

Reduced Course Load Option for Seniors

For the 2024-25 school year, in order to best support Fulton County Schools’ seniors, our district will grant seniors the opportunity to take a reduced course load by allowing them to drop one course per semester. As a school we will ensure seniors are enrolled in the courses needed to graduate on time. Therefore, school counselors will diligently work to schedule seniors, requesting a reduced course load for courses required to meet the current 23 credit graduation requirement. Below you will find the remaining graduation course requirements you need to obtain your high school diploma:

Graduation Requirement	Credit
Total Credits Needed to Graduate	

As you consider whether you will continue as a full-time student or whether you will take advantage of the reduced course load option the following points need to be considered:

1. **Student Athletes and Student Performers:** (Per GHSA) To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation. **Therefore, any student who wishes to play Winter or Spring sports second semester must earn 2.5 credits (5 semester courses) in the Fall Semester in order to be eligible.**

2. **College Admissions:** students seeking college admissions should consider the impact of taking a reduce course load their senior year and the impact it may have on being competitive during the college admissions process. Before choosing to take a reduced course load please check with the colleges or universities you are interested in.

3. **HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship Eligibility:** seniors wishing to raise their [HOPE GPA](#) may need additional core courses in their schedule to reach the desired GPA needed to secure the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship. Taking a reduced course load can impact a student’s ability to improve their HOPE GPA. Students will also need a minimum of four [HOPE rigor courses](#) to be [eligible for HOPE](#).

If you agree and understand the impact of a reduced course load and would like to pursue this option, please sign and date below and complete the **Reduced Course Load Option Form**. **This signed letter needs to be sent to the student’s counselor and the Reduced Course Load Option Form listing the courses you wish to take need to be completed.**

Student Full Name (please print) **Date**

Parent Name and Signature (please print) **Date**