \[Middle School\]](https://youtu.be/hCVJIV5N-t8) (youtu.be/hCVJIV5N-t8)
3. Have the students write any tips or words of advice that they think will be helpful from the video or that they've gotten from others about choosing courses.
4. Instruct the students to go to [MapMyGrad](http://www.mapmygrad.org/gradplanner) (www.mapmygrad.org/gradplanner) and sign in or create an account.
5. Then they will complete the Texas Grad Planner.
6. Once they've created their plan they can print it or copy it down.
7. Ask the students to add notes from the discussion.
8. Explain to students what the foundation high school program is: with endorsements, it is a flexible program that allows students to pursue their interests.
 - a. The program contains four parts:
 - i. A 22-credit foundation plan, which is the core of the Texas high school diploma program
 - ii. Five endorsement options that allow students to focus on a related series of courses
 - iii. A higher performance category called distinguished level of achievement (detailed in lesson 2.3)
 - iv. Performance acknowledgments that note outstanding achievement in specific areas

- b. Any student can earn a performance acknowledgment by completing or accomplishing one of the following:
 - i. Dual-credit courses
 - ii. Bilingualism and biliteracy
 - iii. PSAT, ACT Aspire, SAT or ACT
 - iv. Advanced Placement exams
 - v. International Baccalaureate exams
 - vi. Earning a business or industry certification or license recognized at the state, national, or international level
 - c. Reiterate to students that they should talk with their counselors or advisers and parents or guardians to determine which endorsement to pursue.
 - d. Help students understand that most college admission requirements include rigorous advanced courses in Algebra II, higher-level science, and languages other than English. These courses might not be a part of their chosen endorsement, but students should consider taking them to meet college requirements.
9. Students should know that there are limitations to graduating without an endorsement.
- a. Students graduating without an endorsement:
 - i. Will be limited in meeting college admission requirements, as many colleges minimally require the foundation high school program with an endorsement
 - ii. Will not have the opportunity for Top 10% Automatic Admission, since that requires the distinguished level of achievement
 - iii. Will miss out on gaining valuable skills and developing character traits that can benefit a student in all areas of life

Closure

Allow the students time to process their notes and highlight key points from the discussion. Ask them which courses they were most excited to see on the grad planner. Instruct them to take their plan home and discuss the process of setting up a meeting with the counselor with their parents or guardians. Refer them to the family guide pages.

Extension Activity

Vocabulary resources:

- [Quizlet – Gear Up Vocabulary](https://www.tinyurl.com/kxp8t9k) (tinyurl.com/kxp8t9k)
- [Quizlet – High School & College Vocabulary](https://www.tinyurl.com/llv35yt) (tinyurl.com/llv35yt)

Lesson 2.6: Roadmap Checklist

Lesson Overview

Students will identify, research, and take notes over the roadmap to college on the Texas OnCourse MapMyGrad resources.

Instructional Objectives

College and Career Readiness TEKS

§127.3(c)(2) – The student analyzes college and career opportunities. The student is expected to:

(D) discuss the impact of effective college and career planning.

§127.3(c)(3) – The student evaluates skills for personal success. The student is expected to:

(B) use problem-solving models and critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions;

Time Required

2 class periods

Materials Required

For each student:

- Roadmap Checklist handout (following this lesson)

For the class:

- Computer lab access or one laptop for every one or two students
- Internet access

Procedures

Students will work in pairs or individually to take notes over the roadmap to college, at [MapMyGrad](http://www.mapmygrad.org) (www.mapmygrad.org) under Find Your Path. Students will be guided using the Roadmap Checklist.

Closure

Ticket out the door. Have the students reflect on these questions:

- What concerns or misconceptions were you able to resolve?
- Did any new questions or concerns arise?

Discuss the answers to these questions in the next session if you see a common theme and need to clarify any misconceptions.

