

High School Graduation Requirements

From the time students enter kindergarten, they are preparing for high school graduation.

To make sure students stay on track for a high school diploma, please remember that every high school student must meet state course and credit requirements in addition to any local requirements. 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.

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 OCS 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 OCS Introduction to Mathematics OCS Algebra I* OCS Financial Management
Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Environmental Science	2 Credits OCS Applied Science OCS Biology*
Social Studies	4 Credits Civics and Economics, World History, American History I: Founding Principles and American History II OR AP US History**, additional social studies course**	2 Credits OCS Social Studies I (Government/US History) OCS Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)
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

Continued From Previous Page

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Arts Education – World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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: OCS Preparation I, II, III, IV***** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required
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	22 Credits plus any local requirements	22 Credits plus any local requirements

* OCS courses aligned with Future Ready Core courses in English I, English II, Algebra I/Integrated Math I, and Biology (New Common Core State Standards and new NC Essential Standards implemented in the 2012-13 school year).

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

*** Examples of electives include 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>.

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

**For Ninth Graders Entering in
2009 – 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	<p>4 Credits I, II, III, IV</p> <p><i>Effective with the 10th Grade class of 2011-12 English I, II, III, IV or a designated combination of 4 courses</i></p>	<p>4 Credits OCS English I*, II*, III, IV</p>
Mathematics	<p>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</p> <p><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></p>	<p>3 Credits OCS Introduction to Mathematics OCS Algebra I* OCS Financial Management</p>
Science	<p>3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Environmental Science</p>	<p>2 Credits OCS Applied Science OCS Biology*</p>
Social Studies	<p>3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History</p>	<p>2 Credits OCS Social Studies I (Government/US History) OCS Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)</p>
World Languages	<p>Not required for high school graduation. A two-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the UNC system.</p>	<p>Not required</p>
Health and Physical Education	<p>1 Credit Health/Physical Education</p>	<p>1 Credit Health/Physical Education</p>

Continued From Previous Page

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Arts Education – World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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: OCS Preparation I, II, III, IV**** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required
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 courses aligned with Future Ready Core courses in English I, English II, Algebra I/Integrated Math I, and Biology.

** Examples of electives include 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.

**For Ninth Graders Entering Between 2000 – 2008-09
Four Courses of Study Leading to One Diploma**

CONTENT AREA	CAREER PREP Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE TECH PREP* Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY PREP Course of Study Requirements (UNC 4-yr college)	OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
English	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits I, II, III, IV	4 Credits Occupational English I, II, III, IV
Mathematics	3 Credits Including Algebra I <i>This requirement can be met with Integrated Math I & II when accompanied with the Algebra I EOC.</i>	3 Credits* Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, OR Algebra I, Technical Math I & II, OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, & III	4 Credits Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III, and a credit beyond Integrated Mathematics III	3 Credits Occupational Mathematics I, II, III
Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	3 Credits A physical science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science	2 Credits Life Skills Science I, II
Social Studies	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, World History <i>(2 courses to meet UNC minimum admission requirements - US History & 1 elective)</i>	2 Credits Social Studies I (Government/US History) Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)
World Languages	Not required	Not required*	2 Credits in the same language	Not required
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education	1 Credit Health/Physical Education

Continued from Previous Page

CONTENT AREA	CAREER PREP Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE TECH PREP* Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY PREP Course of Study Requirements (UNC 4-yr college)	OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
Electives or other requirements**	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	3 Elective Credits and other credits designated by LEA	Occupational Preparation: 6 Credits Occupational Preparation I, II, III, IV*** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required
Career/Technical****	4 Credits in Career/ Technical Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course; OR	4 Credits Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course.	Not required	4 Credits Career/Technical Education electives
JROTC	4 Credits in JROTC; OR			
Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)	4 Credits in an Arts Discipline Select courses appropriate for an arts education pathway to include an advanced course.			
	Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision (for students not taking an arts education pathway)	Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision	Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision	Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision
Total	20 Credits plus any local requirements	20 Credits plus any local requirements	20 Credits plus any local requirements	22 Credits plus any local requirements

- * A student pursuing a College Tech Prep course of study may also meet the requirements of a College/University prep course of study by completing two credits in the same second language and one additional unit in mathematics.
- ** Examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student.
- *** Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.
- **** For additional information on CTE courses that meet requirements for selected Courses of Study, refer to the CTE Pathways chart located at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cte/publications/career/technicalrequirements>.