

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

The Maryland High School Diploma is awarded in recognition of the fulfillment of the minimum enrollment, competency prerequisite, credit, and student service requirements. Students who meet the following requirements shall be awarded a Maryland High School Diploma.

Specified Core Credit Requirements

Credits	Subject Area
4	English
4*	Mathematics one with algebraic concepts one with geometric concepts *additional math credits (see below)
3**	Science **science credits (see below)
3	Social Studies U.S. History, World History Local, State, Federal Government
1	Fine Arts
1	Physical Education
1	Technology Education
1*	Health Education (See explanation below)
.5	Personal Financial Literacy

Choose one of the following:

Completer** and Electives

**Completer refers to a specified sequence of courses required for completing graduation requirements.

2 credits of World Language (in sequence preferred) **and** any remaining credits in electives

OR

Complete a MSDE CTE Program **and** any remaining credit in electives needed

- Agricultural Sciences & Operations (3 credits)
- Biomedical Sciences - PLTW (4 credits)
- Engineering Design & Processes (3 credits)
- Any CTE Program at the Career Center (4-10 credits which vary depending on program)

OR

2 credits of Advanced Technology Education **and** any remaining credits in electives (only available for juniors and seniors for year 2022-2023)

23 Minimum Total Credits Required for Graduation

*For the Grade 9 Class of 2021-22 and beyond, 1 credit of health will be required.

Additional Requirements

In addition to the specified core credit requirements for a Maryland High School Diploma:

- Students must complete 75 hours of Student Service Learning.
- Students must satisfactorily complete four years of approved study beyond grade eight.
- Students earning high school math credits prior to entering high school are required to take four years of high school mathematics in Grades 9-12.
- In ACPS, students are required to take four years of mathematics and earn a minimum of four credits in mathematics during high school to meet graduation requirements.
- Exploring Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, or Foundations of Technology fulfills the Technology Education graduation requirement.
- Students earning World Language credit in Grade 8 are required to take a minimum of 2 additional World Language classes while in Grades 9-12.
- Environmental Literacy Standards and experiences are infused throughout the Pre K-12 curriculum.

ACPS Certificates

In addition to earning the Maryland High School Diploma, students who earn at least 12 credits in honors courses as indicated in the course descriptions, Section IV during their high school program and meet the following GPA requirements shall be eligible for a:

Honors Certificate

Cumulative Weighted Grade Point Average—3.5 GPA

Students shall obtain at least a 3.5 total cumulative weighted grade point average for the high school years.

Auditing a Course

A student is enrolled in a course identified in the Program of Study, but is not to be assigned a grade. It will be noted on their transcript that the course was audited, no grade will be provided, no credit will be earned and the GPA will not be affected in any way. This applies to eighth period classes offered before or after regular school hours, teachers' aides, and office aides.

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Maryland High School Assessments Required for Graduation

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MCAP)*

*The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) replaced PARCC, beginning the 2019-20 school year. MCAP provides students, parents, educators and the community with better student information at a faster pace. The goal remains the same" to gather information that helps Maryland schools strengthen our instruction and improve student performance so that our graduates are ready to move into the workforce or a postsecondary institution.

MCAP will continue to assess the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts and mathematics. Maryland's mathematics and English language arts assessments will continue to use test items developed by the PARCC consortium. The assessments have received high marks from education experts for their quality and rigor. All high school assessments will fall under the umbrella of MCAP.

Maryland High School Assessments are a series of end-of-course exams that test student knowledge of Core Learning Goals (CLGs) established by the Maryland State Department of Education. See COMAR 12A.03.02.02.

Beginning with coursework of 2022-2023, the assessments will be percentage of the course final grade. Students must pass the course as part of graduation requirements.

- English
- Algebra
- Life Science
- Government

Algebra I, ELA 10, and Science

Students earning course credits obtained prior to 2022-2023 must participate in the MHSA. Credits obtained in 2022-2023 will take the end-of-course assessment as part of the final grade.

Government

Credits obtained in 2022-2023 will take the end-of-course assessment as part of the final grade. Credits earned prior to this date are waived from the graduation assessment requirement.

Maryland College and Career Readiness

The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 established a number of requirements designed to increase college and career readiness as well as degree completion in Maryland.

"Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all students shall be assessed using acceptable college placement cut scores no later than 11th grade to determine whether the student is ready for college-level credit-bearing course work in English Language Arts, Literacy and Mathematics." It further requires that "transition courses or other instructional opportunities shall be delivered in the 12th grade to students who have not achieved College and Career Readiness (CCR) by the end of the 11th grade. The implementation of transition courses or other instructional opportunities...shall include an assessment or re-assessment of the student after completion of the course; and may not preclude or replace enrollment in a course otherwise required for graduation from high school."

Assessment Options include: MCAP, PARCC, SAT, ACT, AP, Accuplacer, Dual Enrollment eligibility. Students must be determined CCR in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. If students are not deemed CCR by the end of their junior year, they will be placed in a transition experience during their senior year and re-assessed. Passing an eligible (CTE) Program Technical Skills Assessment will meet the CCR re-assessment requirement.

For questions about students receiving Special Education services, please call 301-759-2084.

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Coursework Options for High School Content

Weights for GPA Calculation by Course Title			
Grade	Academic	Honors	Dual Enrollment Advanced Placement
A	4	4.5	5
B	3	3.5	4
C	2	2.5	3
D	1	1	1

Allegany County Public Schools Offers Four Levels of Courses

<p>Academic 4.0 GPA scale</p>	<p>includes Essential Learner Outcomes or core content identified in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards or Maryland Core Learning Goals.</p>
<p>Honors 4.5 GPA scale</p>	<p>includes content in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards or the Maryland Core Learning Goals that includes an increased emphasis on the synthesis of content knowledge demonstrated by an integration of reading and writing processes.</p>
<p>Dual Enrollment or Early College on-site 5.0 GPA scale</p>	<p>includes syllabi content that represents the highest common standards between ACPS and the cooperating college. Successful completion (a grade of C or better) awards local college credit hours. A grade of D may not be awarded college credit or be transferable to other institutions.</p>
<p>Advanced Placement 5.0 GPA scale</p>	<p>includes content in the Advanced Placement Course Outline approved by the College Board. College credit is awarded based on the AP test score and the standards set by the receiving college/university. Prerequisites for AP course work are intended to serve as a guideline not a stringent rule. AP Courses are weighted on a 5.0 GPA scale. The course requires a final classroom exam that will count 10% of the final grade. Students are strongly encouraged to take the Advanced Placement examination.</p>