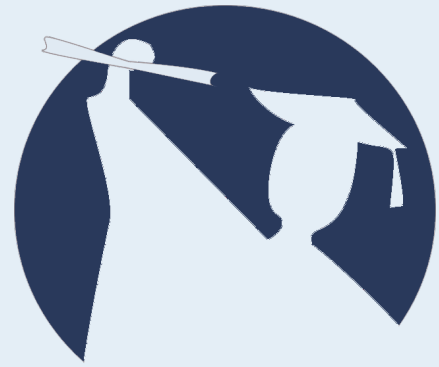


QSI DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS 2025 UPDATE



We are excited to announce some updates to the requirements for QSI diplomas, beginning in August of 2025.

- These **will apply** to Secondary I (Class of 2029) and Secondary II (Class of 2028) students.
- These **will not apply to** Secondary III (Class of 2027) and Secondary IV (Class of 2026) students. These students will continue with their existing graduation and diploma plan.

WHY THE CHANGE?

As with any educational organization, it is important to periodically take time to reflect on whether existing practices and policies continue to be relevant and in the best interest of students. After conducting a careful 14-month review, we determined that we could improve even further on our existing diploma requirements in a way that would benefit QSI students and families.

HOW WERE THESE CHANGES DETERMINED?

A team of experienced teachers, counselors, school directors, learning support and curriculum coordinators, and regional supervisors from within QSI worked together to:

- 1) examine strengths and weakness of the current QSI diploma requirements
- 2) research and explore university requirements and current best practices in US and international school course offerings
- 3) present suggestions for improvements to the QSI diploma requirements.



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WHAT IS CHANGING?

The changes to the diploma program fall under several categories:

- 1) Streamlining the existing diploma requirements
- 2) Strengthening the rigor of the QSI diplomas
- 3) Allowing more space for student choice

Continue reading to learn more about these changes.

1

STREAMLINING EXISTING DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- **Diplomas will be streamlined to two options rather than three:** see the Frequently Asked Questions page for more details.
- **Diploma names are streamlined:** Diploma and Diploma With Honors.

2

STRENGTHENING THE RIGOR OF QSI DIPLOMAS

- **Physical Science skills will be moved to middle school rather than secondary.**
- **All students will be required to complete Biology.**
- **Diploma with Honors will require 4 AP courses (or 2 HL IB courses).**
- **Diploma with Honors will also require Physics, Chemistry, OR an AP Science course.**
- **Additional technology curriculum will be developed for students wishing to take more advanced technology courses.**

3

ALLOWING MORE SPACE FOR STUDENT CHOICE

- **The following courses below are removed as REQUIREMENTS for graduation: *British Literature, American Literature, US History, Physical Education, Technology I, and Physical Science.*** The total credits required in each program area stays the same. This allows for more student choice in each program area.
- **Additional elective courses will be developed beginning in Fall of 2025.**

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

220 TOTAL CREDITS

(Beginning Fall 2025)

ENGLISH (40 credits)

Literature I (10 credits)

Literature II (10 credits)

Writing I (10 credits)

Writing II (10 credits)

TECHNOLOGY (10 credits) ①

Technology Elective (10 credits) ②

MATHEMATICS (20 credits)

Algebra 1 (10 credits)

Mathematics Elective (10 credits)

SCIENCE (20 credits)

Biology (10 credits) ③

Science Elective (10 credits)

CULTURAL STUDIES (30 credits)

World Geography (10 credits)

Modern World History (10 credits)

Cultural Studies Elective (10 credits)

Personal Health (20 credits)

Health and Fitness 1 (10 credits) ④

Physical Education Elective (10 credits) ⑤

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (20 credits)

Year 1 Language (same language) (10 credits)

Year 2 Language (same language) (10 credits)

CREATIVE AND APPLIED ARTS (10 credits)

Creative and Applied Arts Elective (10 credits)

NOTES:

- ① Technology is its own program area now, no longer part of English
- ② More flexibility in the courses that meet the technology requirement.
- ③ Physical Science is no longer required.
- ④ Wellness is renamed to Health and Fitness 1
- ⑤ More flexibility in the courses that meet the PE requirement

DIPLOMA WITH HONORS REQUIREMENTS

240 TOTAL CREDITS

(Beginning Fall 2025)

ENGLISH (70 credits)

Literature I (10 credits)

Literature II (10 credits)

Writing I (10 credits)

Writing II (10 credits)

Research (10 credits)

English Elective (10 credits) **1**

English Elective (10 credits)

TECHNOLOGY (10 credits) **2**

Technology Elective (10 credits) **3**

MATHEMATICS (30 credits)

Algebra 1 (10 credits)

