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# CSAI Report

## States' Course Requirements for High School Graduation

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What are states requiring that students study as a condition for high school graduation?

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# A Review of States' Course Requirements for High School Graduation

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With today's greater focus on preparing students for college and careers, the Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI) recently conducted a review of the coursework that states are requiring students to complete in order to receive a high school diploma. This report provides a summary of states' high school diploma options and course requirements as a condition for high school graduation.<sup>1</sup>

## Diploma Options

The following table (see page 11) provides course requirement information for each state. In each row, course requirements—typically in the form of number of units, credits, or years—are presented for the following content areas: English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies, physical/health education, and electives/others; relevant notes are included to provide additional information. Although they differ in name, “units,” “credits,” and “years” are the same unit of measurement; students earn one credit or unit for a yearlong course. This report uses the terms, “units” and “credits,” interchangeably when discussing course requirements.

While the table includes one row of information for most states, some states have multiple rows, to include course requirements for multiple diploma options, multiple pathways that students may take to obtain one diploma, and/or university/pre-college course requirements.<sup>2</sup> In addition, future changes in course requirements for an individual state (e.g., additional requirements for future graduating classes) are included in a separate row.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this report, the term “states” refers to the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories. Information was not available for six states (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Republic of the Marshall Islands); thus, this brief only discusses findings for 53 states ( $n = 53$ ).

<sup>2</sup> California and Kentucky are the two states whose education-department websites include both information about their state minimum high school graduation requirements and information on courses required for admission to state-sponsored higher education institutions. Because these pre-college requirements are not state-mandated, they are not discussed in the Core Course Requirements section of this report.

Overall, of the 53 states covered in this report, an overwhelming majority of states ( $n = 44$ ) offer only one diploma option.<sup>3</sup> Of the forty-four states that offer one diploma option, four states—North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wyoming—provide multiple pathways that students can pursue. These pathways allow students to enroll in courses that are geared toward their interests and their future goals or aspirations. For example, Ohio offers one diploma with three different honors pathways: academic, career-technical, and International Baccalaureate. To earn a diploma with honors, students must fulfill seven of eight criteria that are specific to each pathway. North Carolina, on the other hand, offers two pathways (Future-Ready Core and Future-Ready Occupational), both of which lead to one diploma.

Of the states, only six (Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Texas, and Virginia) offer multiple diploma options. Louisiana has two diplomas: a college-and-career diploma and a career diploma. Two pathways—the LA Core and Basic Core—both lead to the college-and-career diploma. Additionally, Texas’s default diploma is the Foundation High School Program; however, the state also offers the Minimum High School Program, Recommended High School Program, and Distinguished Achievement Program diplomas, all of which are only available to students who entered high school before 2014–15.

## Core Course Requirements

Of the 53 states, all, with the exception of three states (Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Vermont), prescribe a set of course requirements to which districts can include additional requirements that students have to fulfill in order to graduate. Colorado’s only statewide requirement for high school graduation is the satisfactory completion of a civics/government course that focuses on the United States and Colorado. Local school boards in Colorado set their own graduation requirements, which were to have been adopted by the 2015–16 school year. In Pennsylvania and Vermont, local school boards are also responsible for developing and adopting their own graduation requirements. The only state-mandated requirement in Pennsylvania is that students complete a culminating project in which they analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information.

Common across these states is the requirement that students enroll in and satisfactorily complete a certain number of units in various content areas.<sup>4</sup> Most states have a single set number of units that

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<sup>3</sup> As described in the Core Course Requirements section, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Vermont are not included in the counts in this section because they do not have a set of graduation requirements at the state level; local school boards develop and implement their own graduation requirements.

<sup>4</sup> States with unconventional credit systems—Idaho (46 credits), Indiana (40–47 credits), and Nebraska (200 credit hours)—are not discussed, or included in the counts, in the Core Course Requirements section. It is unclear, from the information available, whether one credit is equivalent to one year’s worth of coursework in Idaho and Indiana, as it is in other states. For Nebraska, it is unclear what “credit hours” means and how these credit hours translate to units. Please refer to Table 1 for course-requirement information for these three states.

they will continue to implement in the years to come; a few states—Alaska, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Washington—have included additional requirements for future graduating classes. For example, Alaska currently requires students to earn two units in mathematics; this will increase to three units for students graduating on or after July 1, 2017. In Connecticut, the classes of 2004–19 will be required to earn 20 credits in order to graduate; however, beginning with the class of 2020, the number of credits will increase to 25. In New Mexico, 24 units are required for the classes of 2015 and 2016; however, beginning with the class of 2017, this number will increase to 24.5 or 25. In Washington, students in the classes of 2016–18 will need to earn 20 credits, compared to the 24 credits required for students in the class of 2019 and beyond as a condition for graduation.

### English Language Arts

States may differ in total numbers of units required for graduation, depending on their pathways and/or diploma options; however, many states are similar in what they require for each specific content area. Course graduation requirements are organized by content area: ELA, mathematics, science, social studies, physical/health education, and electives/others. Common across an overwhelming majority of states ( $n = 45$ ) is the requirement of four units of ELA. Of the four diploma options offered in Mississippi, the Early Exit Exam option is the only one that does not require four units of ELA; instead, it requires only two units. California is the only state that requires a minimum of three units for ELA. The Republic of Palau requires five units of ELA.

### Mathematics

Mathematics comprises Algebra 1 and 2, geometry, and other higher-level mathematics courses, including but not limited to trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics. Mathematics requirements vary across states, with a range of two to four units.

#### ■ **Twenty-two states require four units:**

- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi (traditional and district-option pathways), New Mexico, North Carolina (Future-Ready Core pathway), Ohio, the Republic of Palau, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs), Virginia (Advanced Studies Diploma), West Virginia, and Wyoming (to qualify for honor/performance or opportunity scholarship).

#### ■ **Twenty-six states require three units:**

- Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi (career and Early Exit pathways), Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina (Future-Ready Occupational pathway), North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas (default Foundation and Minimum High School programs),

Utah, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia (Standard Diploma), Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming (to qualify for provisional opportunity scholarship).

- Connecticut will require students in the class of 2020 and beyond to complete four credits of mathematics.

■ **Four states require two units:**

- Alaska, California, Maine, and Montana.
- Alaska will increase the required number of units from two to three for students graduating on or after July 1, 2017.

## Science

Science includes the study of life and physical sciences (e.g., biology, chemistry, and physics). Similar to mathematics, science requirements also vary across the states, ranging from two to four units of science for graduation.

■ **Nine states require four units:**

- Alabama, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Louisiana (LA Core for college-and-career diploma), Mississippi (traditional pathway), Ohio (Academic, Career-Technical, and International Baccalaureate Pathways), Texas (recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs), Virginia (advanced studies diploma), and Wyoming (to qualify for honor/performance and opportunity scholarships).

■ **Thirty-five states require three units:**

- Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana (Basic Core for college-and-career diploma, and career diploma), Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi (career pathway and district options), Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina (Future-Ready Core pathway), North Dakota, Ohio (state minimum), Oklahoma, Oregon, the Republic of Palau, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas (default Foundation High School Program), Utah, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia (standard diploma), West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming (to qualify for provisional opportunity scholarship).

■ **Twelve states require two units:**

- Alaska, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Mississippi (Early Exit Exam option), Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina (Future-Ready Occupational pathway), Texas (Minimum High School Program), and Washington.
- Connecticut will increase the required number of science credits from two to three beginning with the class of 2020.

- Washington will increase the required number of science credits from two to three for the class of 2019 and beyond.

