The Case for Martin:
An Alternative Pathway to Graduation Sample

The following forms contain a fictional scenario developed to explain the alternative pathway to graduation mandated by ORC §3313.615. A number in the top-right corner indicates each new section used in this sample. Listed below are the titles of each form and their corresponding number.

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Alternative Pathway to Graduation: The Case for Martin

Martin is a senior at Fictional Forest High School with an overall 3.1 GPA. He has passed all of his Ohio Graduation Tests (OGTs) except mathematics. This June he intends to graduate and enroll at a local community college to study business management. The school receives the results for Martin's fifth attempt on the math OGT in March, 2007. Martin failed the OGT, with a scaled score of 392, which is within 10 scaled score points of the 400 cut level for proficiency. His district does not offer summer OGT intervention.

OGT Administration	Scaled Score
Spring 2005	385
Autumn 2005	395
Spring 2006	384
Autumn 2006	388
Spring 2007	392

Highest score

His math grades are as follows (see GPA calculation chart in section **2**):

Course	Credits	Grade	Grade Point
Algebra I	1	B+	2.7
Geometry	1	C+	2.3
Algebra II	1	B-	3.3
Total Credits	3	GPA	2.76

Martin has behaved generally well in school, with his only disciplinary action being a two day suspension in the 10th grade for a minor fight. He has never been expelled. His attendance record is as follows:

School Year	School days*	Excused absences**	Unexcused absences**	Attendance rate**
Freshman	182	3	3	98.3%
Sophomore	182	1	4	97.7%
Junior	182	5	2	98.8%
Senior	182	2	1	99.4%

*May vary due to calamity days
**See ORC §3313.48, OAC §3313.48 and local policy

Does Martin qualify to graduate under the alternative pathway?

First, a guidance counselor or another designated employee should check basic information regarding Martin to determine if he is eligible. The guidance counselor prints the alternative pathway to graduation packet which will be posted on the Ohio Department of Education website and goes through the "Guidance Counselor's Worksheet for Alternative Pathway to Graduation," (part **3** of this document). These questions work through all of the state requirements for the alternative pathway.

OGT Scores:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, items A-D)
The guidance counselor looks at Martin's previous OGT scores and verifies that Martin passed four OGTs and failed the math OGT by 10 scaled score points or less. Martin's highest OGT math scaled score was in Autumn 2005. The guidance counselor records the: subject, highest score and date of administration of the failed test on the worksheet.

Attendance:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, item E)
A check of attendance records shows that Martin has over a 97% attendance rate each of the last four years.

Expulsion:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, item F)
Martin has not been expelled in the last four years, so he is eligible to graduate under this provision.

Grade Point Average (GPA)
(see *GPA Calculation Chart*, part 2 and
Guidance Counselor's Worksheet, items G-H)
The guidance counselor calculated Martin's unweighted GPA using the "GPA Calculation Chart for Alternative Pathway to Graduation" (labeled **"3"** in the top-right corner), which will be available on the ODE website. Martin's grades in mathematics classes lead to an unweighted average of 2.76. The guidance counselor transfers the GPA from the GPA calculation chart to the worksheet in the subject area blank.

Curriculum:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, item I)
Martin's course record shows that he has met the state curriculum for graduation.

Intervention Programs:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, item J)
Fictional Forest High School does not offer OGT intervention programs outside of the school day or year and Martin did not attend one in another district or from a private source, so the guidance counselor skips Question 6.

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Letters of Recommendation:
(see *Teacher Recommendation Form*, part 4 and
Guidance Counselor's Worksheet, item K)

At this point, Martin has passed all requirements to be eligible to pursue an alternative pathway to graduation. The guidance counselor informs Martin and invites him to come in for an appointment. Martin visits the guidance counselor two days later and hears about the alternative pathway to graduation. Martin agrees that he wants to pursue it and the guidance counselor gives him three "Teacher Recommendation for Alternative Pathway to Graduation" forms (see part **4** of this document), which will be available on the Ohio Department of Education website. The guidance counselor informs Martin of the locally determined deadline to get his math teachers to sign them.

Martin approaches his teachers from Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II to get their signatures. All three sign the form. His Geometry teacher leaves comments on the form stating that Martin had trouble initially in the course, but made progress in the second semester. The teachers return the forms to Martin's guidance counselor, who records that they are completed.

Verification and Approval:
(see *Guidance Counselor's Worksheet*, items L-O)

The guidance counselor completes the worksheet and attaches the GPA chart and teachers' recommendations. The counselor then signs the worksheet and forwards it to the principal. Martin's principal reads the forms and worksheet and signs the worksheet recommending graduation. Finally, the district superintendent signs the worksheet, completing it. The packet is then added to Martin's permanent record allowing him to graduate.

GPA Calculation Chart for Alternative Pathway to Graduation

The purpose of this chart is to standardize GPA's statewide for consideration as part of the alternative pathway to graduation. Points are assigned to grades along a 4 point scale, going from 0 to 4. A full-letter grade change is equal to one point. Pluses and minuses raise or lower a grade point by three-tenths of a point. See the chart "Letter Grade to Grade Point Conversion" below for the full scale. Grades are not weighted by type of course taken.

