

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Secondary Administrators, Counselors and Registrars

Subject: PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Department and/or Persons Concerned: High School Principals, Vice Principals, Counselors, and Registrars

Reference: This Site Operations Circular Replaces Administrative Procedure 4772

DUE DATES: End of Semester 1/Q2 or last progress report prior to end of second semester

Action Requested: Review guidelines and implement

Brief Explanation:

Students are only eligible for the diploma with academic distinction if they meet the following criteria:

- attended one or more San Diego Unified School District high schools their entire high school career
- attended one full year at a district high school
- met one of the criteria delineated in method 1 or 2 (below)
- met all graduation requirements as referenced in Administrative Procedure 4770.

Other students who may qualify for this recognition include:

- Students who have attended high schools in other districts for all or part of grades 9-11 if their academic performance in the San Diego Unified School District merits consideration
- Current class of SDUSD mid-year graduates who meet all of the eligibility criteria
- Future class of students (i.e. c/o 2020) who plan to graduate early, who have attended the entire school year of their final year of high school in one of SDUSD schools, and have met all graduation requirements.

Effective with the Class of 2017, the following two methods are available for graduation with academic distinction:

- Method 1:** The student must maintain a weighted grade point average of 3.5 (B+) or higher for all courses taken in grades 10 and 11 and the first semester of grade 12.
- (1) Students who raise their cumulative grade-point average to 3.5 by the end of the last reporting period prior to the end of second semester/Q4 during their senior year are also eligible to receive this diploma.

NOTE: Due to commencement program timelines, students who do not meet the required WGPA by first semester may not be included as receiving this recognition in the commencement program. Sites must notify students and families.

Method 2: Student must complete 14 semester credits in grades 9-12 with grades of an “A” or “B” in courses that are Advanced, Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate and/or dual credit college courses. Two of the 14 courses must be completed during the first semester of grade 12 and the student must be enrolled in two of the listed courses during second semester of grade 12 (and earn an “A” or “B” on the last progress report prior to the end of semester 2). Designated courses are shown in Section D.4.

NOTE: Students enrolled in 2 college courses during S1 may count each course as meeting the 2nd semester requirement, as each course is valued at 2 credits.

- (1) Students who raise their grade to an “A” or “B” in one or more higher level course(s) by the last reporting period prior to the end of second semester/Q4 are also eligible to receive this diploma. This applies to the two courses that require enrollment during the second semester of their senior year, and excludes college courses.
- (2) Credit(s) received prior to grade 9 in world languages and advanced math, if the course(s) are awarded graduation credit, may be counted toward meeting this requirement.

IMPLEMENTATION

- High school principals have the authority to issue diplomas with academic distinction to students meeting the criteria as noted above.
- After the end of semester 1/Q2, high school counselors and registrars verify weighted grade point average (WGPA) of all seniors to determine who qualifies for this recognition. Students who qualify for a diploma with academic distinction under method 1 are included in the site’s commencement program as receiving this recognition.
 - High school registrars update each qualifying student’s “Graduation Document” to an “Diploma with Academic Distinction.” This will ensure students’ final transcript reflects this diploma type.
- High school counselors and registrars conduct evaluations of credits (for method 2) or WGPAs after the final progress report prior to the end of second semester/Q4 to determine which students are eligible for a diploma with academic distinction. Dependent on commencement program timelines, students who are eligible during method 2 timeframe may not be included in the commencement program. Sites must communicate the student status to students and families.

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- High school registrars update each potential qualifying student’s Grad Doc to “Diploma with Academic Distinction” designation under “Alternative Document” for students who may be awarded a diploma with academic distinction. Two documents may be ordered temporarily until the final verifications are made.
- Effective with class of 2019, the following is the Method 2 designated course list (grades 9-12), that includes courses that have been removed and no longer meet this requirement.

Note: additional courses that qualify under method 2 are listed in the updated college course list included in Site Operations Circular No. 2021: *Student Enrollment in College/University Coursework*.