Geometry (10 credits)

Mathematics Elective (10 credits)

SCIENCE (30 credits)

Biology (10 credits) **4**

Physics OR Chemistry OR AP Science
(10 Credits) **5**

Science Elective (10 credits)

Personal Health (20 credits)

Health and Fitness 1 (10 credits) **6**

Physical Ed. Elective (10 credits) **7**

CULTURAL STUDIES (40 credits)

World Geography (10 credits)

Modern World History (10 credits)

Economics (5 credits)

World Governments (5 credits)

Cultural Studies Elective (10 credits) **8**

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (20 credits)

Year 1 Language (same language) (10 credits)

Year 2 Language (same language) (10 credits)

CREATIVE AND APPLIED ARTS (10 credits)

Creative and Applied Arts Elective (10 credits)

NOTES:

- 1** More flexibility in the courses that meet the English requirement.
- 2** Technology is its own program area now, no longer part of English
- 3** More flexibility in the courses that meet the technology requirement.
- 4** Physical Science is no longer required.
- 5** An advanced science course is now required.
- 6** Wellness is renamed to Health and Fitness 1
- 7** More flexibility in the courses that meet the PE requirement
- 8** More flexibility in the courses that meet the Cultural Studies requirement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Do these diploma changes apply to all QSI students?

No, these new diploma changes will only apply to secondary students in their Secondary I (Class of 2029) and Secondary II (Class of 2028) years beginning August of 2025. Secondary III (Class of 2027) and Secondary IV (Class of 2026) students will continue with their existing graduation plan and diploma type.

Why aren't there three diplomas anymore?

After discussing our diploma options with our counselors, we discovered that students were placing too much value in the diploma name rather than in creating a strong transcript. Universities look at a transcript when determining admission, not whether a diploma is an Academic Diploma, General Diploma, etc. Eliminating excess diploma types helps refocus students on the importance of a strong transcript rather than the specific type of diploma.

What was wrong with the old diploma requirements?

Nothing was wrong with the old requirements. However, as with all aspects of our organization, we periodically spend time reflecting and researching to make sure we are staying relevant and best meeting the needs of our students. After going through this process with the existing graduation requirements, we determined that we could improve our existing educational program even further by making these changes.

Should all students be aiming for a Diploma With Honors?

No, the focus should always be on creating a strong transcript rather than a specific type of diploma. The Diploma and Diploma With Honors requirements continue to provide a strong educational program for QSI students, but students should view these as a basic framework upon which they can build the rest of their coursework to tell an academic story about their unique interests. A student can create a strong transcript with either diploma type.

Do these new diploma requirements apply to new Secondary III and Secondary IV students *transferring* in to our schools over the next two years?

No, all Secondary III and Secondary IV students in QSI schools during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 years will use the existing diploma (General Diploma, Academic Diploma, and Academic Diploma With Honors) categories and requirements.

Do these changes make it more difficult for students to earn a QSI diploma?

No, they don't. In examining the graduation requirements, careful attention was placed to ensure QSI retains a rigorous and relevant educational program. An effort was made to balance any increase in academic level (e.g. additional AP courses and an advanced science course) with increased flexibility for students to take courses that might be less difficult than those previously required.

Why are the number of required AP courses changing?

Previously a student attempting an Academic Diploma with Honors was required to take a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) courses. However, in the past ten years, the AP program has expanded substantially, allowing students access to a wide variety of AP, college-level courses. The Diploma with Honors is designed to showcase a student's performance at a high and rigorous academic level. This includes AP courses. Taking four or more AP courses is more in line with the academic weight that the Diploma With Honors represents.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Are the total number of credits changing?

The number of total credits needed to earn a diploma from QSI are not changing. Students earning a Diploma need to earn a minimum of 220 credits. Students earning a Diploma With Honors need to earn a minimum of 240 credits.

Why don't these changes apply to the Secondary III (Class of 2027) and Secondary IV (Class of 2026)?

These classes already have an existing plan in place for earning their diploma. Changing their plan at this point would introduce additional requirements that might make it difficult to graduate on time with their chosen diploma. However, they may still take some of the newly developed courses if they are offered by the school and meet their existing graduation requirements.

Why are there so many elective courses in these new requirements?

QSI understands that every student is different. Allowing some additional space for program electives benefits students by giving them space to take courses they are interested in, while at the same time ensuring they meet a certain number of credits within a program area. This balances student choice with a well-rounded education.

Can students graduate early?

Currently there is a pathway for students who wish to graduate early. This pathway continues to be the same for the new diplomas. Talk to your school administration if you'd like more details.

What is the Health and Fitness 1 course?

