

## State of Delaware High School Diploma vs. State of Delaware – Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards

	High School Diploma	Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards
What it Means	A student has met all of the state/LEA requirements for graduation.	A student has completed high school, but did not meet all the requirements for graduation.
What are the graduation requirements?	<p>A State of Delaware diploma shall be awarded to students who successfully complete the prescribed course requirements established by the State, or the district, if district credit requirements are higher than those of the State.</p> <p>Requirements established by the State are a minimum of twenty four (24) credits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• four (4) credits in English Language Arts,</li> <li>• four (4) credits in Mathematics, <i>the student shall earn credit upon completion of mathematics course work that includes no less than the equivalent of the traditional requirements of Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II courses. The student shall complete an Algebra II or Integrated Mathematics III course as one of the Mathematics credits,</i></li> <li>• three (3) credits in Science, <i>the student shall complete a Biology course as one of the Science credits,</i></li> <li>• three (3) credits in Social Studies, <i>the student shall complete a U. S. History course as one of the Social Studies credits,</i></li> <li>• two (2) credits in a World Language, <i>Students may fulfill the two (2) credit World language requirement by either: Earning a minimum of two (2) World Language credits in the same language or, demonstrating Novice-high or higher proficiency level on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of oral or signed expressive and receptive communication, reading and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language,</i></li> </ul>	<p>A Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards shall be awarded to a student who has met the requirements of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), but has not completed the high school graduation course credit requirements established by the State, or the district, if district credit requirements are higher than those of the State.</p> <p>An IEP team determines the type of assessment a student will take. For students who are on the DeSSA-Alt, the standards assessed are not the same as in the DeSSA general assessments. The standards assessed in the DeSSA-Alt are less complex than the Delaware Content Standards assessed in the DeSSA general assessments, therefore students taking the DeSSA-Alt will not be eligible to earn credits towards a regular State of Delaware Diploma. Thus, if a student is on the DeSSA-Alt the only diploma option available to the student will be State of Delaware Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards.</p> <p>A Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards is not an academic credential and there are no state course or grade requirements necessary to earn a Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards. A student successfully working toward his/her IEP goals is generally eligible to receive a Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards.</p>

	<p><i>or as approved for use by the Delaware Department of Education.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one (1) credit in physical education,</li> <li>• one half (1/2) credit in health education,</li> <li>• three (3) credits in a Career Pathway, and</li> <li>• three and one half (3 ½) credits in elective courses.</li> </ul> <p><i>During the senior year the student shall maintain a credit load each semester that earns the student at least a majority of credits that could be taken that semester. A credit in Mathematics shall be earned during the senior year.</i></p> <p><b>LEAs may adopt additional graduation requirements. Check with your LEA about additional requirements.</b></p>	
Accommodations allowed	Yes – an <b>accommodation</b> is a tool or procedure that provides equal access to instruction and assessment for students with disabilities.	Yes
Curriculum modifications allowed	Maybe. A <b>modification</b> is a change in what a student is taught or expected to learn. By changing what student learns, modifications can hurt a student’s ability to earn a high school diploma.	Yes. A <b>modification</b> is a change in what a student is taught or expected to learn. This term is used in Individualized Education Programs and is often paired with accommodations, which are changes that allow a student to more fully participate in learning.
Accepted by the Military	Yes. However, student must meet the requirements set forth by the specific United States Military branch. Acceptance is contingent upon testing, clearance through Military Entrance Processing Stations, and with the recruiter.	No
Accepted by Colleges	Yes	Maybe. Depends on the college and/or program. Many community colleges will accept students who receive a Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards; however, placement is determined based on an entrance exam (i.e. Accuplacer for DTCC).
Eligible for federal student financial aid for college	Yes	Maybe. A student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program (check all eligible criteria)
Accepted by Employers	Yes	Yes. An individual will be able to check the “Diploma” box on an application. <i>Note: Adult agencies (e.g. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division on Developmental Disabilities) may be able to assist with employment.</i>