| **MASSCORE FRAMEWORK**Adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2007 and amended in 2018, MassCore is a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations. Fulfilling MassCore is just a start. Students should also engage in a full range of additional learning opportunities, such as: accelerated/advanced coursework; capstones or senior projects; dual enrollment courses; online courses; service learning; work-based learning; clubs and student organizations; varsity and intramural athletics; and part-time employment.

| **English Language Arts** | 4 units1 |
| --- | --- |
| **Mathematics** | 4 units; including completion of Algebra II or the Integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute 1 unit of **Computer Science** that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.  |
| **Science** | 3 units of lab-based science; coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute 1 unit of **Computer Science** that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course. |
| **History & Social Science** | 3 units, including U.S. History and World History |
| **World Language** | 2 units of the same language  |
| **Physical Education** | As required by law |
| **Arts** | 1 unit |
| **Additional Core Courses2** | 5 units |

 | **WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO** |
| ***Start Now***As early as middle school, work with your child’s educators to develop a college and career plan. Ninth grade is a make or break year for many students: when students experience success early on in high school, they are more likely to persist through high school, college, and beyond. Make it a point to communicate with your child’s teachers and counselors: contact the school if you notice any unusual changes in attendance, behavior, or academics. ***Aim High***Taking (and passing) challenging high school courses is the single best predictor of college success. Find out what types of courses your child’s school offers, including academic, advanced, elective, early college, and career and technical courses. Encourage your child to take advanced coursework such as honors, dual enrollment, and Advanced Placement (AP). Help your child develop good homework habits: identify a regular time and location to work on daily assignments; look over your child’s homework before they take it to school the next morning; keep in touch with your child’s teacher regarding homework assignments.[[1]](#footnote-1)***Look Beyond***Good grades and “book smarts” aren’t enough: learn about opportunities available to students beyond traditional course work. Examples include organized clubs and sports, and jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities that build interpersonal and workplace skills. |
| 1 A **unit** represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject, but it does not mean that students must be seated in a class for specific number of hours to receive credit for the course; rather, students demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills represented by a unit of instruction. Students may also earn credit for “testing out of,” recovering, or accelerating a course on their official high school transcript depending upon individual district policies.2**Additional core courses** provide flexibility to students seeking to take multiple electives and/or additional coursework to fill specific interests or follow specific career pathways, including Career Technical Education. |
| **DEFINITION OF COLLEGE, CAREER, AND CIVIC PREPARATION**Massachusetts students who are college and career ready and prepared for civic life will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities that are necessary to successfully complete entry-level, credit-bearing college courses, participate in certificate or workplace training programs, enter economically viable career pathways, and engage as active and responsible citizens in our democracy. | **MORE INFORMATION**Student and family resources: [www.doe.mass.edu/StudentsFamilies.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/StudentsFamilies.html)MassCore: [www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/masscore/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/masscore/) |

| **MASSCORE AND STATE ADMISSIONS STANDARDS**Taking MassCore means students are more likely to meet the admissions standards of the Massachusetts State University System and the University of Massachusetts (see comparison table below). It gives students a better chance at getting into private colleges as well. Beyond this, MassCore prepares students for college and career success. If students want a job that will support a family, provide health benefits, and offer a chance for career advancement, they’re likely to need an education beyond high school: at least a two-or four-year degree, apprenticeship program, military training, or workplace license or certification.

|  | ***MassCore*** | ***State Admissions Standards*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **English Language Arts** | 4 units | 4 courses[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| **Mathematics** | 4 units; including completion of Algebra II or the Integrated Mathematics equivalent. A mathematics course during senior year is recommended for all students. Students may substitute 1 unit of **Computer Science** that includes rigorous mathematical concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a mathematics course.  | 4 courses (including Algebra I and II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including math in senior year. **Computer Science** courses may be considered a mathematics course based on the inclusion of rigorous mathematical concepts and topics. |
| **Science** | 3 units of lab-based science; coursework in technology/engineering courses may also count for MassCore science credit. Students may substitute 1 unit of **Computer Science** that includes rigorous scientific concepts and aligns with the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards for a laboratory science course. | 3 courses of lab-based science (drawn from natural science and/or physical science and/or technology/engineering). **Computer Science** courses may be considered a science course based on the inclusion of rigorous science concepts and topics. |
| **History & Social Science** | 3 units, including U.S. History and World History | 2 courses, including U.S. History |
| **World Language** | 2 units of the same language  | 2 courses of the same language |
| **Physical Education** | As required by law | - |
| **Arts** | 1 unit | - |
| **Additional Core Courses** | 5 units | 2 courses (from the above subjects or from the arts and humanities or computer sciences) |

 |
| **WHY MASSCORE?****Consider this:** Graduates of four-year colleges earn an average $1.4 million more than high school dropouts. Students who take a challenging program of study like MassCore in high school are more likely to enroll in college, forego academic remediation and earn a college degree.[[3]](#footnote-3) | Chart comparing the unemployment rate (percent) compared to median usual weekly earnings (dollars). The higher the educational attainment, the lower the unemployment rate and the higher weekly earnings. |

1. <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/Developing-Good-Homework-Habits.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. While the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education refers to “courses” instead of “units”, the meaning (equivalent to one full school year of study) is the same. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)