

## What is MassCore?

MassCore is a state recommended, rigorous program of study that aligns high school coursework with college and workforce expectations. The recommended program of studies includes:

How Many?	Which Subjects?
4 years	English
4 years	Math
3 years	lab-based Science
3 years	History/Social Science
2 years	the same foreign language
1 year	the Arts
5 additional "core" courses	career and technical education, or any other subject areas
As required by state law	Physical Education (M.G.L. c. 71, s. 3)
additional learning opportunities including	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP classes</li> <li>• dual enrollment/ early college</li> <li>• senior project/capstone coursework</li> <li>• online courses for high school or college credit</li> <li>• service- or work-based learning</li> </ul>

MassCore should be considered to be a critical component of a student's overall high school experience and may also include employment, work-based or community service learning, athletics, volunteer or extra-curricular activities and additional learning opportunities that help prepare students for their future.

## What is College and Career Ready?

Being college and career ready means that an individual has the knowledge and skills necessary for success in postsecondary education and economically viable career pathways in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Academic preparation is a critical piece of those knowledge and skills.

## What can we do?

### START NOW

Sometimes knowing the options is all it takes. As early as middle school students should have a college and career plan and success in ninth grade is critical. Get all the supports your student needs to pass all their classes in ninth grade and have a plan for the rest of high school.

### AIM HIGH

Taking challenging courses in high school is the single best predictor of how well students will do in college. Encourage students to take advanced placement, dual enrollment and online courses.

### LOOK BEYOND

Good grades and "book smarts" aren't enough. Students need your help to identify jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities that interest them so they can plan for a career and gain experience for their life. These opportunities will help build workplace and interpersonal skills while identifying and supporting their career path.

## What else can Parents & Mentors Do?

- Encourage your student to take challenging courses in high school including Honors, dual enrollment, early college and/or Advanced Placement (AP).
- Support your student in doing his or her homework and participating in other school-sponsored activities.
- Make it a point to communicate with your child's teachers and counselors about his or her progress in school.
- Partner with your student and the school to develop an education and career plan so that he or she is ready for what comes next after high school.

# Why MassCore?

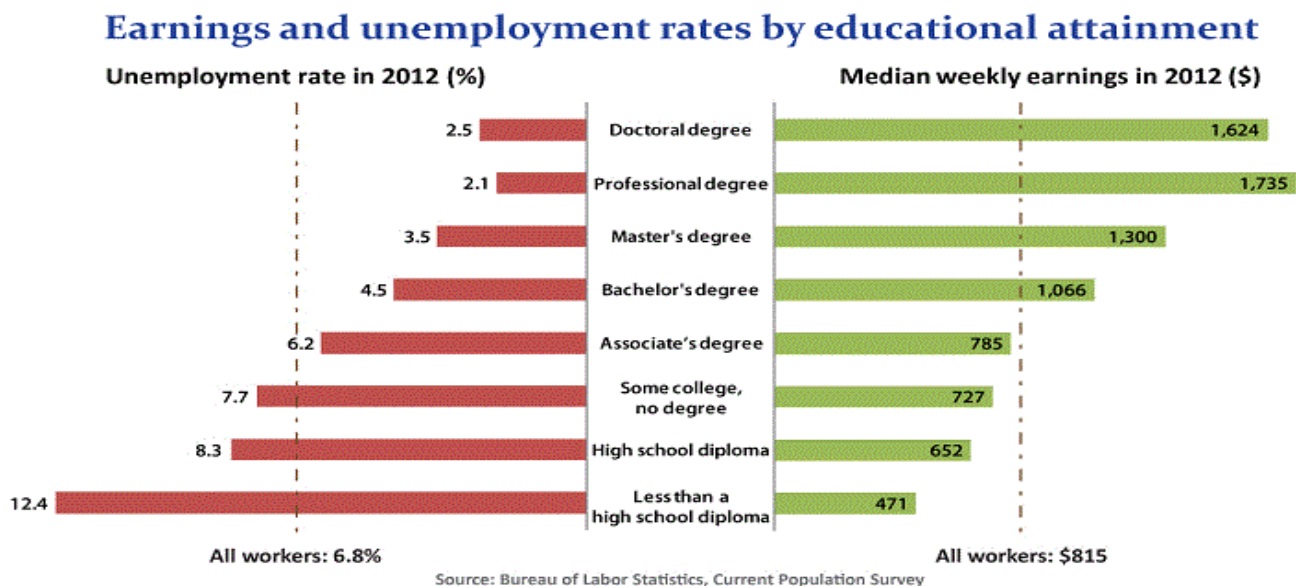
## Preparation for College Success

Taking MassCore means you're more likely to meet admission requirements for Massachusetts' four-year public colleges and the University of Massachusetts (listed below). It gives you a better chance at getting into private colleges as well. Beyond this, MassCore can help you be prepared to succeed in college and finish prepared for what's next. If you want a job that will support a family, provide health benefits, and offer a chance for career advancement; you're likely to need an education beyond high school - at least a two-or four-year degree, apprenticeship program, military training, or workplace license or certification

Subject	Requirement for college freshman class entering...					
	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017 and beyond
English	4 courses					
Mathematics	3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry or comparable coursework)				4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school	
Sciences	3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering; including 2 courses with laboratory work); <i>Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school</i>					3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work
Social Sciences	2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)					
Foreign Languages	2 courses (in a single language)					
Electives	2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)					

## Paying the Bills and Getting the Career you want.

Consider this: Graduates of four-year colleges earn an average \$1.4 million more than high school dropouts. Students who take challenging academic courses like MassCore in high school are more likely to enroll in college, not need academic remediation (which can cost extra time and money), and earn a college degree.



For More Information go to <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccr/masscore> or email [masscore@doe.mass.edu](mailto:masscore@doe.mass.edu)