

## **Ball State University Diploma Requirements and Feedback**

Ball State's admissions criteria allow for us to better ensure that students who are admitted are well positioned to achieve success in college-level courses. Like many other colleges and universities, Ball State reviews each application holistically, reviewing items including high school grades, test scores, essays, and extra-curricular activities. Importantly, admissions criteria are in place to help identify students who demonstrate the requisite skills (college-readiness) to be successful in college to ensure timely completion and minimal debt.

### Diploma Requirements

We suggest the enrollment seal focus on two levels of preparedness, one that includes the required courses to be eligible for admission at Ball State University:

- Four years of English
- Three years of mathematics:
  - o Algebra 1
  - o Geometry
  - o Algebra II or Analytics Algebra II
- Three years of science (two with lab)
- Three years of social studies
- Foreign language study strongly recommended but not required

As ICHE works with DOE to determine requirements of an "enrollment seal", we suggest in addition to course requirements, that course sequencing is considered to ensure that students are better prepared for the rigors of college-level course work. High school math sequencing can (see <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/should-high-schools-rethink-how-they-sequence-math-courses/2019/11>) be revised to ensure students are exposed to math concepts in their junior and senior years. As noted by Gewertz (2019), "Mathematics education needs to support students' transitions to and through college, whether they're pursuing STEM disciplines or other promising majors that prepare students for careers in other fields like law, politics and the media."

### Communications Campaign

We are also supportive, once revisions to the diploma are finalized, of a comprehensive communications campaign for students, families, and schools to provide additional information and recommendations that will help students to succeed in post-secondary education. This would include suggestions about high school course choices, GPA, extracurricular activities, as well as suggestions for students to look at admissions requirements at their desired institutions and programs.