

Appendix 246-A

What It Takes to Earn an Ohio High School Diploma

Students must meet both curriculum and graduation testing requirements in order to earn an Ohio high school diploma. See the curriculum and graduation testing checklists below as well as information about alternatives to the Ohio core curriculum and mandatory testing requirements.

I. Curriculum Requirements for Students Who Entered Ninth Grade before July 1, 2010.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS	STATE MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS	CREDITS EARNED TO DATE	CREDITS REMAINING	HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS
English Language Arts	4 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Health	½ unit	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mathematics	3 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Education	½ unit	_____	_____	_____	_____
Science	3 units*	_____	_____	_____	_____
History & Gov.	1 unit**	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social Studies	2 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Electives	6 units***	_____	_____	_____	_____

* Science units must include 1 unit of biological sciences and 1 unit of physical sciences.

** History and Government units must include a half unit of American history and a half unit of American Government.

*** Electives units must include 1 unit or 2 half units of Business/Technology, Fine Arts, or Foreign Language. If a school requires a foreign language as an additional graduation requirement, a student may apply one unit of instruction in computer coding to satisfy one unit of foreign language. If a student applies more than one computer coding course to satisfy the foreign language requirement, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult.

II. Curriculum Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2010 but Before July 1, 2022.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS	STATE MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS	CREDITS EARNED TO DATE	CREDITS REMAINING	HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS
English Language Arts	4 units	_____	_____	_____	_____
Health	½ unit*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mathematics	4 units**	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Education	½ unit***	_____	_____	_____	_____
Science	3 units****	_____	_____	_____	_____
History & Gov.	1 unit*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Social Studies	2 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____
Electives	5 units*****	_____	_____	_____	_____

* The half Health unit shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health.

** Math units shall include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or, 1 unit of advanced computer science⁺ after signing and submitting a letter of understanding of the impact of such a course selection on college admissions. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course as an alternative.

- *** For those schools that have adopted a physical education waiver policy, Any student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons, or has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) for at least two (2) full school years, shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. In lieu of a physical education course, the student shall be required to complete one-half (1/2) unit, consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction, in another course of study. Credit received for participation in the JROTC may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half (1/2) unit in another course of study.
- **** Science units shall include inquiry based laboratory experiences, and shall include 1 unit of physical science, 1 unit of life science, 1 unit of advance study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science; or computer science⁺. No student shall substitute a computer science course for a life science or biology course.
- ***** The 1 History unit shall include a half unit of American History and a half unit of American Government. For students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, these half units shall include the study of: the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution. Study of American History and American Government shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
- ***** The School shall integrate the study of economics, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship into one or more existing social studies credits or into the contents of another class so that every high school student receives instruction in these concepts. Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the 2 Social Studies units shall include at least a half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.
- ***** Elective units may consist of the combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, which may include computer science⁺, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps program, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required. Each student must complete two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. This coursework may be completed in grades 7 through 12; however, if completed in grade 7 or 8, the course must be taught by a person with a valid high school teaching license, and the course has been designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.
- ⁺ If a student applies more than one computer science course to satisfy curriculum requirements, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or cover different subject matter within the area of computer science.

III. Curriculum Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2022.

<u>CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>STATE MINIMUM</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS</u>	<u>CREDITS EARNED TO DATE</u>	<u>CREDITS REMAINING</u>	<u>HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS</u>
<u>English Language Arts</u>	<u>4 units</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Health</u>	<u>½ unit*</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>4 units**</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Physical Education</u>	<u>½ unit***</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Science</u>	<u>3 units****</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>History & Gov.</u>	<u>1 unit*****</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>2 units*****</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
<u>Electives</u>	<u>5 units*****</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>

* The half Health unit shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health.