## Social Studies

Social studies includes the study of U.S. history, world history, geography, economics, government/civics, and personal finance.<sup>5</sup> Some states require the study of the history of those particular states as part of the curriculum.

### ■ Two states require the completion of five units:

- Republic of Palau and Virginia (advanced studies diploma).

### ■ Eleven states require four units:

- Alabama, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana (LA Core for college-and-career diploma), Mississippi (traditional pathway), New York, North Carolina (Future-Ready Core pathway), Ohio (Academic, Career-Technical, and International Baccalaureate Pathways), Texas (Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs), Virginia (standard), and West Virginia.

### ■ Twenty-seven states require three units:

- Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana (Basic Core for college-and-career diploma, and career diploma), Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi (career pathway and district option), Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio (state minimum), Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas (default Foundation and Minimum High School Programs), Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

### ■ Six states require two units:

- Illinois, Maine, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina (Future-Ready Occupational pathway), and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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<sup>5</sup> Note that some states consider economics and personal finance as social studies content and thus include them within social studies, while others (Arkansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia) consider them separately. In Table 1, economics and personal finance are included within the social studies category for New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia, but not for Arkansas and Missouri. Missouri requires students to take a half-credit of personal finance, which may be used to fulfill the social studies requirement or the practical arts requirement. Arkansas requires students to take economics, which can count toward the social studies requirement or the career focus requirement. For these two states, because these units can be used to fulfill requirements other than social studies, they are included in the “electives/others” category of the table.

■ **Eight states have other unit requirements:**

- Connecticut (3.5), Minnesota (3.5), Mississippi (2.5 for early exit exam option), New Hampshire (2.5), New Jersey (3.5), New Mexico (3.5), South Dakota (3.5), and Tennessee (3.5).
- Connecticut will require the attainment of three credits in social studies for the class of 2020 and beyond.

## Other Requirements

Forty-two states require **physical/health education**, and seven states (Arizona, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wyoming) do not. Massachusetts and Rhode Island include physical/health education as one of several options that can fulfill electives/other course requirements.

Other content areas that are required across multiple states include fine, performing, or practical arts; career focus or career and technical education (CTE); foreign languages; and technology or computer science. Unlike in the core subjects, students may not necessarily be required to earn a specific number of credits in each of these content areas—that is, the following subjects may be offered as options from which students may choose to meet specific course requirements.

- A majority of states ( $n = 43$ ) require or include the study of **fine, performing, or practical arts**.
- Approximately two-thirds of states ( $n = 35$ ) require or include the study of **career focus or CTE**.
- More than half of states ( $n = 32$ ) require or include the study of **foreign languages**.
  - In West Virginia, students are encouraged to take foreign language and/or earn credits in a CTE credential as part of their personalized education plans.
  - Connecticut (not included in the preceding count) will require two units of foreign language beginning with the class of 2020.
- Eleven states (Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) require or include the study of **technology or computer science**.
  - In Texas, until September 1, 2016, computer science can be substituted for foreign language in the default Foundation High School Program.



## Extracurricular Requirements

In addition to course requirements, a number of states are implementing extracurricular requirements, such as community service, senior projects, and/or proficiency in various subject areas.

- The District of Columbia requires students to complete one hundred hours of **community service**.
- Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota require students to complete a **senior/culminating project**.
- Kentucky requires students to gain **proficiency in technology**.<sup>6</sup>
- Oregon requires students to partake in **extended learning opportunities**.
- Oklahoma requires students to gain **proficiency in financial literacy** and receive **instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)**.<sup>7</sup>
- Texas requires students to gain **proficiency in speech skills**.<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, nine states (Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Mississippi, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia) require districts/schools to implement **learning plans** for students. All students are required to have a plan that reflects their aspirations and interests, and that guides and documents their progress toward high school graduation. These plans are aimed at helping students transition successfully from high school to college and careers. While most of these states require the implementation of a student success plan in the high school grades, Connecticut and Delaware require schools and districts to implement this as early as middle school—specifically, beginning in grade 6 and in grade 8, respectively. In Delaware and Hawaii, students, school personnel, and parents/guardians share responsibility for the development of student success plans.

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<sup>6</sup> This requirement is not part of the credit count. The Kentucky Department of Education does not specify how this requirement can/should be met.

<sup>7</sup> Districts must offer financial literacy as part of existing courses or as a separate course, which may be considered an elective.

<sup>8</sup> A speech course is not required under the Foundation High School Program. To receive a high school diploma, a student must demonstrate proficiency, as determined by the district in which the student is enrolled, in “delivering clear verbal messages, choosing effective nonverbal behaviors, listening for desired results, applying valid critical-thinking and problem-solving processes, and identifying, analyzing, developing, and evaluating communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and professional presentations.”

The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation derived the information in this report from websites maintained by state departments of education and government agencies; thus, the accuracy of this report is commensurate with the accuracy of those sources. The reported data are intended to be used as a general summation of states' current course requirements for graduation, and not as a definitive report on any individual state or territory.

Table 1: State Course Requirements for High School Graduation

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Alabama (24 credits)	4	4	4	4	1.5	2.5—electives  1—career preparedness  3—CTE and/or foreign language and/or arts education	<p>ELA includes English 9–12. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, or their equivalent/substitute; 1 credit should be from the Alabama Course of Study for Mathematics or equivalent/substitute. Science includes biology and a physical science (i.e., chemistry, physics, or physical science); 2 credits should be from the Alabama Course of Study for Science or equivalent/substitute. Social studies includes 1 credit each in World History, U.S. History 1, and U.S. History 2, and .5 credit each in U.S. Government and Economics. Physical/health education includes Lifelong Individualized Fitness Education (LIFE) or JROTC.</p> <p>Each student is required to have a four-year plan that reflects the student's aspirations and prepares the student for life after high school, whether that is postsecondary education or work.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Alaska</b> (21 credits—for students graduating before July 1, 2017)	4	2	2	3	1	9—locally determined	Social studies includes .5 credit in Alaska history.
<b>Alaska</b> (22 credits—for students graduating on or after July 1, 2017)	4	3	2	3	1	9—locally determined	Social studies includes .5 credit in Alaska history.
<b>American Samoa</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Arizona</b> (22 credits)	4	4	3	3	-	7—electives  1—CTE/vocational education or fine art	Mathematics includes Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, and an additional mathematics course determined by districts. Social studies includes 1 credit of American History, 1 credit of World History/Geography, .5 credit of government, and .5 credit of economics.
<b>Arkansas</b> (21.5 units)	4	4	3	3	1	.5—oral communication  .5—fine arts  6—career focus  .5—economics (can count towards social studies or career focus)	Mathematics must include Algebra 1 and 2 and Geometry; 1 unit must be taken in grade 11 or 12. Science must include biology. Note that computer science can meet the fourth mathematics requirement or the third science requirement. Social studies must include 1 unit each in world history and American history and .5 unit in civics. Physical/health education consists of .5 unit in health and safety and .5 unit in physical education.
<b>California</b>	3	2	2	3	2	1—foreign language, visual	One credit is one year’s worth of work.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
(13 credits—state minimum)						or performing arts, or CTE	Mathematics must include Algebra 1. Science includes biological and physical sciences. Social studies includes one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government and civics; and one semester of economics.
California  (15 credits—A–G university requirements)	4	3*	2	2	-	2—sequenced foreign language  1—visual and performing arts  1—college-prep elective	One credit is one year’s worth of work.  ELA includes composition and literature. Mathematics must include/integrate topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Science must include at least two of the following: biology, chemistry, and physics. Social studies includes one year of world history, cultures, and historical geography, and one year of U.S. history or .5 year of U.S. history and .5 year of American government or civics. Visual and performing arts can include dance, music, theater, or the visual arts. College-prep elective is chosen from all of the aforementioned courses.  *Note that a fourth year of mathematics is recommended.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Colorado</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	Colorado's only statewide requirement for high school graduation is the satisfactory completion of a civics/government course that includes information on both the U.S. and Colorado. Local school boards set their own graduation requirements, which were to have been adopted by the 2015–16 school year.
<b>Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Connecticut</b>  (20 credits—for classes of 2004–19)	4	3	2	3.5	1	1—arts or vocational education  5.5—undefined	Social studies includes .5 credit in civics and American government.  Students are required to have a student success plan that includes their career and academic choices from grades 6–12.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>Connecticut</b>  <b>(25 credits—beginning with class of 2020)</b>	4	4	3	3	1.5	2—foreign language  1—humanities elective  1—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics elective  2—career and life skills electives (e.g., CTE, English as a second language, community service, personal finance, public speaking, nutrition and physical activity)  1—senior demonstration project or equivalent	<p>ELA includes composition. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or Probability and Statistics. Science includes at least 1 credit each in life science and physical science. Social studies includes 1 credit in American history and .5 credit in civics and American government. Physical/health education consists of 1 credit in physical education and .5 credit in health and safety education.</p> <p>Students are required to have a student success plan that includes their career and academic choices from grades 6–12.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Delaware  (24 credits)	4	4	3	3	1.5	2—sequenced foreign language  3—career pathway  3.5—electives	<p>Mathematics must be no less than the traditional requirements of Geometry, Algebra 1, and Algebra 2 courses; students in the class of 2016 are required to complete an Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3 course. A credit in mathematics must be earned in grade 12. Science must include biology. Social studies must include U.S. history. Physical/health education consists of 1 credit in PE and .5 credit in health education. Students may demonstrate proficiency on a nationally recognized language proficiency assessment (except English) to fulfill the foreign language requirement.</p> <p>Every student in grades 8–12 is required to have a Student Success Plan (SSP), which tracks/monitors progress towards graduation, developed by the student, student's advisor, and parent/guardian.</p>



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>District of Columbia</b>  (24 credits)	4	4	4	4	1.5	2—foreign language  .5—arts  3.5—electives  .5—music	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, and a higher-level mathematics course. Science includes biology, 2 laboratory sciences, and 1 other science. Social studies includes World History 1 and 2, DC history, U.S. government, and U.S. history. Students are required to complete 100 hours of community service.</p> <p>In 2012, the DC State Board of Education proposed revisions to the high school course requirements, which would result in students obtaining 26 credits, completing 100 hours of community service, participating in a physical activity, and completing a thesis/culminating project in order to graduate. As of March 2016, it is unclear if all of these proposed changes have been approved and/or implemented.</p>
<b>Federated States of Micronesia</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Florida</b>  (24 credits)	4	4	3	3	1	1—fine and performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts  8—electives	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1 and Geometry. Science includes Biology 1; two of the three credits must have a laboratory component. The social studies requirement consists of 1 credit of world history, 1 credit of U.S. history, and .5 credit each of U.S. government and economics with financial literacy.</p> <p>One course must be taken online. Overall, students must earn a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Georgia  (23 credits)	4	4	4	3	1	3—Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) and/or modern language/Latin and/or fine arts  4—electives	<p>ELA requirement includes American Literature/Composition and grade 9 Literature and Composition. Math requirement includes Mathematics I or GPS Algebra, Mathematics II or GPS Geometry, and Mathematics III or GPS Advanced Algebra. Science must include biology; physical science or physics; and chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement/International Baccalaureate course. The fourth science unit may be used to meet both the science requirement and the elective requirement. Social studies consists of 1 credit of U.S. history, 1 credit of world history, and .5 credit each of American government/civics and economics. Three units of JROTC may be used to satisfy the physical/health education requirement if approved by the district.</p> <p>All students are "encouraged" to earn 2 units in the same language—an admissions requirement for the University of Georgia institutions and other Georgia postsecondary institutions, excluding the Technical College System of Georgia.</p>
Guam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Hawaii  (24 credits)	4	3	3	4	1.5	<p>2—world language (same language), fine arts, CTE, or JROTC</p> <p>6—electives</p> <p>.5—personal transition plan</p>	<p>ELA shall include 1 credit each of ELA 1 and 2, .5 credit of Expository Writing, and 1.5 credits of ELA basic electives. Mathematics must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and a mathematics basic elective. Science must include biology. Social studies includes .5 credit of Modern History of Hawaii, .5 credit of Participation in a Democracy, and 1 credit each in U.S. History and Government, World History and Culture, and a social studies basic elective. Physical/health education includes .5 credit of Physical Education Lifetime Fitness, .5 credit in a PE basic elective, and .5 credit in Health Today and Tomorrow. Students are required to complete a senior project, which may count toward one elective credit.</p> <p>Each student is required to have a Personal Transition Plan (PTP), which is a plan of action to transition from high school to college and careers. Elements of the PTP include goal attainment, identification of available resources, evidence to support the plan of action taken, and self-evaluation. Students, parents, and school personnel have a shared responsibility in the development and execution of the PTP during high school.</p> <p>Students can earn an honors recognition certificate (i.e., academic honors, CTE honors, or STEM honors). Additional requirements apply.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Idaho  (46 credits)	9	6	6	5	1	2—humanities (e.g., interdisciplinary humanities, fine arts, or foreign language)  17—electives	<p>ELA requirement consists of 8 credits in English and 1 credit in speech. Mathematics must include Algebra 1 and Geometry. Two mathematics credits must be taken in the last year of school; however, students who have completed 6 credits of math prior to fall of their senior year, including at least 2 semesters of an advanced placement (AP) or dual-credit calculus or high-level course, are exempt from this requirement. Students must take pre-algebra before entering grade 9. Science must include 4 laboratories. Social studies must include U.S. history, economics, and American government. Note that districts are required to offer students at least one advanced opportunity, such as concurrent credit, AP, or technology preparatory courses.</p> <p>Students are required to complete a senior project that includes a written report and oral presentation. Project guidelines are set by the district.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Illinois</b>  <b>(12 units—for 3-year high schools*)</b>	4  2—writing-intensive courses**	3	2	2	See Notes.	1—art, music, foreign language (includes American Sign Language), or vocational education	<p>Mathematics must include Algebra 1 and a course with geometry content. Social studies must include one unit of the history of the United States or a combination of the history of the United States and American government, and, for students entering 9th grade in the 2016–17 school year or after, one half-semester (.5 unit) of civics as part of the 2-unit social studies requirement.</p> <p>All students must participate in physical education on a daily basis in each year of high school, and must take 18 weeks (one semester) of health education and 9 weeks (one quarter) of consumer education during high school. Over the three-year high school experience, these requirements add another 3.75 units of state-imposed study, which a school district may or may not count toward meeting its local graduation requirements (total number of required units).</p> <p>*One unit is equivalent to one year’s worth of work.            **One unit must be offered as an ELA course and can count toward meeting one year of ELA; the other writing-intensive course may be counted toward the fulfillment of other state graduation requirements, when applicable, if writing-intensive content is provided in a subject area other than ELA.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Illinois</b>  <b>(16 units—for 4-year high schools*)</b>	4  2—writing-intensive courses**	3	2	2	See Notes.	1—art, music, foreign language (includes American Sign Language), or vocational education  4—undefined (locally determined)	<p>Mathematics must include Algebra 1 and a course with geometry content. Social studies must include one unit of the history of the United States or a combination of the history of the United States and American government, and, for students entering 9th grade in the 2016–17 school year or after, one half-semester (.5 unit) of civics as part of the 2-unit social studies requirement.</p> <p>All students must participate in physical education on a daily basis in each year of high school, and must take 18 weeks (one semester) of health education and 9 weeks (one quarter) of consumer education during high school. Over the four-year high school experience, these requirements add another 4.75 units of state-imposed study, which a school district may or may not count toward meeting its local graduation requirements (total number of required units).</p> <p>*One unit is equivalent to one year’s worth of work.            **One unit must be offered as an ELA course and can count toward meeting one year of ELA; the other writing-intensive course may be counted toward the fulfillment of other state graduation requirements, when applicable, if writing-intensive content is provided in a subject area other than ELA.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Indiana  (40 credits—general diploma)	8	4	4	4	3	<p>6—college and career pathway courses</p> <p>5—flex credits (one of the following: additional elective courses in a College and Career Pathway; courses involving workplace learning such as Cooperative Education or Internship courses; high school/college dual credit courses; or additional courses in language arts, social studies, math, science, world languages, or fine arts)</p> <p>6—electives</p>	<p>ELA must include literature, composition, and speech. Mathematics must include 2 credits in Algebra 1 or Integrated Math 1. Science must include 2 credits in Biology 1, and at least 1 credit must be from a physical science or Earth and space science course. Social studies must include 2 credits in U.S. history and 1 credit in U.S. government. Physical/health education consists of 2 credits in physical education and 1 credit in health and wellness.</p>
Indiana	8	6	6	6	3	5—directed electives (world	<p>ELA must include “a balance” of literature, composition, and speech. Mathematics must</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
(40 credits—Core 40)						languages, fine arts, CTE)  6—electives (College and Career Pathway courses recommended)	include 2 credits in Algebra 1, 2 credits in Geometry, and 2 in Algebra 2. Students must take a mathematics course each year in high school. Science must include 2 credits in Biology 1 and 2 credits in Chemistry 1, Physics 1, or Integrated Chemistry–Physics. Social studies must include 2 credits in U.S. history, 1 credit in U.S. government, 1 credit in economics, and 2 credits in world history/civilization or geography/history of the world. Physical/health education consists of 2 credits in physical education and 1 credit in health and wellness.  Students can also earn a Core 40 with Academic Honors or Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma.
Indiana  (47 credits minimum—Core 40 with Academic Honors*)	8	8	6	6	3	5—directed electives (world languages, fine arts, CTE)  6—electives  6–8—world language (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages)  2—fine arts	ELA must include “a balance” of literature, composition, and speech. Mathematics must include 2 credits in Algebra 1, 2 credits in Geometry, and 2 in Algebra 2. Students must take a mathematics course each year in high school. Science must include 2 credits in Biology 1 and 2 credits in Chemistry 1, Physics 1, or Integrated Chemistry–Physics. Social studies must include 2 credits in U.S. history, 1 credit in U.S. government, 1 credit in economics, and 2 credits in world history/civilization or geography/history of the world. Physical/health education consists of 2 credits in physical education and 1 credit in health and wellness.  *Students must complete all requirements for Core 40 in addition to:



