

## **General Diploma Requirements**

To meet the minimum graduation requirements for a diploma, a student must earn 45 credits and pass both English and Math sections of the state-mandated ISTEP exam.\* One credit is earned for each course per semester, except Physical Education. General graduation requirements are a start to the CORE 40 requirements. Additional and specific courses must be taken to fulfill CORE 40 requirements. A student can take up to 55 credits in four years if he/she never takes a study hall. A student must be in a class or study hall 7 periods a day. Each student can only have one study hall each semester.

\*Students who do not pass ISTEP but earn 45 credits will receive a certificate of completion.

English	8 semesters	Religion	8 semesters
Lab Science	4 semesters	Health	1 semester

## **Core 40 Diploma**

To earn the Core 40 diploma, students must meet the following criteria:

**1. Pass both English and Math sections of the state-mandated ISTEP exam.**

**2. Take 28 to 30 credits from this list:**

8 credits in English	Literature, Composition, Speech
6-8 credits in Mathematics	Algebra I, II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Discrete Math, Statistics
6 credits in Science	Biology, Chemistry or Physics, 2 credits from any of the following: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Botany, Environmental Science, Genetics, Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology
6 credits in Social Studies	U.S. History, Government, Economics, World History
1 credit in Computer Application	
1 credit in Physical Education	2 semesters
1 credit in Health/Safety	1 semester
8 credits in Religion	

**3. Choose 6 credits from the list above or the list below**

Foreign Language	French, Latin, Spanish
Fine Arts	Art, Choir, Band
Career Areas	At least six credits in a logical sequence from a technical career area (includes Anthis Center)

**5. Choose one (1) to four (4) more credits from any course except religion**

**6. GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters must be a C (2.0/4.0).**

**TOTAL 46 credits**

## **Academic Honors Diploma**

To earn an *Academic Honors Diploma* from the State of Indiana, a student must meet the following criteria:

**1. Pass both English and Math sections of the state-mandated ISTEP exam.**

**2. Candidate must have 52 credits upon graduation, achieved as follows:**

8 credits in English	Literature, Composition, Speech
8 credits in Math	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Discrete Math, Statistics
6 credits in Social Studies	U.S. History, Government, Economics, World History
6 credits in Science	2 Biology, 2 Chemistry or Physics, 2 credits from any of the following: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Botany, Environmental Science, Genetics, Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology
6 credits in 1 Foreign Language, or 4 credits each in 2 Foreign Languages	
2 credits in Fine Arts (Band, choir, art)	
1 credit in Computer Applications	
1 credit in Physical Education (2 semesters)	
1 credit in Health	
8 credits in Religion	
5 credits in any area except religion	

**3. GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters must be a B (3.0/4.0) and every semester grade must be a C- or higher.**

**TOTAL 52 credits**

# Diploma Requirements For Class Of 2010 +

## Core 40 Diploma

English	8 Credits
Math	6 Credits (2 Algebra I, 2 Geometry, 2 Algebra II)
Science	6 Credits (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry/Integrated or Chemistry, 2 other science)
Social Studies	6 Credits (2 World History, 2 US History, 1 Government, 1 Economics)
Physical Education	2 Credits
Health	1 Credit
Religion	8 Credits
Computer Applications	1 Credit
Directed Electives	6 Credits (Any of the above academic areas and Foreign Languages, Fine Arts, Career/Technical)

GPA at the end of eight (8) semesters must be a C (2.0/4.0).

**Total 47 Credits**

## Core 40 Diploma with Academic Honors

English	8 Credits
Math	8 Credits (2 Algebra I, 2 Geometry, 2 Algebra II, and 2 upper level math)
Science	6 Credits (2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 other science)
Social Studies	6 Credits (2 World History, 2 US History, 1 Government, 1 Economics)
Foreign Language	6-8 Credits (3 years of one language or 2 years of 2 languages)
Fine Arts	2 Credits
Physical Education	2 Credits
Health	1 Credit
Religion	8 Credits
Computer Applications	1 Credit
Directed Electives	3-5 Credits (Any academic area or Career/Technical)

Must also complete one of the following:

- Two Advanced Placement courses and corresponding AP Exams
- Dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits
- One AP course and one dual high school/college course resulting in 3 college credits
- Score 1200 or higher combined SAT (Critical Reading + Math)
- Score 26 or higher composite ACT

GPA at the end of 8 semesters must be a B (3.0/4.0) and every semester grade must be a C- or higher

**Total 53 Credits**

## Core 40 Diploma with Technical Honors

Academic course requirements are the same as the Core 40 Diploma.

