



High School State Requirements and Grades

MARCH 2015

High School Graduation Requirements

North Carolina's high school graduation requirements are outlined below for students entering ninth grade in 2012-13 or later. 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. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, North Carolina will have a standard high school grading scale and letter grades for students in grades nine through 12. This information is below the requirements chart. (Requirements for students who entered ninth grade before 2012-13 are online: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/home/graduationrequirements.pdf>)

See your school counselor for additional information or assistance about reaching 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 Math I, II, III and a 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 American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; World History; American History I and American History II OR AP US History or other college-level courses that are appropriate**; 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
Electives or other requirements***	6 Credits required 2 elective credits of any combination from either: – Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Arts Education – World Languages 4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: – Career and Technical Education (CTE)**** – JROTC – Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) – Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English)	6 Credits Occupational Preparation: – OCS Preparation I, II, III, IV***** – Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career – Portfolio required
CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements



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
<p>* 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).</p> <p>** 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.</p> <p>*** Examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student.</p> <p>**** 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.</p> <p>***** Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.</p>		

High School Grading Scale, Grade Point Average Calculations

In October 2014, the State Board approved a standard 10-point grading scale to begin with the 2015-16 school year for all high school students. This scale will not include “pluses” or “minuses.” Grades from prior years will not be altered retroactively.

Local school districts are required to follow the new scale at the high school level (grades 9-12). Although it is not required at grades K-8, local school districts may use the scale in lower grades if desired.

Under the new scale, grades and grade point average calculations will be applied as follows:

- A: 90-100 = 4.0
- B: 80-89 = 3.0
- C: 70-79 = 2.0
- D: 60-69 = 1.0
- F: < 59 = 0.0

Quality Points: In addition to the grade scale change, new standards for quality points also take effect in the 2015-16 school year. These new standards affect only ninth graders in the fall of 2015-16 and all students entering high school after that year. This change does not affect students who will be in grades 10, 11 or 12 in 2015-16.

The new quality points standard will provide an additional .5 quality point to Honors courses and a 1.0 additional quality point to Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, community colleges courses, or four-year university or college courses taken in high school. This eliminates discrepancies between AP/IB and community college or college/university courses and quality points and provides the same additional quality point to all college-level coursework.

For example, a student who earns an A in an AP course would receive a weighted 5.0 grade for that particular course. A student who earns an A in an Honors course would receive a weighted 4.5 grade.