**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** *Policy Code:* **3460**

The board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that scholars are receiving an education that will prepare them to be career and college ready and productive members of society.

In order to graduate from high school, scholars must meet the following requirements:

1. successful completion of all course unit requirements as described in Section A; and
2. successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction.

The principal shall ensure that scholars and parents are aware of all graduation requirements. Guidance program staff shall assist scholars in selecting their high school courses to ensure that scholars are taking all of the required units and selecting electives consistent with their post-graduation plans. For scholars who have transferred to the school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation. The principal shall consider the requirements of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and the requirements of subsection C.3 of this policy in determining the graduation requirements for children of military families.

* 1. **Course Units Required**

All scholars must fulfill the course unit requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study, unless they are approved for the Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study. The table in subsection A.1 below lists the course unit requirements for the Future-Ready Core Course of Study applicable to scholars who entered ninth grade for the first time during the 2013-14 school year or thereafter.

In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of Education requirements, scholars may earn high school credit for college courses completed. In addition, scholars may earn credit for certain high school courses in the Future-Ready Core Course of Study completed while in middle school, as authorized by the State Board of Education. Scholars also have the opportunity to meet course unit requirements without completing the regular period of classroom instruction by demonstrating mastery of the course material in accordance with policy 3420, Scholar Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements.

All awards of high school course credit must be consistent with State Board of Education requirements. Any inconsistency between board policy and State Board graduation requirements will be resolved by following the State Board requirements. While the board endeavors to keep its policy up to date with current State Board of Education graduation requirements, scholars should verify current requirements with their guidance counselors when planning course schedules or making other decisions based on graduation requirements.

**Capstone Project**

As a culmination of the NERSBA educational experience and to demonstrate that scholars are college and career ready, each scholar will complete a Capstone Project. The Capstone Project is designed to showcase a scholar’s academic achievement, enduring knowledge, and unique talents. The Capstone Project must be successfully completed in order to earn a high school diploma from NERSBA.

The Capstone Project will provide a cumulative evaluation instrument to: validate a senior scholar’s ability to research from a variety of media, apply college-level math in a work-place environment, write an analytical paper, design and complete a project, and teach others about the project through a formal presentation. The Capstone Project allows each senior the opportunity to demonstrate his/her years of educational experience. Math, language arts, and 21st -Century skills will be showcased in a three-part process. The essential components include:

1. 135 hours of preparation in the field (internship, job shadowing, etc.)
2. A physical product or service resulting from chosen fieldwork
3. A word-processed qualitative research paper including a reflection of the entire project
4. An oral presentation accompanied by a portfolio, which synthesizes the first two components and is presented before a panel composed of district/school staff, parents and community members.

**Senior Seminar**

The Senior Seminar is a mandatory course requirement for NERSBA. During the course of the scholar's senior year, each scholar is to complete the requirements of this yearlong course. The Senior Seminar will prepare high school seniors for college by acclimating them to all aspects of the college application, selection, orientation, and enrollment process; as well as, entering the workforce. The seminar is designed to guide scholars through those stages in “real time” as they’re actually experiencing them throughout their 12th grade year. By high school graduation, scholars will be prepared for the academic, financial, and emotional demands of college and/or the workforce through intensive discussion and activities pertaining to these issues. The mandatory Senior Seminars will be held monthly on NERSBA's Jamesville campus.

**\*Dual Credit**

According to the State Board of Education, NERSBA scholars may receive high school credit for post-secondary courses completed under dual enrollment through NERSBA. For example, HIS 131 may be taken as a dual enrollment credit for the American History 1 high school requirement.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Scholars Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2013-2014 and through 2019-20.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Courses Required**\* | **Requirements** |
| English | 4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV) |
| Mathematics | 4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the scholar’s post-high school plans.)\*\*  (The principal may exempt a scholar from this math sequence. Exempt scholars will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)\*\*\* |
| Science | 3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science) |
| Social Studies | 4 (including American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics; American History Parts I and II; and World History)\*\*\*\*  HIS 131 and HIS 132 |
| Health/P.E. | 1 Physical Education PED 110 or PED 187  1 Health HEA 110 |
| Biotechnology/  Agriscience | 4 high school credits  Animal Science 1  Horticulture 1  Biotechnology 1  Level 2 |
| Capstone Project | 1 |
| Electives through college courses | 6 (Humanities/Fine Arts (2 credits)  4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)\*\*\*\*\* |
| **Total High School Credits** | **28** |
| Completion of a College Certificate  College Diploma  Associate Degree | 12-16 hours  36-48 hours  61-64 hours |

\* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

\*\* Scholars entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate math course options. See SBE Policy GRAD-004.

\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/522504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf>.

\*\*\*\* American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an AP/IB/CIE course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.