Extension Activity

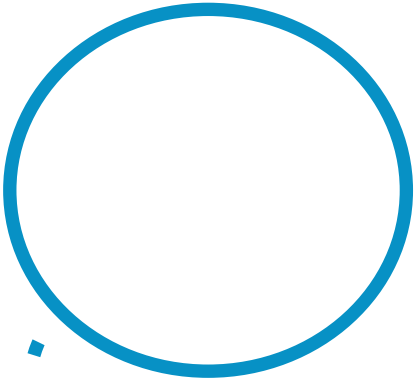
Have the students do more research on their main area of concern on the roadmap list. For example:

- If they are wanting to find out more about their college of interest, the student could draft an email to request additional information. Ask them to have it proofread by an adult before sending (parent, counselor, advisory teacher, etc.).
- The student could compare and contrast the ACT and SAT and double-check which one their college of interest requires.

Handout: Roadmap Checklist

What is needed to prepare?
Are you currently doing these things?
What are some of the colleges you're interested in?
What further information do you need from them?

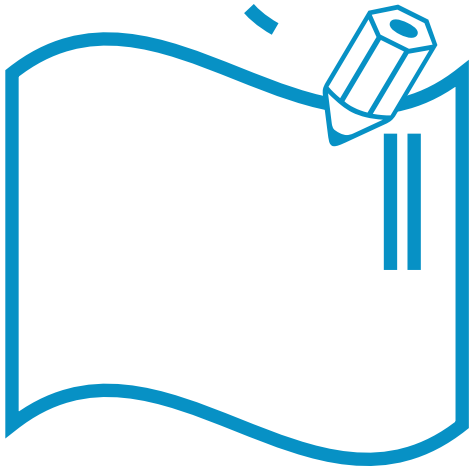
1) Start



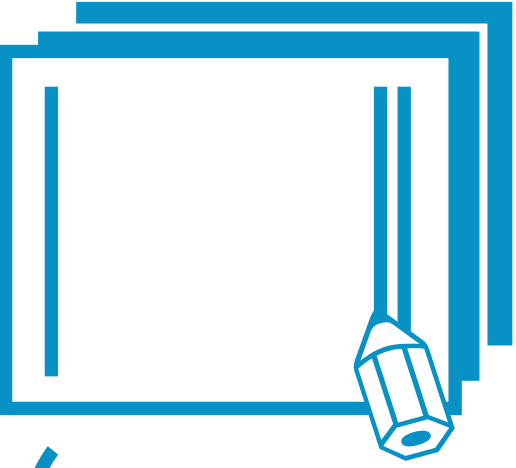
2) Check out your options



3) Entrance Exams



4) Applications



5) How could I pay?



6) Summary of what I learned



The common questions, answered.

On the following pages, we have excerpted frequently asked questions and misconceptions about endorsements and graduation plans from our Middle School Curriculum Guide. Download the full curriculum guide, with over 30 lesson plans, performance assessments, key terms, and resources to share with families at page.texasoncourse.org/middle-school-curriculum-guide-download.

Frequently Asked Questions and Misconceptions

I'm an elementary school counselor. Why should I prepare my students for postsecondary opportunities when they're so far in the future?

The decisions that students make as early as eighth grade can have a big effect on their college and career preparation and success later in life. Every 26 seconds, one student drops out of high school in the United States – 1.2 million dropouts each year. Over the course of their lifetimes, students who drop out will make \$200,000 less than their peers who graduate from high school and \$1 million less than their peers who graduate from college.

Although students might not be thinking about their postsecondary options in elementary school, teachers, families, counselors, and administrators should all work together to help them develop college and career awareness so they can begin planning for their futures. (OCCRRC, 2018)

How can students make sure they're prepared for college?

Texas graduation plans should prepare every student for college and career. However, if a student intends to pursue higher education, they should strongly consider earning an endorsement and attaining the distinguished level of achievement. That plan requires taking Algebra 2, which is a strong foundation for college-level mathematics. Remember, the Texas Top 10% Automatic Admission law requires a student to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement in order to be eligible. See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](https://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

How can students make sure they're prepared to get a job after high school?

