

What is MassCore?

MassCore is a state recommended, rigorous program of study based on standards in Massachusetts's world-class curriculum frameworks that align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations.

The recommended program of studies includes:

Units	Subject
4	English
4	Math
3	lab-based Science
3	History/Social Science
2	the same foreign language
1	the Arts
5 additional "core" courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business education • career and technical education • health • and/or technology • or any other above subject
additional learning opportunities including	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP classes • dual enrollment • a senior project • online courses for high school or college credit • service- or work-based learning

MassCore was developed to provide guidance that will help provide all students with the academic preparation required for postsecondary education and the workplace.

MassCore also supports a goal of increasing college and career readiness rates and reducing the percentage of students who are required to take remedial non-credit developmental courses in college.

MassCore should be considered to be a critical component of a student's overall high school experience and may also include work-based or community service learning, athletics, extra-curricular activities and additional learning opportunities that help further prepare students for their future.

Why MassCore?

An "Expectations Gap"

Too many students are not properly prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce.

A "Course Taking Gap"

Simply stated, too many high school students are taking a less rigorous course of study.

Growing Leaders and Citizens for the Future:

Students need to be prepared for the challenges of leadership and civic engagement by taking a challenging academic coursework and participating in a diverse array of extracurricular activities.

An Increasingly Competitive Global Economy:

The skill requirements needed by Massachusetts employers continue to evolve and increase, based on changes in technology and the global marketplace.

MassCore Information For Educators

Benefits of MassCore

Financial

Students who take challenging academic courses in high school are more likely to enroll in college, not require academic remediation, and earn a college degree. This is important because higher education pays off. High school graduates earn an average of \$456,000 more over a lifetime than high school dropouts. Graduates of four-year colleges earn an average of \$1.4 million more.

Career Options

Good jobs require additional education beyond high school. Most jobs that will support a family, provide health benefits, and offer a chance for advancement require at least a two or four-year degree, apprenticeship program, military training, or workforce certification. MassCore helps prepare students for more self-supporting career opportunities.

The Economy

In order to remain competitive, employers need workers to arrive with essential skills, including speaking and writing clearly, effectively analyzing information, conducting research, and solving complex problems. MassCore helps students develop these skills.

Preparation for College Success

MassCore meets or exceeds the college admissions requirements for Massachusetts' four-year public colleges and the University of Massachusetts. Most private colleges require students to have at least this level of high school academic preparation. It's not just about getting in - it's about finishing and being prepared for what's next.

What Can Educators Do?

- Encourage all students to take at minimum the courses and credits in MassCore.
 - Communicate the importance of taking a rigorous course of study to students and their parents.
 - Help students to develop an education and career plan as early as middle school.
 - Provide students with the extra help they need to take MassCore and be successful in their courses.
 - Ensure that high school courses are relevant, rigorous and actively engage students.
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For More Information Contact:
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