

Descriptor Term: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Descriptor Code: IHF

Rescinds:

Board Approved: 7/6/2021

Previously Approved: 7/8/2019

A. GENERAL EDUCATION

The Board of Trustees requires a minimum graduation requirement of 32 Carnegie units or students may meet one of the graduation options as allowed by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Mississippi Public school Accountability Standards and the successful completion of a course of study as outlined in the student's Individual Career and Academic Plan, iCAP. The district will offer a basic curriculum of 41 Carnegie units, which includes the required courses for students choosing either the general education program, career preparatory program, or the college preparatory program.

Units earned for graduation from Gulfport High School (GHS) are counted from the 7th grade forward. Students in the 7th – 8th grade have the opportunity to earn up to six 6 ½ credits which will count towards graduation. The available credit bearing courses are as follows:

- CCR Math Grade 8 – 1 Credit
- Cyber Foundations – 1 Credit
- STEM – 1 Credit
- Spanish I – 1 Credit
- Visual Arts I – 1 Credit
- Mississippi Studies – ½ Credit
- Intro to Geography – ½ Credit
- Chinese I – ½ Credit

The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies .

As specified by Mississippi State Board Policies 3803 and 3804, it will be the policy of the Board that each student graduating from high school be required to pass the designated academic end-of-course tests as designated by the MDE or the Innovative Schools state board policy.

With regard to state assessment, students who have completed designated courses prior to transferring to Gulfport High School (GHS) from out-of-state accredited public schools and/or accredited non-public schools will have assessment requirements reviewed on an individual basis by the principal of GHS or his designee in accordance to Mississippi State Board Policies 3803 and 3804. Students transferring from home-schools or non-accredited private/parochial school must take a subject area test in any course for which the school

2 - IHF - Graduation Requirements

accepts Carnegie units in accordance with Mississippi State Board Policies 3803 and 3804.

Under the Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option Program potential or recent student dropouts may dually enroll in their home school and a local community college in a dual credit program consisting of high school completion coursework and a community college credential, certificate or degree program. Students completing the dual enrollment-credit option may obtain their high school diploma while obtaining a community college credential, certificate or degree.

GRADUATION EXCEPTIONS

Students who fail to complete a course of study and state graduation requirements will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies.

B. SPECIAL EDUCATION

Gulfport School District students with disabilities will work toward a traditional diploma and follow Gulfport School District's graduation requirements for general education students. An alternate course of study is available for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD). This course of student may lead to the Alternate Diploma, which recognizes that a student has completed high school. The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a Traditional Diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a standard high school diploma.

C. GRADUATION PATHWAYS

There are multiple graduation pathways depending on year of enrollment (See attached). Students who entered as freshmen beginning with the 2018-2019 school year will follow the new pathway that is attached.

Source: MS Code 37-17-6 and 37-16-7

NOTE: The following Graduation Pathways are for students who entered as freshmen **PRIOR** to 2018-2019.

Mississippi High School Graduation Pathways

Career Pathway Option* 21 Credits***		Traditional Pathway Option* 24 Credits Minimum		District Option** 21 Credits Minimum		MS Early Exit Exam Option**** (Applies only to students in a State Board of Education (SBE) approved Innovative Program) 17.5 Credits Minimum	
Graduation Requirements	Required Courses	Graduation Requirements	Required Courses	Graduation Requirements	Required Course	Graduation Requirements	Required Courses
4 Credits of English 3 Credits of Math 3 Credits of Science 3 Credits of Social Studies 0.5 Credit of Health/ Physical Education 1 Credit of Integrated Technology 4 Credits of Career and Technical Education Electives 2.5 Credits of Electives	English I, English II Algebra I Biology I 1 U.S. History 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies 0.5 Comprehensive Health 0.5 OR Physical Education Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding From Student's Program of Study	4 Credits of English 4 Credits of Math 4 Credits of Science 4 Credits of Social Studies 0.5 Credit of Health 0.5 Physical Education 1 Credit of Business & Technology 1 Credit of Art 5 Credits of Electives	English I, English II Algebra I Biology I 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 Geography 0.5 Economics 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies 0.5 Comprehensive Health Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding	4 Credits of English 4 Credits of Math 3 Credits of Science 3 Credits of Social Studies 0.5 Credit of Health 1 Credit of Business & Technology 1 Credit of Art 4.5 Credits of Electives	English I, English II Algebra I Biology I 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies 0.5 Comprehensive Health Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding	2 Credits of English 3 Credits of Math 2 Credits of Science 2.5 Credits of Social Studies 1 Credit of Health & Physical Education 1 Credit of Business & Technology 1 Credit of Fine Art 5 Credits of Electives	English I, English II Algebra I Biology I 1 U.S. History 1 World History 0.5 U.S. Government 0.5 Mississippi Studies OR approved SBE equivalent courses 0.5 Comprehensive Health 0.5 Physical Education Technology Foundations, ICT, 9th STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding Electives should align with postsecondary admission standards.

