

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****Title:** Academic Scholars Program**Type of Executive Summary:**
 Action     
  Action on First Reading     
  Discussion     
  Information
**Policy Implications:**

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- Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
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- General Statute # \_\_\_\_\_
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- SBE Policy #HSP-L-003
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- SBE Policy Amendment
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- SBE Policy (New)
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- APA # \_\_\_\_\_
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- APA Amendment
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- APA (New)
- 
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- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter(s):** Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Cindy Williamson (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology)

**Description:**

The Academic Scholars Program is a rigorous program of courses that exceed SBE graduation requirements. The last revision of the Academic Scholars program was in 2003. The Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements, including the North Carolina Graduation Project, were approved in September 2008. ~~This will go into effect with the rising class of eighth graders who will enter high school in Fall 2009.~~ The Academic Scholars Program must be revised to align with the Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements and current legislation regarding the North Carolina Graduation Project. These changes will go into effect for students entering ninth grade for the first time in or after 2009-2010. The Academic Scholars Program revision includes additional required credits for Health and Physical Education, Career and Technical Education and Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, or Visual Arts) plus the requirements for Future Ready Core Graduation Requirements. This revised option is presented based on SBE input and a review of national and international honor society criteria.

**Resources:**

NCDPI Website <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/scholars> , SBE Policy Manual

**Input Process:**

The Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements and the requirements for the Academic Scholars Program were reviewed by the sections chiefs and consultants for English Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, K-12 Program Areas and Special Projects. Recommendations for revision are attached.

**Stakeholders:**

Students, teachers, principals, parents, central office supervisors

**Timeline For Action:**

This item was presented for Discussion at the May and June State Board meetings. It is presented for Action at the State Board meeting in July.

**Recommendations:**

State Board members are requested to approve the attached information.

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 Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:

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- Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)
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- Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Postponed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Person responsible for SBE agenda materials and SBE policy updates: Amy Betsill Bain, 919-807-3817

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Policy Manual**

**Policy Identification**

**Priority:** High Student Performance

**Category:** Miscellaneous Graduation Policies

**Policy ID Number:** HSP-L-003

**Policy Title:** Policy adopting the NC Academic Scholars Program

**Current Policy Date:** 11/05/1998

**Other Historical Information:** Previous board date: 03/08/1990

**Statutory Reference:**

**Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Reference Number and Category:**

**\*\*\* Begin Policy \*\*\* (Do not tamper with this line)**

Students who successfully complete the requirements of an academically challenging high school program will be named North Carolina Academic Scholars and receive special recognition. These criteria will be in effect for the ninth graders entering high school in the fall of 2009.

This policy is a part of the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*. Questions regarding the North Carolina Academic Scholars Program requirements should be directed to:

NC Department of Public Instruction  
K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and Technology  
6341 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699- 6341

Cindy Williamson (919) 807-3817 or Teresa Parker (919) 807-3837

The North Carolina Academic Scholars Program requirements are available from the following link: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/scholars>.

## Suggested Revision for Academic Scholars Program

The following revised plan is effective for students who enter the ninth grade for the first time in or after 2009-2010.

Students must:

- Begin planning for the program before entering ninth grade to ensure they obtain the most flexibility in their courses.
- Complete all the requirements of this North Carolina Academic Scholars Program.
- Have an overall four-year un-weighted grade point average of **3.500**
- Complete all requirements for a North Carolina high school diploma.

<b><u>2003-2004</u></b>		<b><u>Proposed Option</u></b> Future-Ready Core Course of Study		<b><u>Changes</u></b>
Credits	The following designated number of credits per subject area listed below must be taken in grades 9-12.	Credits		Omits 9-12 Requirement (HSP-M-001)
4	English I, II, III, IV	4	English I, II, III, IV	None
4	Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and a higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III, and a higher level mathematics course with Integrated Mathematics III as prerequisite)	4	Mathematics (should include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and a higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III, and a higher level mathematics course with Integrated Mathematics III as prerequisite)	Aligned to the Future-Ready Core requirements. The fourth math credit will be required to be a higher level math that meets MAR (Minimum Admission Requirements) for UNC system.
3	Science (a Physics or Chemistry course, Biology, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)	3	Science (Physics or Chemistry course, Biology, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)	None
3	Social Studies (World History, Civics/Economics, and U.S. History)	3	Social Studies (World History, Civics/Economics, and U.S. History)	None
1	Healthful Living	1	Health and Physical Education	None
2	Languages other than English ( two credits of the same language)	6	Two (2) elective credits in a second language required for the UNC System  Four (4) elective credits constituting a concentration recommended from one of the following: Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education, Second Languages, any other subject area	Aligned to the Future-Ready Core requirements focus on concentration and including the UNC system requirement of two second language credits.  Reduces elective requirements by three
1	Career and Technical Education			
1	Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts or Visual Arts)			
5	Elective credits to include at least two second-level or advanced courses (examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student)			

## Suggested Revision for Academic Scholars Program

		3	Higher level courses taken during junior and/or senior years which carry 5 or 6 quality points such as: -AP -IB -Dual or college equivalent course -Advanced CTE/CTE credentialing courses -On-line courses -Other honors or above designated courses	Includes 3 additional credits in more rigorous courses but allows LEAs the flexibility of accessing those courses
		<b>OR</b>		
		2	Higher level courses taken during junior and/or senior years which carry 5 or 6 quality points such as: -AP -IB -Dual or college equivalent course -Advanced CTE/CTE credentialing courses -On-line courses -Other honors or above designated courses  And  Completion of The North Carolina Graduation Project	Includes 2 additional credits in more rigorous courses but allows LEAs the flexibility of accessing those courses. Includes The North Carolina Graduation Project.
24		24 or  23 + NCGP		Same number of credits required as original policy but obtainment of credits is more rigorous

**Revisions made:**

1. Cumulative GPA to 3.500 (un-weighted)
2. 3 additional credits of higher level courses (courses carrying 5 or 6 quality points) taken during junior and/or senior years

**OR**

2 additional credits of higher level courses (courses carrying 5 or 6 quality points) taken during junior and/or senior years and completion of The NC Graduation Project