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### **1. What is IPC?**

The Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) course is a high school course for grades 9 or 10. This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry in the following topics: motion, waves, energy transformations, properties of matter, changes in matter, and solution chemistry. Bringing together the interconnections of these sciences in problem based learning situations is a powerful motivational tool.

### **2. How does IPC fit into the three high school graduation plans?**

Texas graduation requirements for the Minimum High School Program (MHSP) include two credits of science: biology and Integrated Chemistry and Physics (IPC). Students may choose to take the separate chemistry or physics course for IPC, but these students must then take the other course (chemistry or physics) as their academic elective. Therefore, students who substitute chemistry or physics for IPC will graduate with three science credits rather than two.

Under the Recommended High School Program (RHSP), students may include IPC as one of the four science credits until this course is phased out. Beginning with school year 2012-2013, entering 9<sup>th</sup> graders may not take IPC for science graduation credit on the RHSP. For students graduating under the RHSP, IPC cannot be taken as the final or fourth year of science but must be taken before the senior year of high school.

For students graduating under the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP), IPC cannot be taken as one of the four science courses required for graduation. However, IPC can be counted as an additional science elective credit beyond the four required science credits.

### **3. Is IPC a full credit course? Can IPC be split up into semester credits?**

All core science courses needed for graduation are one full credit. Combinations such as ½ credit Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) and ½ credit of Chemistry may NOT be used. Although students may receive credit for completing a semester of a science course, this credit may be used as elective credit only and not as science credit toward graduation under any of the graduation plans.

### **4. What are the IPC certification requirements?**

IPC teachers should have a strong background in physical science, chemistry, and/or physics. The State Board for Educator Certification oversees the certification examinations. For IPC teachers, the certification for Science 8-12 or Physical Science 8-12 are the most appropriate.

### **5. What are the state-approved IPC textbooks?**

Current state adopted textbooks for IPC include:

- Cambridge Physics Outlet (CPO) Integrated Physics and Chemistry
- Glencoe/McGraw-Hill's Integrated Physics and Chemistry
- Holt Science Spectrum: A Physical Approach.

More information on textbooks and instructional materials is available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/textbooks/materials/bulletin/programs.pdf>.