



## GRADING GUIDELINES FOR SENIORS

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

To seniors in the Class of 2020 and their parents:

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to interpret and apply the guidance developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on March 27, 2020. NCDPI provided further clarification for local school districts on April 2, 2020. Gaston County Schools is committed to providing a path to graduation for every senior. A team of school and district personnel has developed guidelines and expectations for seniors to help answer your questions. We will share more information and update this information, as necessary, based on additional guidance that we may receive from the state.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SPRING 2020

In alignment with guidance from the NCDPI and SBE, seniors in the Class of 2020 will be eligible to graduate from high school on their originally-scheduled graduation date by meeting or exceeding the minimum number of 22 credit hours that are required by the state. A list of the required courses can be found [here](#).

### COURSE CREDIT FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

**Fall Courses:** Students will receive the grades earned for fall courses. Fall semester grades will count toward a senior's grade point average (GPA).

**Yearlong Courses:** Seniors enrolled in a yearlong course will receive the grades earned for the fall semester -- the grades will count toward a senior's GPA. For the spring semester, a student will receive a "Pass" (PC19) grade, if the student was passing the course as of March 13, 2020.

**Spring Courses:** Students will receive a "Pass" (PC19) or "Withdrawal" (WC19) based on their academic performance as of March 13, 2020.

Seniors passing a spring semester course on March 13, 2020 will receive a "Pass" grade for the course. All passing grades will be labeled "PC19" on the transcript.

Seniors not passing a course required for graduation as of March 13, 2020 are eligible to continue work to improve their grade and obtain a passing status. Schools will provide remote learning opportunities for a student to earn a passing grade.

If a grade needed for graduation is not improved to a passing standard by the end of the school year, a student may withdraw from the course. The grade will be labeled as "WC19" on the transcript, and the student will not be eligible for graduation.

School administrators, counselors, and/or teachers will reach out to students and their parents to develop a plan for students to improve their grade, if they were not passing a course needed for graduation as of March 13, 2020.



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### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

If your child is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) class for the spring semester and they were passing the class as of March 13, 2020, they will receive a "Pass" (PC19) for the final course grade. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the AP exam.

Teachers for the AP courses will continue to provide instruction and test preparation materials until AP testing begins.

Seniors who are enrolled in a yearlong AP course will receive the letter/number grade from the fall semester and then a "Pass" (PC19) grade for the spring semester, assuming the student was passing the course as of March 13, 2020.

If a student wants to opt out of AP testing, the student or parent needs to complete the AP opt-out form and return it to the high school.

Students may take their AP exam online using any device — computer, tablet, or smartphone. They will also have the option to write their responses by hand and submit a photo of their responses.

For more information about AP testing, visit <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students>

### CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE (CCP)

For students who are enrolled in and will complete a Career and College Promise (CCP) class for the spring semester:

They will receive a "Pass" (PC19) grade on their high school transcript for courses with a passing grade.

The college transcript will include the letter/number grade. If a student plans to withdraw from a CCP class, he/she should contact a high school counselor or administrator.

### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

If a student is enrolled in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) class for the spring semester and was passing as of March 13, 2020, he/she will receive a "Pass" (PC19) grade.

If the course includes the opportunity for a student to earn a credential, teachers will continue to provide instructional material and preparation for the credential assessment.

Once a determination is made about returning to school, a plan for taking credential assessments will be provided to students.

### SENIOR HONORS

Senior honors will be determined based on the cumulative weighted GPA through the end of the Fall 2019 semester. The student with the highest weighted GPA will be named valedictorian, and the student with the second highest weighted GPA will be named salutatorian. Senior honor designations will remain unchanged and are as follows:

Students with a 3.7 - 3.99 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of cum laude.

Students with a 4.0 - 4.299 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of magna cum



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laude.

Students with a 4.3 or higher weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of summa cum laude.

### OCCUPATIONAL COURSE OF STUDY (OCS)

If a student in the Occupational Course of Study completes 157 of the 225 "paid work hours" required for graduation, the student will receive a "Pass" (PC19) grade.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**What are the options for students failing courses not needed for graduation?**

*For courses not required for graduation, students may either continue to work toward achieving a "Pass" (PC19) grade, if they wish to earn the credit, or they may withdraw from the course (WC19).*

**What are the exam dates for AP classes?**

*Exam dates for AP classes are May 11-22; the dates and times are set by the College Board. The College Board will send access to students through their College Board account. Exams will be taken at home -- they are open notes, open book, and can be taken on a phone, tablet, laptop, or computer. Students may also write a response and take a picture of their response to upload -- only the response may be uploaded; no multiple-choice. Exams will be 45 minutes. If school buildings reopen on May 18, no exams will be administered by school personnel.*

**Will GCS process early withdrawals?**

*The date at which grades are finalized and students become graduates is the last day of school on the school calendar. Based on NCDPI guidance on April 2, 2020, we are not processing requests for early graduation or withdrawal pending further guidance from the state.*

**Will spring semester courses count toward a student's GPA?**

*Spring semester courses will be issued a "PC19" or "WC19" grade. Spring semester grades will not count toward a student's GPA.*

**Will my child's teacher contact us if my child is not passing a course that is required for graduation?**

*Yes. The school will contact you if your senior is failing and may not graduate.*