

Freshman Year Meeting

- Graduation requirements
 - How do you earn credit for a class?
 - If you took two years of a language in middle school, work to pass that same language class if you're taking it now so that you can pull up your grades from middle school and earn you credit.
- Now that you're a freshman, it's time to get serious about your post-secondary plans. By starting early, you'll be better prepared.
 - The transcripts that colleges will see will only cover your first 3 years of school.
 - Investigate other avenues to earn credit: 3rd session KCC, iSchool, or documenting volunteer hours and completing a credit by choice form.
 - Talk with your counselor and family about your post secondary interests and plans. Begin to look at what your interests are and what high school, trade, vocational, certifications, college, or other requirements needed to work towards those interests.
- Try taking small steps towards independence this year. Perhaps take on more responsibility around the house, volunteer, get a part time job, or manage your course load and grades with minimal input needed from your parents/guardians.
- Find out about Honors, AP, and IB courses. Some you can't start until your junior year, but don't be afraid to challenge yourself!
- Explore other academic interests such as KCC, participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with a specific focus. Many have scholarships available and some can earn you credit with a completed credit by choice form.
- Continue extra curricular activities or consider getting a part-time job or doing volunteer work (if you have time). Remember, admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in activities outside of the school day.
- Start keeping your awards, certificates, and other materials documenting your accomplishments for your portfolios, these could be money in your pocket for college and vocational opportunities.
- Continue to talk with counselors, teachers and other adults about your plans after high school. If you are NCAA bound, let your counselor know.
www.eligibilitycenter.org (NCAA clearinghouse)
acpe.alaska.gov (Alaska Performance Scholarship)
- If you or a friend is dealing with a crisis, please come and see your counselor. Sometimes being a friend isn't enough, you need a counselor that can provide resources and be confidential source of support.
- Upward Bound application
- West High Counseling Remind

West High Counselors and the students they work with:

Johanna Utterback: HG+A-Ba Cindy Chaput: Be-F Troy Hodge: G-L April Christianson: M-Ro

Chris Brehmer: Ru-Z Michelle Yoon: AEL Liz Howell: Migrant Ed Brian Walker: Indian Ed

Graduation Requirements

Subject	Credits Required
Language Arts	4 credits – 8 semesters
Social Studies	4 credits – 8 semesters
Mathematics	3 credits – 6 semesters
Sciences	3 credits – 6 semesters
PE/Health	1½ credits – 3 semesters
Electives	7 credits – 14 semesters
Total	22½ credits

Language Arts — 4 credits

English I, English II, English III plus 2 semesters of approved English coursework during grade 12.

Social Studies — 4 credits

Alaska Studies (9), one semester of a Social Studies elective, World History (10), U.S. History (11), one semester of United States Government (12), and one semester of Economics (12). Students may waive the .5 credit social studies elective requirement by completion of Level III of a world language (Latin, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish); immersion students may waive the .5 social studies elective requirement by completion of Japanese for Fluent Speaker II or Spanish Immersion: Vistas Juveniles del Mundo Hispano.

Mathematics — 3 credits

Six semesters of Mathematics electives. In order to satisfy the algebra requirements, students must complete one of the following options: Algebra I, semester 1 and 2; **or** Algebra B, semester 1 and 2; **or** Algebra Survey, semester 1 and 2; **or** Credit-by-Choice Challenge by Examination. Students graduating prior to July 1, 2017 will be required to earn 2.5 credits of Mathematics.

Sciences — 3 credits

Three years (six semesters) of science credit are required. Two semesters must be life science. Two semesters must be physical science.

Physical/Health Education — 1½ credits

Three semesters of physical/health education are required. A wide variety of courses are offered at each school. Elective credit must be earned to replace a Physical Education/Health Education requirement that is waived.

- A. Students may obtain a waiver of .25 of the physical education graduation requirement for each full season of ASAA-sanctioned sports participation within the Anchorage School District.
- B. Students may also waive physical education requirements through Credit By Choice, correspondence, or college coursework.
- C. A maximum of 1.0 waiver of the physical education requirement is available upon successful completion of 2 years (four semesters) of JROTC.