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Earning 2 additional math credits, 6–8 world language credits, and 2 fine arts credits;</li> <li>- Earning a grade of “C” or better in courses that count toward the diploma;</li> <li>- Having a grade point average (GPA) equivalent to a “B” or better;</li> <li>- Earning one of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and taking corresponding AP exams;</li> <li>- 6 verifiable college credits in dual-credit courses;</li> <li>- Two of the following: a minimum of 3 verifiable college credits; 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding exams; or 2 credits in International Baccalaureate (IB) standard-level courses and corresponding IB exams;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Earning a combined score of 1750 or higher on the SAT critical reading, mathematics and writing sections, and a minimum score of 530 on each;</li> <li>- Earning an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and completing written section; and</li> <li>- Earning 4 credits in IB courses and taking corresponding exams.</li> </ul>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>Indiana</b>  <b>(47 credits minimum—Core 40 with Technical Honors*)</b>	8	6	6	6	3	5—directed electives (world languages, fine arts, CTE)  6—electives  6—college and career preparation courses	<p>ELA must include “a balance” of literature, composition, and speech. Mathematics must include 2 credits in Algebra 1, 2 credits in Geometry, and 2 in Algebra 2. Students must take a mathematics course each year in high school. Science must include 2 credits in Biology 1 and 2 credits in Chemistry 1, Physics 1, or Integrated Chemistry–Physics. Social studies must include 2 credits in U.S. history, 1 credit in U.S. government, 1 credit in economics, and 2 credits in world history/civilization or geography/history of the world. Physical/health education consists of 2 credits in physical education and 1 credit in health and wellness.</p> <p>*Students must complete all Core 40 requirements in addition to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 credits in the college and career preparation courses in a state-approved College &amp; Career Pathway and a certification or credential, or pathway dual credits resulting in 6 college credits;</li> <li>- Earning a grade of “C” or better in courses;</li> <li>- Having a GPA equivalent to a “B” or better; and</li> <li>- Completing one of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any one of the options (A–F) of the Core 40 with Academic Honors;</li> <li>- Earning the following scores or higher on WorkKeys: Reading for Information—Level 6, Applied</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
							Mathematics —Level 6, and Locating Information—Level 5; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Earning the following minimum score(s) on ACCUPLACER: Writing 80, Reading 90, Math 75; or</li> <li>- Earning the following minimum score(s) on Compass; Algebra 66, Writing 70, Reading 80.</li> </ul>
Iowa  (14 units)	4	3	3	3	1	-	One unit is a yearlong course.  Social studies may include .5 unit of U.S. government and 1 unit of U.S. history.
Kansas  (21 units)	4	3	3	3	1	1—fine arts  6—electives	ELA includes reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. Mathematics includes algebraic and geometric concepts. Science includes physical, biological, and Earth and space science concepts; at least one unit must be a laboratory course. Social studies includes world history; U.S. history; U.S. government, including the Constitution of the U.S.; and concepts of economics and geography. Physical education includes health and may include safety, first aid, or physiology.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Kentucky</b>  <b>(22 credits—state minimum)</b>	4	3	3	3	1	1—history and appreciation of visual and performing arts  7—academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences	ELA requirement consists of English 1–4; students are required to take ELA every year of high school. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Science incorporates lab-based scientific investigation experiences. Physical/health education requirement includes .5 credit of health and .5 credit of PE. Students are required to demonstrate performance-based competency in technology.
<b>Kentucky</b>  <b>(24 credits—pre-college curriculum*)</b>	4	3	3	3	1	1—history and appreciation of visual and performing arts  7—academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences  2—single world language	ELA requirement consists of English 1–4; students are required to take ELA every year of high school. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Science incorporates lab-based scientific investigation experiences. Physical/health education requirement includes .5 credit of health and .5 credit of PE. Students are required to demonstrate performance-based competency in technology.  *These are required for admission to state-supported higher education institutions in Kentucky.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Louisiana  (24 credits—LA Core for college-and-career diploma)	4	4	4	4	2	2—sequenced foreign language  1—arts  3—electives	Physical/health education requirement consists of 1.5 credits in physical education and .5 credit in health.
Louisiana  (24 credits—Basic Core for college-and-career diploma)	4	4	3	3	2	8—electives (6 credits must be in a career area of concentration)	Physical/health education requirement consists of 1.5 credits in physical education and .5 credit in health.
Louisiana  (23 credits—career diploma)	4	4	3	3	2	7—electives (career area of concentration)	Physical/health education requirement consists of 1.5 credits in physical education and .5 credit in health.
Maine  (in years)—effective until 2020*	4	2	2	2	-	1—fine arts (art, music, forensics, or drama)	Science includes at least one year of laboratory study. Social studies includes American history, government, civics, and personal finance.  *Beginning January 1, 2017, a diploma must be based on student demonstration of proficiency in meeting state standards in all content areas. Students must be allowed to show proficiency by presenting multiple types of evidence, including but not limited to teacher-designed or student-designed assessments, portfolios, performance, exhibitions, projects, and community service.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Maryland  (21 credits)	4	3	3	3	1	1—fine arts  1—technology education  One of the following: A) 3 electives and 2 credits in foreign language, American sign language, or advanced technology  B) 1 elective and 4 credits by completing a state-approved career and technology program	Mathematics must include algebra, geometry, and other content. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2014–15, enrollment in a mathematics course in each year of high school is mandatory. Science includes Biology and 2 credits, which must include a lab experience in Earth science, life science, or physical science. Social studies consists of U.S. history; world history; and local, state, and national government. Physical/health education requirement consists of .5 credit each in physical education and health.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Massachusetts  (in years)	4	4	3	3	See Notes.	2—sequenced foreign language  1—arts  5—additional core courses such as business education, health, and/or technology	Science must be lab-based. Social studies must include the instruction of American history and civics. Physical education must be taught. Massachusetts provides additional learning opportunities, including advanced-placement classes, dual enrollment, a senior project, online courses for high school or college credit, and service or work-based learning. Note that the state describes these as “opportunities”; there is no language about them being required.
Michigan  (18 credits)	4	4	3	3	1	1—visual, performing, and applied arts  2—foreign language (beginning with the graduating class of 2016)	Students must complete at least one mathematics or mathematics-related credit or experience during their final year of high school. Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history and geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, .5 credit in economics, and .5 credit in civics/government.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Minnesota</b>  <b>(21.5 credits)</b>	4	3	3	3.5	-	1—arts  7—electives	One course credit is an academic year of study.  Mathematics must include algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Students in the class of 2015 and beyond must complete an Algebra 2 credit or its equivalent as part of the 3-credit requirement. In addition, students must also complete an Algebra 1 credit by the end of grade 8. Science must include biology in addition to chemistry, physics, or CTE; CTE must meet the standards underlying the chemistry or physics credit. Social studies includes U.S. history, geography, government and citizenship, world history, and economics.
<b>Mississippi</b>  <b>(24 credits— traditional pathway)</b>	4	4	4	4	1	1—business and technology  1—art  5—electives	ELA must include English 1–2. Mathematics must include Algebra 1. Science must include Biology 1. Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history, 1 credit in world history, and .5 credit each in geography, economics, U.S. government, and Mississippi studies. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit each of health and physical education. Business and technology must include Technology Foundations, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), grade 9 STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding.  All students must have an Individual Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) that is personalized to meet their educational and career goals.