The state of Texas graduation plans should prepare every student for college and career. Even if a student intends to go straight into the workforce after high school, it's best to build a foundation of knowledge in case they want to attend college or technical school later in life. The state requires that all students enter high school on the Texas foundation + endorsement high school program. This program requires four years of core curriculum (English, science, math) and three years of social studies. It also allows students to take courses in an area of interest that could help them obtain a job, licensure, certification, or associate degree during or after high school. This graduation plan helps to prepare students for life after high school, whether that means going to community college, attending university, or heading straight into a job. See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](https://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

What do Texas four-year universities require?

Every public and private university in Texas has different admission requirements. It's very important that students research what courses are required at schools they're interested in so that they can make sure they take those courses during high school. For example, many universities require Algebra 2. Since that's not a Texas graduation requirement, a student will need to elect to take that course. Students should think about their plans after high school and talk to their family, teachers, and counselors when making a graduation plan. See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](https://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

What does “open admission” mean?

Open admission generally means that the admission process is unselective and noncompetitive; the only criteria for admission is that the student have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Most colleges offering open admission are community colleges or colleges that grant associate degrees. Few four-year colleges offer this type of admission policy. See [College Parent Central](http://tinyurl.com/y79fgauo) (tinyurl.com/y79fgauo).

What do Texas two-year colleges require?

Every two-year college in Texas has different admission requirements. Students should research what courses are required at schools that interest them so that they can take those courses during high school. Students should think about their plans after high school and talk to their family, teachers, and counselors. See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](http://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

How can parents and guardians support their child’s career exploration?

Parents and guardians can encourage adolescent children to plan for a career in several important ways. Here are some suggestions you can give them:

- Talk to your children about your own work and the work of friends and relatives, so that they will learn about career alternatives.
- Ask your children what they like to do and help them look for ways that their interests can be reflected in a career choice.
- Help your children decide whether they should attend a high school that offers vocational training, an academic education, or both.
- Help your children get information about middle and high school courses they will need to take in order to enroll in college or a postsecondary training program.
- Work with the school to provide counselors and advisers with career and higher education information, speakers for a career day, and field trips to local employers and employment agencies.

What is an endorsement?

An endorsement is simply a set of courses that allows a student to dig into an area of interest to them. It’s similar to a college major, allowing the student to learn more about a particular subject area.

The options are Arts and Humanities; Business and Industry; Multidisciplinary Studies; Public Service; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

When a student chooses an endorsement, they are required to complete a certain number of courses to earn credit toward it. Often, these courses will be counted as electives for the purpose of graduation requirements.

A student’s counselor or adviser will be most helpful in determining what courses a student needs to take in order to fulfill this requirement. Finally, if a student’s interests change, they can always notify their counselor and make a change!

See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](http://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

Is there a way to opt out of choosing an endorsement?

A student, with the written approval of a parent or guardian, may elect to graduate without an endorsement after their sophomore year. Before taking this route, it is critical that the student, parents or guardians, counselor or adviser, and teachers discuss the consequences of this graduation plan. Graduating without an endorsement may limit the student's ability to continue their education after high school.

Can a student choose more than one endorsement?

Yes, a student may earn as many endorsements as they wish, and all will be reflected on their high school diploma and transcript.

Can a student change their declared endorsement?

Yes. While a district is not required to offer all endorsements, a district must allow a student to choose, at any time, to earn an endorsement other than the endorsement the student previously indicated from among the available endorsements. See TEA's [endorsement overview](https://www.tea.texas.gov/endorsement-overview) (tinyurl.com/ybeor2o9).

Does a student have to select an endorsement?

Students must select an endorsement, in writing, upon entering their freshman year. However, they can always change their endorsement. A student, with the written approval of a parent or guardian, may elect to graduate without an endorsement after their sophomore year. Before taking this route, it is critical that the student, parents or guardians, counselor or adviser, and teachers discuss the consequences of this graduation plan. Graduating without an endorsement may limit the student's ability to continue their education after high school.

