

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Applies to Class of 2016

Area of Study	Requirements	Credits
English	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	4 credits
Social Studies	World History US History 10 US History 11 American Government/Economics	4 credits
Mathematics	Algebra I Geometry Two additional Math Credits	4 credits
Science	Biology Chemistry 2 Additional Life/Physical Science Credits	4 credits
Physical Education	Physical Education L.I.F.E.	1 credit
Health Education	Health	.5 credit
Fine Arts	Music, Art, Theater	1 credit
Computer Applications	Computer Apps or Business Technology Essentials	*.5 credit
Electives	Students work with their counselor, parents and teachers to develop an appropriate four- year plan.	5 credits
	Total credits required for graduation	24 credits

*May be waived if computer literacy, keyboarding skills, and introductory applications are verified by qualified staff at the high school through a competency test. It is strongly suggested that students take a full year of computer applications.

**Students who take Algebra 1 in the eighth grade and complete Precalculus by the end of their junior year will have satisfied the four year requirement for math; however, college bound students are encouraged to take a math course their senior year. If a qualified student chooses not to take math during his/her senior year, the student must take another course from the areas of English, science, social studies, foreign language or business technology.

Additional Hoover High School Diploma Endorsements

Students may earn optional high school diploma endorsements listed below by completing coursework extending beyond the state minimum graduation requirements according to criteria authorized by the state board of education and additional requirements authorized by the local board of education:

Hoover City Schools Seal of Scholastic Excellence• *(effective with the graduating class of 2012)*

- At least four (4.0) credits that meet one of the following criteria:
 - Two (2.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and two (2.0) credits in a college-level course (i.e. AP, IB, or dual enrollment)
 - Three (3.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and one (1.0) credit in a college-level course (i.e. AP, IB, or dual enrollment)
- At least two (2.0) credits of science that meet one of the following criteria:
 - One (1.0) credit in Chemistry and one (1.0) credit in Physics, or
 - One (1.0) credit in Integrated Chemistry / Physics, Pre-AP and one (1.0) credit in an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate science course
- At least one (1.0) credit in math at the Precalculus level
- Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- A minimum of 28.0 earned total credits

Alabama Advanced Academic Endorsement •

- At least two (2.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language
- Science credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Chemistry or Physics
 - The Hoover City Schools Board of Education has increased this science requirement beyond the State of Alabama's minimally defined credits
- Math credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Algebra 2 with Trigonometry
- A minimum of 26.0 earned total credits
 - The Hoover City Schools Board of Education has increased the total credit requirement beyond the State of Alabama's minimum requirement by two (2.0) additional credits

Alabama Career Technical Education Endorsement •

- At least three (3.0) credits in a sequenced Career Technical Education program of study
- A minimum of 24.0 earned total credits

Alabama Advanced Career Technical Education Endorsement

- At least three (3.0) credits in a sequenced Career Technical Education program of study
- Math credits must include at least one (1.0) credit in Algebra 2 with Trigonometry
- A minimum of 24.0 earned total credits

The Alabama Occupational Diploma

****Students will receive regular diploma but must meet requirements of AOD.***

See case manager for specific requirements.

- The Alabama Occupational Diploma (AOD) is achieved through the standard curriculum or an alternative that is aligned with the Alabama courses of study. The recipients of this diploma are students with some form of learning disability. While the AOD is prescriptive in nature and offers the maximum high school requirements arrived at by the Individual Education Plan (IEP) Committee for each eligible student, it does not meet the U.S. Department of Education's definition of a high school graduate

Alabama High School Diploma (NEW)

Beginning with the Class of 2017

Areas of Study	Requirements	Credits
English Language Arts	English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12	4.0
Mathematics	Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 w/ Trig or Algebra 2 (or equivalent) 1 additional math course	4.0
Science	Biology A physical science (Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics) 2 additional science courses	4.0
Social Studies	World History 9 US History 10 US History 11 Government/Economics	4.0
Physical Education	LIFE (Physical Fitness) Band with completion of LIFE	1.0
Health Education	Health Education	0.5
Career Preparedness	Career Preparedness Course	1.0
CTE /Foreign Language /Arts	Students choose any combination of Career Technical Education (i.e. academies, FCS, TV, computer and business), Arts Education, and/or Foreign Language courses	3.0
Electives	Any other state or locally approved elective courses	2.5
	Total Credits Required for Graduation	24

The focus of the Alabama High School Diploma is on the coursework taken that necessitates a clearly articulated and individualized four-year high school plan. The EXPLORE academic and career interest assessment and middle school coursework are valuable resources when making course selections.

Students in the class of 2017 and all proceeding classes have one endorsement option available:
Hoover City Schools Seal of Scholastic Excellence•

- At least four (4.0) credits that meet one of the following criteria:
 - Two (2.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and two (2.0) credits in a college-level course (i.e. AP, IB, or dual enrollment)
 - Three (3.0) credits of a foreign language in the same language and one (1.0) credit in a college-level course (i.e. AP, IB, or dual enrollment)
- At least two (2.0) credits of science that meet one of the following criteria:
 - One (1.0) credit in Chemistry and one (1.0) credit in Physics, or
 - One (1.0) credit in Integrated Chemistry / Physics, Pre-AP and one (1.0) credit in an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate science course

- At least one (1.0) credit in math at the Pre-calculus level
- Cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- A minimum of 28.0 earned total credits

Students with disabilities now have three pathways for earning the Alabama High School Diploma: General Education Pathway, Essentials/Life Skills Pathway, and Alternate Achievement Standards (AAS) Pathway. See special education case manager for specific requirements regarding these pathways.

Additionally, regular education students may take courses on the Essential Skills Pathway but should know that these courses do not prepare students for a four-year university. Please see counselor for further information regarding this pathway.

New Valedictorian/Salutatorian Selection Procedures for Class of 2017 and Beyond

Beginning with the class of 2017 every student enrolled in Hoover City Schools for a minimum of two years prior to graduation that has successfully completed all requirements to earn the Alabama High School Diploma, the Hoover City Schools Seal of Scholastic Excellence, and a minimum 4.35 grade point average will be named as valedictorian. For the purpose of determining valedictorian status the grade point average will be calculated using only courses taken in grades 9-12.

All students earning the rank of valedictorian will be recognized in the graduation program and have the opportunity to be elected from the group and invited by the Principal two weeks prior to graduation to present the Valedictory and Salutatory Addresses at graduation. This invitation is at the sole discretion of the Principal and can be revoked or reassigned at the Principal's discretion.