

High School Graduation Requirements

Every high school student must meet state course and credit requirements in addition to any local requirements in order to graduate from high school. To view the state course and credit requirements, look below for the section that matches when a student entered ninth grade for the first time.

Refer to State Board of Education policy <http://sbepolicy.dpi.state.nc.us> for a list of AP/IB, Dual enrollment and other courses that may satisfy certain requirements per State Board of Education Policy.

School counselors are available to answer any questions you may have about what is needed to reach the goal of high school graduation.

For Ninth Graders Entering in 2012-13 and Later Two Courses of Study Leading to One Diploma

CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
English	4 Credits I, II, III, IV or a designated combination of 4 courses	4 Credits English I*, II*, III*, IV*
Mathematics	4 Credits Math I, II, III 4th Math Course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans <i>A student, in some circumstances, may have an alternative math course sequence as outlined under State Board of Education policy or due to the transition in standards. Please see your school counselor for more details.</i>	3 Credits Introduction to Mathematics Math I* Financial Management
Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science	2 Credits Applied Science Biology*
Social Studies	4 Credits American History: The Founding Principles, Civics and Economics, World History, American History I: American History II OR AP US History**, IB History of the Americas**, additional social studies course**	2 Credits American History I* American History II*
World Languages	Not required for high school graduation. A two-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the UNC system.	Not required
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education

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CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
Electives or other requirements***	6 Credits required 2 elective credits of any combination from either: – Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Arts Education – World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: – Career and Technical Education (CTE)**** – JROTC – Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) – Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English)	6 Credits Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV***** Elective credits Additional requirements: – Completion of IEP Objectives – Career Portfolio
Career/Technical		4 Credits Career/Technical Education electives
Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)		
Total	22 Credits plus any local requirements	22 Credits plus any local requirements

* OCS Pathway courses aligned with North Carolina Standard Course of Study in English I, II, III, IV; Math I and American History I, II, and Biology.

** A student who takes AP US History or IB History of the Americas instead of taking American History I and American History II must also take an additional elective social studies course in order to meet the four credits requirement.

*** Examples of electives include Arts Education, JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student.

**** For additional information on CTE courses that meet requirements for selected Courses of Study, refer to the CTE Clusters chart located at:
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/cte/standards/careerclusters2012.pdf>.

***** For students entering 9th grade in 2013-14 or earlier, completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment. For students entering 9th grade in 2014-15 or later, completion of 150 hours of school-based training, 225 hours of community-based training, and 225 hours of paid employment.

**For Ninth Graders Entering in
2011-12
Two Courses of Study Leading to One Diploma**

CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
English	4 Credits I, II, III, IV <i>Effective with the 10th Grade class of 2011-12 English I, II, III, IV or a designated combination of 4 courses</i>	4 Credits English I*, II*, III, IV
Mathematics	4 Credits (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) OR (Integrated Math I, II, III) 4th Math Course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans <i>A student, in rare instances, may be able to take an alternative math course sequence as outlined under State Board of Education policy. Please see your school counselor for more details.</i>	3 Credits Introduction to Mathematics Algebra I* or Math I Financial Management
Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Environmental Science	2 Credits Applied Science Biology*
Social Studies	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History	2 Credits American History I American History II
World Languages	Not required for high school graduation. A two-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the UNC system.	Not required
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education

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CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
Electives or other requirements**	6 Credits required 2 elective credits of any combination from either: – Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Arts Education – World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: – Career and Technical Education (CTE)*** – JROTC – Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) – Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English)	6 Credits Occupational Preparation: Preparation I, II, III, IV**** Elective credits Additional requirements: – Completion of IEP Objectives – Career Portfolio
Career/Technical		4 Credits Career/Technical Education electives
Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)		Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision
Total	21 Credits plus any local requirements	22 Credits plus any local requirements

* OCS Pathway courses aligned with Future Ready Core courses in English I, English II, Algebra I/Integrated Math I, and Biology.

** Examples of electives include Arts Education, JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student.

*** For additional information on CTE courses that meet requirements for selected Courses of Study, refer to the CTE Clusters chart located at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/cte/publications/career/clusters.pdf>.

**** Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.