Subject	Course Title	Course Number
Elective	Black History 140 A	6786
Elective	Black History 140 B	6775, 6792
Elective	Business and Management SL IB 1,2	0589, 0590
Elective	Computer Science A 1,2 AP	4461, 4462
Elective	Computer Science Principals, AP 1, 2	4463, 4464
Elective	Information Technology in a Global Society SL IB 1,2	4493, 4494
Elective	Information Technology in a Global Society HL2 IB 1, 2	4495, 4496
Elective	Principles of Macroeconomics 120	6787, 6794
Elective	Psychology HL2 IB 1,2	6715, 6716
Elective	Research 1, 2 AP	4738, 4739
Elective	Seminar 1, 2 AP	4720, 4721
Elective	Theory of Knowledge 1,2	6771, 6772
English	American Literature 1, 2 Honors	1589, 1590
English	English 3, 4 Advanced	1572, 1573
English	English HL1 IB 1, 2	1735, 1736
English	English HL2 IB 1, 2	1741, 1742
English	English 101	1727, 1707, 1767
English	English 105	1728, 1709
English	English Language and Composition 1, 2 AP	1655, 1656
English	English Literature 1, 2	1641, 1642
English	English Literature and Composition 1, 2 AP	1653, 1654, 1498, 1499
English	Expository Reading Writing & Composition 1, 2	1698, 1699
History/Social Studies	American Government in World Affairs 1,2	6761, 6762
History/Social Studies	Chicano Studies 141 A	6776, 6774
History/Social Studies	Chicano Studies 141 A	6777, 6793
History/Social Studies	Economics SL IB 1, 2	6763, 6764
History/Social Studies	European History 1, 2 AP	6759, 6760
History/Social Studies	History HL1 IB 1, 2	6723, 6724
History/Social Studies	History of the Americas HL2 IB 1, 2	6647, 6648
History/Social Studies	History SL IB 1, 2	6643, 6644

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Subject	Course Title	Course Number
History/Social Studies	History 100	6778, 6568
History/Social Studies	History 109, 110	6819, 6569, 6780, 6820, 6544,
History/Social Studies	History 154	6570
History/Social Studies	Human Geography 1, 2 AP	6511, 6512
History/Social Studies	Macroeconomics 2 AP	6842
History/Social Studies	Microeconomics 1 AP	6841
History/Social Studies	Political Science 1, 2 (Poli 101, 102)	6781, 6801, 6727, 6782, 6802, 6728
History/Social Studies	Psychology 1, 2 AP	6834, 6835
History/Social Studies	Psychology 101	6788, 6816, 6810, 6812
History/Social Studies	Psychology SL 1, 2 IB	6713, 6714
History/Social Studies	Government and Politics: US 1 AP	6839
History/Social Studies	Government and Politics: Comparative AP	6849
History/Social Studies	US History & Geography 1, 2 Honors	6711, 6712
History/Social Studies	US History 1, 2 AP	6721, 6722
History/Social Studies	World History 1, 2 Advanced	6645, 6646
History/Social Studies	World History 1, 2 AP	6639, 6640
Mathematics	Advanced Integrated Math I A-B	4165, 4166
Mathematics	Advanced Integrated Math II A-B	4167, 4168
Mathematics	Advanced Integrated Math III A-B	4169, 4170
Mathematics	Algebra 1-2 Advanced	4063, 4064
Mathematics	Calculus AB 1-2 AP	4189, 4190
Mathematics	Calculus BC 1-2 AP	4197, 4198
Mathematics	Geometry 1-2 Advanced	4175, 4176
Mathematics	Functions Analysis	4183, 4184
Mathematics	Integrated Math III A-B	4163, 4164
Mathematics	Intermediate Algebra 1-2	4151, 4152
Mathematics	Intermediate Algebra 1-2 Advanced	4065, 4067
Mathematics	Mathematical Studies SL IB 1-2	4291, 4292
Mathematics	Mathematics 150-151 Honors Calculus	4253, 4242, 4315, 4254, 4243, 4316
Mathematics	Mathematics 245	4297, 4349
Mathematics	Mathematics 252	4256, 4244, 4352
Mathematics	Mathematics 254	4274, 4380
Mathematics	Mathematics HL1 IB 1-2	4195, 4196
Mathematics	Mathematics HL2 IB 1-2	4173, 4174
Mathematics	Mathematics SL IB 1-2	4295, 4296
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus 1-2	4161, 4162
Mathematics	Pre-Calculus 1-2 Honors	4181, 4182
Mathematics	Statistics 1-2 AP	4055, 4056

