

The Currituck County Board of Education recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society.

In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

1. successful completion of all course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of Education (See Section A); and
2. successful completion of all other requirements mandated by the board, as provided in this policy.

The principal shall ensure that students and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance program staff shall assist students in selecting their high school courses to ensure that students are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduation plans. For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and the requirements of subsection D.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

#### **A. COURSE UNITS REQUIRED**

Each student must meet the course unit requirements for one of the following courses of study. Students entering the ninth grade for the first time before the 2009-2010 school year must fulfill the requirements of the Career Prep, College Tech Prep, College/University Prep or Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2009-2010 school year, students must fulfill the requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. Course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study differ depending on the year a student enters ninth grade for the first time.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2012-2013 and After

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (either Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans OR Integrated Math I, II and III and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans) (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. Exempt students will be required to pass either (1) Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry or (2) Integrated Math I and II. Exempt students also must pass either Alternative Math I and II or two other application-based math courses.)*	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	4 (including Civics & Economics; U.S. History Parts I and II OR AP U.S. History and one additional social studies elective; and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education or Second Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, R.O.T.C., Arts Education or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)**	
Career Management		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Algebra II as a prerequisite.

\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must complete two years of a second language.

2. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2009-2010, 2010-2011 or 2011-2012

<b>Courses Required</b>	<b>State Requirements</b>	<b>Local Requirements</b>
English	4 sequential (English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (either Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans OR Integrated Math I, II and III and a fourth math course aligned with the student's post-high school plans) (A principal may exempt a student from this math sequence. The exempt student will be required to pass either (1) Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry or (2) Integrated Math I and II. The student must also pass either Alternative Math I and II or two other application-based math courses.)*	
Science	3 (a physical science course, Biology and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	3 (Civics & Economics, U.S. History and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Electives	6 (2 electives must be any combination of Career and Technical Education, Arts Education or Second Language; 4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, R.O.T.C., Arts Education or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)**	
<b>Career Management</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Algebra II as a prerequisite.

\*\* Students seeking to complete minimum application requirements for UNC universities must complete two years of a second language.

3. Career Prep Course of Study Credits Required (students entering the ninth grade before 2009-2010 school year)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	3 (including Algebra I)	
Science	3 (including a physical science course, Biology and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (courses appropriate for career pathway, including a second-level (advanced) course, or courses for an arts education pathway or R.O.T.C.***)	
Foreign Language	0	
Electives	2 (arts recommended but not required)	
Other Requirements		
Career Management		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>

\*\*\* Four R.O.T.C. credits may be used.

4. College Tech Prep Course of Study Credits Required (students entering the ninth grade before 2009-2010 school year)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	3**** (including either Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II; Algebra I and Technical Math I and II; or Integrated Mathematics I, II and III)	
Science	3 (including a physical science course, Biology and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (courses appropriate for career pathway including a second-level (advanced) course)	
Foreign Language	0****	
Electives	2 (arts recommended but not required)	
Other Requirements		
Career Management		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>

\*\*\*\* A student pursuing this course of study may meet the requirements of a College/University Prep Course of Study by completing two courses in the same foreign language and one additional unit of math for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.

5. College/University Prep Course of Study Credits Required (students entering the ninth grade before 2009-2010 school year)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	4 (including either Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II and a higher-level course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; or Integrated Mathematics I, II and III and one course beyond Integrated Math III)	
Science	3 (including a physical science course, Biology and earth/environmental science)	
Social Studies	3 (including Civics & Economics, U.S. History and World History)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Foreign Language	2 (in the same language)	
Electives	3 (arts recommended but not required)	
Other Requirements		
Career Management		1
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>

6. Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to certain students with disabilities who have an IEP)

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4 (including Occupational English I, II, III and IV)	
Mathematics	3 (including OCS Introduction to Math, OCS Algebra I (Math A), and Financial Management)	
Science	2 (including OCS Applied Science and OCS Biology)	
Social Studies	2 (including Government/U.S. History and Problem-Solving/Self-Advocacy)	
Health/P.E.	1	
Career/Technical	4 (Vocational Education electives)	
Foreign Language	0	
Occupational Preparation	6 (including Occupational Preparation I, II, III and IV, which require 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training and 360 hours of paid employment or 360 hours of any combination of unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship experience, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities and volunteer and/or community service hours)	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of IEP objectives</li> <li>• Career Portfolio</li> </ul>	
<b>Career Management</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>

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**B. HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE TESTING**

Students must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests required by the State Board of Education. Students who do not score at Level III or above on the first administration of an EOC test must be retested in accordance with State Board policy and policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability.

The EOC test results will count as 25 percent of a student's final grade in each high school course for which an EOC test is available.

**C. ADDITIONAL LOCAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Currituck County Schools has specified that the units for graduation will consistently add up to four units less than a student's maximum potential. Students who attend four years of high school under the block schedule must earn 28 credits of 32 potential credits. Additionally, Currituck County Schools has developed a Reduced Credit high school graduation program for at-risk students that will include the state requirements listed above.
2. Tenth grade students must achieve a minimum Level III score on the North Carolina Writing Assessment. Students failing to meet the Level III score will be required to successfully complete a writing tutorial course prior to graduation.
3. The board may require that students successfully complete additional graduation requirements, such as a community service project as mentioned in policy 3530, Citizenship and Character Education, or other locally developed project.
4. The J.P. Knapp Early College High School students may be required to complete additional graduation requirements aligned to meet the design principles specific to the early college program.

Students will be notified of any requirement no later than the beginning of their sophomore year. Students whose projects do not meet the expected standard must be given additional opportunities to successfully complete the project and additional assistance as needed with the project.

**D. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated by principals on the basis of criteria established by the superintendent. A student who completes the requirements of the North

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Carolina Academic Scholars Program will receive recognition, including a seal affixed to his or her diploma. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

2. Reduced Credit Diploma

In an effort to meet the needs of a small population of students, this diploma is designed for students with an academic need, attendance or diagnosed psychological problems and meets the minimum CORE as outlined by the State Board of Education. The superintendent shall establish administrative regulations to implement this program.

3. Students with Disabilities

Graduation requirements must be applied to students with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

4. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the board adopts the following policy provisions for students to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.

a. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school system. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the student with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the superintendent or designee shall provide the student with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the student may graduate on time.

b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

The superintendent shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not feasible for a student who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

c. Transfers During Senior Year

If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or

during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

5. Early Graduation

Graduation prior to that of one's class may be permitted on the basis of criteria approved by the board upon recommendation by the superintendent.

6. Graduation Certificates

Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible students in accordance with the standards set forth in State Board policy.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -174.11, -276, -288, -407.5; State Board of Education Policies GCS-C-003, -031

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

Adopted: