

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate from the Cumberland County School system, a student must successfully complete the unit/course requirements shown below in grades 9 through 12. Students are required to meet state and local graduation requirements that were in effect upon their first entry into grade nine.

### I. Graduation Requirements

Units Required - To meet the minimum standards for graduation, the following requirements must be met:

Beginning with students who enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001, graduation requirements will be determined by N.C. Course of Study Requirements. Students will choose one of the following courses of study:

#### (1) Career Prep Course of Study

Graduating Class of 2004 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA A/B and 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics (one in *Algebra I)	3	3	3
Social Studies (one in political, economic and legal systems, one in world studies, one in U.S. History) Effective with the first time 9 <sup>th</sup> graders in 2004-2005: Civics and Economics, World History, and U.S. History	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits in Career and Technical Education in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second level (advanced) course appropriate for career pathway</li> <li style="text-align: center;">OR</li> <li>• 4 credits in Career Arts Education appropriate for career pathway to include an advanced course (Dance, Music, Theater Arts, Visual Arts)</li> <li style="text-align: center;">OR</li> <li>• 4 credits in Jr. ROTC to include a second level course</li> </ul>	4	4	4
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			
Electives**	2	10	6
Total	20	28	24

**(2) College Tech Prep Course of Study**

Graduating Class of 2004 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA A/B and 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics shall be either *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; or *Algebra I, Technical Math I, and Technical Math II; or Integrated Math I, II, and III	3	3	3
Social Studies (one in Political, Economic and Legal Systems, one in World Studies, one in U.S. History) Effective with the first time 9 <sup>th</sup> graders in 2004-2005 Civics and Economics, World History, and U.S. History	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career/Technical Ed. which shall be in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second level (advanced) course	4	4	4
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			
Electives**	2	10	6
Total	20	28	24

**(3) College/University Prep Course of Study**

Graduating Class of 2004 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA A/B and 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics (4 <sup>th</sup> credit effective for first time ninth graders 2002-2003) shall be either *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a higher level math course for which Algebra II is the prerequisite; or Integrated Math I, II, and III, and a credit beyond Integrated Math III	4	4	4
Social Studies (one in Political, Economic and Legal Systems, one in World Studies, one in U.S. History) Effective with the first time 9 <sup>th</sup> graders in 2004-2005 Civics and Economics, World History, and U.S. History	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Health & PE	1	1	1
Second Language (required - two (2) course units in the same second language)	2	2	2
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			
Electives**	3	11	7
Total	20	28	24

\*The Algebra I requirement may be fulfilled by successfully completing Algebra I in the eighth (8th) grade – does not count as credit toward graduation.

\*\*At least one credit in an arts discipline is recommended.

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the student could have possibly earned over his/her high school career during the regular school year.

**(4) Occupational Course of Study**

Students must have an approved Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Graduating Class of 2004 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA A/B and 7 period day
Occupational English (I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Occupational Mathematics (I,II,III)	3	3	3
Social Studies (Government/U.S. History, Problem Solving/Self Advocacy)	2	2	2
Science (Life Skills Science I,II)	2	2	2
Computer Skills (A specific course is not required. Computer proficiency as specified in the IEP)			
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career/Technical Ed. (Vocational Education electives)	4	4	4
Occupational Preparation (Four (4) courses)****	6	6	6
Arts Ed. (Recommended)			
Electives		6	2
Total	22	28	24

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the students could earn over his or her high school career during the regular school year.

\*\*\*\*Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.

