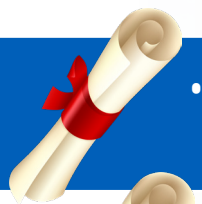


North Carolina High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate with a North Carolina High School Diploma, students with disabilities must meet the course credit and other requirements set by the State Board of Education (SBE) that are in place when they enter 9th grade. Currently, a high school student must earn a minimum of 22 credits in order to receive a diploma. Local Boards of Education may provide recommendations for additional requirements. High school students on the Extended Content Standards receive a Certificate of Graduation, rather than a Diploma.

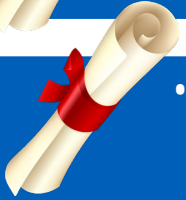
New legislation allows current 9th and 10th grade students to apply to be a 3-Year Graduate. Eligible students are only able to apply for this flexibility if they are at least 16 years old and meet the state's minimum graduation requirements. The request must be made by the student according to their school policies and must be signed by the parent if the student is under age 18. It is important to consider the impact that early graduation may have on a student with a disability, such as discontinued access to high school services and programming.

If you have questions about your child's course of study or graduation requirements, be sure to check in with your child's IEP Team or guidance counselor.



• Future Ready Course of Study

Offers options to meet the NC University System entrance requirements or pursue other career pathways.



• Occupational Course of Study

Prepares a selected group of students with disabilities for the future through academic and Employment Preparation courses as well as work experience.



• Extended Content Standards

Individualized curriculum that leads to a Certificate of Graduation. ECS students can participate in their school's graduation ceremony.

Please see the chart on the back for more details on current graduation requirements.



Student with Specific Learning Disabilities in Math

$$y = \frac{1}{2} x$$

There is special guidance for students who are eligible for special education under the category of Specific Learning Disability (LD) in the area of Mathematics *if* the learning disability will prevent the student from mastering Math 1 (or Algebra 1). LD does not have to be the student's Primary category of eligibility. Under NC General Statute 115C-81b, these students are not required to pass Math 1 to meet state graduation requirements. Students receiving this exemption must still earn four mathematics credits by taking an alternative sequence of courses.

Decisions on course options for individual students with disabilities are made at the local level. If you are concerned about your child's ability to meet the state math requirements, request an IEP Team meeting to discuss options. Include the school principal because they have authority to approve certain math course substitutions. Be sure to ask how alternate math courses might affect planning for college.

Below are the specific course requirements with Current Graduation Requirements (as of 2/24/2025).

Future Ready Course Of Study:	Occupational Course Of Study:	Extended Content Standards
Leads to NC Diploma	Leads to NC Diploma	Leads to Certificate of Graduation
*Students entering 9th Grade in 2021-2022	*Students entering 9th Grade in 2021-2022	*Students entering 9th Grade in 2022-2023
Four Sequential English Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV 	Four English Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English I English II English III English IV 	Four ECS English Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English/LA I English/LA II English/LA III English/LA IV
Four Sequential Math Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC Math 1 NC Math 2 NC Math 3 A fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans <p><small>In the rare instance a principal exempts a student from the Future-Ready Core mathematics sequence, the student will be required to pass: NC Math 1 and Math 2 plus two additional courses identified on the NC DPI Math options chart.</small></p>	Four Mathematics Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Mathematics NC Math 1 Financial Management Employment Preparation IV: Math (Includes 150 work hours) 	Four ECS Mathematics Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Management I Financial Management II NC Math 1 A NC Math 1 B
Three Science Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Science Course Biology Earth/Environmental Science Course 	Three Science Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Science Biology Employment Preparation I: Science (Includes 150 work hours) 	Three ECS Science Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Science Biology A Biology B
Four Social Studies Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding principles of USA and NC: Civic Literacy Economics and Personal Finance American History World History 	Four Social Studies Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding principles of USA and NC: Civic Literacy Economics and Personal Finance Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A (to include 75 work hours) Employment Preparation II: Citizenship IB (to include 75 work hours) 	Four Social Studies Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics and Personal Finance Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy American History World History
One Health & Physical Education Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must successfully complete CPR and meet Healthful Living Essential Standards as a requirement for High School Graduation <p><small>Accommodations/Alternative assessments for students identified by ADA or IDEA will be provided.</small></p>	One Health & Physical Education Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must successfully complete CPR and meet Healthful Living Essential Standards as a requirement for High School Graduation <p><small>Accommodations/Alternative assessments for students identified by ADA or IDEA will be provided.</small></p>	One Health and Physical Education Credit
TWO Elective credits of ANY combination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career and Technical Education (CTE) Art Education (eg., dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) World Language 	TWO Additional Employment Preparation Education Credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment Preparation III: Citizenship II A (Includes 75 work hours) Employment Preparation III B (Includes 75 work hours) <p>The work hours included in employment preparation I, II, III, IV are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 150 hours of school based training with activities an experiences that align with students post school goals 225 hours of community-based training 225 paid employment or 225 unpaid vocational training, internship, paid employment at community rehabilitation facility and volunteer/community service hours Total work hours: 600 <p>Special Provision: In recognition of the impact of Hurricane Helene on Western North Carolina, for the 2024-2025 school year only, any public school unit located in a county that was designated by FEMA as a major disaster area as of September 28, 2024, up to 150 work hours spent in disaster clean-up or recovery activities may be used to satisfy any combination of the required hours in school-based training, community-based training, and/or paid employment.</p>	Six Elective Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NC Vocational Preparation NC Health, Safety & Independent Living Four additional courses and/or Career Technical Education
Four Elective Credits FOUR-COURSE CONCENTRATION RECOMMENDED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career and Technical Education (CTE) or ROTC Arts Education (ex., dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) Any other subject area or cross disciplinary courses (eg., mathematics, science, social studies, English, and dual enrollment courses) 	Four Career/Technical Education Elective Credits	Electives & Other Requirements Elective and Career Technical Courses As Appropriate
	A Career Portfolio	** Does not participate in State CTE Post Assessments**
	Completion of the Student's IEP Objectives	

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907 Barra Row • Suite 103 • Davidson, NC 28036
 Office: 704- 892-1321 • Fax: 704-892-5028
 Help Line: 1-800-962-6817 • Email: ecac@ecacmail.org
www.ecac-parentcenter.org



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