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Mississippi  (21 credits— career pathway)	4	3	3	3	.5	1—integrated technology  4—CTE electives  2.5—electives	<p>ELA must include English 1–2. Mathematics must include Algebra 1. Science must include Biology 1. Social studies must include 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in U.S. government, and .5 credit in Mississippi studies. The .5 credit in physical/health education can be in comprehensive health or physical education. Business and technology must include Technology Foundations, ICT, grade 9 STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding.</p> <p>All students must have an Individual Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) that is personalized to meet their educational and career goals.</p>
Mississippi  (21 credits— district option)	4	4	3	3	.5	1—business and technology  1—art  4.5—electives	<p>ELA must include English 1–2. Mathematics must include Algebra 1. Science must include Biology 1. Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history, 1 credit in world history, and .5 credit each in U.S. government and Mississippi studies. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit of health. Business and technology must include Technology Foundations, ICT, grade 9 STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding.</p> <p>All students must have an Individual Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) that is personalized to meet their educational and career goals.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>Mississippi</b>  <b>(17.5 credits—Mississippi Early Exit Exam option*)</b>	2	3	2	2.5	1	1—business and technology  1—fine art  5—electives (should align with postsecondary admission standards)	<p>ELA must include English 1–2. Mathematics must include Algebra 1. Science must include Biology 1. Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history, 1 credit in world history, and .5 credit each in U.S. government and Mississippi studies. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit each in health and physical education. Business and technology must include Technology Foundations, ICT, grade 9 STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding.</p> <p>All students must have an Individual Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) that is personalized to meet their educational and career goals.</p> <p>*This option only applies to students in an Innovative Program, approved by the State Board of Education. The Mississippi Early Exit Diploma indicates that students are ready to do college-level work without remediation. In order to qualify for this diploma, in addition to earning the credits listed, students must meet college and career qualification scores in all core content areas on a series of end-of-course exams and/or the required benchmarks for college readiness on the ACT or institution of higher learning–approved college entrance exam.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Missouri</b> <b>(24 units)</b>	4	3	3	3	.5	1—fine arts 1—practical arts .5—personal finance* 7—electives	Social studies must include 1 unit in American history and .5 unit in government. Practical arts courses include computer applications, school publications, technology education, and CTE courses.  *Students may take personal finance to fulfill a social studies or practical arts requirement. In both cases, the total number of electives will increase to 7.5 units (from 7 units).
<b>Montana</b> <b>(20 units)</b>	4	2	2	2	1	1—arts 1—career and technical education 7—locally defined	Physical/health education consists of .5 unit of health enhancement each year for two years.
<b>Nebraska</b> <b>(200 credit hours)</b>	40	30	30	30	-	70—locally defined	Eighty percent of the 200 credit hours must be from the core curriculum. ELA content must include composition, verbal communication, literature, research skills, and technical reading and writing. Mathematics content must include algebraic, geometric, data analysis, and probability concepts. Science content must include biological, Earth/space, and physical science concepts with corresponding science inquiry skills and laboratory experience. Social studies content must include civics/government, geography, United States and world history, and economic concepts.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>Nevada</b>  (22.5 credits)	4	3	2	2	2.5	1—arts and humanities  .5—computers  7.5—electives	Social studies consists of 1 credit each in American government and American history. Physical/health education consists of 2 credits in physical education and .5 credit in health education.
<b>New Hampshire</b>  (20 credits)	4	3	2	2.5	1.5	.5—information and communication s technology  .5—arts education  6—electives	Mathematics must include algebra. Science consists of 1 credit each in physical sciences and biological sciences. Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. and New Hampshire history; .5 credit in U.S. and New Hampshire government/civics; .5 credit in world history, global studies, or geography; and .5 credit in economics. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit in health education and 1 credit in physical education.
<b>New Jersey</b>  (120 credits*)	20	15	15	17.5	15	10—visual, performing, and/or practical arts  5—career education and consumer, family, and life skills or vocational/CTE  22.5—undefined	Mathematics includes Algebra 1, geometry, and a third year of mathematics that builds upon Algebra 1 and geometry. Science includes laboratory biology; chemistry, environmental science, or physics; and an additional lab/inquiry-based science. Social studies includes history and integrated civics, economics, geography, and global content (world history). Economics, worth 2.5 credits, must include financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy. At least 3.75 credits of physical/health education must be taken each year of enrollment.  *Note that 2.5 credits are equal to .5 academic year. New Jersey requires 4 years of ELA, 3 years of mathematics, 3 years of science, 3.5 years of social studies, and 3 years of physical/health education.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>New Mexico</b>  (24 units—for classes of 2015 and 2016)	4	4	3	3.5	1	1—career cluster, workplace readiness, or foreign language  7.5—electives	Mathematics must include 1 unit of content that is equal to or greater than Algebra 2. Science includes 2 units in courses with a laboratory component. Social studies includes 1 unit each in U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, and government and economics, and 0.5 unit in New Mexico history. Note that one of the total units must be honors, advanced placement, dual credit, or distance learning.
<b>New Mexico</b>  (24.5 or 25 units—class of 2017 and beyond)	4	4	3	3.5	1.5 or 2	1—career cluster, workplace readiness, or foreign language  7.5—electives	Mathematics must include 1 unit of content that is equal to or greater than Algebra 2. Science includes 2 units in courses that include a laboratory component. Social studies includes 1 unit each in U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, and government and economics, and 0.5 unit in New Mexico history. Physical/health education consists of 1 unit in physical education and .5 or 1 unit in health education; health education taken in middle school may be used to satisfy the health education requirement. Note that one of the total number of units must be honors, advanced placement, dual credit, or distance learning.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>New York</b>  <b>(22 credits—applicable to students entering high school in 2008–15; for local, Regents, and Regents with Honors diplomas)</b>	4	3	3	4	2.5	1—language other than English (LOTE)  1—visual art, music, dance, and/or theater  3.5—electives	Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit each in government and economics, and 2 credits in another course. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit of health and 2 credits of physical education (PE); students must participate in PE each semester.
<b>New York</b>  <b>(22 credits—applicable to students entering high school in 2008–15, for Regents with advanced designations diplomas)</b>	4	3	3	4	2.5	1—language other than English (LOTE)  1—arts  3.5—electives  2 credits in LOTE or a 5-unit sequence in the arts or CTE	Social studies consists of 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit each in government and economics, and 2 credits in another course. Physical/health education consists of .5 credit of health and 2 credits of physical education (PE); students must participate in PE each semester.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<p><b>North Carolina</b></p> <p><b>(22 credits— Future-Ready Core—one of two pathways leading to one diploma)</b></p>	4	4	3	4	1	<p>6—electives (2 credits of any combination from either CTE, arts education, or world languages*; 4 credits strongly recommended — four-course concentration— from one of the following: CTE, JROTC, arts education, and any other subject area, such as science, social studies, math, English)</p>	<p>ELA requirement consists of English 1–4 or a designated combination of four courses. Mathematics must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 1–3; the fourth mathematics course should be aligned with the student's post-high-school plans. Science must include physical science, biology, and environmental science. Social studies must include civics and economics, world history, American History 1: Founding Principles, American History 2 or advanced-placement U.S. History, and an additional social studies course.</p> <p>Note that students may receive one or more endorsements on their high school diploma. Endorsements indicate that students have completed specific course concentrations preparing them for college or careers. Endorsements include Career Endorsement; College Endorsement; College/UNC Endorsement; NC Academic Scholars Endorsement; and Global Languages Endorsement.</p> <p>*World language is not required for high school graduation, but a 2-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the University of North Carolina system.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<p><b>North Carolina</b></p> <p><b>(22 credits— Future-Ready Occupational— one of two pathways leading to one diploma)</b></p>	4	3	2	2	1	<p>6— occupational preparation electives</p> <p>4—CTE electives</p> <p>1—arts discipline (recommended)</p>	<p>ELA consists of OCS English 1–4; English 1 and 2 are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Mathematics consists of OCS Introduction to Math, OCS Algebra 1, and OCS Financial Management; OCS Algebra 1 is aligned with the CCSS. Science consists of OCS Applied Science and OCS Biology, the second of which is aligned with state standards. Social studies consists of OCS Social Studies 1 (government/U.S. history) and 2 (self-advocacy/problem solving). Occupational preparation electives consist of OCS Preparation 1–4, which includes completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.</p> <p>Note that students may receive one or more endorsements on their high school diploma. Endorsements indicate that students have completed specific course concentrations preparing them for college or careers. Endorsements include Career Endorsement; College Endorsement; College/UNC Endorsement; NC Academic Scholars Endorsement; and Global Languages Endorsement.</p>