How do students know which endorsement is best for them?

Many interest inventories are available to help students decide what might work for them! Ultimately, it is best for the student to discuss their options with their parents or guardians, teachers, and counselor or adviser. Keep in mind that a student can earn more than one endorsement.

Things to consider: What is the student interested in? What job do they want to be prepared for? Do they want to go to college? Do they want to take advantage of the Texas Top 10% Automatic Admission policy?

What if a student doesn't know which endorsement they want?

If the student is undecided, the Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement is the best option! This is for students who want a flexible plan within the core curriculum that prepares them for college and the workforce.

Remember, students can earn more than one endorsement if they have multiple interests.

When do students choose an endorsement, and can they change their minds?

Students must select an endorsement upon entering ninth grade, but they can always change their endorsement by talking to their counselor. Of course, as the student progresses through high school it may become harder to earn a different endorsement due to the limited amount of time that remains and the fact that classes often have prerequisites.

Students have until the end of their sophomore year to decide not to earn an endorsement. If at that time they choose to graduate without an endorsement, they will need permission from their parent or guardian and will have to speak with their counselor or adviser.

I'm concerned that my small district cannot offer endorsements. What endorsements should a district be able to offer?

Without altering the courses that a school district is currently required by the state Board of Education to offer, a district should be able to offer at least three of the five endorsements:

- Multidisciplinary Studies – all districts are required to offer at least four courses in each foundation subject area, to include English IV, Chemistry, and/or Physics.
- Business and Industry – this endorsement requires districts to offer a coherent sequences of courses from at least three career and technical education career clusters.
- STEM – this endorsement requires districts to offer at least six science courses.

What does it mean to graduate with a distinguished level of achievement?

A student may graduate as distinguished if they take Algebra 2 as one of their four required math courses under the Texas foundation high school program + endorsement plan. Completing at least one course beyond Algebra 2 is required for the TEXAS Grants financial aid program, and most colleges and universities require it.

Research shows that Algebra 2 and classes that require it align with college readiness and success in higher education. Many college admission exams – like the SAT, ACT, and the Texas Success Initiative – test concepts covered in Algebra 2. Finally, the Top 10% Automatic Admission law requires a student to graduate distinguished in order to be eligible. See the [MapMyGrad FAQs](http://tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx) (tinyurl.com/yb2jsmtx).

What is Top 10% Automatic Admission?

This Texas law allows students who are in the top 10% or so of their high school graduating class to have automatic admission to a Texas public university of their choice. No matter where students go to high school, if they graduate in the top 10% of their high school class and earn the distinguished level of achievement, they can attend any Texas public university.¹

What are some other ways students can earn the distinguished level of achievement?

Students can earn the distinguished level of achievement if:

- They graduate from an early college high school program.
- They are dual-enrolled in college courses that satisfy the Texas core curriculum.

What does a student need to be eligible for Top 10% Automatic Admission?

A student must be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and earn the distinguished level of achievement.

Remember, a student may graduate with the distinguished level of achievement if they elect to take Algebra 2 as one of their four required math courses under the Texas foundation high school program + endorsement plan.

What is a performance acknowledgment?

Texas students have the opportunity to earn performance acknowledgments on their high school diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in the following areas: dual credit; bilingualism and biliteracy; College Board Advanced Placement Test(s) or International Baccalaureate examination; the PSAT, the ACT-PLAN, the SAT or ACT; and/or nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or licensure. For further information, see [Texas Administrative Code 74.14](https://www.texas.gov/publications/74.14) (tinyurl.com/nxbvl2e).

There was a lot of debate over requiring Algebra 2. Should students take it or not?

This is an important question that students should talk about with their family, teachers, and counselors or advisers. Taking Algebra 2 is a requirement for the STEM endorsement and also for the distinguished level of achievement. Algebra 2 is also a requirement for admission to most universities, and the TEXAS Grant financial aid program requires completion of at least one math course beyond Algebra 2.

