

Rigor and Relevance



What is MassCore?

- A **recommended** program of study for Massachusetts high school students
- A program of study to better prepare students for college and careers
- A program of study that maintains flexibility for students, schools and districts
- Allows schools and districts to set additional graduation requirements

MassCore

English/Language Arts	4 Units*
Mathematics	4 Units Including the completion of Algebra II or completion of the Integrated Math equivalent. All students are recommended to take a math course during their senior year.
Science	3 Units of lab-based science Coursework taken in technology/engineering may count for MassCore science credit. Note: The Board of Higher Education admissions standards require three (two lab-based) physical and natural sciences units and does not recognize technology/engineering as a science course.
History/Social Science	3 Units Including US History and World History.
Foreign Language**	2 Units Of the same language.
Physical Education	As required by law State law (M.G.L. c. 71, s. 3) states: "Physical education shall be taught as a required subject in all grades for all students." Health can be integrated into Physical Education, science, or taught as a stand-alone course.
Art**	1 Unit
Additional Core Courses	5 Units Business Education, Career and Technical Education (CTE), Health, Technology (e.g. computer science, desktop publishing, multi-media and web design), or any of the subjects above. Note: Most students majoring in CTE will take more than 4 units.
	22 Units - Is a minimum that students should take in high school
Additional Learning Opportunities	Complete as many of the following as possible: Advanced Placement (AP); Capstone or Senior Project; Dual Enrollment courses taken for both high school and college credit; Online courses for high school or college credit; Service Learning; and Work-based Learning.

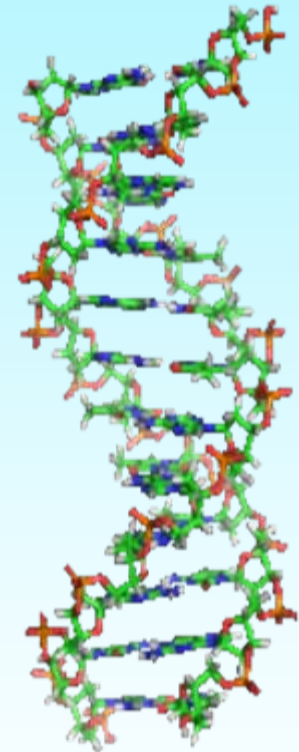
Some Additional Details on MassCore

- **UNIT** - represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a subject that covers all the standards contained in a specific Curriculum Framework.
- **EXCEPTION** - Students enrolled in a state-approved Career and Technical Education program of studies have the option of opting out of Foreign Language and Art and still fulfill MassCore.
- MassCore is the recommended program of study that Massachusetts high school students need in order to be better prepared for college and a career. Developed by a statewide advisory group from the K-12, higher education and business sectors, MassCore *maintains flexibility* for students and high schools while allowing districts to set additional graduation requirements. *Courses included in MassCore should be rigorous, engaging, and based on appropriate Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks high school level standards.*

Where are the arts, health, etc...?

