

**ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT  
2008-2009**

**Eligibility Requirements**

- U.S. Citizen
- High School Diploma
- Pell Eligible (as determined by FAFSA)
- Completed a Rigorous High School Program of Study as designated by the state

**South Carolina Approved Rigorous High School Programs**

- ***A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.*** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
  - Four years of English (same course requirement as College Preparatory);
  - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, Geometry, or Data Analysis and Statistics);
  - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
  - Three years of social studies; and
  - One year of a foreign language (same foreign language)
- ***Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.*** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
- ***Dual Enrollment Program.*** This program requires:
  - Students must complete at least 6 hours of college-level, dual credit courses in English, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies and
  - earn at least a “B” in each class.
- ***South Carolina Academic Achievement Honor Award.*** This program requires:
  - Earn a minimum grade of “B” for each semester course throughout the seventh semester of grades 9-12 (fall of Senior year)
  - Four units of English (same course requirement as College Preparatory)
  - Four units of Math (Algebra I or above)
  - Three units of laboratory science
  - Three units of Social Studies (US/SC history, Economics/Government, one unit of global studies/world history, global studies/world geography, or western civilization)
  - Two units of foreign language (same foreign language)
  - One unit of Physical Education
  - Four units in additional electives
  - Two additional units in English language arts, science, social studies or mathematics
  - Meet standard on all subtests of the HSAP Exit Examination
  - Achieve either a score of 710 on the SAT Verbal OR a score of 690 on the SAT Math OR a score of 30 on the English ACT OR a score of 33 on the Math ACT

**Note:** Students who complete this program in addition to their high school diplomas also receive **Certificate of Recognition** from the South Carolina Department of Education.

- **College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Requirements.** This program requires:
  - English Language Arts: Four units, at least two units with strong grammar and composition components, at least one unit in English Literature, and at least one unit in American Literature. College preparatory English 1, 2, 3, and 4 will meet this criterion.
  - Foreign Language: Two units of the same foreign language.
  - Mathematics: Three units including Algebra I (for which Applied Mathematics 1 and 2 may count together as a substitute if a student successfully completes Algebra 2), Algebra 2, and Geometry. A fourth higher-level mathematics course is strongly recommended. The fourth course should be selected from among Algebra 3/ Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, or Discrete Mathematics.
  - Science: Three units of laboratory science, with two units taken in different fields selected from among Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) or from any laboratory science for which Biology and/or Chemistry is a prerequisite. Courses in earth science, general physical science, or introductory or general environmental science for which Biology and/or Chemistry is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement.
  - Social Studies: Three units, with one in U.S. History; a half unit of Economics, and a half unit in Government strongly recommended.
  - One unit in Physical Education or Junior ROTC.
  - Electives: Four units from at least three different fields selected from among Computer Science, English Language Arts, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, Humanities, Laboratory Science (excluding earth science, general physical science, general environmental science, or other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite), Mathematics above the level of Algebra 2, and Social Studies. It is recommended that one unit be in Computer Science, which includes programming and one unit in Fine Arts.
  
- **High Schools That Work Award of Educational Achievement.** Students must complete the HSTW-recommended curriculum in at least two of the three subject areas; complete a concentration in a career/technical field, mathematics/science, or the humanities; and meet all three of the performance goals on the HSTW assessment.
  - The recommended curriculum consists of:
    - English: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses
    - Math: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses, including Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and a higher level mathematics course such as trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus, or Advanced Placement mathematics.
    - Science: Three or more credits in science, including at least two credits in college-preparatory biology, chemistry, anatomy/physiology or physics/applied physics.
  - The concentrations consist of:
    - Career/Technical: Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in a career/technical field or major.
    - Mathematics/Science: Four college-preparatory courses each in mathematics and science. At least one higher level course in either mathematics or science must be at the Advanced Placement level.
    - Humanities: Four college-preparatory courses each in English/language arts and social studies and four courses in an area of the humanities, such as foreign language, fine arts or additional English and social studies courses. At least one course in either English or social studies must be at the Advanced Placement level.
  - Performance Goals:
    - The performance goals on the HSTW assessment are a 279 in reading, a 297 in mathematics, and a 299 in science on a scale of 0-500.

**Note:** Students who complete this program in addition to their high school diplomas also receive a **Certification of Recognition** from the South Carolina Department of Education and the Southern Regional Education Board.