



New High School Graduation Requirements

Beginning with the Class of 2018

House Bill 487 updated Ohio's graduation requirements to ensure that all students are ready for success in college and work. As a result, the Class of 2017 (10th-graders in the 2014-2015 school year) will be the last students to take the current Ohio Graduation Tests. The new requirements take effect with the class of 2018 (ninth graders in Fall 2014). Additionally, every student will have the opportunity to take a nationally-recognized college admission exam free of charge in the 11th grade. The honors diploma remains another option for students.

Unchanged

Complete Ohio Course Requirements	State Minimum
English language arts	4 units
Health	½ unit
Mathematics	4 units ¹
Physical education	½ unit ²
Science	3 units ³
Social studies	3 units ⁴
Electives	5 units ⁵

Other Requirements

- Economics and financial literacy⁶
- Fine arts⁶



New

All students take end of course exams:

- Algebra I⁷ and geometry or integrated math I and II
- Physical science
- American history and American government
- English I and English II

Students studying Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or taking dual enrollment courses in physical science, American history or American government may take assessments aligned to those courses in lieu of end-of-course exams to avoid double testing.



New

And meet one of the following three:

- 1 Earn a cumulative passing score on seven end-of-course exams. The scores will be set by the State Board of Education.
- 2 Earn a "remediation-free" score on a nationally recognized college admission exam such as ACT or SAT. The state of Ohio will pay for all 11th grade students to take the exam free of charge.
- 3 Earn a State Board of Education-approved, industry-recognized credential or a state-issued license for practice in a career and achieve a score that demonstrates workforce readiness and employability on a job skills assessment.

¹ Mathematics units must include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II. Students on a Student Success Plan may be exempted from taking algebra II.

² School districts may adopt a policy that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading for two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years from the physical education requirement. Students must take another course, which cannot be a physical education course, of at least 60 contact hours.

³ Science units must include one unit of physical sciences, one unit of life sciences and one unit advanced study in one or more of the following sciences: chemistry, physics or other physical science; advanced biology or other life science; astronomy, physical geology or other earth or space science. Students on a Student Success Plan may be exempted from advanced study in science.

⁴ Social studies units must include ½ unit of American history and ½ unit of American government.

⁵ Electives units must include one or any combination of foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education or English language arts, mathematics, science or social studies courses not otherwise required.

⁶ All students must receive instruction in economics and financial literacy during Grades 9-12 and must complete at least two semesters of fine arts taken any time in Grades 7-12. Students following a career-technical pathway are exempted from the fine arts requirement.

The State Board of Education may decide to include an algebra II end-of-course examination in place of the algebra I end-of-course exam beginning for students entering ninth grade on or after July 1, 2016.