Electives — 7 credits

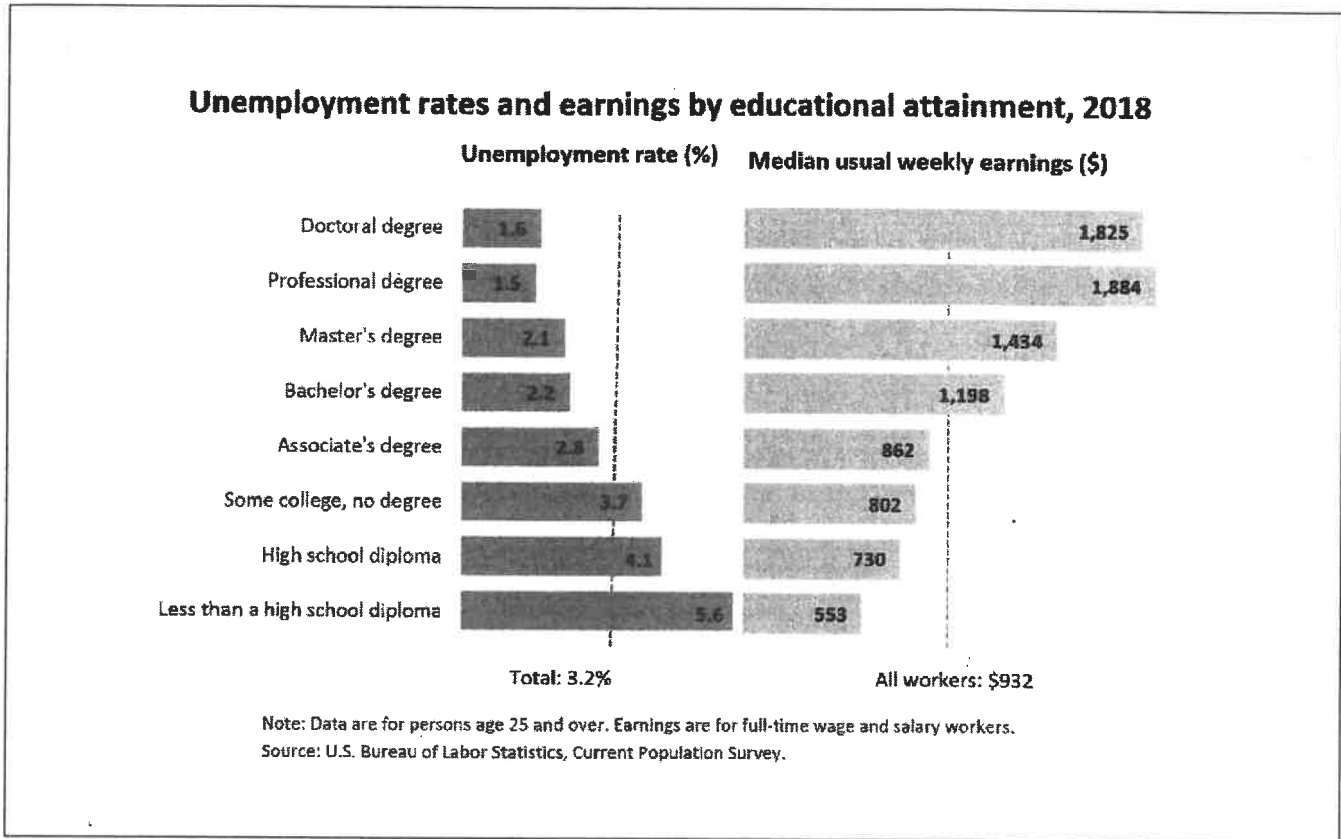
Fourteen semester courses have not been specified so as to provide students an opportunity to pursue individual educational goals. Electives may include additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, World Languages, Physical Education and Career Technology.

Note

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.

Seniors entering the ASD for the first time may graduate by meeting requirements of their previous school when the ASD requirements create hardship.

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment



[Data Table](#)

These education categories reflect only the highest level of educational attainment. They do not take into account completion of training programs in the form of apprenticeships and other on-the-job training, which may also influence earnings and unemployment rates. For more information on training, see: <https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education-training-system.htm>.

BLS has some data on the [employment status](#) of the civilian noninstitutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic origin online.

The Census Bureau also has some data on [educational attainment](#) online.

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