

The High School Diploma and the Certificate of Completion

Course Requirements

Certificate of Completion

- A modified course of study leading to a certificate of completion as defined by the student's school district

High School Diploma

- A specific course of study that must meet state and school district academic standards and diploma requirements

Post-secondary Education Options

Certificate of Completion

- Access to community college courses
- Access to some apprenticeship programs

High School Diploma

- Access to community college courses
- Access to 4-year universities if certain criteria is met (see below)
- Access to Job Corps
- Access to all apprenticeship programs
- Eligible to join the military

Post-secondary Agency Support Options

Certificate of Completion

- San Diego Regional Center and/or Department of Rehabilitation services if eligible

High School Diploma

- San Diego Regional Center and/or Department of Rehabilitation services if eligible

Other Considerations

Educational:

- A certificate of completion provides eligibility to continue on to the school district's Adult Transition program through age 21
- CSU and UC systems require that students have a high school diploma, pass the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or a proficiency examination from another state, or have a General Education Development (GED) Certificate. A student must also meet the Subject (A-G), GPA and SAT/ACT test requirements specified by the system and/or campus. A CA Certificate of Completion does not qualify a student for university admissions.
- If a student satisfactorily completes community college transfer requirements to a 4-year university there is no high school graduation requirement.
- With limited exceptions, a diploma or its equivalent (e.g. California High School Proficiency Examination or GED) is required to qualify for federal financial aid.

Employment:

- Adult clients of San Diego Regional Center and/or the Department of Rehabilitation may be eligible for Supported Employment
- If the student is a Regional Center or Department of Rehabilitation client, a certificate of completion may provide an indication of appropriate support services
- Employment applications typically ask if the applicant has a high school diploma.