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Subject	Course Title	Course Number
Mathematics	Statistics and Data Analysis 1-2	4046, 4047
Mathematics	Topics in Discrete Mathematics 1-2	4185, 4186
Science	Biology 1, 2 Advanced	6121, 6122
Science	Biology 1, 2 AP	6191, 6192
Science	Biology HL I IB 1, 2	6197, 6198
Science	Biology HL2 IB 1, 2	6196, 6199
Science	Chemistry 1, 2	6211, 6212
Science	Chemistry 1, 2 AP	6291, 6292
Science	Chemistry 1, 2 Honors	6221, 6222
Science	Chemistry HL1 IB 1, 2	6295, 6296
Science	Chemistry HL2 IB 1, 2	6297, 6298
Science	Environmental Science 1, 2 AP	6455, 6456, 8448, 8449
Science	Environmental Systems and Societies SL 1,2 IB	6427, 6428
Science	Physics 1, 2	6311, 6312
Science	Physics 1, 2 Advanced	6321, 6322
Science	Physics B 1, 2 AP	6391, 6392
Science	Physics C 1, 2 AP	6393, 6394
Science	Physics HL1 IB 1, 2	6395, 6396
Science	Physics HL2 IB 1, 2	6397, 6398
Science	Physics I A, B AP	6349, 6350
Science	Physiology 1, 2	6151, 6152
Science	Physiology 1, 2 Honors	6153, 6154
VAPA	Art History 1, 2 AP	0381, 0382
VAPA	Film HL2 IB 1,2	0394, 0395
VAPA	Music Theory 1, 2 AP	5373, 5374
VAPA	Studio Art 2-D Design 1, 2 AP	0367, 0368
VAPA	Studio Art 3-D Design 1, 2 AP	0369, 0370
VAPA	Studio Art Drawing Portfolio 1, 2 AP	0377, 0378
VAPA	Visual Arts HL2 IB 1,2	0383, 0384
VAPA	Visual Arts SL IB 1,2	0373, 0374
VAPA	Visual Arts SL IB 3,4	0394, 0397
World Language	Chinese Language/Culture 1-2 AP	2175, 2176
World Language	French 5-6 Advanced	2035, 2036
World Language	French 7-8 Honors	2033, 2034
World Language	French HL1 IB 1-2	2039, 2040
World Language	French HL2 IB 1-2	2041, 2042
World Language	French Language 1-2 AP	2013, 2014
World Language	French SL IB 1-2	2037, 2038
World Language	French 201	2119
World Language	French 101, 102	2469, 2470
World Language	German 5-6 Advanced	2085, 2086
World Language	German 7-8 Honors	2093, 2094
World Language	German HL1 IB 1-2	2089, 2090
World Language	German HL2 IB 1-2	2091, 2092

Subject	Course Title	Course Number
World Language	German HL1 IB 1-2	2089, 2090
World Language	German HL2 IB 1-2	2091, 2092
World Language	German Language 1-2 AP	2063, 2064
World Language	German SL IB 1-2	2087, 2088
World Language	Japanese 7-8 Honors	2177, 2178
World Language	Japanese 101, 102	4817, 4818
World Language	Latin: 1-2 AP	2209, 2210
World Language	Spanish 5-6 Advanced	2425, 2426
World Language	Spanish 7-8 Honors	2307, 2308
World Language	Spanish HL1 IB 1-2	2429, 2430
World Language	Spanish HL2 IB 1-2	2431, 2432
World Language	Spanish Language 1-2 AP	2333, 2334
World Language	Spanish Literature 1-2 AP	2339, 2340
World Language	Spanish SL IB 1-2	2427, 2428
World Language	Spanish 101	2465, 4821
World Language	Spanish 102	2466, 4822
World Language	Spanish 201	2421, 2467, 4823
World Language	Spanish 202	2468
World Language	Spanish 215	4824
World Language	Any third year or higher modern world language course (e.g. French 5-6, Spanish 7-8)	

Please inform students that college courses scheduled in the spring semester will not count toward meeting method 1 or method 2, as there are no progress reports issued for college courses.

Questions regarding this circular should be directed to Operations Specialist Veronica Ortega, Office of Leadership & Learning Division at vortega1@sandi.net.

APPROVED:

Sofia Freire, Ed.D.

Chief, Office of Leadership & Learning