

Graduation Requirements

Ohio's schools are making strides, yet every year, about 40 percent of Ohio high school graduates who attend Ohio public colleges need to take remedial courses. Change is needed to make sure our students are better prepared.

In a continually changing global economy, colleges and businesses expect more knowledge and skills from Ohio graduates. To match these high expectations, Ohio must ensure that all students leave high school ready to succeed. To make sure students are ready, Ohio is replacing the existing Ohio Graduation Tests, which measure only basic skills, with better measures of what students really need to be able to do as adults.

Ohio school law updated Ohio's graduation requirements to ensure that all students are ready for success in college and work. As a result, students graduating before the class of 2018 (10th-graders in the 2014-2015 school year) are the last students to take the current Ohio Graduation Tests.

Additionally, every student entering ninth grade in the 2014-2015 school year and beyond will have the opportunity to take a nationally recognized college admission exam free of charge in Grade 11. The Diploma with Honors is another option for students.

When?

The new requirements take effect with students entering ninth grade in the 2014-2015 school year (Class of 2018).

What are the requirements?

In addition to meeting the minimum course requirements, students in the class of 2018 will take seven end-of-course exams over four years of high school—English 1 and 2, geometry, algebra I, physical science, American history and American government.

The State Board of Education will create a system of points that students will earn toward graduation based upon how they perform on these tests. The tests can take the place of final exams.

Students can take exams other than the state exams and use their scores for graduation on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or dual credit course exams for the physical science, American history and American government tests.

Different Paths to Graduation

Students may be eligible to earn a high school diploma by earning scores on national college admissions tests that indicate they can do college-level work without needing to take remedial classes.

Students also can become graduation eligible by obtaining State Board of Education approved, industry-recognized credentials and passing scores on a nationally recognized job skills assessment.

Extending the High School Curriculum Opt-Out

For students with different career plans, current law allows families to take an alternative set of math and science courses. This provision was extended for two years to cover the Classes of 2018 and 2019.

For more information visit:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/News/New-High-School-Graduation-Requirements>