



THE PRESIDENT

July 30, 2024

Dr. Katie Jenner
Secretary of Education
Indiana Department of Education
Government Center North, 9th Floor
100 N. Senate Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46204-1971

The Honorable Chris Lowery
Commissioner
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 550
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Secretary Jenner and Commissioner Lowery:

Indiana University supports the State's objective of ensuring that the secondary curriculum effectively provides all students with pathways to postsecondary education, the workforce, or military service. Achieving this objective requires a clearly articulated and rigorous high school curriculum that is effectively aligned to the State's higher education institutions' admissions and preparedness requirements. This alignment is critical in ensuring students are prepared for postsecondary programs that lead to innovations in the health and life sciences, cybersecurity and AI, educator preparation for P-12 schools, and competition in the global economy.

With this in mind, Indiana University supports the Department's addition of the Enrollment Ready Seal as a component of the new diploma requirements. Further we strongly agree with the Department's [position](#) that these Seals:

- "Would be jointly developed with and approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in conjunction with higher education institutions,"
- "Must meet the minimum entrance requirements for the majority of state higher education institutions," and
- "Each seal would have a defined set of required course offerings and course sequences."

As the flagship four-year institution serving the entire State, we are committed to working with the Department and Commission on the development of the Enrollment Ready Seal course sequence. It is imperative that all students who plan to (or may want to) attend college receive adequate preparation for higher education in the academic areas our research demonstrates are most meaningful to success: rigorous preparation in higher-level math, sciences, communication, world languages, arts, and social & historical contexts.

Additionally, internal IU analysis indicates:

- High school grades earned by a student and the rigor of the curriculum pursued serves as a significant predictor of success for incoming students across all our IU campuses.
- Grades earned in higher-level high school courses show a closer correlation with performance at IU than grades earned in lower-level high school courses. Examples of high school courses with the strongest correlations between performance in that course and performance at IU include US History, Anatomy,

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Biochemistry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, and Statistics, world language, and other advanced high school courses.

- Evidence also suggests that students entering IU with even one college course completed do better than students who have earned zero college credit while in high school. Performance at IU improves significantly across multiple metrics with greater numbers of incoming college credit.

Lastly, IU understands the need for the Employment Ready Seal to be highly informed by a wide variety of industry and workforce development representatives. We strongly urge the Department to include two- and four-year postsecondary institutions in the development of this Seal as well. Many industry pathways circle back to postsecondary education, and/or individuals may wish to pursue postsecondary education as adults. In both cases, it is imperative that such individuals do not lack basic preparation for an on-ramp into higher education at a later point. Indiana University is committed to participating in these discussions as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback, and please let us know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Whitten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Pamela Whitten
President