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>North Dakota</b>  <b>(22 units)</b>	4	3	3	3	1	3—foreign language, Native American languages, fine arts, or CTE  5—undefined	ELA must be a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech. Science must include 1 unit each in physical science and biology. Social studies must include 1 unit of U.S. history; .5 unit of U.S. government, .5 unit of economics or 1 unit of problems and democracy; and 1 unit (or 2 half-units) of any other social studies course. Physical/health education consists of 1 unit of physical education (PE) or .5 unit each of PE and health.
<b>Ohio</b>  <b>(20 units—state minimum)</b>	4	4	3	3	1	5—electives	Mathematics must include 1 unit of Algebra 2 or the equivalent. Science must include 1 unit of physical sciences, 1 unit of life sciences, and 1 unit of advanced study in one or more of the following: chemistry, physics, or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other Earth or space science. Social studies must include .5 unit each of American history and American government. Electives must be selected from "one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, technology, agricultural education, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required." Note that credits earned from coursework, such as additional physical education or additional health courses, may not be used to meet the electives requirement.  Students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy and take at least two semesters of fine arts.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Ohio  (20 units— Academic Pathway)	4	4	4	4	-	3—world languages  1—fine arts	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and another higher-level course, or a four-year sequence of courses that contains equivalent content. Science includes one unit each of physics and chemistry. World languages must include no fewer than 2 units for which credit is sought.</p> <p>Course credits are six of eight criteria for graduation. The other two criteria are maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.5 up to the last grading period of the senior year and obtaining a composite score of 27 on the ACT or a combined score of 1210 on the SAT (excluding the required writing section). To earn an Academic Pathway Diploma, students must meet at least seven of the eight criteria.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Ohio  (20 units— Career-Technical Pathway)	4	4	4	4	-	4—CTE program*	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and another higher-level course, or a four-year sequence of courses that contains equivalent content. Science includes 2 advanced sciences.</p> <p>Course credits are six of eight criteria for graduation. The other two criteria are maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.5 up to the last grading period of the senior year and obtaining a composite score of 27 on the ACT or a combined score of 1210 on the SAT (excluding the required writing section). To earn a Career-Technical Pathway Diploma, students must meet at least seven of the eight criteria.</p> <p>*The CTE program should lead to a credential, result in an apprenticeship, or be part of an articulated career pathway.</p>
Ohio  (21 units— International Baccalaureate Pathway)	4	4	4	4	-	4—foreign languages  1—fine arts	<p>Two International Baccalaureate essays are required. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and another higher-level course, or a four-year sequence of courses that contains equivalent content. Science includes biology, chemistry, and at least one additional advanced science. Foreign languages includes at least 2 units in one language.</p> <p>Course credits are six of eight criteria for graduation. The other two criteria are maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.5 up to the last grading period of the senior year and obtaining a composite score of 27 on the ACT</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
							or combined score of 1210 on the SAT (excluding the required writing section). Students must also complete assessments in a minimum of six academic disciplines. To earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma, students must meet at least seven of the eight criteria.
Oklahoma  (23 units— College Preparatory/Work Ready Curriculum)	4	3	3	3	-	2—sequenced foreign or non-English language or computer technology  1—fine arts or speech  6—electives  1—additional unit selected from any courses previously listed	ELA consists of English 1–4. Mathematics includes only course credits earned in high school. Science must include biology, chemistry, physics, and another lab science course approved for college admission requirements. Social studies consists of 1 unit in U.S. history, .5 unit in U.S. government, .5 unit in Oklahoma history, and 1 unit selected from history, government, geography, economics, civics, or non-Western culture and approved to meet college admission requirements. Note that computer technology courses exclude keyboarding or typing courses.  Students must also demonstrate satisfactory knowledge in financial literacy. Districts must offer this as part of existing courses or as a separate course, which may be considered an elective. Additionally, all students are required to receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and be aware of the purpose of an automated defibrillator, at least once between grade 9 and graduation.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Oklahoma</b>  <b>(23 units—Core curriculum—for students opting out of the college preparatory/work ready curriculum)</b>	4	3	3	3	-	2—arts  8—electives	ELA consists of 1 unit in Grammar and Composition, and 3 units that may include American Literature, English Literature, World Literature, Advanced English courses, or other English courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above grammar and composition. Mathematics includes 1 unit in Algebra 1, and 2 units in Algebra 2, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis or Pre-calculus, Calculus, Statistics and/or Probability, Computer Science 1, Computer Science 2, Mathematics of Finance, Intermediate Algebra, and contextual mathematics courses that enhance technology preparation. Science includes 1 unit in Biology 1, and 2 units in the areas of life, physical, or Earth science or technology. Social studies includes 1 unit in U.S. history, .5 to 1 unit in U.S. government, .5 unit in Oklahoma history, and .5 to 1 unit in another course, which may include World History, Geography, Economics, Anthropology, or other social studies courses with content and/or rigor equal to or above that of the aforementioned courses.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Oregon</b>  (24 units)	4	3	3	3	2	3—foreign language, arts, CTE  6—electives	Mathematics includes Algebra 1 and above. Science must include scientific inquiry and laboratory experiences.  Students also have to satisfy personalized learning requirements, which include the development of an education plan and profile and participation in extended learning opportunities (e.g., career-related learning experiences, application of knowledge in new situations). The education plan and profile are to guide students' learning and document progress toward their goals.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	Students have to complete a culminating project in which they apply, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and communicate information.  Course requirements are up to the local school board.
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Republic of the Marshall Islands</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Republic of Palau</b>  (27 units)	5	4	3	5	2	6—Career Academy Program, including Career Development  2—electives	Social studies includes 2 units in Palauan studies. Physical/health education consists of 1 unit each of health and physical education.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
<b>Rhode Island</b>  (20 courses—minimum)	4	4	3	3	See Electives/Others.	6—may include world languages, the arts, PE and health, and/or technology, pursuant to district policies and state law	-
<b>South Carolina</b>  (24 units)	4	4	3	3	1	1—computer science (including keyboarding)  1—foreign language or CTE  7—electives	Social studies includes 1 unit in U.S. history and constitution, .5 unit each in economics and U.S. government, and 1 unit in another social studies course. Physical/health education may include Junior ROTC. Note that students must pass a high school credit course in science in which an end-of-course assessment is administered.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>South Dakota</b>  <b>(22 units—minimum)</b>	4	3	3	3.5	1	1—approved CTE, capstone experience or service learning, OR world language  1—fine arts  5.5—undefined	ELA must include 1.5 units in writing, 1.5 units in literature (of which .5 must be in American literature), .5 unit in speech or debate, and .5 unit in a language arts elective. Mathematics must include Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry. Science must include biology, any physical science, and chemistry or physics. Social studies must include 1 unit each in U.S. history and U.S. government, and .5 unit each in world history and geography; social studies also includes .5 unit of personal finance or economics. Physical/health education consists of health or health integration. For the fine arts requirement, districts may decide to offer credit for participation in extracurricular fine-arts activities; a maximum of .25 credit may be granted for each activity in each school year.  Students are required to have a personal learning plan.
<b>Tennessee</b>  <b>(22 credits)</b>	4	4	3	3.5	1.5	2—foreign language*  1—fine arts*  3—electives, consisting of mathematics and science, CTE, fine arts, humanities, advanced placement, or International Baccalaureate	Mathematics includes Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, and a fourth higher-level mathematics course. Note that students must be enrolled in mathematics each school year. Science includes biology, chemistry or physics, and a third lab course. Social studies includes U.S. history and geography, world history and geography, U.S. government and civics, economics, and personal finance (.5 credit). Personal finance may be substituted with 3 years of Junior ROTC.  *Foreign language and fine arts may be waived for students not going to a university, to expand and enhance the elective focus.



