What It Takes to Earn an Ohio Diploma

Graduating Classes of 2014 and Beyond

Students must meet both testing requirements and curriculum requirements in order to earn a diploma. These requirements apply to students entering their freshman year in 2010 and beyond. See the two checklists below for more information about these two diploma requirements. The third section provides information about an alternative way to meet the testing requirements.

Curriculum Requirements

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS	STATE MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL LOCAL CREDITS	CREDITS EARNED TO DATE	CREDITS REMAINING	HONORS DIPLOMA CREDITS
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 literacy[6]	Requirement met in _____ class/grade level.				
Fine Arts[6]	Requirement met in _____ class/grade level.				

[1] Mathematics units must include 1 unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II.

[2] The Ohio Core allows school districts to adopt a policy that would exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for two full seasons from the physical education requirement. Students must take another course of at least 60 contact hours in its place.

[3] Science units must include 1 unit of physical sciences, 1 unit of life sciences and 1 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.

[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.

Graduation Test Requirements

For Students Who Need to Pass the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT):

A. Notify student and parents about:
   - Importance of earning a diploma;
   - Need to meet both testing and curriculum requirements to earn a diploma;
   - Any additional local graduation requirements;
   - District's policy about participation in commencement ceremony.

B. How to access information (e.g., test blueprints, previous tests) on the Web about OGT:
   - education.ohio.gov and search keyword: ***OGT***.

C. OGT test administrations before graduation:
   - Spring of 10th grade
   - Summer between 10th and 11th grade (optional)
   - Fall and spring of 11th grade
   - Summer between 11th and 12th grade (optional)
   - Fall and spring of 12th grade

D. To access previous graduation tests, go to education.ohio.gov and search keywords: ***previous OGT tests***

Alternative Way to Meet the Testing Requirements

A student may meet the testing requirements for passing all five Ohio Graduation Tests if he or she meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Passes four of the five tests and has missed passing the fifth test by no more than 10 points;
- Has a 97 percent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, through all four years of high school and must not have had an expulsion in high school;
- Has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years;
- Has at least a grade point average of 2.5 out of 4.0 in the courses of the subject area not yet passed;
- Has completed the high school curriculum requirement;
- Has participated in any intervention programs offered by the school and must have had a 97 percent attendance rate in any programs offered outside the normal school day; and
- Has letters recommending graduation from the high school principal and from each high school teacher in the subject area not yet passed.

NOTE: As specified in the Ohio Revised Code (Section 3313.615), this alternative way to meet the testing requirement applies only to students graduating after Sept. 15, 2006.