** Math units shall include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II, or, 1 unit of advanced computer science⁺ after signing and submitting a letter of understanding of the impact of such a course selection on college admissions. Math units may include 1/2 unit of financial literacy⁺⁺ instruction and one-half unit of a mathematics course. The ½ unit course in mathematics shall not be in algebra II, or its equivalent, or a course

for which the state board requires an end-of-course examination. However, students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, and who are pursuing a career-technical instructional track shall not be required to take algebra II or advanced computer science and instead may complete a career-based pathway mathematics course as an alternative.

*** For those schools that have adopted a physical education waiver policy, Any student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two (2) full seasons, or has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) for at least two (2) full school years, shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. In lieu of a physical education course, the student shall be required to complete one-half (1/2) unit, consisting of at least sixty (60) hours of instruction, in another course of study. Credit received for participation in the JROTC may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half (1/2) unit in another course of study.

**** Science units shall include inquiry based laboratory experiences, and shall include 1 unit of physical science, 1 unit of life science, 1 unit of advance study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics, or physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science; or computer science⁺. No student shall substitute a computer science course for a life science or biology course.

***** The 1 History unit shall include a half unit of American History and a half unit of American Government. For students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, these half units shall include the study of: the Declaration of Independence; the Northwest Ordinance; the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the Bill of Rights; and the Ohio Constitution. Study of American History and American Government shall include the historical evidence of the role of documents such as the Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

***** Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2017, the 2 Social Studies units shall include at least a half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations.

***** Elective units may consist of the combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, which may include computer science⁺, agricultural education, a junior reserve officer training corps program, financial literacy⁺⁺, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses not otherwise required. Each student must complete two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. This coursework may be completed in grades 7 through 12; however, if completed in grade 7 or 8, the course must be taught by a person with a valid high school teaching license, and the course has been designated by the Board as meeting the high school curriculum requirements.

⁺ If a student applies more than one computer science course to satisfy curriculum requirements, the courses shall be sequential and progressively more difficult or cover different subject matter within the area of computer science.

⁺⁺ Students must complete ½ unit of financial literacy either through one-half unit in lieu of a math course, or as an elective. Students who choose to take 1 unit of advanced computer science in lieu of algebra II shall not be permitted to complete 1/2 unit of financial literacy to satisfy the math unit requirements and shall be required to complete the 1/2 unit of financial literacy as an elective course.

A student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and before July 1, 2016, may qualify for graduation even though the student has not completed the Ohio core curriculum if:

1. During the student's third year of high school both the student and parent sign and file with the School a written statement asserting consent to the student graduating without completing the Ohio core curriculum and acknowledgment that a consequence of not completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in most Ohio state universities without additional coursework;
2. The student and parent fulfill any additional procedural requirements mandated by the School to ensure informed consent has been given;
3. The student, parent, and a representative of the School jointly develop a student success

plan for the student that specifies the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry- recognized credential, or entering an apprenticeship;

4. The student receives counseling and support from the School relating to the student success plan during the remainder of the student's high school experience; and
5. The student successfully completes the curriculum requirements listed above for students entering the ninth grade for the first time before July 1, 2010, or if the student entered ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014, the student must successfully complete the curriculum requirements listed above for students entering the ninth grade for the first time before July 1, 2010 allowing for the following modifications:
 - a. 4 units of Mathematics, with one unit on probability and statistics, computer programming, applied mathematics or quantitative reasoning, or any other course approved by ODE for such purposes;
 - b. 5 elective units;
 - c. 3 units of Science, with one unit of biological sciences and one unit of physical science, which shall include inquiry based laboratory experiences.