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<p><b>Texas</b></p> <p><b>(22 credits— default Foundation High School Program)</b></p>	4	3	3	3	1	<p>2—sequenced foreign language (computer science can be used as substitute until September 1, 2016)</p> <p>1—fine arts</p> <p>5—electives</p>	<p>ELA must include English 1–3 and an advanced English course. Mathematics must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and an advanced math course. Science must include 1 credit in biology, 1 credit in Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) or an advanced science course, and 1 credit in an advanced science course. Social studies must include U.S. history, U.S. government (.5 credit), economics (.5 credit), and world history or world geography.</p> <p>Students must demonstrate proficiency in speech skills (a course is not required; how students demonstrate proficiency is up to districts).</p> <p>Students may earn endorsements on their high school diplomas, which can be STEM, Business &amp; Industry, Public Services, Arts &amp; Humanities, and/or Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements can be earned by successfully completing curriculum requirements for the endorsement and earning four credits in mathematics, four credits in science, and two additional elective credits.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Texas  (22 credits— Minimum High School Program)*	4	3	2	3	1	1—fine arts  .5—communication applications or professional communications (CTE)  7.5—electives (one must be an academic elective)	<p>ELA consists of English 1–4; English 4 can be substituted with an approved alternative course. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and a State Board–approved mathematics course. Science includes biology, in addition to either IPC or a Chemistry and Physics course. Either IPC or the Chemistry and Physics course serves as an academic elective. Social studies includes 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in U.S. government, .5 credit in economics, and .5 credit in world history or world geography.</p> <p>Students may earn endorsements on their high school diplomas, which can be STEM, Business &amp; Industry, Public Services, Arts &amp; Humanities, and/or Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements can be earned by successfully completing curriculum requirements for the endorsement and earning four credits in mathematics, four credits in science, and two additional elective credits.</p> <p>*This program is only available for those who entered high school before 2014–15.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Texas  (26 credits—Recommended High School Program)*	4	4	4	4	1	2—sequenced foreign language  .5—communication applications or professional communications (CTE)  5.5—electives	<p>ELA consists of English 1–4. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and an additional mathematics course. Science includes biology, chemistry, physics, and an additional course. Social studies includes 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in U.S. government, .5 credit in economics, 1 credit in world history, and 1 credit in world geography.</p> <p>Students may earn endorsements on their high school diplomas, which can be STEM, Business &amp; Industry, Public Services, Arts &amp; Humanities, and/or Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements can be earned by successfully completing curriculum requirements for the endorsement and earning four credits in mathematics, four credits in science, and two additional elective credits.</p> <p>*This program is only available for those who entered high school before 2014–15.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Texas  (26 credits—Distinguished Achievement Program)*	4	4	4	4	1	3—sequenced foreign language  .5—communication applications or professional communications (CTE)  4.5—electives	<p>ELA consists of English 1–4. Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and an additional mathematics course. Science includes biology, chemistry, physics, and an additional course. Social studies includes 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in U.S. government, .5 credit in economics, 1 credit in world history, and 1 credit in world geography.</p> <p>Students may earn endorsements on their high school diplomas, which can be STEM, Business &amp; Industry, Public Services, Arts &amp; Humanities, and/or Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements can be earned by successfully completing curriculum requirements for the endorsement and earning four credits in mathematics, four credits in science, and two additional elective credits.</p> <p>*This program is only available for those who entered high school before 2014–15.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/Health Education	Electives/Others	Notes
Utah  (24 credits)	4	3	3	3	2	3.5—directed coursework (1.5—fine arts, 1—career and technical education, .5—computer technology, .5—general financial literacy)  5.5—electives	Mathematics includes Secondary Mathematics 1–3 or higher. Students who successfully complete calculus have met graduation requirements regardless of the number of credits they have taken. Science includes 2 credits from the foundation areas of Earth systems, biological science, chemistry, advanced-placement computer science, or physics, and 1 credit from the applied/advanced science list or foundation areas listed above. Social studies includes 1 credit in U.S. history, .5 credit in geography, .5 credit in civilization, .5 credit in U.S. government and citizenship, and an additional .5 credit in a course determined by the district. Physical/health education includes .5 credit in health, .5 credit in participation skills, .5 credit in fitness for life, and .5 credit in individualized lifetime activities. Note that team sport/athletic participation can be used in place of participation skills or individualized lifetime activities (.5 credit maximum).