\*\*\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two credits of a single world language.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Scholars Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2020-21.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Courses Required**\* | **Requirements** |
| English | 4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV) |
| Mathematics | 4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the scholar’s post-high school plans.)\*\*  (The principal may exempt a scholar from this math sequence. Exempt scholars will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)\*\*\* |
| Science | 3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science) |
| Social Studies | 4 World History (WH), American History (AH),  Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy (FPUSANCCL) and Economics and Personal Finance (EPF) \*\*\*\* |
| Health/P.E. | 1 Physical Education PED 110 or PED 187  1 Health HEA 110 |
| Biotechnology/  Agriscience | 4 high school credits  Animal Science 1  Horticulture 1  Biotechnology 1  Level 2 |
| Capstone Project | 1 |
| Electives through college courses | 6 (Humanities/Fine Arts (2 credits)  4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)\*\*\*\*\* |
| **Total High School Credits** | **28** |
| Completion of a College Certificate  College Diploma  Associate Degree | 12-16 hours  36-48 hours  61-64 hours |

\* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

\*\* Scholars entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate math course options. See SBE Policy GRAD-004.

\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/522504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf>.

\*\*\*\* American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an AP/IB/CIE course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.

\*\*\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two credits of a single world language.

1. Future-Ready Core Course of Study Credits Required for Scholars Entering Ninth Grade for the First Time in 2021-212.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Courses Required**\* | **Requirements** |
| English | 4 sequential (English I, II, III, and IV) |
| Mathematics | 4 (NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth math course aligned with the scholar’s post-high school plans.)\*\*  (The principal may exempt a scholar from this math sequence. Exempt scholars will be required to pass NC Math 1 and 2 and two other application-based math courses or selected CTE courses, as identified on the NC DPI math options chart.)\*\*\* |
| Science | 3 (a physical science course, Biology, and earth/environmental science) |
| Social Studies | 4 (1) a founding principles course which shall be either American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics or Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy;† (2) two American history courses which shall be either (a) American History I and II, (b) American History I or II and another Social Studies course, or (c) American History and another Social Studies course; and (3) World History)\*\*\*\* |
| Health/P.E. | 1 Physical Education PED 110 or PED 187  1 Health HEA 110 |
| Biotechnology/  Agriscience | 4 high school credits  Animal Science 1  Horticulture 1  Biotechnology 1  Level 2 |
| Capstone Project | 1 |
| Electives through college courses | 6 (Humanities/Fine Arts (2 credits)  4 must be from one of the following: Career and Technical Education, J.R.O.T.C., Arts Education, or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary course. A four-course concentration is recommended.)\*\*\*\*\* |
| **Total High School Credits** | **28** |
| Completion of a College Certificate  College Diploma  Associate Degree | 12-16 hours  36-48 hours  61-64 hours |

\* Certain International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses will satisfy specific graduation requirements. See SBE Policy GRAD-008.

\*\* Scholars entering ninth grade for the first time prior to the 2014-15 school year have alternate math course options. See SBE Policy GRAD-004.

\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete four mathematics courses, including a fourth math course with Math 3 as a prerequisite. The math options chart is available at <http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf/522504358/Math%20Options%20Chart%209.5.2014.pdf>.

\*\*\*\* American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an AP/IB/CIE course, dual enrollment, or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.

\*\*\*\*\* Scholars seeking to complete minimum course requirements for UNC universities must complete two credits of a single world language.

* 1. **High School Final Exams and End-of-Course Testing**

High school scholars must take all end-of-course (EOC) tests, NC Final Exams, and Career and Technical Education State Assessments (CTE Post-Assessments) required by the State Board of Education and pursuant to policy 3410, Testing and Assessment Program.

* 1. **Special Circumstances**

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

Honor graduates may be designated on the basis of criteria established by the principal. Recognition of honor graduates may be included in graduation programs.

1. Scholars with Disabilities

Graduation requirements must be applied to scholars with disabilities to the extent required by state and federal law and State Board policy.

1. Children of Military Families

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the board adopts the following policy provisions for scholars to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.

1. Waiver Requirements

Specific course work required for graduation will be waived if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed in another school. If a waiver is not granted, school administrators shall provide the scholar with reasonable justification for the denial. If a waiver is not granted to a scholar who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the principal or designee shall provide the scholar with an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that the scholar may graduate on time.

1. Testing Requirements for Graduation

The principal shall accept the following in lieu of any local testing requirements for graduation: (1) the end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state; (2) national norm-referenced achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing. If these alternatives are not feasible for a scholar who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

1. Transfers During Senior Year

If a child of a military family who has transferred at the beginning of or during his or her senior year is ineligible to graduate from the school after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the scholar meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure that the scholar will receive a diploma from the sending school.

1. Early Graduation

While graduation prior to that of one’s class may be permitted, it is the expectation of the board that every scholar will attend NERSBA for five years and graduate from NERSBA and one of the partner higher education colleges. Scholars may apply for early graduation. Meetings with the principal, counselors and facilitators will be required for scholars and their parents.

1. Graduation Certificates

Graduation certificates will be awarded to eligible scholars in accordance with the standards set forth in State Board policy.

1. Diploma Endorsements

Scholars have the opportunity to earn one or more of the following diploma endorsements identifying a particular area of focused study: (1) Career Endorsement, (2) College Endorsement (two options), (3) North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement, and/or (4) a Global Languages Endorsement. No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(40), -81.25(c)(10)(c), -81.45(d)(1), -174.11; State Board of Education Policies CCRE-001, GRAD-004, GRAD-007, GRAD-008, GRAD-010, TEST-003

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Testing and Assessment Program (policy 3410), Scholar Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Citizenship and Character Education (policy 3530), Children of Military Families (policy 4050)

Adopted: April 15, 2020

Revised: June 8, 2022