**Beginning with students who enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-2009, graduation requirements will be determined by N.C. Course of Study Requirements. Students will choose one of the following courses of study:**

**(1) Career Prep Course of Study**

Graduating Class of 2012 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-2009)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics (one in *Algebra I)	3	3	3
Social Studies (one Civics and Economics, one in World History, one in U.S. History)	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Arts Education ( <i>Requirement has been delayed and will be implemented for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-2011 if funding is available.</i> )			
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits in Career and Technical Education in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second level (advanced) course appropriate for career pathway</li> <li style="text-align: center;">OR</li> <li>• 4 credits in Career Arts Education appropriate for career pathway to include an advanced course (Dance, Music, Theater Arts, Visual Arts)</li> <li style="text-align: center;">OR</li> <li>• 4 credits in Jr. ROTC to include a second level course</li> </ul>	4	4	4
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			

Electives**	2	10	6
Total	20	28	24

## (2) College Tech Prep Course of Study

Graduating Class of 2012 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-2009)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics shall be either *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; or *Algebra I, Technical Math I, and Technical Math II; or Integrated Math I, II, and III	3	3	3
Social Studies (one Civics and Economics, one in World History, one in U.S. History)	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Arts Education <i>(Requirement has been delayed and will be implemented for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-2011 if funding is available.)</i>			
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career/Technical Ed. which shall be in a career concentration or pathway that leads to a specific career field and which shall include a second level (advanced) course	4	4	4
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			
Electives**	2	10	6
Total	20	28	24

## (3) College/University Prep Course of Study

Graduating Class of 2012 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-2009)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA 7 period day
English (English Language Arts shall be English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics (4 <sup>th</sup> credit effective for first time ninth graders 2002-2003) shall be either *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and a higher level math course for which Algebra II is the prerequisite; or Integrated Math I, II, and III, and a credit beyond Integrated Math III	4	4	4
Social Studies (one Civics and Economics, one in World History, one in U.S. History)	3	3	3
Science (one in a Physical Science, Biology, and Earth/Environmental Science)	3	3	3
Arts Education <i>(Requirement has been delayed and will be implemented for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-2011 if funding is available.)</i>			
Health & PE	1	1	1
Second Language (required - two (2) course units in the same second language)	2	2	2
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test, and NC Competency Test			
Electives**	3	11	7
Total	20	28	24

\*The Algebra I requirement may be fulfilled by successfully completing Algebra I in the eighth (8th) grade – does count as credit toward graduation.

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the student could have possibly earned over his/her high school career during the regular school year.

**(4) Occupational Course of Study**

Students must have an approved Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Graduating Class of 2004 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2000-2001)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA A/B and 7 period day
Occupational English (I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Occupational Mathematics (I,II,III)	3	3	3
Social Studies (Government/U.S. History, Problem Solving/ Self Advocacy)	2	2	2
Science (Life Skills Science I,II)	2	2	2
Computer Skills (A specific course is not required. Computer proficiency as specified in the IEP)			
Health & PE	1	1	1
Career/Technical Ed. (Vocational Education electives)	4	4	4
Occupational Preparation (Four (4) courses)****	6	6	6
Arts Ed. (Recommended)			
Electives		6	2
Total	22	28	24

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the students could earn over his or her high school career during the regular school year.

\*\*\*\*Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.

**Beginning with students who enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009-2010, graduation requirements will be aligned with the following Future Ready Core Course of Study:**

**(1 ) Future Ready Core Course of Study**

Graduating Class of 2013 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2009-2010)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA 7 period day
English (English I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Mathematics shall be either *Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, <b>OR</b> Integrated Math I, II, and III. Fourth math course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans	4	4	4
Social Studies (Civics and Economics, World History, U.S. History)	3	3	3
Science (a Physical Science course, Biology, an Earth/Environmental Science course)	3	3	3
Arts Education ( <i>Requirement has been delayed and will be implemented for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-2011 if funding is available.</i> )			
Health & Physical Education	1	1	1
Proficiency on: NC Computer Skills Test			
Electives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two elective credits of any combination from either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Career and Technical Education <b>or</b></li> <li>b. Arts Education <b>or</b></li> <li>c. Second Language (Credits in the same second language or demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English as determined by the LEA. Minimum application requirements for UNC universities require students to pass two years of a second language.)</li> </ol>           Possible elective combinations may include 2 Second Language credits; or 1 CTE credit and 1 Arts Education credit; or 2 CTE credits; or 1 Arts Education credit and 1 Second Language credit; or other (combinations from a., b., and c.).         </li> </ul>	2	2	2
Electives – 4 Course Concentration	4	11	7
Four-course concentration explanation: <i>Courses to be credited toward the four-course concentration would be earned from courses taken from the core curriculum and/or from the additional electives (as listed below) students may choose to take throughout high school:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career &amp; Technical Education – 4 credits within one of the 16 NC Career Clusters with at least one credit at the second or completer level.</li> <li>• Arts Education – 4 credits (in any combination) from any of the four Arts Education disciplines (Music, Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Dance), with at least one credit at the second level.</li> <li>• JROTC – 4 credits</li> <li>• Second Language – 4 credits within the same foreign language.</li> <li>• Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate – 4 credits of AP/IB courses.</li> <li>• College Connections – 4 high school credits in any combination of Huskins, Concurrent, Learn &amp; Earn Online, or University courses.</li> </ul>			
Total	21	28	24