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>  <b>(24 credits)</b>	4  1— developmental reading/writing	3	3	2	2	2—Spanish or French  1—speech  1—computer science  1—industrial arts, home economics, or pre-vocational agriculture  4—electives	A credit is one school year’s worth of work.  Mathematics includes algebra and geometry. Science includes general science and biology. Social studies includes Virgin Islands/Caribbean/U.S. history.
<b>Vermont</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	According to the Vermont Agency of Education, local school boards are responsible for developing and adopting graduation requirements. Demonstration of proficiency will be the only way to determine progress and graduation eligibility, beginning with the class of 2020.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Virginia  (22 credits— Standard Diploma)	4	3	3	4	2	<p>2—foreign language, fine arts, or CTE (1 credit in fine or performing arts or CTE)</p> <p>4—electives (at least 2 sequential electives)</p>	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Functions and Data Analysis, or other courses above Algebra 2. Science must include at least two different science disciplines: Earth sciences, biology, chemistry, and/or physics. Social studies includes U.S. and Virginia history, U.S. and Virginia government, and one course in world history and/or geography. One credit in economics and personal finance is also part of social studies. The two sequential electives should provide a foundation for further education, training, or preparation for employment.</p> <p>Students may earn diploma seals for recognition, which include Governor's Seal, Board of Education Seal, Board of Education's Career &amp; Technical Education Seal, Board of Education's Advanced Mathematics &amp; Technology Seal, Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal, and Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
Virginia  (26 credits— Advanced Studies Diploma)	4	4	4	5	2	<p>3—foreign language (three years of one language or two years of two languages)</p> <p>1—fine arts or CTE</p> <p>3—electives</p>	<p>Mathematics includes Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Functions and Data Analysis, or other courses above Algebra 2. Science must include at least three different science disciplines: Earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics. Social studies includes U.S. and Virginia history, U.S. and Virginia government, and two courses in world history and/or geography. One credit in economics and personal finance is also part of social studies. Note that students must successfully complete one virtual course, which may be non-credit-bearing, to graduate with an Advanced Studies Diploma.</p> <p>Students may earn diploma seals for recognition, which include Governor's Seal, Board of Education Seal, Board of Education's Career &amp; Technical Education Seal, Board of Education's Advanced Mathematics &amp; Technology Seal, Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal, and Board of Education's Seal of Biliteracy.</p>



State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<p><b>Washington</b></p> <p><b>(20 credits—for the class of 2016–18)</b></p>	4	3	2	3	2	1—CTE 1—arts 4—electives	<p>Science must include 1 credit with a laboratory.</p> <p>Students are required to have a High School and Beyond Plan, which is a collection of documents designed to help students think about their future and choose coursework that prepares them for their goals after high school. Each school district determines the guidelines for the Plan.</p>
<p><b>Washington</b></p> <p><b>(24 credits—for the class of 2019 and beyond)</b></p>	4	3	3	3	2	1—CTE 2—arts 2—foreign language or Personalized Pathway requirement 4—electives	<p>Up to 2 credits can be waived locally, based on a student’s circumstances.</p> <p>Students are required to have a High School and Beyond Plan, which is a collection of documents designed to help students think about their future and choose coursework that prepares them for their goals after high school. Each school district determines the guidelines for the Plan.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
West Virginia  (24 credits)	4	4	3	4	2	1—arts  2—electives  4—personalized education plan*	<p>ELA includes English 9–12. Transitional English Language Arts for Seniors can be used a substitute for grade 12 ELA. For mathematics, there are recommended sequences for different pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional pathway includes Algebra 1 or Math 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, and Pre-calculus.</li> <li>- Skilled pathway includes Algebra 1 or Math 1, Geometry, Conceptual Math, and Transitional Math for Seniors or Algebra 2.</li> </ul> <p>Science must include physical science in grade 9 and biology or conceptual biology in grade 10; other classes can include chemistry and life science. Social studies include World Studies, United States Studies, and Contemporary Studies and Civics for the Next Generation, taken in that order.</p> <p>*This plan includes coursework that will lead to placement in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses, an industry-recognized certificate or license, or workforce training programs. Students are encouraged to take at least one advanced course with corresponding exam, a fourth science credit, and 2 credits in one world language, and/or 4 credits culminating in acquisition of a CTE credential. Note that world language is not required, but undergraduate admission to West Virginia four-year colleges and universities include the completion of 2 credits in the same world language.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Wisconsin</b>  <b>(23.5 credits)</b>	4	3	3	3	2	8.5— combination of vocational education, foreign languages, fine arts, and other courses (school board discretion)	ELA includes writing composition. Social studies includes state and local government. Physical/health education consists of 1.5 credits in physical education and .5 credit in health education. Note that health education may be taken in middle school.
<b>Wyoming</b>  <b>(in years*; to qualify for honor or performance scholarship)</b>	4	4	4	3	-	<p>2—sequenced foreign language (may include American Sign Language or native language of the Eastern Shoshone or Northern Arapahoe)</p> <p>One of the following: 2—additional years of foreign language (4 years total: at least 2 years must be sequenced in the same language)</p>	<p>*Each course is one year’s worth of work.</p> <p>Mathematics consists of Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, and an additional mathematics course. Science may include physics, chemistry, biology, geology, computer science, physical science, and/or another science course. Social studies includes a combination of the following areas: world history, American history, geography, American government, and/or economic systems and institutions.</p> <p>Students may earn endorsements, which include Advanced, Comprehensive, and General. These endorsements will be included/stated in each student’s transcript.</p>

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
						2—fine and performing arts  2—career-vocational education	
<b>Wyoming</b>  (in years*; to qualify for opportunity scholarship)	4	4	4	3	-	One of the following: 2—sequenced foreign language (may include American Sign Language or native language of the Eastern Shoshone or Northern Arapahoe)  2—fine and performing arts  2—career-vocational education	*Each course is one year’s worth of work.  Mathematics consists of Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, and an additional mathematics course. Science may include physics, chemistry, biology, geology, computer science, physical science, and/or another science course.  Students may earn endorsements, which include Advanced, Comprehensive, and General. These endorsements will be included/stated in each student’s transcript.

State	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math	Science	Social Studies	Physical/ Health Education	Electives/ Others	Notes
<b>Wyoming</b>  <b>(in years*; to qualify for provisional opportunity scholarship)</b>	4	3	3	3	-	One of the following: 2—sequenced foreign language (may include American Sign Language or native language of the Eastern Shoshone or Northern Arapahoe)  2—fine and performing arts  2—career-vocational education	*Each course is one year’s worth of work.  Mathematics must include two of the following three: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Science may include physics, chemistry, biology, geology, computer science, physical science, and/or another science course.  Students may earn endorsements, which include Advanced, Comprehensive, and General. These endorsements will be included/stated in each student’s transcript.