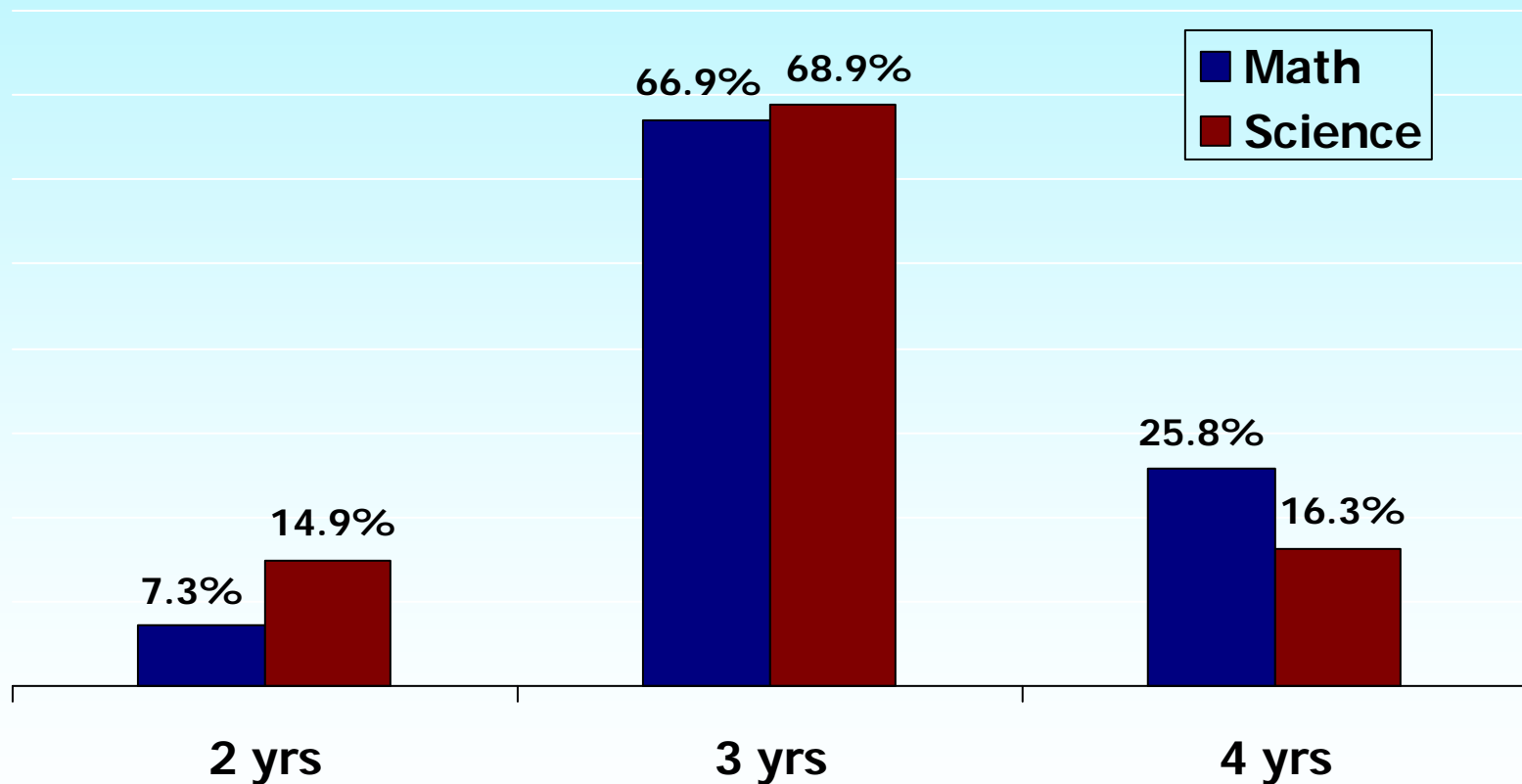
FLEXIBILITY

The fine and performing arts, health, technical classes and other courses are important to the holistic education of high school students; and as such, the intent of this core is to provide some flexibility within the electives to allow students to take the coursework necessary to meet their social and academic goals.



Math and Science Courses Required for Graduation

Percentage of Local, Regional, and Vocational Massachusetts High Schools in 2008 Requiring Math and Science to Graduate



Percentage of Students Completed MassCore

In the end of school year data collection for 2008, the Department began to collect MassCore completion data for high school graduates. In this transitional year, data was collected for 23% of high school graduates in the Commonwealth. The sample reflects the demographics of the Commonwealth at large.

COMPLETED MassCore

	Yes	No
Total	54.8%	45.3%
Low-Income	40.6%	59.5%
LEP	30.5%	69.5%
SPED	24.9%	75.1%
Asian	55.8%	44.2%
Black	43.0%	57.0%
Hispanic	45.1%	54.9%
White	57.0%	43.0%

Source: June 2008 SIMS Data Collection

Relationship between MCAS performance level and completion of MassCore program of study

10th Grade Mathematics MCAS

MATH	No	Yes
Advanced	26.3%	73.7%
Proficient	45.1%	54.9%
Needs Improvement	68.0%	32.0%

10th Grade ELA MCAS

ELA	No	Yes
Advanced	22.7%	77.3%
Proficient	38.7%	61.3%
Needs Improvement	68.0%	32.0%

Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)

- Students who are Pell-eligible U.S. Citizens enrolled full-time and have participated in a rigorous high school course of study, like the **MassCore**, may qualify for:
 - Up to **\$750** for first year college students
 - Up to **\$1,300** for second year college students
- Check “” on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to apply <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/hera.htm>