

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Most students graduate in four years. Visit www.facts.org to see detailed information regarding Florida's High School Graduation Requirements, Diploma Types, and Graduation Plans. The 3-year 18-credit option is for students who are able to maintain a high GPA, are willing to forgo most electives, and are mature enough to handle collage or work at an early age.

Some students may take high school courses in middle school and earn high school credit. See your local school counselor or career specialist for more information.

Section 1003.428, F.S., General requirements for high school graduation; revised. Graduation requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum. Students must be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

Students are encouraged to participate in accelerated mechanisms such as IB, Dual Enrollment (DE), Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and AICE whenever possible to achieve both high school and postsecondary credit.

Students planning to enroll in any postsecondary *degree* program should take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) in eleventh grade if they do not earn college-ready scores on the FCAT, FCAT 2.0, or subject end-of-course exam. Per section 1008.30, F. S., students who score below the college-ready level on the PERT when taken in the eleventh grade shall be offered the opportunity to take a remedial course in the twelfth grade. Students who earn a passing grade in the course and meet the minimum score on the exit test will not be required to enroll in remedial courses at the state college/community college if they enroll in the postsecondary institution within two years of achieving the minimum scores.

Graduation requirements of 24-credit program:

- Sixteen (16) core curriculum credits;
- Eight (8) credits in electives; and
- Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year, at least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning.

THE 16 CORE CURRICULUM CREDITS:

English

Students must earn four (4) credits in English, with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature.

Math

Students must earn four (4) credits in mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course.

For students entering grade 9 in the 2010-2011 school year, in addition to the Algebra I credit requirement, one of the four credits in mathematics must be geometry or a series of courses equivalent to geometry. Students must earn a passing score on the Algebra I End of Course (EOC) Assessment in order to earn course credit.

For students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year, students must earn a passing score on the Algebra I EOC Assessment and the Geometry EOC Assessment which will constitute 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

For students entering grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year, in addition to the Algebra I and geometry credit requirements, one of the four credits in mathematics must be Algebra II or a series of courses equivalent to Algebra II.

Science

Students must earn three (3) credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component.

For students entering grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year, one of the three credits in science must be Biology I or a series of courses equivalent to Biology I. Students must earn a passing score on the Biology I EOC Assessment in order to earn course credit.

For students entering grade 9 in the 2013-2014 school year, in addition to the Biology I requirement, one credit must be chemistry or physics or a series of courses equivalent to chemistry or physics, and one credit must be an equally rigorous course.

Social Studies

Students must earn three (3) credits in social studies as follows: one (1) credit in United States history; one (1) credit in world history; one-half credit in economics; and one-half credit in United States government.

Other required courses

Students must earn one (1) credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or a practical arts course. A list of secondary career and technical courses that satisfy the fine or performing arts high school graduation requirement can be found at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/files/pacourses.pdf>

Students must earn one (1) credit in physical education to include integration of health.

EIGHT (8) ELECTIVE CREDITS

The electives may include intensive reading or mathematics intervention courses, or credit recovery courses.

Students should select electives that fit their abilities, interests, and will best prepare them for postsecondary education and future career goals. Students are encouraged to use www.flchoices.org to explore career possibilities and take assessments designed to help students learn about their interests, skills, and values.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The sample programs of study are based on the 24-credit graduation option. Secondary academic and career and technical education courses are locally determined and based on the individual school's instructional schedule (six period day, seven period day, or block schedule).

The sample programs of study developed by the FLDOE are based on statewide articulation agreements based upon industry certification. They are to be used as a guide for a student's plan. Course availability, required remediation or a change in the student's goals may influence their program of study.