Research shows that Algebra 2 and classes that require it align with college readiness and success in higher education. Many college admission exams – like the SAT, the ACT, and the Texas Success Initiative – test concepts covered in Algebra 2. Finally, Texas' Top 10% Automatic Admission law requires that a student graduate with the distinguished level of achievement in order to be eligible.

1. Students who graduate from high school in the top 10% of their class are granted automatic admission to any public college or university in Texas, apart from the University of Texas at Austin. UT Austin was granted the ability to cap automatic admissions at 75% of the incoming class. This means UT Austin only admits students in the top 6-7% of their graduating class through automatic admission.

See where your students stand.

Use the following assessment questions on endorsements and graduation plans to understand where your students have gaps in knowledge and may need more support.

Topic: Understanding Endorsements Assessment Bank

Related Content – Unit 1: Chapters 1, 2

1. Mariah is a student who excels in her math classes and wants to be a marine biologist. Which endorsement would be best for Mariah?
 - A. Arts and Humanities
 - B. Business and Industry
 - C. Multidisciplinary Studies
 - D. Public Service
 - E. STEM
2. True or false: Students who graduate without an endorsement have the same opportunities as students who graduate with an endorsement.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Laura really enjoys math and science. She has dreams of owning her own business one day – she just doesn't know what kind of business she wants to own. Which endorsement would be best for Laura?
 - A. Arts and Humanities
 - B. Business and Industry
 - C. Multidisciplinary Studies
 - D. Public Service
 - E. STEM
4. True or false: Courses within a career cluster can fit into only one endorsement.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. True or false: Students may choose to graduate without an endorsement after their sophomore year if they have met with their parents and their school counselor.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. Subra is working toward an endorsement. She's completed one extra math class, one extra science class, and two extra electives. What requirement is she missing?
 - A. 4 classes in a specific sequence of coursework
 - B. 26 credits in a variety of subjects
 - C. 10 classes in line with her endorsement
 - D. Any class within her endorsement cluster

7. Axel really enjoys his Theatre Arts class. He is often in front of the camera when the opportunity arises. Which endorsement would be best for Axel?
- A. Arts and Humanities
 - B. Business and Industry
 - C. Multidisciplinary Studies
 - D. Public Service
 - E. STEM
8. Jairam has met with his counselor several times and taken several different career and interest inventories. Each time, he has decided upon a different endorsement option, but quickly changes his mind. Jairam is just not sure which endorsement he wants to pursue in high school. Which endorsement would be best for Jairam?
- A. Arts and Humanities
 - B. Business and Industry
 - C. Multidisciplinary Studies
 - D. Public Service
 - E. STEM
9. Students should choose their endorsement based upon:
- A. Their interests both in and out of school
 - B. Career and interest inventories
 - C. Input from their parent or guardian
 - D. All of the above
10. Michiko has met with her school counselor and talked to her parents about her goals and interests. She is interested in pursuing coursework in the Government and Public Administration career cluster. Which endorsement would be best for Michiko?
- A. Arts and Humanities
 - B. Business and Industry
 - C. Multidisciplinary Studies
 - D. Public Service
 - E. STEM

Understanding Endorsements Answer Key

1. Answer: E – STEM
2. Answer: B – False
3. Answer: B – Business and Industry
4. Answer: B – False (OCCRRC 7.9 – Question #4)
5. Answer: A – True ([TEA Endorsement FAQs – Question #1](https://www.tinyurl.com/ybeor2o9)) (tinyurl.com/ybeor2o9)
6. Answer: A – 4 classes in a specific sequence of coursework
7. Answer: A – Arts and Humanities
8. Answer: C – Multidisciplinary Studies
9. Answer: D – All of the above
10. Answer: D – Public Service