Individual Career and Academic Plan (iCAP)

Each student in Mississippi schools must have an iCAP that is personalized to meet his or her educational and career goals. Students who choose the Career Pathway Option must complete 4 career and technical education units and 2.5 elective units specified in the students iCAP.

Subject Area Tests

The Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) consists of four academic, end-of-course tests (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U.S. History from 1877). A passing score in each of the four subject-area tests is required.

* Career and Traditional Pathway Options are State Board required.

** District Pathway is a local decision.

*** The Career Pathway Option is available for all students beginning in 2011-2012

**** The Mississippi Early Exit Diploma indicates that students are ready to do college level work without remediation and opens up a variety of educational and career pathways within and beyond high school. In order to qualify for a Mississippi Early Exit Diploma, in addition to earning the Carnegie Units listed, students must meet college and career qualification scores in *all* core content areas on a series of End of Course (EOC) exams and/or the required benchmarks for college readiness on the ACT or Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) approved college entrance exam.

Source: Appendix A Mississippi Accountability Standards 2014

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL)

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN MISSISSIPPI STANDARD 32

CURRICULUM AREA	CARNEGIE UNITS	REQUIRED SUBJECTS
ENGLISH	4	English II (Equivalent Course)
MATHEMATICS	3	Algebra I ¹ Geometry Algebra II
SCIENCE	3 (2 Lab-Based)	SELECT 3 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST: Physical Science ⁴ Biology Advanced Biology Chemistry Advanced Chemistry Physics Advanced Physics Or any other science course with comparable content and rigor
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	U.S. History World History U.S. Government (½) Economics (½) <i>or</i> Geography (½)
COMPUTER EDUCATION	½	Computer Applications⁵
ADVANCED ELECTIVES	2	SELECT 2 UNITS⁶ FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST: Foreign Language ³ World Geography 4th -year lab-based Science 4th-year Mathematics
TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED	15.5⁷	

¹Courses must require substantial communication skills; ²A fourth class in higher-level mathematics is highly recommended; ³Pre-high school units: Algebra I or first-year Foreign Language taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission, provided course content is the same as the high school course; ⁴One Carnegie unit from a Physical Science course with content at a level that may serve as an introduction to Physics and Chemistry may be used; ⁵This course should include use of application packages such as word processing and spread sheets. The course should also include basic computer terminology and hardware operation; ⁶One of the two units must be in Foreign Language or World Geography; ⁷Limited exceptions to high school unit requirements may be available. For more information contact the Office of Admissions. Admission requirements are subject to change without notice at the direction of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

NOTE: The Graduation Pathways on this page are for students who entered as freshmen during the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter.

Mississippi Diploma Options

Begins with incoming freshmen of 2018-2019

Mississippi has two diploma options: The Traditional Diploma and the Alternate Diploma. The Traditional Diploma is for all students. The Alternate Diploma is an option for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements

- Student should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.
- For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:
 - Have a 2.5 GPA
 - Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
 - On track to meet diploma requirements
 - Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

Recommendations

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement.
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTION

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• Alternate English Elements I-IV
Mathematics	4	• Alternate Math Elements I-III • Alternate Algebra Elements
Science	2	• Alternate Biology Elements • Alternate Science Elements II
Social Studies	2	• Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History) • Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	• Alternate Health Elements
Arts	1	
Career Readiness	4	• Career Readiness I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)
Life Skills Development	4	• Life Skills Development I-IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24	

Requirements

- The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program-Alternate (MAAP-A) with a score TBD.
- Students who have met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternate Diploma.

Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma should identify an endorsement prior to entering ninth grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course
 - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience
 - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential

ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • 1 U.S. History • ½ U.S. Government • ½ Economics • ½ Mississippi Studies
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet 2 advanced electives of the CPC requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC).
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
 - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
 - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
 - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course