

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Research by Achieve, ACT and others suggests that for high school graduates to be prepared for success in a wide range of postsecondary settings, they need to take four years of challenging mathematics — covering Advanced Algebra; Geometry; and data, probability, and statistics content — and four years of rigorous English aligned with college- and career-ready standards (which include the CCSS).

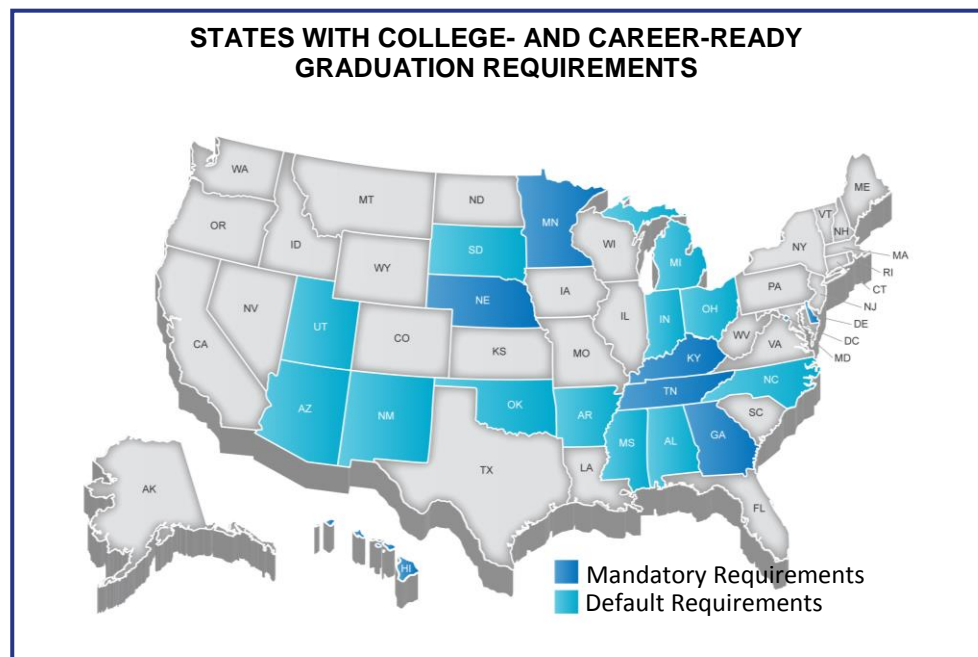
While readiness depends on more than knowledge and skills in English and math, these core disciplines undergird other academic and technical courses and are considered essential by employers and colleges alike. For students to truly graduate ready for college and careers, however, they need to complete a rigorous, robust and well-rounded curriculum that exposes them to a wide range of academic and technical knowledge and skills to ensure all doors are left open for them when they leave high school.

19 States + DC Require All Students to Complete a College- and Career-Ready Course of Study

Today, 19 states — *Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Utah*— and the *District of Columbia*, have elevated their high school diploma requirements to the college- and career-ready level.

States raising their course requirements to the college- and career-ready level have taken one of two approaches:

- Seven states and the District of Columbia have set *mandatory* course requirements without opt-out provisions that require all students to take the content through the level of the CCSS/CCR standards.
- Twelve states require students to automatically enroll in the “*default*” college- and career-ready curriculum but allow them to opt out of the requirements — typically mathematics requirements — if their parents sign a waiver.



Both approaches are designed to do away with the type of tracking that has long existed in American high schools and continues to leave many students — typically already disadvantaged students — unprepared for the world they enter after high school.