Topic: Understanding the High School Personal Graduation Plan Assessment Bank

Related Content – Unit 1: Chapter 2

1. Which of the following is a requirement to opt out of graduating with an endorsement?
 - A. Create a high school personal graduation plan that outlines your career plans
 - B. Obtain your parent/guardian's written permission to graduate without an endorsement
 - C. Discuss your postsecondary plans with your parent/guardian and the principal
 - D. Receive a passing score on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment
2. When can students choose to remove their endorsement and graduate under the foundation high school program?
 - A. At any time
 - B. After their sophomore year
 - C. During their freshman year
 - D. All students must graduate with an endorsement
3. Which of the following is considered an advanced English course for the foundation high school program?
 - A. AP English Literature and Composition
 - B. Debate 2
 - C. Public Speaking
 - D. English Language Arts 3
4. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the various high school graduation programs in Texas?
 - A. Tracking students into specific coursework based on their test scores
 - B. Providing more opportunities for credit recovery courses
 - C. Enabling students to explore areas of interest while they're still in high school
 - D. Encouraging all students to go to a four-year university
5. Aisha is graduating under the foundation + endorsement program. She has completed 20 credits, including 4 English, 4 math, 4 science, 3 social studies, 1 physical education, 2 language other than English, and 2 electives. What requirements does she still need to complete?
 - A. 26 total credits, including 1 social studies and 5 coherent endorsement courses
 - B. 22 total credits, including 1 social studies and 1 fine art
 - C. 26 total credits, including 1 fine art and 5 coherent endorsement courses
 - D. 26 credits, including 1 social studies, 1 fine art, and 3 coherent endorsement courses

6. Which of the following allow students to earn a performance acknowledgment?
- A. Outstanding performance in a dual-credit course
 - B. Earning a certification from a nationally recognized business or industry
 - C. Outstanding performance on an AP or IB exam
 - D. Earning a license from a nationally recognized business or industry
 - E. All of the above
7. From the list of classes below, which additional classes do students need to graduate under the distinguished level of achievement degree plan. (Select all that apply.)
- A. Algebra 2
 - B. A fourth English course
 - C. A fourth science course
 - D. A fourth social studies course
 - E. A fourth math course
8. True or false: Tshombé took some dual-credit classes while in high school. He will leave high school with 15 hours of college academic credit and has a GPA of 3.2 in his dual-credit classes. Tshombé qualifies for a performance acknowledgment.
- A. True
 - B. False
9. True or false: José is an English language learner at his high school. He took a credit-by-exam test and earned credit for Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. He successfully completed AP Spanish with a score of 4 on the AP exam. José has an average grade of 92 in his high school English classes. On his last TELPAS assessment, he earned a composite score of Advanced High. José qualifies for a performance acknowledgment.
- A. True
 - B. False
10. In order to graduate from high school in Texas, students must successfully pass five end-of-course exams. What are the five assessments needed?
- A. Algebra 1, Biology, English 1, English 2, US History
 - B. Algebra 1, Algebra 2, English 1, English 2, Physics
 - C. Algebra 1, Biology, English 1, US History, World History
 - D. Algebra 1, English 1, Biology, Physics, World History

Understanding the High School Personal Graduation Plan Answer Key

1. Answer: B – Obtain your parent/guardian’s written permission to graduate without an endorsement
2. Answer: B – After their sophomore year
3. Answer: A – AP English Literature and Composition (TASANET – Slide 8) (tinyurl.com/yahr267a)
4. Answer: C – Enabling students to explore areas of interest while they’re still in high school
5. Answer: C – 26 total credits, including 1 fine art and 5 coherent endorsement courses
6. Answer: E – All of the above
7. Answer: A – Algebra 2; C – A fourth science course; E – A fourth math course
8. Answer: A – True
9. Answer: A – True
10. Answer: A – Algebra 1, Biology, English 1, English 2, US History