Letter Grade to Grade Point Conversion			
Letter grade	*Grade point*	*Letter grade*	*Grade point*
A+	4.0	C+	2.3
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+	3.3	D+	1.3
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	0.7
		F	0

Only those courses within the subject area of the failed test should be considered. Courses are defined as being within the subject according to locally adopted courses of study. Additionally, any courses taken in the last four years in the subject should be included, unless they were retaken and the grade was replaced. In that case, the grade of record should count.

Courses within subject area:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Course	Teacher's name	Number of credits	Letter grade	Grade point	Credit-points*
Algebra I	Kurt Gardner	1	B-	2.7	2.7
Geometry	Jan Holmes	1	C+	2.3	2.3
Algebra II	Sunita Patel	1	B+	3.3	3.3
Total number of credits		3	Total credit-points		8.3

*Credit-points are calculated by multiplying number of credits (column 3) by grade points (column 6).

To calculate grade point average, divide total credit-points by total number of credits.

Grade point average = _2.76_

Guidance Counselor's Worksheet for Alternative Pathway to Graduation

Student Name						
First	*Martin*	**M.I.**	*J*	**Last**	*Scott*	**SSID*** *9999999999*

School and District Information	
High School Name	*Fictional Forest High School*
District Name	*Fictional Forest School District*
Building IRN *999999*	**District IRN** *999999*
Guidance Counselor Name	*Marla Dennison*

* SSID – State Student Identification Number

	Yes	No	
Has student passed at least four (4) Ohio Graduation Tests (OGTs)?	X		**A**
Fill in blanks with appropriate information:			**B**
• OGT subject of test not yet passed	*Mathematics*		
• Highest score (scaled score must be 390 or above)	*395*		**C**
• Date of administration	*Autumn 2005*		**D**

	Yes	No	
Has student maintained at least a 97% attendance rate in <u>each</u> of the last four (4) school years, excluding absences excused in accordance with local district policy?	X		**E**
Is student's record free of expulsion over the last four (4) school years?	X		**F**
Has student maintained a GPA of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 <u>in the subject area not yet passed, in accordance with the attached GPA calculation chart</u>? (Courses that are retaken and successfully completed should cancel out the previous failing grades. Only grades of record should be considered.)	X		**G**
Fill in blanks with appropriate information:			
• GPA within subject area, according to GPA calculation chart	*2.76*		**H**

	Yes	No	
Has student completed the minimum high school curriculum requirements (ORC §3313.603) in the subject area of the not yet passed test?	X		**I**

Minimum high school graduation requirements in OGT subject areas:

English	**4** units
Mathematics	**3** units
Science	**3** units, including 1 unit of biology and 1 unit of physical, life, and earth and space sciences
Social Studies	**3** units, including ½ unit of American history and ½ unit of American government

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	Yes	No	
Were intervention programs offered by the school, school district or another source?		X	J
• If no, disregard this question and continue to last question.			
• If yes, did student maintain at least a 97% attendance or participation rate, excluding excused absences, in intervention programs offered outside of the normal school day?			
Has student submitted a letter recommending graduation from every high school teacher in the subject of the test not yet passed? Another teacher from the department with substantial knowledge of the student's work may substitute if teacher is unavailable. (Attach letters to this worksheet)	X		K

By signing, I verify that the above student information is correct.

Counselor's signature   _Marla Dennison_ — L   Date _5/26/2007_

_____

To be completed by the **high school principal**:

I hereby recommend _Martin Scott_____ for graduation based upon satisfaction of the above conditions.

Principal's signature   _____Gail Laurent_____ — M   Date _5/28/2007_

Principal's name   _____Gail Laurent_____

_____

To be completed by the **district superintendent**:

I hereby recommend _Martin Scott_____ for graduation based upon satisfaction of the above conditions.

Superintendent's signature   ___Wayne Novak____ — N   Date _6/02/2007_

Superintendent's name   ____Wayne Novak____

If all of the above conditions have been satisfied, the student is eligible be awarded a diploma or honors diploma under ORC §3313.615. This worksheet should be filed, with all supporting materials, in the student's permanent record and maintained, subject to the local public-records destruction schedule.

O

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Teacher Recommendation for Alternative Pathway to Graduation

Purpose

According to ORC §3313.615, students who pass four of five Ohio Graduation Tests and meet other requirements are eligible to graduate. These requirements consider attendance rate, history of expulsion, GPA in subject area, courses taken, attendance and completion of available intervention programs and the recommendation for graduation of teachers and the principal within the subject area.

For teachers who have left the school, another teacher in the department with substantial knowledge of the student's work may substitute.

I hereby recommend _____*Martin Scott*_____ for graduation based upon performance in subject area coursework.

Comments (optional) _____

_____

_____

_____

Teacher's signature _____*Sunita Patel*_____

Date *5/25/06*

Student Name					
First	*Martin*	**M.I.**	*J*	**Last**	*Scott*

School and District Information	
High School Name	*Fictional Forest High School*
District Name	*Fictional Forest School District*

Teacher Information			
Teacher Name	*Sunita Patel*	**Subject Area**	*Mathematics*
Course(s) Student Took	*Algebra II*	**School Year(s)**	*2006-2007*

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