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STATE DIPLOMA	YEAR NEW REQUIREMENTS PASSED	1 ST IMPACTED EXPECTED GRADUATING CLASS	REQUIREMENT	# OF REQUIRED CREDITS
ALABAMA FIRST CHOICE DIPLOMA	2008	2013	Default	24
ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2013	Default	22
ARKANSAS SMART CORE	2004	2010	Default	22
DELAWARE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2006	2011 (2013: Foreign Lang Added)	Mandatory	24
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2011	Mandatory	24
GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2007	2012	Mandatory	23
HAWAII HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2011	2016	Mandatory	24
INDIANA CORE 40	2005	2011	Default	20
KENTUCKY DIPLOMA	2006	2012	Mandatory	22
MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM	2006	2011 (2016: Foreign Lang Added)	Default	18
MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2006	2015	Mandatory	21.5
MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2006	2012	Default	24
NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2009	2015	Mandatory	20
NEW MEXICO DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE	2007	2013	Default	24
NORTH CAROLINA FUTURE-READY CORE	2007	2013	Default	21
OHIO CORE	2007	2014	Default	20
OKLAHOMA COLLEGE-PREP & WORK-READY CURRICULUM	2005	2010	Default	23
SOUTH DAKOTA ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2005	2010	Default	22
TENNESSEE READY CORE	2008	2013	Mandatory	22
UTAH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	2010	2012	Default	24

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	ALABAMA	ARIZONA	ARKANSAS	DELAWARE
English	4 • English 9-12	4 • Including 0.5 incorporating the principles of speech and debate	4.5 • English 9-12 • 0.5 Oral Communication	4
Mathematics	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II with Trigonometry • 1 beyond Algebra II	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II or its equivalent • fourth course covering significant math content	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II or their equivalents • 1 beyond Algebra II	4 • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II
Science	4 • 1 Biology • 1 Physical Science • 2 approved science electives	3 • Aligned with Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards	3 • 3 lab-based physical sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Biology / Chemistry, Principles of Technology	3 • 3 lab sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science or another integrated science
Social Studies	4 • 1 World History to 1500 • 1 U.S. History to 1877 • 1 U.S. History from 1877-Present • 1 American Government/Economics	3 • 1 American History, including AZ History • 1 World History/Geography • 0.5 American Government including AZ Government • 0.5 Economics	3 • 1 American History • 1 World History • 1 Civics / US Government	3 • Including History, Geography, Civics and Economics
Electives/Other	6.5 • 2 Foreign Language • 0.5 Arts Education • 0.5 Computer Applications • 3.5 from Foreign Languages, Arts, PE, Wellness Ed, CTE and Driver Ed • 1.5 PE/Health	8 • 1 Fine Arts <u>OR</u> Career/Tech • 7 electives	6.5 • 0.5 Fine Arts • 6 "Career Focus" • 1 PE/Health & Safety	8.5 • 2 Foreign Language • 3 "Career-Academic Pathway" courses • 3.5 electives • 1.5 PE/Health
Total Required	24	22	22	24

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	GEORGIA	HAWAII	INDIANA
English	4	4	4	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 American Literature & Composition 1 9th grade Literature & Composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Language Arts 1 English Language Arts 2 0.5 Expository Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including literature, speech & composition
Mathematics	4	4	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I (by ninth grade) Geometry Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics 1 Mathematics 2 Mathematics 3 or their equivalents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of courses that satisfy the minimum learning expectations for all students as delineated in the College and Career Readiness Standards that are encompassed by the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students may also take Integrated Math I-III Math or Physics required in junior or senior year
Science	4	4	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 lab sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Physical Science or Physics 1 Chemistry, Earth Systems, Environmental Science or an AP/IB] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Biology and laboratory sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry, Physics, or Integrated Chemistry-Physics Math or Physics required in junior or senior year
Social Studies	4	3	4	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History 1 World History 2 US History US Government & DC History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 American Government/ Civics 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 Modern History of Hawaii 0.5 Participation in a Democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History 1 World History/Civilization or Geography 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Economics
Electives/Other	6.5	7	10	5.5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 World Language 0.5 Art 0.5 Music 2 CTE or College-level courses 1.5 electives 1.5 PE/Health 100 hours of community service Theses in 11th and 12th grades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 from CTAE, Fine Arts, Modern Languages/Latin 4 electives 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 from World Language, Fine Arts, or CTE 6 electives (one of which may be Senior Project) 1.0 PE 0.5 Health 0.5 Personal/ Transition Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 from Fine Arts, Career/Tech and World Languages 3 "Career-Academic Sequence" recommended 1.5 PE/Health
Total Required	24	23	24	20

