

Graduation Requirements

Policy: C-1 Adopted: May 11, 1992

Revised: November 8, 2012

Revised: July 15, 2013

Revised: Sept. 8, 2014

I. General Policy Statement

In addition to meeting the North Carolina Competency requirements, the North Carolina State Board of Education and the Haywood County Board of Education require a minimum of units for graduation from high school as listed below. A student must have been enrolled four (4) full years in grades 9-12; exceptions to the four-year requirement will be handled by the school principal on an individual case basis. Exceptions include but are not limited to, students approved for early release and early graduation.

II. NC Course of Study Graduation Requirements

<i>Content Area</i>	Future Ready Core 9th Graders Entering 2010-2011	Career and College Ready 9th Graders Entering 2012 and Later
English	4 Credits	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 Credits	4 Credits
Science	3 Credits	3 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits	4 Credits
World Language	MAR*** for UNC System	MAR*** for UNC System
Health & PE	1 Credit	1 Credit
Electives or Other Requirements (6 Credits)	4 Credits- (four course concentration area) with a completer level course: CTE, JROTC, Arts, Academic. 2 Credits- Any Combination from either of- CTE, Arts, Second Language.	
Local Electives	1 – CHH 4 – THS 7 – PHS/HEC	0 – CHH 2 – THS 6 – PHS/HEC
Total Credits	22-CHHS 24-THS 28-PHS/HEC	22-CHHS 24-THS 28-PHS/HEC**

Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, students entering THS as freshmen will need the same number of elective and total credits as PHS/HEC for graduation.

** Haywood Early College students will also complete community college courses to fulfill the requirements of an Associates Degree.

*** MAR = Minimum Academic Requirements for the University of North Carolina System

Mathematics – specific courses are required in each Course of Study

Science – courses are a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science

Social Studies – courses are World History, US History 1, US History 2, Civics and Economics

Future-Ready Occupational Course of Study Credits Required (only available to certain eligible students with disabilities who have an IEP).

Courses Required	State Requirements	Local Requirements
English	4- including English I, II, III, IV	
Mathematics	3- including Introduction to Math, Math I, and Financial Management	
Science	2- including Applied Science and Biology	
Social Studies	2- including American History I and II	
Health/PE	1	
Career/Technical	4 CTE Electives	
World Language	0	
Occupational Preparation	6- including Occupational Preparation I, II, III, and IV, which require 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment or *360 hours of any unpaid vocational training, unpaid internship experience, paid employment at community rehabilitation facilities, and volunteer and/or community service hours. *The exception to 360 paid hours remains until the NC unemployment rate reaches 6% or less.	
Electives	0	
Other Requirements	1. Completion of IEP objectives. 2. Career Portfolio	
Total Credits	22	

Haywood County Schools - Minimum Credits needed to graduate:

Central Haywood = 22 of 28-32 Courses

Haywood Early College = 28 of 32 Courses

Tuscola High = 24 of 28 Courses

Pisgah High = 28 of 32 Courses

III. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The board adopts the following policies with regard to graduation.

1. Honor Graduates

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

2. Students with Disabilities

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

3. 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 students to whom the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children applies.

a. Waiver Requirements

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

b. Testing Requirements for Graduation

The superintendent 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 student who has transferred in his or her senior year, subsection c below will apply.

c. 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 system after all of the alternatives listed above have been considered and the student meets the graduation requirements at his or her sending school, then school officials from the school system shall collaborate with the sending school system to ensure that the student will receive a diploma from the sending board of education.

4. Early Graduation

Students may be allowed to graduate earlier than their class based on criteria approved by the superintendent. This will be at the discretion of the principal.

5. Dual Enrollment and credit for Community College courses.

In accordance with policy 3101, Dual Enrollment, and State Board of Education requirements, students may earn high school credit for college courses completed. Students 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, Student Promotion and Accountability, and State Board of Education requirements.

6. Graduation Certificates

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

7. Diploma Endorsements

Students 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), and/or (3) North Carolina Academic Scholars Endorsement. No endorsement is required to receive a diploma.

8. Minimum Credit High School Diploma Program

In extreme or emergency situations the principal may, at his/her discretion, submit a student for consideration for the Minimum Credit High School Diploma Program. This program would allow an approved student to receive their diploma with the state minimum 22 basic credits. The principal should complete the referral form and submit it to the Minimum Credit Diploma Review Panel.

This panel will be convened by the secondary supervisor, and should include the assistant superintendent, a secondary administrator from an unaffiliated school, and a central office supervisor. This panel will make a recommendation to the principal, who will make the final decision.

III. Constraints

- A. No student will be permitted to register for a load of less than 7 courses at Tuscola High School and 8 courses at Pisgah High School and Central Haywood High School per year unless he or she has special permission from the principal.
- B. Students will not be allowed to take more than one English course during the regular school day. Initial enrollment in a high school English course will not be allowed outside the regular school day. Exceptions may be handled by the high school principal.

IV. Additional Requirements for Graduation

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

All high schools will follow the Standards of Quality for Graduation Projects as approved by the State Board of Education. The principal of each high school shall monitor the implementation of the NCGP and compliance with regard to the Standards of Quality. The superintendent will certify compliance to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction of each high school as outlined by the Department.

Beginning in 2014-15 students must meet CPR requirement to be eligible for graduation.

V. Transfer and Foreign Exchange Students

Transfer students and Foreign Exchange student's transcripts will be reviewed by school committee and principal using the following criteria:

- 1. Transfer credit from high schools recognized by national, regional or state accrediting agencies shall be accepted without further validation.
- 2. Transfer credit from non-accredited schools shall be reviewed using the following available criteria:
 - a. an analysis of instructional hours per course
 - b. an analysis of the previous school's curriculum
 - c. a review of available student work
 - d. a review of the student's assessment data and scholastic performance as it relates to the course
 - e. the results of assessments administered by Haywood County Schools or courses that require End-of-Course test in North Carolina

- f. the state or federal “status” (ABC, AYP, etc.) of the previous school

VI. North Carolina Academic Scholars Program

To be recognized as an NC Academic Scholar, students must meet the course requirements as set forth by the North Carolina State Board of Education and possess an unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher.

North Carolina Scholars Program requires: 4 English credits, 4 Future Ready Mathematics, 3 Science credits, 4 Social Studies credits, 1 Health and PE, 6 Electives- 4 from a Concentration area: CTE, JROTC, Arts, Second Language, or another subject area. Three credits must be higher-level courses taken in the Junior or Senior year (AP, IB, Dual Credit, Advanced CTE, On-line, other Honors courses which carry 5 or 6 quality points). **OR** Two higher-level courses and completion of the North Carolina Graduation Project.

VII. Exit Documents

1. **Diploma** – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements.
Merit Sticker – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements, whose rank is in the top ten percent of the graduating class and have a score on the SAT or the ACT which is higher than the “national average” for the previous year.
2. **Graduation Certificate** – Granted to exceptional students identified by G.S. 115C-109 who do not meet: 1) all the North Carolina and Haywood County requirements for a high school diploma. Students must successfully complete 21 course credits as defined by State Board Policy GCS-N-004 and all IEP requirements, or 2) the student has passed all the requirements of the Occupational Course of Study other than the 360 hours of competitive employment.

Legal References: **G.S. 115C-105.40; State Board of Education Policy**