

Instruction

Graduation Requirements

A student must accumulate a minimum of twenty-five (25) credits in order to be eligible for a Stonington High School diploma. Courses taken in grades nine through twelve will be used to accumulate the necessary credits.

The equivalent of seven courses is considered an average student course load each semester. Six courses (seven for freshman) or the equivalent is the minimum course load that is to be taken by a student each semester.

A student must meet the following course requirements in order to be eligible for graduation:

Subject Area	Credits
English ***	4
Mathematics **	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3 (+ includes .5 civics)
Physical Education	1
Health (Gr. 10)	1
Technology Education	.5
World Language	1
Fine Arts and Business*	1
Electives	3
Senior Project	1 Must receive a grade of “meets standards”.
Community Service	10 Hours per academic school year for grades 9-11, commencing in the 2016/17 academic school year. Student completion will be tracked as part of the Student Success Plan.
<p>* All students must earn at least .5 credit in Art, Band, or Chorus course and .5 Credit in Financial Literacy or Personal Finance course.</p> <p>**_ All students must pass Algebra 2.</p> <p>*** Students may substitute a senior level .5 credit Interdisciplinary College and Career Readiness course as part of the English requirement. This course will be available for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <p>Changes to the credit requirements are the result of state legislation CT PA 17-42 passed in July of 2017. These new requirements will be effective in their entirety for the SHS Class of 2023. However, administration has the ability to implement the new requirements for Mathematics, Social Studies, and World Language effective for the SHS Class of 2020.</p>	

All the above subject areas must be taken in grades nine through twelve. A passing grade must be obtained in order to receive **credit** and fulfill the subject area requirement. At least one semester of English must be taken each semester.

English/Social Studies

Students will demonstrate reading and writing proficiency by attaining the required credits in English and Social Studies.

Mathematics

Students will demonstrate quantitative literacy by attaining the required credits in Mathematics.

Science

Students will demonstrate scientific literacy by attaining the required credits in Science and by successfully completing Biology and Physical Sciences courses.

PE/Health

Students will demonstrate an understanding of behaviors that promote physical fitness and personal lifelong wellness **by earning the required credits in both** Health and Physical Education.

World Language

Students will demonstrate familiarization of another language by successfully completing **one**-years of a study **in the** language and culture of one world language.

Fine/ Arts and Business Education

Students will demonstrate appreciation for the importance of Fine Arts **and Business Education** by successfully completing any combination of courses totaling **≥ 1** credits (.5 credit in Fine Arts; .5 credit in **Business Education**) from the following areas: Fine Arts: **Any art or music course** ; **Business Education: Financial Literacy or Personal Finance course.**

Technology

Students will demonstrate their technological literacy by earning .5 credit in a course that integrates the use of computer software to complete the course objectives of the curriculum. Some examples are Photo Journalism, Broadcast Media, Programming, Graphic Arts, CAAD, Publications, Music Technology, Robotics, Engineering.

Senior Project

The Senior Project requires students to apply and broaden their knowledge and skills in an area of personal interest. Throughout their senior year, under the guidance of community mentors, teaching staff and the Senior Project Committee, seniors will complete an educational experience determined to be worthy in scope and content.

Community Service

Students will demonstrate their understanding of civic responsibility by completing all community participation requirements in conjunction with the .5 credit civics requirement (Civics in Action; AP Government) and complete ten hours of community service of their choice per year, during grades 9-11 (commencing 2016/2017). Community service hours for seniors will be replaced with their Senior Project internship hours.

Exceptions/Exemptions

- A. Transfers: if a student transfers into Stonington High School after completing at least three years in a high school in another district, he/she may be exempted from Stonington's **specific course** requirements for graduation **if the schedule does not allow completion.**
- B. Out of district placements: if a student returns to Stonington High School after completing at least three years in an alternative setting, he/she may be exempted from Stonington's **specific course** requirement for graduation **if the schedule does not allow completion.**

Special Needs

Students with special needs are encouraged to participate in the, **academic programs** as outlined in the graduation requirements. However, the Planning Placement Team (PPT) shall determine, as documented through each child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 accommodation plan, to what extent

students shall meet the requirements, as appropriate. The IEP or 504 plan will designate appropriate modifications and accommodations as needed.

Stonington High School students enrolled abroad in a foreign exchange program may fulfill subject area requirements for graduation. Students must have their programs approved prior to their departure. This approval will provide the student and their family an anticipated graduation date should all coursework be approved by the administration and appropriate credits awarded.

A senior taking part in a foreign exchange program may graduate at either the school abroad or at SHS. Duplicate diplomas will not be issued. A senior who graduates abroad may return as a postgraduate student upon his/her return to improve postsecondary opportunities.

Deficient grades and/or credit may be made up during summer school sessions at accredited high schools or approved online programs. Full credit will be given only for courses being repeated. Successful grades in summer school courses not previously taken at Stonington High School will be granted no more than one-half credit per course. For computation of grade point average, all repeated course grades will be averaged with the original analogous course at Stonington High School.

Exceptions to these requirements can only be made via a legally constituted IEP as described by state and federal statutes pertaining to special education students **and may only apply to the modifications/accommodations of coursework.**

Promotion from grade to grade will be dependent on achieving the following number of credits.

To Grade 10 5 CREDITS
Grade 11 12 CREDITS
Grade 12 17 CREDITS

Any veteran holding an honorable discharge after a minimum of ninety (90) days of active service in World War II shall be awarded a high school diploma after requesting such diploma.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination.
Limitation on use of test results.

10-16(l) Graduation exercises

10-221a High school graduation requirements (as amended by P.A. 00-156, an act concerning high school diplomas and veterans of World War II.)

Policy adopted: December 10, 1998
Revised: November 9, 2000
Revised: May 9, 2002
Revised: January 13, 2011
Approved: January 28, 2016
Revised/Approved: November 8, 2018

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stonington, Connecticut