Health and Fitness 1 is the new name for the Wellness course. A Health and Fitness 2 course is also being developed for August 2025.

Why isn't Physical Science a required science course anymore?

Physical Science skills will be moved down into the 11/12/13-year-old science program starting in August 2026. This is in line with current practices in many US high schools who no longer offer Physical Science at a secondary level.

Why is my student enrolled in Physical Science for the 2025-2026 school year?

Although Physical Science will no longer be a graduation requirement for secondary students beginning in 2025-2026, some schools may continue to require it for Secondary I students if they feel their students should have these skills to be successful in future science courses. Beginning with the Science curriculum revision in 2026, the skills and knowledge of Physical Science will be in the 11/12/13 year old science curriculum to ensure they don't miss any important skills.

I want my child to take a class that the school doesn't currently offer. Is this possible?

Despite making space for student choice, the reality is that no school can offer all of the courses that QSI has developed over the years. School administrators make careful choices to balance existing staffing, student numbers, finances, and student interest in order to find the best course offerings to meet the needs of their school population. In addition to this, QSI Virtual School (QVS) offers additional course offerings not available at all schools. Please talk to your school administration if you would like to know more about QVS.



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Secondary Course Offerings

(For the Classes of 2028, 2029 and Beyond)

Diploma = 220 Credits

Diploma with Honors = 240 Credits + 4 AP Courses
(or 2 HL IB Courses)

