



Traditional 24-Credit High School Graduation Option

What is the 24-credit graduation option?¹

The 24-credit graduation option allows a student to graduate from high school in 4 years.² A student selecting this option must earn 24 credits in high school courses or complete the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum or an Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum.³

What are the requirements for the 24-credit graduation option?

To graduate with a standard high school diploma, a student must earn 24 credits and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.⁴ Students must also pass the grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in Reading and Mathematics or attain concordant scores on either the SAT or ACT tests.⁵

In 2010, the Legislature significantly revised the credit and assessment requirements for high school graduation, including phasing in more rigorous mathematics and science credit requirements, and replacing high school level FCAT Mathematics and Science with statewide, standardized end-of-course (EOC) assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology I.⁶ The following table specifies the credit and assessment requirements for the 24-credit graduation option for students entering grade 9 in specified school years:

¹ For additional information on high school graduation requirements, see the High School Graduation Fact Sheet and the Accelerated 18-Credit High School Graduation Options Fact Sheet.

² See s. 1003.429(3), F.S.

³ Section 1003.428(1), F.S.

⁴ Sections 1003.428(4)(d) and 1003.43(5)(c), F.S.

⁵ Section 1003.428(4)(b), F.S.; see also Florida Department of Education, Office of Assessment and School Performance, *FCAT Graduation Requirements* (Nov. 2009), available at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/pdf/fcatpass.pdf>; High School Graduation Fact Sheet; and Statewide Assessment Program Fact Sheet.

⁶ Chapter 2010-22, L.O.F.; see also Statewide Assessment Program Fact Sheet.

TRADITIONAL 24-CREDIT OPTION <i>(s. 1003.428, F.S.)⁷</i>				
English	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 and subsequent academic years			
	4 credits (with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature)			
Mathematics	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 through the 2009-10 academic year			
	4 credits, including: ❖ 1 credit in Algebra I, equivalent, or a higher-level mathematics course			
	For students entering grade 9 in:			
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	4 credits, including: ❖ Algebra I or equivalent (performance on EOC constitutes 30 percent of student's final course grade) ❖ Geometry or equivalent	4 credits, including: ❖ Algebra I or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit) ❖ Geometry or equivalent (performance on EOC constitutes 30 percent of student's final course grade)	4 credits, including: ❖ Algebra I or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit) ❖ Geometry or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit)	4 credits, including: ❖ Algebra I or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit) ❖ Geometry or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit) ❖ Algebra II
Science	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 through the 2009-10 academic year			
	3 credits (2 credits must have a laboratory component)			
	For students entering grade 9 in:			
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	No change	3 credits, including: ❖ Biology I or equivalent (performance on EOC constitutes 30 percent of student's final course grade)	3 credits, including: ❖ Biology I or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit)	3 credits, including: ❖ Biology I or equivalent (student must pass EOC to earn course credit) ❖ Chemistry or physics ❖ Equally rigorous course ⁸

⁷ For credit requirements for students entering high school before the 2007-08 academic year, see s. 1003.43, F.S.

⁸ The State Board of Education determines which courses qualify as "equivalent" and "equally rigorous." Section 1003.428(2)(a), F.S.

Social Studies	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 and subsequent academic years 3 credits, including: ❖ 1 credit in United States History ❖ 1 credit in World History ❖ ½ credit in Economics ❖ ½ credit in United States Government
Fine or Performing Arts / Practical Arts / Career Education	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 and subsequent academic years 1 credit (three options): ⁹ Fine or Performing Arts; ¹⁰ Speech and Debate; ¹¹ or A Practical Arts Course ¹²
Physical Education	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 and subsequent academic years 1 credit (including integration of health) ¹³
Electives	For students entering grade 9 in 2007-08 and subsequent academic years 8 credits in electives ¹⁴

Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction

(850) 245-0423

<http://www.fldoe.org/bii>

⁹ Completing 2 years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) class simultaneously satisfies 1 credit in fine or performing arts *and* 1 credit in physical education (total of 2 credits). Completing 1 semester with grade “C” or better in marching band class or dance class satisfies ½ credit in performing arts *or* physical education. Section 1003.428(2)(a)6., F.S.

¹⁰ In 2006, the Legislature required one credit in fine arts for students entering 9th grade in or after the 2007-08 academic year. Section 23, ch. 2006-74, L.O.F. In 2007, the Legislature authorized performing arts and speech and debate to satisfy the one credit required in fine arts. Section 6, ch. 2007-234, L.O.F.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² In 2008, the Legislature permitted a practical arts course to satisfy the one credit required in fine or performing arts, if the course incorporates artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination. Section 7, ch. 2008-235, L.O.F.

¹³ Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for 2 full seasons and passage (with grade “C” or better) of personal fitness competency test satisfies the 1 credit physical education requirement. Completing 2 years in Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) class satisfies 1 credit but does not satisfy the personal fitness requirement. One semester with grade “C” or better in marching band class or dance class satisfies ½ credit (may not duplicate credit for fine or performing arts and does not satisfy personal fitness requirement). Section 1003.428(2)(a)6., F.S.; *see also supra* note 9 and Physical Education Fact Sheet.

¹⁴ Intensive reading and mathematics intervention courses are included as electives. In 2010, the Legislature deleted the requirement that high school students select Major and Minor areas of interest. Section 3, ch. 2010-22, L.O.F.

Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS)

<http://www.facts.org>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

Florida House of Representatives

Appropriations Committee

(850) 488-6204

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