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the student could have possibly earned over his/her high school career during the regular school year.

## (2) Occupational Course of Study

Students must have an approved Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Graduating Class of 2012 and beyond (Students entering 9 <sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-2009)	State	LEA 4 X 4	LEA 7 period day
Occupational English ( I,II,III,IV)	4	4	4
Occupational Mathematics (I,II,III)	3	3	3
Social Studies I : Government/U.S. History Social Studies II: Self Advocacy/Problem Solving)	2	2	2
Science (Life Skills Science I,II)	2	2	2
Health & Physical Education	1	1	1
Occupational Preparation Education (I, II, III, IV)****	6	6	6
Career/Technical Ed. Vocational Education electives	4	4	4
Computer proficiency as specified in the student's IEP			
Arts Education ( <i>Requirement has been delayed and will be implemented for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-2011 if funding is available.</i> )			
A career portfolio			
Electives		6	2
Total	22	28	24

Graduation Requirements for transfer students will be four (4) less than the maximum number of credits the students could earn over his or her high school career during the regular school year.

\*\*\*\*Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community-based training, and 360 hours of paid employment.

## II. Exit Standards

Effective with the class entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2006-2007 school year, students who are following the Career Prep Course of Study, College Technical Prep Course of Study, or College/University Prep Course of Study shall meet the following exit standards in order to graduate:

Score at proficiency level III (or within one standard error of measurement of the Level III cut-off score) or above on the end-of-course assessment for Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics and Economics, and U. S. History. When a student does not score at proficiency or above on the end-of-course assessment for any of these courses but passes the course, provisions in NC State Board of Education Policy HSP-N-004.0503(e)(2)(B) shall apply.

### III. High School Credit for Courses Taken in Middle School

#### Math and Foreign Language

Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, students who pass mathematics or foreign language courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12 must achieve Level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school mathematics and Foreign Language courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high schools course codes and shall be aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.

#### Science

Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, students who pass science courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12 must achieve Level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school science courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high schools course codes and shall be aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.

#### Social Studies

Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, students who pass social studies courses during grades 6-8 that are described in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12 must achieve Level III or IV on an EOC, if available, to meet that high school graduation requirement. High school social studies courses taken in grades 6-8 which do not have an EOC shall use high schools course codes and shall be aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for grades 9-12. The courses will count toward graduation requirements, but the students' GPA will be computed with courses taken during the high school years.

### IV. North Carolina Academic Scholars Program

The Scholars Program will consist of a single plan as outlined below:

An overall four-year unweighted grade point average of 3.5

<u>Units of Credit</u>	<u>Program Area</u>
4	English
4	Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and one unit of advanced mathematics)

3	Science (a Physics or Chemistry course, Biology and an Earth/Environmental Science Course)
3	Social Studies (Civics and Economics, U.S. History, World History) Note: AP European History may <u>not</u> be used to satisfy this requirement.
2	Foreign Languages (two course units of the same language)
1	Health/Physical Education
1	Career and Technical Education
1	Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theatre Arts or Visual Arts)
5	Electives credits to include at least two second-level or advanced level courses required
TOTAL	<u>24</u>

V. Unit Definition

A unit of credit is earned for satisfactory completion of a course which meets for 135 clock hours or more of instruction. One-half unit of credit is earned for a course which meets for 67-1/2 clock hours of instruction. Number of hours for summer school courses will be based on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) standards.

