

# 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
<b>English</b>	<b>4 Credits</b> I, II, III, IV or a designated combination of 4 courses	<b>4 Credits</b> OCS English I*, II*, III, IV
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>4 Credits</b> (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) <b>OR</b> (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>	<b>3 Credits</b> OCS Introduction to Mathematics OCS Algebra I* OCS Financial Management
<b>Science</b>	<b>3 Credits</b> A physical science course, Biology, Environmental Science	<b>2 Credits</b> OCS Applied Science OCS Biology*
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>4 Credits</b> Civics and Economics, World History, American History I: Founding Principles and American History II <b>OR</b> AP US History**, additional social studies course**	<b>2 Credits</b> OCS Social Studies I (Government/US History) OCS Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)
<b>World Languages</b>	Not required for high school graduation. A two-credit minimum is required for admission to a university in the UNC system.	Not required
<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	<b>1 Credit</b> Health/Physical Education	<b>1 Credit</b> Health/Physical Education

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CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
Electives or other requirements***	<b>6 Credits required</b> <b>2 elective credits of any combination from either:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Career and Technical Education (CTE)</li> <li>– Arts Education</li> <li>– World Languages</li> </ul> <b>4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Career and Technical Education (CTE)****</li> <li>– JROTC</li> <li>– Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts)</li> <li>– Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English)</li> </ul>	<b>6 Credits</b> <b>Occupational Preparation:</b> OCS Preparation I, II, III, IV***** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required
Career/Technical		<b>4 Credits</b> 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
<b>Total</b>	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
<b>English</b>	<p><b>4 Credits</b> I, II, III, IV</p> <p><i>Effective with the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade class of 2011-12 English I, II, III, IV or a designated combination of 4 courses</i></p>	<p><b>4 Credits</b> OCS English I*, II*, III, IV</p>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p><b>4 Credits</b> (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) <b>OR</b> (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><b>3 Credits</b> OCS Introduction to Mathematics OCS Algebra I* OCS Financial Management</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p><b>3 Credits</b> A physical science course, Biology, Environmental Science</p>	<p><b>2 Credits</b> OCS Applied Science OCS Biology*</p>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<p><b>3 Credits</b> Civics and Economics, US History, World History</p>	<p><b>2 Credits</b> OCS Social Studies I (Government/US History) OCS Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/ Problem Solving)</p>
<b>World Languages</b>	<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>
<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	<p><b>1 Credit</b> Health/Physical Education</p>	<p><b>1 Credit</b> Health/Physical Education</p>

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CONTENT AREA	FUTURE-READY CORE Course of Study Requirements	FUTURE-READY OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study Requirements
<b>Electives or other requirements**</b>	<b>6 Credits required</b> <b>2 elective credits of any combination from either:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Career and Technical Education (CTE)</li> <li>– Arts Education</li> <li>– World Languages</li> </ul> <b>4 elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Career and Technical Education (CTE)***</li> <li>– JROTC</li> <li>– Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts)</li> <li>– Any other subject area (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English)</li> </ul>	<b>6 Credits</b> <b>Occupational Preparation:</b> OCS Preparation I, II, III, IV**** Elective credits/ completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required
<b>Career/Technical</b>		<b>4 Credits</b> Career/Technical Education electives
<b>Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts)</b>		Recommended: at least one credit in an arts discipline and/or requirement by local decision
<b>Total</b>	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.