IV. Graduation Tests Requirements.

For Students Who Need to Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT):

- A) Notify student and parents about:
 - Importance of earning a diploma
 - Need to meet both testing and curriculum requirements to earn a diploma
 - Any additional local graduation requirements
 - District's policy about participation in commencement ceremony
- B) How to access information (test blueprints, previous tests) on the web about OGT:
 - <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and enter *OGT* in the search box
- C) OGT test administrations before graduation:
 - Spring of 10th grade
 - Summer between 10th and 11th grade (optional)
 - Fall and spring of 11th grade
 - Summer between 11th and 12th grade (optional)
 - Fall and spring of 12th grade
- D) How to access previous graduation tests:
 - *OGT Reading and Mathematics*
 - <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and enter *previous OGT tests* in the search box

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019:

- A) Students must take seven end-of-course State Tests

- B) For each of the seven end-of-course tests, a student must earn a minimum of 18 out of a maximum total of 35 possible points towards graduation overall from all tests. Students are scored between one and five points per test.

Students taking Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in American history or American government may take tests specially designed for these courses instead of the state end-of-course test to avoid double testing. Similarly, students taking College Credit Plus courses in these subjects will use their course grade, not end-of-course test points, to determine their points earned towards graduation.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2019:

- A) Students must take five end-of-course State Tests (or six if required by the Ohio Department of Education).
- B) Only passage of the end-of-course tests for English language arts II and Algebra I shall be required for graduation. The school shall offer remedial support to any student who fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations. Following the first administration of the exam, if a student fails to attain a competency score on one or both of the Algebra I and English language arts II end-of-course examinations that student must retake the respective examination at least once.

V. Alternative Way to Meet the Testing Requirements.

For Students Who Need to Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT): A student may meet the testing requirements for passing all five Ohio Graduation Tests if he/she meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Passes 4 of the 5 tests and has missed passing the 5th test by no more than 10 points;
- Has a 97% attendance rate, excluding any excuses absences, through all four years of high school and must not have had an expulsion in high school;
- Has at least a grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 in the courses of the subject area not yet passed;
- Has completed the high school curriculum requirements;
- Has participated in any intervention programs offered by the school and must have had a 97% attendance rate in any programs offered outside the normal school day; and

Has letters recommending graduation from the high school principal and from each high school teacher in the subject area not yet passed.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019: A student shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

- Earn a remediation-free score in English, mathematics, and reading on the ACT or SAT;

- Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability WorkKeys assessment;
- Satisfy all diploma conditions required for students entering ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2019.

For Students Required to Pass End-of-Course Exams Who Entered Ninth Grade for the First Time Prior to July 1, 2019: A student shall satisfy at least one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high school diploma:

- Demonstrate competency in the failed subject area (ELA II or Algebra I) through one of the following options:
 - a. Earn course credit in the failed subject area through the College Credit Plus program;
 - b. Complete two of the following options, one of which must be foundational:
 - i. Foundational options to demonstrate competency:
 - Earn a score of proficient or higher on three or more state technical assessments in a single career pathway;
 - Obtain an industry-recognized credential;
 - Complete a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship in the student’s chosen career field; or
 - Provide evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school that is restricted to participants eighteen years of age or older;
 - ii. Supporting options to demonstrate competency:
 - Complete two hundred fifty hours of a work-based learning experience with evidence of positive evaluations;
 - Obtain an OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal; or
 - Attain a workforce readiness score, as determined by the department of education, on the nationally recognized job skills assessment selected by the state board.
 - c. Provide evidence that the student has enlisted in a branch of the armed services of the United States.

For any students receiving special education and related services, the individualized education program developed for the student under that chapter shall specify the manner in which the student will participate in the assessments administered above.

V. Diploma Seal Requirements for Students Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time on or after July 1, 2019.

Earn at least two of the state diploma seals, at least one (1) of which shall be a State-designed seal:

- a. State-designed Seal:
 - i. Biliteracy seal;
 - ii. OhioMeansJobs-readiness seal;
 - iii. One of the following seals:
 - An industry-recognized credential seal;
 - A college-ready seal;
 - A military enlistment seal;
 - A citizenship seal;
 - A science seal.
 - An honors diploma seal; or
 - A technology seal.

- b. Local-designed Seal:
 - i. A community service seal;
 - ii. A student engagement seal; or
 - iii. Fine and performing arts seal.