

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. General Information. Graduation requirements are established by the State Board of Education, although local boards of education may establish additional standards exceeding state minimum requirements.
2. Alabama High School Diploma Requirements.
  - A. Students are provided the opportunity to earn one of four type diplomas: the Alabama High School Diploma, the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement, and the Alabama Occupational Diploma, and the Alabama Alternate High School Diploma. Only students meeting all requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in any part of the graduation ceremonies. Students completing the graduation requirements by attending summer school may attend the graduation ceremony the following spring. Graduation certificates may be awarded under the guidelines of section F of this policy.
  - B. Alabama High School Diploma. The Alabama High School Diploma will be issued to those students who complete the minimum state course requirements, earn the minimum credits, and pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Students who maintain a 90 overall average or above for all courses attempted during grades 9 through 12 will graduate with “Honors” and will have such designation noted on their diploma and official transcript. All students receiving the Alabama High School Diploma or the Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement must pass all sections of the Alabama Graduation Exam.
  - C. Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement. The Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Endorsement was created by the State of Alabama to challenge students to complete a more demanding course of study and to better prepare students for further study at the post-secondary level. The Alabama High School Diploma with Advanced Academic Endorsement will be issued to all students who complete the minimum state course requirements, and pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam. Students who maintain a 90 overall average or above, for all courses attempted during grades 9 through 12, will graduate with “Honors”, and will have such designation noted on their official transcript.
  - D. Alabama Occupational Diploma. Effective for students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 101-476), students must earn the course credits outlined in Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-3-1-.02(8)(g)1. and successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the Alabama Occupational Diploma.
  - E. Alabama Alternate High School Diploma. A senior may receive the Alabama Alternate High School Diploma if that student has received passing grades for the required course work outlined for the Alabama High School Diploma, but failed to pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam, and passed the GED test.

F. Graduation Certificate. Special Education students may be awarded a graduation certificate and afforded the opportunity to participate in graduation activities under the following circumstances:

- (1) Accumulates the required number of Carnegie credits for graduation but does not pass the Alabama High School Graduation Exam; or
- (2) Passes the Alabama High School Graduation Exam but does not accumulate the required number of Carnegie credits for graduation; or
- (3) Successfully completes the prescribed program specified in his/her Individual Education Plan (IEP) for high school graduation.

3. Alabama High School Diploma:

Minimum credits - 26 Carnegie units

<i>Alabama High School Diploma</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Advanced Academic Endorsement</i>	<i>Credits</i>
<b>English</b> English 9, 10, 11, 12	4	English 9, 10, 11, 12	4
<b>Mathematics</b> To include the equivalent of: Algebra I & Geometry	4	Must include: Algebra II / Trigonometry	4
<b>Science</b> To include the equivalent of: Biology Physical Science or Chemistry 2 Additional Sciences	4	Biology Phy. Science or Chemistry 2 Additional Sciences	4
<b>Social Studies</b> World History Early U.S. History Modern U.S. History Government ( ½ credit) Economics ( ½ credit)	4	World History Early U.S. History Modern U.S. History Government ( ½ credit) Economics ( ½ credit)	4
<b>Other Requirements</b> *Physical Education Health Education Fine Arts **Computer Applications Foreign Language Extra Electives	1 ½ ½ ½ none 7 ½	(Same language)	1 ½ ½ ½ 2 5 ½
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>26</b>

\* The Physical Education credit is waived for students taking band, physical education, or advanced academics.

\*\* The Computer Applications credit may be waived if the student is able to demonstrate proficiency.

4. Alabama Occupational Diploma:

Minimum 24 Carnegie Units Required

Students with disabilities must also successfully complete an approved occupational portfolio in order to be awarded the Alabama Occupational Diploma.

<b>English Language Arts</b>	4 Credits
Four credits to include the equivalent of:	
Employment English I	1
Employment English II	1
Employment English III	1
Applied Employment English IV	1
<b>Mathematics</b>	4 Credits
Four credits to include the equivalent of:	
Job Skills Math I	1
Job Skills Math II	1
Job Skills Math III	1
Applied Job skills Math IV	1
<b>Science</b>	4 Credits
Four credits to include the equivalent of:	
Life Skills Science I 1	1
Life Skills Science II 1	1
Life Skills Science III 1	1
Applied Life Skills Science IV 1	1
Career/Technical Education	2 Credits
Cooperative Career/Technical Education	1 Credit
Health Education	½ credit
Physical Education	1 credit
Fine Arts	½ credit
Electives	3 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 units</b>

## 5. Instructional Requirements

- A. English Language Arts Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit each of English 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- B. Mathematics Required Courses. Students must earn four credits including the equivalent of one credit each of Algebra I and Geometry, and for a diploma with the advanced academic endorsement, one credit of Algebra II and Trigonometry.
- C. Science Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit each of Biology and Physical Science or Chemistry, plus two credits of an additional life and/or physical science.
- D. Social Studies Required Courses. Students must earn four credits to include the equivalent of one credit of World History in grade 9, two credits of United States History in grades 10 and 11, and one-half credit each of American Government and Economics in grade 12.
- E. Other Required Courses. Students must successfully complete the following courses. The content for each of these courses is prescribed by the applicable Alabama Course of Study.
  1. Physical Education – one credit (waived for students taking band, JROTC, and advanced academics)
  2. Health Education – one-half credit
  3. Computer Applications – one-half credit
  4. Fine Arts – one-half credit

5. Foreign Language – Students earning the diploma with the advanced academic endorsement must successfully complete two credits in the same foreign language.

F. Embedded Credit - Applied Academic Courses. Applied Academics is the presentation of subject matter in a way that integrates a particular academic discipline such as mathematics, science, or English with work-force applications and hands-on laboratory experiences dealing with practical equipment and devices. These courses must have a structured curriculum, undergo rigorous scrutiny including pilot testing, and have the approval of the State Superintendent.

References: Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-02,06.

Approved: January 17, 2002