



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Credit and Assessment Graduation Requirements

Bold red denotes a change in the credit requirements for the Class of 2019 compared to previous years.

Class of:		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Entering 9 th grade after July 1 of: See note (1).		2013	2014	2015 See note (2).	2016	2017
English		4	4	4	4	4
Math		3	3	3	3	3
		Algebra 1 or integrated math 1, geometry or integrated math 2, Algebra 2 or integrated math 3 or another third credit of math. See note (3).		Algebra 1 or integrated math 1, geometry or integrated math 2, and a third credit of math aligned with the student's interest and High School and Beyond Plan. See note (3).		
Science		2	2	3	3	3
		One of the two credits must be a lab science.		Two of the three credits must be a lab science.		
Social Studies		3	3	3	3	3
		One credit of US History, one credit of Contemporary World History, Geography and Problems, 0.5 credits of Civics, 0.5 credits of social studies electives, and Washington State History and Government as a non-credit requirement. See note (4).				
Arts		1	1	2	2	2
		One of the two credits may be a PPR. See note (5).				
Health and Fitness		2	2	2	2	2
		1.5 Fitness and .5 Health. Students may be excused from Fitness under RCW 28A.230.050 . See note (6).				
Career and Technical Education (CTE)		1	1	1	1	1
		CTE program or occupational education. See note (7).				
World Languages		(Not a requirement for these classes.)		2	2	2
		One or two credits may be a PPR. See note (5).				
Electives		4	4	4	4	4
Total Required Credits		20	20	24	24	24
Non-credit Requirements		High School and Beyond Plan and Washington State History and Government (subject to the provisions of RCW 28A.230.170 , RCW 28A.230.090 , and WAC 392-410-120).				
Assessments Required for Graduation (See OSPI state testing webpage)	English Language Arts	Smarter Balanced Exam. See note (8).				
	Math	Year 1 End-of-Course Exam or Year 2 End-of Course Exam or Smarter Balanced Exam. See note (8).		Smarter Balanced Exam. See note (8).		
	Science	(The science assessment is not required for graduation.)				Comprehensive science exam. See note (9).



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Notes:

(1) Graduation requirements apply to a student based on the year the student commences 9th grade. The graduation requirements for the student’s expected graduation year must be met, regardless of which year the student actually graduates ([WAC 180-51-035](#)). The table below shows which rules apply to which expected graduation years.

Rules	Graduation Classes:	Entering 9 th grade
WAC 180-51-066	2013 to 2015	July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012
WAC 180-51-067	2016 to 2018	July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015
WAC 180-51-068	2019 and beyond	On or after July 1, 2015

(2) Automatic extensions (or waivers) of up to two years to implement credit graduation requirements were available to districts upon request. This delayed the implementation of the credit graduation requirement rules for the Class of 2016 to the Class of 2018, and the implementation of the credit graduation requirement rules for the Class of 2019 to the Classes of 2020 or 2021. For districts that made the request, the previous rules remain in effect for the duration of the extension.

(3) Through the Class of 2018, the students may take a third credit of math other than Algebra 2 or integrated math 3 subject to certain requirements in rule [WAC 180-51-067\(2\)\(b\)](#), such as a meeting with students, parents or guardian, and a school

representative. Starting with the Class of 2019, the third credit of math should align with the student’s High School and Beyond Plan, prepare students to meet state assessment system standards, and be chosen with the agreement of the parent or guardian or a school counselor or principal if the parent or guardian does not indicate a preference ([WAC 180-51-068](#)).

(4) The Washington State History and Government requirement may be met in grades 7 through 12. If the course is taken in the 7th or 8th grade it fulfills the requirement, but high school credit will be awarded only if the academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for 8th grade. Students who meet the requirement but do not earn high school credit must still take three credits of social studies in high school.

(5) Personalized Pathway Requirements (PPR) are up to three course credits chosen by a student to meet specific postsecondary career or education goals, that align with the student’s interests and High School and Beyond Plan. PPR credits may replace one of two arts credits and both world language credits, in any combination of these credits up to a total of three PPR credits.

(6) The Health and Fitness requirement should align with Washington State Learning Standards in Health and Physical Education. For more information on the waiver see OSPI’s guidance, [Recommendations for Waivers in High School Physical Education](#).

(7) Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses locally determined to be equivalent to a non-CTE course may be used to meet two graduation requirements ([WAC 180-51-067](#) and [WAC 180-51-068](#)), known as the “two for one” policy. Either a CTE course or an occupational education course may be used to meet the requirement. “Occupational education” means credit resulting from a series of learning experiences designed to assist the student to acquire and demonstrate competency of skills under student learning goal four. At a minimum, these competencies shall align with the definition of an exploratory course as contained in the CTE program standards of OSPI ([WAC 180-51-067](#) and [WAC 180-51-068](#)). Starting with the 24-credit graduation requirement for the Class of 2019, private schools may substitute courses specific to the mission or focus of the school for the CTE graduation requirement under [WAC 180-90-160](#).

(8) For graduation purposes, the State Board of Education has set [exit exam passing scores](#) on Smarter Balanced tests that are different from the consortium-determined achievement levels.

(9) The comprehensive science assessment, the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS), will align to Next Generation Science Standards.