

West Virginia State Graduation Requirements Class of 2014

Note: Graduation requirements may vary by county. Students must meet these minimal graduation requirements, but county requirements can exceed these. Check with your school counselor or advisor to get specific graduation requirements for your school.

Chart V (C) Adolescent (9-12) Graduation Requirements (Effective 2010-2011)

These graduation requirements are effective for students entering grade 9 in the school year 2010-2011 and thereafter. Courses needed for graduation require mastery of approved 21st century content standards and objectives. Students who do not demonstrate mastery of the content standards and objectives shall be provided extra help and extra time through intervention strategies.

Core Requirements (18 credits)	
Reading and English Language Arts	4 credits English 9, 10, 11, 12
Mathematics¹	4 credits
Science²	3 credits Physical Science Biology or Conceptual Biology Chemistry or Conceptual Chemistry Physics
Social Studies³	4 credits World Studies to 1900 United States Studies to 1900 Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries Studies Civics for the 21 st Century
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	1 credit
The Arts⁵	1 credit
Electives	2 credits The remaining graduation requirements are to be electives.

Career Concentration Courses (4 Credits)⁴

Professional Pathway	Skilled Pathway
Science - 4 th credit (which must be above Physical Science) Foreign Language - 2 credits in one language Concentration – 1 additional credit required related to the selected career concentration	Concentration - 4 additional credits required related to the selected career concentration

Career Development	Prior to students selecting a concentration and pathway, opportunities for career decision-making must be provided in grades 9-10.
Experiential Learning	All students must participate in an experiential learning experience at some time in grades 9-12. If credit is granted for these experiences, content standards and objectives will be developed and approved at the local level. (See Section 5.6.5)

Technology	Students in grades 9-12 shall be provided integrated opportunities within the core requirements to master the standards for Policy 2520.14. It is recommended that all students take at least one course in technology applications during grades 9-12. It is also recommended that all students complete an online learning experience during grade 9-12.
Senior Year	All West Virginia high school students shall be fully enrolled in a full day of high school and/or college credit bearing courses. It is recommended that students complete a senior project to add rigor and relevance to the senior year.

^{1.} It is the intent that students in the professional pathway will take mathematics annually, but must take at least three mathematics classes in grades 9-12. The recommended course sequence, which may include college courses, AP courses or virtual school courses, for students in the professional pathway is Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus. The mathematics courses selected for credit must be relevant to the student's concentration. Students in the professional pathway and college bound students in the skilled pathway, who do not achieve the State assessment College readiness benchmark for mathematics, shall be required to take a college transition mathematics course during their senior year.

It is also the intent that students in the skilled pathway will take mathematics annually, but must take at least three mathematics classes in grades 9-12. The recommended course sequence in the skilled pathway is Algebra I, geometry, conceptual mathematics, college transition mathematics or Algebra II. College Transition Mathematics must be offered annually and will be counted as a mathematics credit.

Because of the extreme importance of mastery of the Algebra I content standards and objectives (CSOs), students who need additional time to master Algebra I CSOs may be identified at the local level using a data-based decision making process. Students who need additional time for Algebra I CSO mastery should complete the recommended math course sequence at a pace that is consistent with their ability levels. While research indicates the best option for scheduling additional time is to do so within the same year, scheduling options such as "double blocking" Algebra I, Algebra Support and Algebra I, or other similar options may be determined at the local level, as long as the priority of the selected option is to provide students the best possible opportunity to succeed in mastery of the Algebra I CSOs. Counties selecting a scheduling option that places students who need extra time into two separate math courses may grant students up to two math credits toward graduation upon successful course completion. It is further recommended that students who are in the most need of continuous math instruction be enrolled in at least one math course each year in high school.

^{2.} Physical Science, Biology or Conceptual Biology and Chemistry or Conceptual Chemistry shall be taken in consecutive order. Conceptual course credits may not be accepted by four-year higher education institutions. Life Science or Earth Science may be used in lieu of Chemistry or Conceptual Chemistry to satisfy graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade in 2008-09 and 2009-10. Life Science includes courses such as Human Anatomy and Physiology or Biology II. Any science course above Biology meets the requirements for the third science.

^{3.} Students shall take the high school social studies courses in the listed sequence to ensure maximum understanding of the material to be covered and alignment of content and State assessment. World Studies to 1900, United States Studies to 1900, Twentieth and Twenty-First

Centuries Studies and Civics for the 21st Century shall be taken in consecutive order. The social studies content standards and objectives are constructed in such a way that information progresses sequentially through time periods and builds the foundation for successful achievement of the complex concepts that follow. The senior course, Civics for the 21st Century, has been written to deliver rich academic content within relevant context for students entering the world of work and college.

4. The four credits taken by career/technical concentrators must be consistent with those identified for WVDE approved career/technical programs of study. Each career/technical concentration in a school shall obtain and maintain an appropriate industry-recognized accreditation/certification, when one is available, and shall provide students the opportunity to obtain an industry recognized credential as part of the instructional program.
5. Students in Skilled Pathway concentrations that complete state approved career/technical courses that reflect creative and innovative arts content may substitute these courses for the arts credit required for graduation. Designation of these courses will be made by state-level administrators of career/technical and arts programs.

The following courses are approved for substitution:

1851 - Fundamentals of Illustration
1857 - Fundamentals of Graphic Design
1861 - Advanced Illustration
1859 - Advanced Graphic Design
1431 - Digital Imaging I
1727 - Drafting Techniques
0213 - Floriculture