



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The minimum number of credits required to graduate from Thornton Academy is 22. Students should be aware that this number of credits is insufficient to qualify for admission to many, if not most, post-secondary college or university programs.

Of the minimum 22 credits, 15.5 credits must meet the following core requirements:

- English: 4 credits
- History: 3 credits
- Mathematics: 3 credits
- Science: 3 credits
- Wellness: 1.5 credits
- Fine Arts: 1 credit

An additional minimum of 6.5 credits must be completed in elective classes.

Thornton Academy considers four years of sequential full-time high school study to be educationally and developmentally appropriate. Therefore, requests for early graduation will not be granted.

External credits

In special circumstances, up to 6 pre-approved credits from an external institution, completed while a student is enrolled at Thornton Academy, may be included. Grades for credits earned from external institutions are not included in the calculation of a student's grade point average.

Requirements for students who enter from alternative educational programs

The following graduation requirements apply to students who enter the Academy from secondary educational programs not associated with the Carnegie unit system. Examples may include international students and homeschooled students.

1-year students (i.e., incoming students enrolled as seniors) must earn a minimum of 6 credits including:

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| 1 English credit | 1 US history credit |
| 1 math credit | 2 additional credits |
| 1 science credit | |

2-year students (i.e., incoming students enrolled as juniors) must earn a minimum of 11 credits including:

2 English credits	1 wellness and/or arts credit
2 math credits	3 additional credits
2 science credits	
1 US history credit	

3-year students (i.e., incoming students enrolled as sophomores) must earn a minimum of 16 credits including:

3 English credits	1 social science credit
3 math credits	1 fine arts credit
3 science credits	.5 wellness credit
1 US history credit	3.5 additional credits

All students entering as 4-year students, or “freshmen,” must follow the 22-credit requirement with core minimums.

Graduation ceremony

The Thornton Academy graduation ceremony and other senior activities are held for the purpose of celebrating students’ completion of all high school requirements, and to confer diplomas. Students who have not met their graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony. An appeal to this policy may be made to the Headmaster.