Directed Electives must be earned as stated below.

- Complete a career-technical program resulting in 8-10 credits
- Must earn a state-recognized certification or certificate of technical achievement in the  
Career  
Technical Program

GPA at the end of 8 semesters must be a B (3.0/4.0) and every semester grade must be a C- or higher

**Total 53 Credits**

**Weighting of Classes**

At Bishop Dwenger High School, courses are weighted for difficulty, with very difficult courses given **Tier 2 Scale**, and moderately difficult courses given **Tier 1 Scale**. All courses count towards GPA and senior honors, according to the Indiana Department of Education regulations.

Tier 2 and Tier 1 courses are as follows:

**Tier 2 Scale**

**English**

English 12 AP  
Advanced Comp.

**Math**

Calculus AP  
Statistics AP  
Pre-calculus Hon.

**Science**

Chemistry AP  
Biology AP  
Physics Honors

**Foreign Language**

French IV, V  
Spanish IV, V  
Latin IV, V

**Tier 1 Scale**

**English**

IV Eng. Lit. Hon.  
IV Eng. 9 Honors  
IV 20th Cent. Lit.  
Amer. Lit. Honors  
World Lit.  
Creative Writ.  
Expos. Writ.

**Math**

Trigonometry  
Discrete Math  
Geometry Honors  
Algebra I Honors  
Algebra II Honors

**Science**

Adv Sci. (Genetics)  
Adv Sci. (Microbiology)  
Adv Sci. (Anat. & Phys.)  
Adv Sci. (Botany)  
Adv Sci. (Ecology)  
Chemistry Honors  
Physics

**For. Language**

French III, IV  
Spanish III  
Latin III

**Fine Arts**

Band III,  
Chorus III,  
Sculpture  
Drawing  
Painting  
Ceramics

**Social Studies**

US Gov. Honors  
Topics in US History

**Religion**

Great Catholic Thinkers

**Straight Scale**

All other courses not listed above

**Senior Honors/Grade Point Average (or insert chart I sent)**

Percentage	<u>Straight Scale</u>		<u>Tier 1 Scale</u>		<u>Tier 2 Scale</u>	
	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Letter Grade	Grade Point
100-99	A+	4.333	A+	5.000	A+	5.667
98-95	A	4.000	A	4.667	A	5.333
94-93	A-	3.667	A-	4.333	A-	5.000
92-91	B+	3.333	B+	4.000	B+	4.667
90-87	B	3.000	B	3.667	B	4.333
86-85	B-	2.667	B-	3.333	B-	4.000
84-83	C+	2.333	C+	3.000	C+	3.667
82-79	C	2.000	C	2.667	C	3.333
78-77	C-	1.667	C-	2.333	C-	3.000
76-75	D+	1.333	D+	2.000	D+	2.667
74-72	D	1.000	D	1.667	D	2.333

71-70	D-	.667	D-	1.333	D-	2.000
69 & below	F	.000	F	.000	F	.000

### Senior Honors/Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (GPA) is determined by the addition of grade points for all courses/programs taken from the assigned scale for that course. This total is divided by the number of credits taken, yielding a GPA. For the Classes of 2008 and 2009 the following courses/programs are excluded from the GPA: Physical Education, summer school, and independent study courses.

Senior Honors are the top ten students including the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. A student must attend four semesters at Bishop Dwenger High School, including two semesters senior year, in order to qualify. A student who previously attended Bishop Dwenger High School in good standing may transfer back senior year with the permission of the Admissions Committee.

For the Classes of 2010+, all courses will count toward the GPA. GPA is determined by the addition of grade points for all courses/programs taken from the assigned scale for that course. This total is divided by the number of credits taken, yielding a GPA. This change in policy is mandated by the Indiana Department of Education.

Figuring GPA follows the guidelines as established by the Indiana Department of Education for the Core 40 (2.000 GPA) and for the Core 40 with Academic/Technical Honors (3.000 GPA) with no grade lower than a C-.

### January Graduation

Seniors who have earned the 47 required credits at the end of their seventh semester, and have passed both the English and Math sections of the ISTEP exam, may be eligible to graduate and receive a diploma in January. This can be worked out at the time of scheduling for Senior year. All paper-work for January graduation, including permission slip, must be filed in the Guidance Department by September 1st of their senior year.