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	KENTUCKY	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA	MISSISSIPPI
English	4	4	4	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 9-12 		
Mathematics	3	4	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students must be engaged in math all four years of high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry Algebra II Probability / Statistics Algebra I in 8th grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Two courses above Algebra I
Science	3	3	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 lab-based courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry or Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Chemistry or Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one lab-based course
Social Studies	3	3	3.5	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including U.S. History, Geography, Economics Government / Civics, and Culture/Societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. History and Geography 1 World History and Geography 0.5 Civics 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 encompassing U.S. History, Geography, World History and Government / Citizenship 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 U.S. History 0.5 Geography 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Economics 0.5 Mississippi Studies
Electives/Other	8	3	8	7.5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Visual or Performing Arts 7 electives, four within students' academic or career interests, based on students' Individualized Learning Plans 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Foreign Language 1 Visual Arts 1 PE/Health Online learning experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Arts 7 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Fine Arts 1 Computer Discovery <u>OR</u> 0.5 Keyboarding and 0.5 Computer Applications 5.5 electives 0.5 PE/Health
Total Required	22	18	21.5	24

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	NEBRASKA	NEW MEXICO	NORTH CAROLINA	OHIO
English	4	4	4	4
	Districts are required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state content standards in language arts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I-IV 	
Mathematics	3	4	4	4
	Districts are required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in mathematics, which include content typically found in an Algebra II course.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including one course equal to or higher than Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Students may also take Integrated Math I-III A fourth year of math aligned with student's post high school plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including Algebra II or its equivalent
Science	3	3	3	3
	Districts will be required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in science, including biological, earth/space and physical science concepts with corresponding science inquiry skills and laboratory experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two lab-based courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Biology 1 Physical Science 1 Earth/Environmental Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Physical Science 1 Biology An additional advanced lab-based course
Social Studies	3	3.5	3	3
	Districts will be required to adopt standards that are the same as, equal to, or more rigorous than the state academic content standards in social studies, with civics/government, geography, U.S. and world history and economic concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, Government and Economics 0.5 New Mexico History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 World History 1 US History 1 Civics and Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 American History 0.5 American Government
Electives/Other	7	8.5	6	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Foreign Language OR Career Cluster or Work Readiness 7.5 electives 1 PE At least 1 credit in AP, honors, dual credit or distance learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 electives (at least two of which must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts or Second Language) 1 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 from Foreign Language, Fine Art, Business, Career-Tech Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, Agricultural Education, or other academic courses 1 PE/Health
Total Required	20	24	21	20

STATE COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	OKLAHOMA	SOUTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	UTAH
English	4	4	4	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 Writing and Communications • 1.5 Literature • 0.5 American Literature • 0.5 Speech 		
Mathematics	3	3	4	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra • Geometry • Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra • Geometry • Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra • Geometry • Algebra II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II
Science	3	3	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics • An additional lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics • An additional lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology • 1 Chemistry or Physics • An additional lab-based course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 from Earth Systems, Biological Science, Chemistry, or Physics • 1 from the foundation courses or the applied or advanced science
Social Studies	3	3.5	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 U.S. History • 0.5 Oklahoma History • 0.5 U.S Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 U.S. History • 1 0.5 U.S. Government • 0.5 Geography • 0.5 World History • 0.5 Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including U.S. History, World History / World Geography, Economics and Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 U.S. History • 0.5 Geography • 0.5 World Civilization • 0.5 U.S. Government & Citizenship • 0.5 General Financial Literacy
Electives/Other	10	8	6	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Foreign Language <u>OR</u> Computer Technology • 1 Fine Arts <u>OR</u> Speech • 1 Career Tech <u>OR</u> academic course • 6 electives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 from Foreign Languages, Career Tech, Computer Studies or additional math or science courses • 1 Fine Arts • 5 electives • 0.5 PE/Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CTE in same program area <u>OR</u> 2 Foreign Language and 1 Fine Arts • 3 electives • 1.5 PE/Health • 0.5 Personal Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 Fine Arts • 1 CTE • 0.5 Computer Tech • 6 electives • 2 PE/Health
Total Required	23	22	22	24