

A Comparison: Course Requirements for Washington High School Graduation, College Admission, and NCAA Eligibility

Credit Requirements	Minimum State High School graduation requirements ¹	CORE 24 Graduation Requirements ²	Higher Education Coordinating Board College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) (Effective 2012-13*) ³	NCAA Eligibility Requirements – Core Courses Div. I ⁴	NCAA Eligibility Requirements – Core Courses Div. II ⁴
Subject Areas	Credits	Credits	Credits	Credits	Credits
English	3	4	4	4	3
Mathematics	2 (3 for class of 2013 and beyond)	3 (Algebra II, including 1 math in senior year or third credit math option)	3 (Algebra II or Integrated III, including 1 math in senior year)	3 (Algebra I or higher)	2 (Algebra I or higher)
Science	2 (one must be a lab)	3 (2 lab science - 1 algebra-based)	2 (both lab science --1 algebra-based, 1 in biology, chemistry, or physics) *effective 2010	2 Natural/physical (1 lab science)	2 Natural/physical (1 lab science)
World Languages	0	0 - 2	2		
Arts	1 Visual or performing arts	2 Visual or performing arts	1 Fine, visual, or performing arts		
Social Sciences	2.5	3	3	2	2
Health & Fitness	2	2 (1.5 fitness; .5 health)			
Career Concentration	1 (occupational ed)	3			
Electives	5.5	2 - 4 depending on pathway		5 including 1 additional English, math or science selected from core. Others in any area above or world language, philosophy or non-doctrinal religion.	5 including 2 additional English, math or science selected from core. Others in any area above or world language, philosophy or non-doctrinal religion.
TOTAL CREDITS	19 (20 for the class of 2013 and beyond – see Math above)	24	15-16 (depending on how math and science requirements are met)	16	14 (16 effective 2013)

¹ Reviewed by Dan Newell, OSPI April 1, 2010.

² Reference: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/mhspd.htm> accessed December 28, 2009 and reviewed by Kathe Taylor, SBE March 18, 2010. CORE 24 was passed by the State Board of Education (SBE) in July 2008. The 2009 Legislature redefined basic education to include the opportunity to earn 24 credits for graduation subject to a phase-in of course and credit requirements. SBE has stated clearly that the implementation of CORE 24 is contingent on funding. Until funding is secured, no rules will be written.

³ 3 CADR credits are encouraged each year of high school; required grades 10-12. Reference: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp> accessed December 28, 2009.

⁴ Reference: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/prepare/athletes/ncaa> accessed January 20, 2010.

Washington State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction High School Graduation Requirements and Assessment Alternatives⁵

1. Earn high school credit (see above)
2. Pass state tests or approved alternatives to those tests⁶
 - Students may use their reading, writing or math scores on the SAT or ACT to show they have key knowledge and skills.⁷
 - Students must meet or exceed one of the following scores in a subject area:

	SAT	ACT
Mathematics	470	19
Reading	350	13
Writing	380	15

- In addition, students who earn a score of three or higher on specified Advanced Placement (AP) tests may use these scores.⁸

Mathematics	Calculus or Statistics examination
Reading	English Literature and Composition, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States History, World History, United States Government and Politics, or Comparative Government and Politics examination
Writing:	English Language and Composition examination

3. Complete a Culminating Project
4. Complete a High School and Beyond Plan

⁵ RCW 28A.655.061 - <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.655.061> accessed January 21, 2010.

⁶ <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/CAAoptions/Equivalency.aspx> accessed January 20, 2010.

⁷ RCW 28A.655.061(10)(b)(i) as of January 21, 2010.

⁸ RCW 28A.655.061 (10)(b)(iii) as of January 21, 2010.

NCAA Requirement Detail⁹

Division I (2008 and beyond) 16 core courses	Division II (2005 and beyond) 14 core courses (16 effective 2013)
4 years English	3 years English
3 years math (algebra I or higher. Computer science courses containing significant programming elements that meet graduation requirements in the area of math also may be accepted)	2 years math (algebra I or higher)
2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered. Computer science courses containing significant programming elements that meet graduation requirements in the area of natural or physical science also may be accepted)	2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)
1 additional year of English, math, or natural or physical science	2 additional years of English, math, or science (3 effective 2013)
2 years of social science	2 years of social science
4 years of additional academic courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, non-doctrinal religion, or philosophy)	3 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, non-doctrinal religion, or philosophy) (4 effective 2013)

Division I eligibility

- The record of the above courses and grades must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 in core courses after graduation must have either a combined SAT score of 1010 or sum ACT score of 86. There is a sliding scale between GPA and test scores: if a student has a high GPA, a lower test score is permitted.

Division II eligibility

- The record of the above courses and grades must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Standards require a minimum GPA of 2.0 in core courses and a combined minimum SAT score of 820 or sum ACT score of 68.

NCAA core courses definition

- An academic course in one or a combination of these areas: English, mathematics, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, non-doctrinal religion, or philosophy.
 - A four-year college preparatory course; and a course at or above the high school's regular academic level, for example, an AP® class or outside college course.
 - Remedial, special education, or compensatory courses are not admissible. And not all classes that meet high school graduation requirements meet NCAA course work requirements.
- Students may check your high school's list of approved core courses on the [NCAA Clearinghouse High School Administration page](#). Click List of Approved Core Courses, and enter your school code or school name.
- Meeting NCAA admission requirements does not guarantee admission into college—it simply determines whether students may participate in athletics during their freshman year. Students must follow each member school's admission policies and apply directly to that school.

⁹ Reference: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/prepare/athletes/ncaa> accessed January 20, 2010 and 2009-10 NCAA Division I and Division II Manuals.