VI. Receipt of Units

Students in grades 9-12 may earn up to a maximum of ten (10) units during the regular school year (180 days) unless exceptions are approved by the principal.

VII. Transcript

Every student will receive a transcript at the end of each academic year in grades 9-12.

Transcripts shall include:

1. All courses completed and grades earned
2. A record of school attendance
3. Participation in special programs or any other information as determined by the Cumberland County Board of Education
4. Standardized test results
5. Immunization record
6. GPA, class rank

## VIII. Exit Documents

Exit documents will be provided by the Cumberland County Board of Education as follows:

### A. Diploma

In order to graduate and receive a high school diploma, public school students must meet all graduation requirements and attain passing scores on proficiency tests adopted by the SBE and administered by the Cumberland County Schools.

### B. Certificate of Achievement

Students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements but do not attain passing scores on proficiency tests adopted by the SBE and administered by the Cumberland County Schools will receive a certificate of achievement and a final transcript and shall be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

1. The passing score for the NC Competency Test shall be level III or higher.
2. The passing score for the NC Computer Skills Test shall be level III or higher.
3. Special education students may apply in writing to be exempted from taking the NC Competency Test. Before the request is approved, the Cumberland County Schools will assure that the parents, or the child if aged 18 or older, understand that a Certificate of Achievement will be awarded in lieu of a high school diploma.
4. Any student who has failed to pass the proficiency tests by the end of the last school month of the year in which the student's class graduates may receive additional remedial instruction and continue to take the proficiency tests during regularly scheduled testing until the student reaches maximum school age.
5. An Occupational Course of Study (OCS) student who meets all of the OCS requirements EXCEPT the 360 hours of paid employment receives a **Certificate of Achievement**. The student has until maximum school age to work the 360 hours and provide documentation to the school. Upon completion of above stated work requirements, a Diploma will be awarded by CCS.

## C. Graduation Certificate

Effective with the class entering ninth grade for the 1992-1993 school year, special needs students as defined by G.S. 115C-109, excluding gifted and pregnant, who do not meet the requirements for a high school diploma will receive a graduation certificate and shall be allowed to participate in graduation exercises if they meet the following criteria:

1. Successful completion of 20 course units by general subject area (4 English, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 1 Health and Physical Education, and 6 local electives). These students are not required to pass the specifically designated courses such as Algebra I, Biology, or United States History,
2. Completion of all IEP requirements.

## D. Transcript

A student will be eligible for only a transcript in the event the student exits a Cumberland County high school program prior to completion of the requirements for a diploma or certificate. Transcripts shall include:

1. All courses completed and grades earned in grades 9-12
2. A record of school attendance during grades 9-12
3. Participation in special programs or any other information as determined by the Cumberland County Board of Education.

Special Notes

- A. Effective with the graduating class of 2001, all students must earn passing scores on the NC Computer Skills Test. This assessment shall begin with all eighth graders during the 1997-1998 school year. A student with disabilities shall demonstrate proficiency by the use of a portfolio if this method is required by the student's IEP.
- B. Proficiency on the NC Competency Test is a prerequisite for graduation unless exempted by IEP requirements.

RE: Adopted by the Cumberland County Board of Education on November 12, 1985. Revised July 1, 1986. Revised July 12, 1988. Revised July 21, 1989. Revised July 14, 1992. Revised May 11, 1993. Revised September 12, 1995. Revised May 13, 1997. Revised September 9, 1997. Revised May 12, 1998. Editorial Revision July 7, 1999. Revised October 10, 2000. Revised June 13, 2006. Revised March 11, 2008. Revised December 9, 2008. Revised June 9, 2009. Revised October 13, 2009.