
To: Faculty/Staff
Fr: Keystone
Re: Graduation Requirements
Dt: 4/6/00

Attached are the three options that Keystone is considering for adoption as specific course/departmental requirements for graduation. Recall that beginning with the Class of 2002, students will need 24 credits to graduate.

We will have our final discussion of these options at our April 12 meeting, with hopes of taking a final vote at our last meeting in April. Please take time to review these options and express your opinions, either in writing or in person, to any Keystone member.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The ISU Entry Model

The ISU model sets our graduation requirements on the same level as ISU's entrance requirements. As many as 95% of our graduating seniors plan to continue their education at the collegiate level. These requirements will put our graduates in line to enter nearly any state school in Illinois. This model places a greater emphasis on core courses, while reducing specific elective requirements (as compared to the Well-Rounded Model).

Department	# of credits	change
English	4.0	+1.0
Social Sciences	2.0	-----
Math	3.0	+1.0
Science	2.0	+1.0
Foreign Language or Fine Arts	2.0 in one program	+2.0
Additional Courses	2.0	+2.0
<i>Including course work in Social Sciences, Math, Science, Foreign Language, or Fine Arts and/or courses in Vocational Education and fundamentals of computing.</i>		
Subtotal	15.0	+7.0
Vocational Education ¹	0.5	-----
Wellness / P. E. ²	4.0	-----
Total	19.5	+7.0

1 Students are required to **PASS** Consumer Economics (0.5 credit) or an equivalency exam in order to graduate.

2 Students are required to **ENROLL** in a Wellness or P. E. course each semester they are attending U-High or secure an appropriate waiver. They must **PASS** Health (incorporated into Freshmen Wellness) in order to graduate.

The Well-Rounded Model

The Well-Rounded Model is based on the early work of the Keystone Scheduling Task Force. This committee felt very strongly that a U-High graduate should be exposed to courses in the eight curricular areas identified below. This model would enhance the overall experience of our students, while still allowing them to select a number of their own electives.

Department	# of credits	change
English	3.5	+0.5
Social Sciences	2.5	+0.5
Math	2.0	-----
Science	2.0	+1.0
Foreign Language	1.0	+1.0
Fine Arts	0.5	+0.5
Vocational Education ¹	1.0	+0.5
Wellness / P. E. ²	4.0	-----
Total	16.5	+4.0

- 1 Students are required to **PASS** Consumer Economics (0.5 credit) or an equivalency exam in order to graduate.
- 2 Students are required to **ENROLL** in a Wellness or P. E. course each semester they are attending U-High or secure an appropriate waiver. They must **PASS** Health (incorporated into Freshmen Wellness) in order to graduate.

Graduating with the Well-Rounded “Distinction”

This option would serve as a compromise between the two previous models. IN the Distinction Model, we would adopt the ISU-Entry Model as the graduation requirements for all U-High students. We would then create a “Distinction” for those students who also complete the requirements identified in the Well-Rounded Model.

Students earning the Well-Rounded Distinction would wear a green neck cord as part of their gown at graduation ceremonies, would be identified in the graduation program, would be acknowledged during the graduation ceremony, and would have a special seal attached to their diploma.

An explanation/rationale for this new distinction would appear in the student handbook immediately following the graduation requirements. This section would also include an explanation of other academic distinctions recognized at the time of graduation – Valedictorian/Salutatorian, Top Ten, National Honor Society, etc.

To receive the Well-Rounded Distinction, students would have to meet the following set of graduation requirements:

Department	# of credits	change from ISU model
English	4.0	-----
Math	3.0	-----
Social Sciences	2.5	+0.5
Science	2.0	-----
Vocational Education	1.0	+0.5 ¹
Must earn an additional 2.0 credits in any of the above areas	2.0	-----
Foreign Language	1.0	-----
Fine Arts	1.0	-----
Must earn at least 2.0 credits in Foreign Language or Fine Arts	1.0	+1.0 ²
Physical Education	4.0	----- ³
Total	21.5	+2.0

1 Includes Consumer Economics

2 In the ISU Model, students must earn two credits in 1 of the 2 programs

3 Students are required to **ENROLL** in a Wellness or P. E. course each semester they are attending U-High or secure an appropriate waiver. They must **PASS** Health (Freshmen Wellness) in order to graduate.