

# Graduation Requirements

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Students must complete 22.5 credits to receive a high school diploma.

Beginning with the class of 2004, students must complete 22.5 credits *and* pass the state-mandated High School Graduation Qualifying Exam to receive a diploma. Seniors who do not pass the exam will receive a certificate of attendance and have up to 3 years after graduation to pass the exam and receive a diploma.

1. Language Arts ..... 4 credits  
English 9-1, 9-2, English 10-1, 10-2, and one semester of Composition during grades 11 or 12 plus three semesters of electives in grades 10, 11, or 12.
2. Social Studies ..... 4 credits  
History 9-1, 9-2, 10-1 and 10-2 (Integrated World/U.S. courses), one semester of History/Social Science, one semester of Economics, one semester of Geography/Area Studies and one semester of United States Government. Beginning with the class of 2006, one semester of Alaska Studies.
3. Mathematics ..... 2.5 credits  
Five semesters of Mathematics electives. Students must complete course work containing or founded in Algebra I level math skills or demonstrate Algebra I level skills by examination.
4. Sciences ..... 3 credits  
Two semesters of Life Science, two semesters of Physical Science and two semesters of additional Science or designated courses in Technology, Computer Science, and Health-related subjects.
5. Physical Education/Health Education ..... 1.5 credits  
Three semesters of physical education graduation requirements can be fulfilled by passing the required Lifetime Personal Fitness course plus 1/2 credit from the lifetime activity courses (noted as such in course listings) plus 1/2 additional credit from any physical education class.
  - A) Students may obtain a waiver of 1/4 physical education credit for each full season of Anchorage School District sports participation. Elective credit must be earned to replace the Physical Education/Health Education requirement that is waived. A waiver of credit under this section does not affect the overall minimum requirements of 22.5 credits.
  - B) Lifetime Personal Fitness can be waived only though a test administered by the the health and physical education department.
  - C) Students may also receive physical education credit through Credit-By-Choice, correspondence, or college credit programs, or field study programs and a maximum of 1 credit waiver for JROTC.
  - D) Lifetime Personal Fitness, Healthy Life Skills and First Aid are not repeatable upon receiving a passing grade in a previous semester.
6. Electives ..... 7.5 credits  
Fifteen semester courses have not been specified so as to provide students an opportunity to pursue individual educational goals. Electives may include additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, World Language, Physical Education and Career Technology.

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**Total 22.5 credits**

- a. A student may be considered for graduation when he or she has acquired a minimum of 22.5 credits after grade 8 in required and elective subjects. Depending upon High School Graduation Qualifying Exam results, either a diploma or certificate of attendance will be awarded.
- b. Seniors entering the ASD for the first time may graduate by meeting requirements of their previous school when the ASD requirements create hardship.
- c. Beginning with the class of 2003, three years of a single world language may waive one semester of Area Studies.