**Note:** *Minimum graduation requirements do not meet Core 40 requirements.*

### Senior Privilege

Seniors who maintain a minimum grade of an A- in any class for their **final semester** will be exempt from the final examination in those courses.

### Advanced Placement Program

Bishop Dwenger offers an extensive Advanced Placement Program. Although selective in nature, our efforts will be to match the AP courses with the student's post-secondary educational plans. All students taking AP classes are required to take the AP examination in the spring.

It is important for parents and students to note that AP courses require an extensive amount of work. The Bishop Dwenger Curriculum Guide lists daily estimated time demands as part of the course description.

### Honors Courses Requirements

Honors courses are designed for the most academically able students in a given area of the curriculum. The content of these courses reflects the belief that students qualifying can work at a level above that of the normal classroom.

1. The student shows insightfulness and extraordinary interest in the subject.
2. The student has a history of being a self-motivated learner.
3. The student must be recommended by a current teacher in the academic area. A student wanting to be in an honors course, but who is not recommended by a teacher, may petition into the program.
4. A student who receives a semester grade below a B- will not be permitted in that course the following semester.

### **College Level Courses**

Bishop Dwenger will grant a Tier 2 Scale to those courses taken at the college level that are of an advanced nature and exceed the level of the courses we offer. Students must first complete the most rigorous courses offered in the subject area at Bishop Dwenger High School, i.e. AP Calculus, fifth year World Language, etc. After completing this requirement, courses taken through a collegiate connection program will be considered. A committee consisting of the Principal, Guidance Counselor, and Department Chair will determine qualification of the course. Final approval of any course to be weighted rests with the Principal of Bishop Dwenger High School.

Students must apply for approval prior to enrolling for the course. To do so, fill out the College Course Credit form.

### **Grade of "I" (Incomplete)**

The grade of "I" may be given by a teacher to any student at the end of any quarter as a result of the student's failure to complete the academic requirements of the course due to an excused absence as determined by the Administration. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with their teacher to complete makeup assignments or tests. The grade of "I" is not a permanent grade and may not appear on any official transcript. A grade of "I" becomes an automatic "F" if it is not removed within ten (10) class days after the end of the quarter.

### **Grade of "P" (Pass)**

A grade of "P" can be given under the following conditions:

1. The student has shown improvement during the course of the grading period.
2. The student has tried to his/her fullest to satisfy the course requirements, but is not passing.
3. Teacher, parents, and student agree that a "P" will be used and the following:
  - the grade will not count toward senior honors
  - the student will receive credit for taking the course
  - the student will not be allowed to take the next sequence of the particular course

### **Withdraw Pass/Withdraw Fail**

With written permission of the parents and the approval of a Guidance Counselor, a student may withdraw without penalty from a regularly scheduled class within the first two weeks of the semester. The teacher must be informed of the pending withdraw before a final decision is made. If the student withdraws from the class, he/she must then take another class. The student would make up work deemed necessary from the teacher. After two weeks of the semester have been completed, the student may withdraw from a class with a grade of WF (withdraw/ fail) only. In addition, the student must take another class and fulfill the teacher's demands regarding the missing work in the new class. In health emergencies, a panel made up of the Guidance Department Chair-person, the teacher involved, and the Principal may allow a student to discontinue with a WP (withdraw/ pass) after two weeks of a semester. If a student leaves a class for disciplinary reasons, a grade of WF will be assigned. A student removed from a class because of excessive tardiness will receive a WF.

**A grade of WF is equivalent to an F and is included in the calculation of the GPA.**

### **Repeating A Class**

Students may opt to repeat a class, if the grade is a D+ or lower. After the course has been repeated the lower of the two grades and the course credit will be excluded from the GPA and the Credits Earned and the higher of the two grades will be included. If the course is retaken during summer school or through an independent study program, the course grade will **NOT** be counted in the GPA but the credit will count towards credit earned. Students who wish to repeat a class **MUST** fill out a "Retaking a Class" form in the year prior to retaking the class. This form must be completed and turned into the Guidance Office with the Course Selection Sheet.

### **Academic Probation**

Students who have two failures for the semester are placed on academic probation. Students who have two failures for two consecutive semesters in any combination of classes are not eligible for registration (passed Curriculum Committee 1/4/90).

### **Schedule Changes**

Freshmen are not charged for changing their schedules. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be charged for all schedule changes, whether they are requested by the student or required by the school, i.e. not maintaining the required grade to remain in a class or because of disciplinary reasons.