High school should prepare students for success in higher education, the workforce and life. With that goal in mind, the South Dakota Board of Education developed "Pathways to Graduation."

Beginning with the freshman class of 2006, Pathways requires students to choose one of three routes to high school graduation. These routes are:

- Standard
- Advanced
- Distinguished

As they choose a pathway, students are forced to think about their future and to plan their high school career accordingly. State law requires that all students participate in the Advanced path (at the least), unless the student has a parent's permission to pursue the standard, or basic, pathway. Each pathway features new requirements – deemed crucial by the Board of Education – in health or physical education and economics or personal finance.

What's the difference between pathways?

Standard

This set of courses meets the state's basic standards for graduation. It is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs and some technical programs. An agreement, signed by the student's parents and the school administrator or counselor, is necessary to pursue this path.

Advanced

This set of courses meets the state's standards for graduation and prepares students for education beyond high school. It fulfills the minimum requirements for admission to South Dakota's public universities and to most highly technical fields of study at technical institutes.

• Distinguished

This set of courses meets the state's highest level of standards for graduation. It fulfills the minimum requirements for admission to most major colleges and universities. This pathway satisfies the course requirements of the South Dakota Board of Regents Opportunity Scholarship.

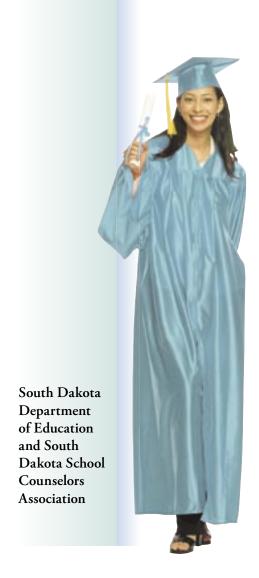
For information regarding other scholarship requirements, see your school counselor.

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Pathways to Graduation

Academic planning for high school students



Standard

English/Reading & Communication Arts (4 units total)

- Writing 1.5 units
- Literature 1.5 units, including .5 Am Lit and .5 Speech

Social Studies (3 units total)

- U.S. History 1 unit
- U.S. Government .5 unit
- Geography .5 unit
- World History .5 unit
- Social Studies elective .5 unit

Fine Arts (1 unit)

• Elective – 1 unit

Health or Physical Education (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Economics or Personal Finance (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Mathematics (3 units total)

- Algebra I 1 unit
- Math elective 2 units

Science (2 units total of Lab Science)

• Science electives – 2 units

Required offerings: Students must select

- 2 units total any combination of:
 - World Language or
 - Computer Studies or
 - Approved Career & Technical Education courses

Advanced

English/Reading & Communication Arts (4 units total)

- Writing 1.5 units
- Literature 1.5 units, including .
 5 Am Lit and .5 Speech

Social Studies (3 units total)

- U.S. History 1 unit
- U.S. Government .5 unit
- Geography .5 unit
- World History .5 unit
- Social Studies elective .5 unit

Fine Arts (1 unit)

• Elective – 1 unit

Health or Physical Education (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Economics or Personal Finance (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Mathematics (3 units or more)

- Algebra I 1 unit
- Algebra II 1 unit
- Geometry 1 unit

Science (3 units of Lab Science)

- Science elective 1 unit
- Biology 1 unit
- Chemistry or Physics 1 unit

Required offerings: Students must select

- 2 units total any combination of:
 - World Language or
 - Computer Studies or
 - Approved Career & Technical Education courses

Students must complete a minimum of 22 credits in any path in order to graduate.

Distinguished

English/Reading & Communication Arts (4 units total)*

- Writing 1.5 units
- Literature 1.5 units, including .5 Am Lit and .5 Speech

Social Studies (3 units total)*

- U.S. History 1 unit
- U.S. Government .5 unit
- Geography .5 unit
- World History .5 unit
- Social Studies elective .5 unit

Fine Arts (1 unit)*

• Elective – 1 unit

Health or Physical Education (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Economics or Personal Finance (.5 unit)

• .5 unit

Mathematics (4 units or more)*

- Algebra I 1 unit
- Algebra II 1 unit
- Geometry 1 unit
- Advanced Math elective 1 unit

Science (4 units of Science)* Minimum 3 units Lab Science

- Science elective 2 units
- Biology 1 unit
- Chemistry or Physics 1 unit

World Language (2 units)*

• 2 units of the same language

Computer Studies (.5 unit)*

• .5 unit

^{*}Indicates offerings necessary to help meet requirements of South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship