

July 22, 2024

Dr. Katie Jenner  
Secretary of Education  
Indiana Department of Education  
Government Center North, 9th Floor  
100 N. Senate Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Chris Lowery  
Commissioner  
Indiana Commission for Higher Education  
101 West Ohio St., Suite 550  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1971

Dear Secretary Jenner and Commissioner Lowery:

Purdue University appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to the requirements for Indiana high school diplomas. High school curriculum is an important factor in college admission decisions and predictive of student success. Not all students will attend college; however, all students should clearly understand college admission requirements and be offered the coursework needed to be admitted to and succeed in college.

We have reviewed the new requirements and compared them to Purdue's admission requirements and student success metrics. Several key points are as follows:

- The proposed GPS and GPS+ diplomas do not meet Purdue admission requirements in the subject areas of math, lab sciences, social studies and world language.
- The new diplomas do not require a student to take the SAT or ACT to graduate.
- From fall 2011 through fall 2017, students earning Indiana Academic Honors diplomas performed better at Purdue than those earning Indiana Core 40 and Indiana Core 40 with technical honors diplomas. (Information on diploma type was not collected by Purdue after fall 2017.) Specific comparisons follow:
  - First-term GPA (fall 2017): 3.1 for Academic Honors vs. 2.6 for Core 40
  - One-year retention rates (fall 2017): 92% for Academic Honors vs. 78% for Core 40
  - Four-year graduation rates (fall 2017): 66% for Academic Honors vs. 45% for Core 40

- Over the past 10 years, new beginner students who enter Purdue with any amount of college credits consistently perform better than new beginner students who enter Purdue with no college credits. This is seen in first-term GPA (3.4 vs. 2.9 for fall 2023), one-year retention rates (94% vs. 85% for fall 2022) and four-year graduation rates (71% vs. 54% for fall 2019).
- According to the ICHE college readiness dashboard:
  - The 2022 Indiana public college students who graduated with Academic Honors diplomas averaged a higher freshman year GPA (3.2) compared to those completing Core 40 (2.3) or the General diploma (2.1). This is a consistent pattern seen over 10 years.
  - Of 2022 Indiana public college high school graduates, those who took and passed an AP test earned higher first-year GPAs and more credit hours on average (3.3 GPA, 28.5 credit hours). Even those who took an AP test and did not pass (2.8 GPA, 24.3 credit hours) earned higher GPAs than those not taking any AP tests (2.5 GPA, 19.1 credit hours).

Purdue serves more Indiana residents than we did 10 years ago, preparing our students to participate in a skilled workforce and providing economic benefit to the state of Indiana. Because we know that success in college begins with rigor in the high school curriculum, we respectfully ask that you consider an enrollment seal aligned with the requirements for competitive applications to Indiana's R1 institutions. Our course requirements are [publicly available online](#), and the freshman class profile can be found here: [Freshman Class Profile – Undergraduate Admissions – Purdue University](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback, and please let us know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Mung Chiang  
President