Topic: Distinguished Level of Achievement Assessment Bank

Related Content – Unit 1: Chapter 2

1. True or false: Students must graduate with the distinguished level of achievement degree plan to be eligible for automatic admission into qualifying Texas colleges and universities.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Which course is required to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement?
 - A. English 4
 - B. World History
 - C. Algebra 2
 - D. Calculus AB
3. What is a benefit of earning the distinguished level of achievement?
 - A. Graduating high school early
 - B. Competing for Top 10% Automatic Admission eligibility
 - C. Receiving free tuition at any Texas public university
 - D. Earning an associate degree in high school
4. As a student in high school, how often should you expect to receive information about the distinguished level of achievement degree plan?
 - A. Each month
 - B. Each year
 - C. Each week
 - D. Each semester
5. When should you expect to receive information about Top 10% Automatic Admission requirements?
 - A. The first time you register for high school classes
 - B. When you are a junior in the top 10% of your class
 - C. When you are a senior and have met the requirements for automatic admission
 - D. All of the above
6. Soraya's core classes for all four years of high school are listed below:
 - English 1, English 2, English 3, AP English Literature
 - Algebra 1, Geometry, Precalculus
 - Biology, Chemistry, AP Physics, Earth Science
 - World History, AP US History, Government, EconomicsBased on this list, has Soraya met the required coursework for the distinguished level of achievement?
 - A. No, Soraya needs to add Algebra 2
 - B. Yes, Soraya has met all of the requirements
 - C. No, Soraya needs to take another science class
 - D. No, Soraya needs to replace government with AP Government

7. Malik is planning to apply for automatic admission to Texas A&M. He will graduate under the foundation + endorsement degree plan. He is valedictorian of his class and has a 4.0 grade point average. When he graduates, Malik will earn three performance acknowledgments. Will Malik qualify to apply for automatic admission?
- A. Yes, Malik has met all requirements for automatic admission
 - B. No, Malik must graduate with the distinguished level of achievement
 - C. Yes, Malik has exceeded the requirements for automatic admission
 - D. No, Malik must earn all four performance acknowledgments
8. True or false: Students who graduate under the distinguished level of achievement can choose any of the five endorsements available.
- A. True
 - B. False
9. In order to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement, students must successfully complete the foundation high school program and which of the following sequences of courses? (Select all that apply.)
- A. One advanced math class
 - B. Algebra 2
 - C. One advanced science class
 - D. One advanced social studies class
 - E. Two additional electives
10. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of graduating with the distinguished level of achievement?
- A. More college and university options
 - B. Better preparation for college-level coursework
 - C. Guaranteed acceptance into chosen universities
 - D. Strong foundation for a workforce credential or college degree.
11. How many credits are required for a student to graduate under the distinguished level of achievement degree plan?
- A. 22 credits
 - B. 25 credits
 - C. 26 credits
 - D. 30 credits

Distinguished Level of Achievement Answer Key

1. Answer: A – True

([TEA Automatic Admissions](https://tinyurl.com/yc4og34g)) (tinyurl.com/yc4og34g)

2. Answer: C – Algebra 2

3. Answer: B – Competing for Top 10% Automatic Admission eligibility

([Grad Toolkit – Page 3, “Why It Matters”](https://tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq)) (tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq)

4. Answer: B – Each year

([TASANET – Page 8, “Counseling Regarding Postsecondary Education”](https://tinyurl.com/y6vdz8s7)) (tinyurl.com/y6vdz8s7)

5. Answer: D – All of the above

([TASANET – Page 8, “Notice of Requirements for Automatic Admission”](https://tinyurl.com/y6vdz8s7)) (tinyurl.com/y6vdz8s7)

6. Answer: A – No, Soraya needs to add Algebra 2

7. Answer: B – No, Malik must graduate with the distinguished level of achievement

8. Answer: A – True

9. Answer: A – one advanced math class, B – Algebra 2, C – one advanced science class, and E – two additional electives

10. Answer: C – Guaranteed acceptance into chosen universities ([Grad Toolkit – Page 3, “Advantages”](https://tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq)) (tinyurl.com/ycoe3kcq)

11. Answer: C – 26 credits