

# Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2014-2015 School Year and Forward

## Academic Advisement Flyer—What Students and Parents Need to Know

### What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit option
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

### What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 English Language Arts or a concordant score
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC); the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade\* or a comparative score.

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students must participate in the EOC assessments; the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade\*. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Biology I
- U.S. History
- Geometry

\*Special note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC.

### What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an Advanced Placement (AP) examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Biology I
- U.S. History
- Geometry
- Algebra I

### What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table, and both allow students to substitute a career and technical education (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I and U.S. History).

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment.

### What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

<b>4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ELA I, II, III, IV</li> <li>▪ ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement.</li> </ul>
<b>4 Credits Mathematics</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry.</li> <li>▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry).</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Science</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses.</li> <li>▪ Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component.</li> <li>▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I).</li> <li>▪ An identified rigorous computer science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I).</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Social Studies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1 credit in World History</li> <li>▪ 1 credit in U.S. History</li> <li>▪ 0.5 credit in U.S. Government</li> <li>▪ 0.5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy</li> </ul>
<b>1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts<sup>†</sup></b>
<b>1 Credit Physical Education<sup>†</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To include the integration of health</li> </ul> <p><sup>†</sup> Special note: Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the <a href="#">Florida Course Code Directory</a>.</p>
<b>8 Elective Credits</b>
<b>1 Online Course Within the 24 Credits</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students must meet the state assessment requirements (see left column).</li> <li>▪ Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.</li> </ul>

## What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

Diploma Designations
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scholar Diploma Designation</b></p> <p>In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Earn 1 credit in Algebra II;</li><li>▪ Pass the Geometry EOC;</li><li>▪ Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;</li><li>▪ Pass the Biology I EOC;</li><li>▪ Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics;</li><li>▪ Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics;</li><li>▪ Pass the U.S. History EOC;</li><li>▪ Earn 2 credits in the same world language; and</li><li>▪ Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.</li></ul> <p>A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and</li><li>▪ Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Merit Diploma Designation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meet the standard high school diploma requirements</li><li>▪ Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per section 1003.492, Florida Statutes [F.S.]).</li></ul>

### Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all of the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

### What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).

### Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#).

## What are the public postsecondary options?

State University System (SUS)
<p>Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ High school graduation with a standard diploma</li><li>▪ Admission test scores</li><li>▪ 16 Credits of approved college preparatory academic courses<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li><li>○ 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li><li>○ 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li><li>○ 3 Social Science</li><li>○ 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)</li></ul></li><li>▪ 2 Approved electives</li></ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">State University System of Florida</a></p>
The Florida College System
<p>The 28-member Florida College System offers career-related certificates and Associate in Science degrees that prepare students to go directly into the workforce, as well as Associate of Arts degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. The Florida College System has an open-door policy enabling students who have earned a standard high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework to be admitted to an associate degree program.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Division of Florida Colleges</a></p>
Career and Technical Centers
<p>Florida also offers students 48 accredited career and technical centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Secondary Career and Technical Education Directors</a></p>

### Where is information on financial aid located?

The Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance administers a variety of postsecondary educational state-funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#).