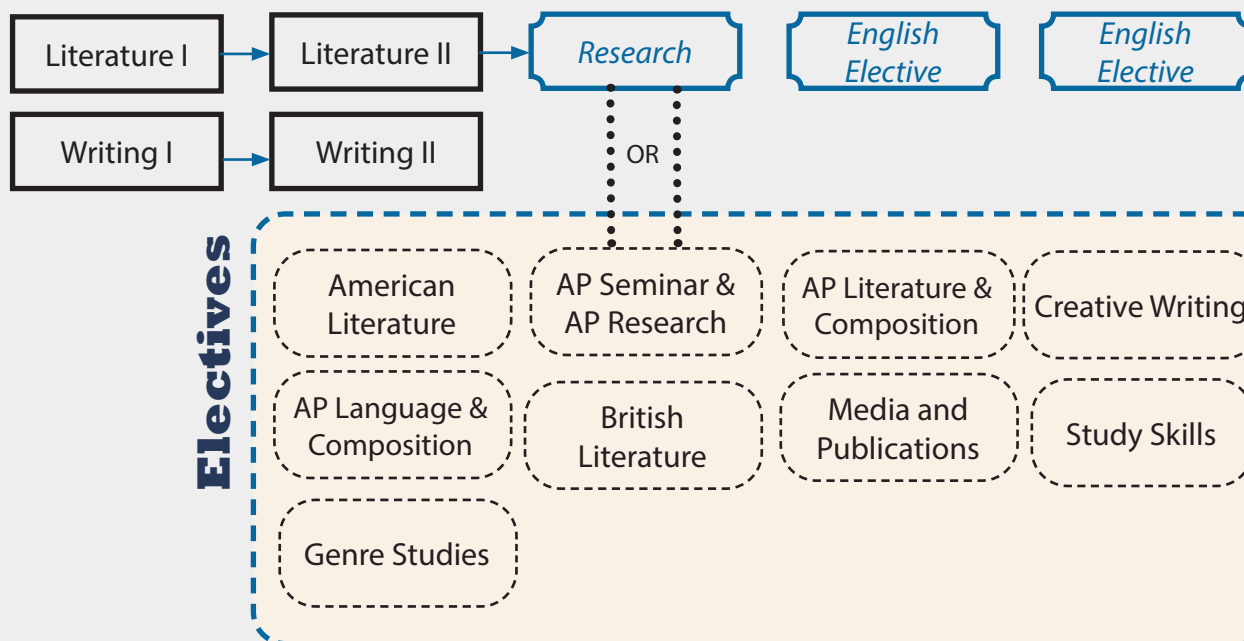
**DIPLOMA
REQUIREMENTS**

**DIPLOMA w/ Honors
REQUIREMENTS**

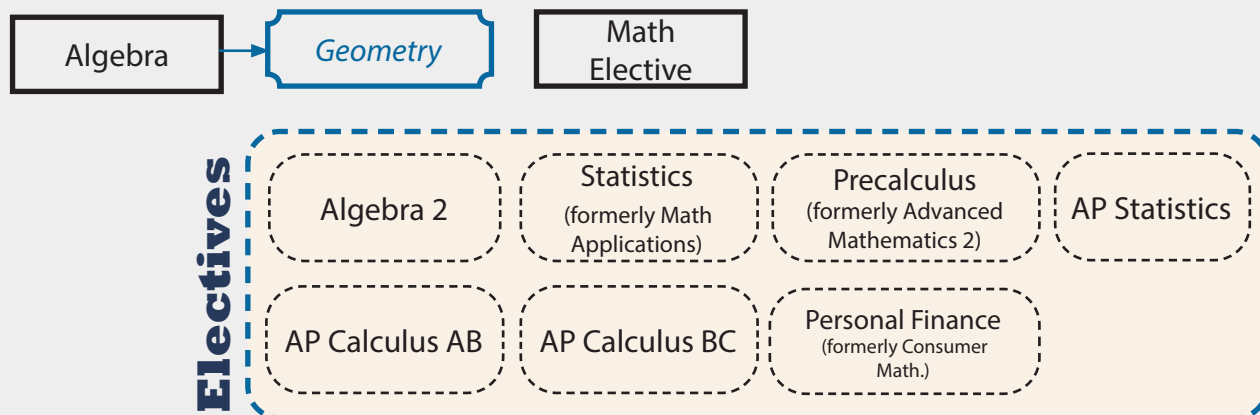
**ELECTIVE
COURSES**

*Diploma with Honors candidates must complete BOTH Diploma and Diploma with Honors requirements.

ENGLISH



MATHEMATICS



SCIENCE

	Biology	Science Elective	<i>Chemistry ♦</i>	
Electives			OR	
	Science Applications	Environmental Science	Physics ♦	Human Anatomy & Physiology ‡
				AP Physics 1
				AP Physics 2
	AP Biology	Microbiology	AP Environmental Science	AP Chemistry
				AP Physics C: Mechanics

♦ Chemistry, Physics, OR any AP science course may meet this Diploma With Honors Requirement
 ‡ Human Anatomy & Physiology will be offered by QVS in 2025-2026

CULTURAL STUDIES

	World Geography	Modern World History	Cultural Studies Elective	<i>Economics</i>	<i>World Governments</i>
Electives	OR	OR		OR	OR
	AP Human Geography ♦	AP World History ♦	AP US History	AP Micro-economics	AP Comp. Government & Politics
				OR	
	International Relations	Psychology	AP European History	AP Macro-economics	AP Psychology
			US History	AP African American Studies	Global Issues

♦ Regional Supervisor must approve this substitution.
 ♦ On an individual and exceptional basis, AP Human Geography may be substituted for World Geography. Course and evaluation requirements apply. Parental consent must be obtained using the AP Human Geography Substitution Letter of Consent.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

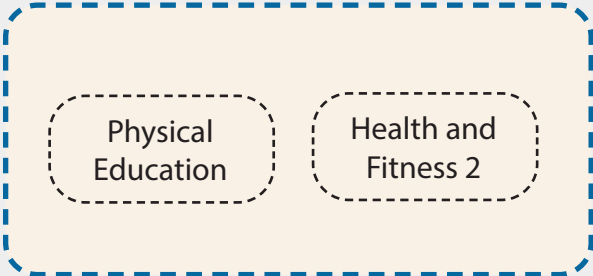
20 Credits in ONE Language*	*Or demonstrated competency in a second language (see Graduation Requirements Policy)
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PHYSICAL ED. & HEALTH

Health and Fitness 1
(formerly Wellness)

PE
Elective

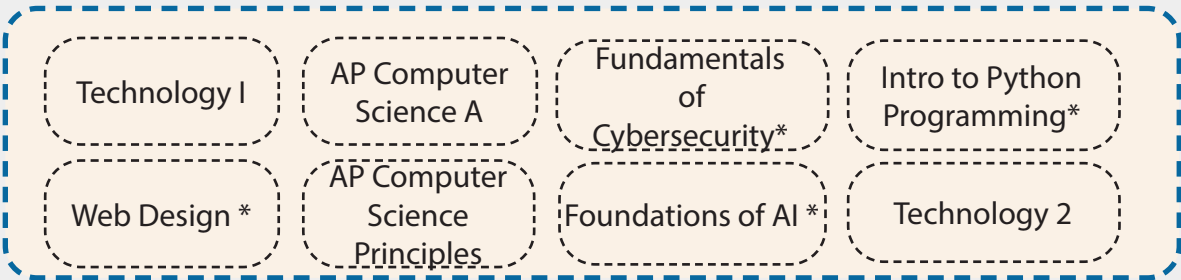
Electives



TECHNOLOGY

10 Credits of Technology
Electives

Electives



* In 2025-2026 these courses are only available via QVS

CREATIVE & APPLIED ARTS

10 Total Credits of
C&AA Electives

Electives

