

High School Graduation Requirements

1. **Mathematics** - *3 credits* One (1) credit may be a crossover credit (accounting or business math taken during junior or senior year)
2. **Science** - *3 credits* One (1) credit may be a crossover credit (1 year of Anatomy & Physiology/Veterinary Science taken during junior or senior year = 1 crossover credit).
3. **Social Science** - *3 credits* World History or AP World History - sophomores, American History - juniors, and US Government or AP Government - seniors
4. **English** - *4 credits*
5. **Health Enhancement** - *2 credits* (Required for Freshmen and Sophomores)
6. **Fine Arts** - *1 credit* Band, Choir, Art or Drama
7. **Career and Technical Education** - *1 credit* Agriculture, Business, Computers, or Family and Consumer Sciences.
8. **Additional Electives** - Complete 5 elective courses above the 17 required classes
9. **Financial Literacy requirements** – *½ credit* will be included in select CTE or other elective course offerings.
10. A total of 22 credit hours earned for graduation.

Publication of Graduation Requirements

Prior to registering in high school, each student will be provided with a copy of the current graduation requirements. Graduation requirements shall also be included in the student handbook.

Credits

Students shall be expected to earn a total of twenty-two (22) credits in order to complete graduation requirements. Special education students who have successfully completed their IEP leading to completion of high school will be awarded a diploma.

Waiver of Requirement

Graduation requirements generally will not be waived. The Board may waive specific course requirements based on individual student needs and performance levels. Waiver requests shall also be considered with respect to age, maturity, interest, and aspirations of the students and shall be in consultation with the parents or guardians.

Alternative Programs

A student may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the district's curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards stated in the education program. Credit toward graduation requirements may be granted for planned learning

experiences from accredited programs, such as summer school, university courses, and correspondence courses, extension, and distance learning courses, adult education, summer school, work study, work-based learning partnerships, and other experiential learning opportunities, custom-designed courses, and challenges to current courses. The District shall accept units of credit taken with the approval of the District and which appear on the student's official school transcript. Credit for work experience may be offered when the work program is a part of and supervised by the school.

All classes attempted at Fergus High School and all acceptable transfer credits shall be recorded on the transcript. All grades earned, including failures and retakes, shall be recorded as such and utilized in the calculation of Grade Point Average and class rank. Credit shall be awarded only once regardless of repetition of the course.

Dual Credit

Dual credit allows high schools students to simultaneously earn credit toward both a high School diploma and college coursework that can lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate, or toward transfer to another college. As noted in the Student Handbook, the District will assign the grade given by the classroom instructor to the *student's report card*. The primary purpose of offering dual credit courses is to deliver high quality, introductory, college level courses to high-performing high school students. The Lewistown School District has dual credit partnerships with Universities and Colleges within the State of Montana. Students interested in dual credit opportunities must meet with their-building administration and/or school counselors to determine available options.

Students should be aware of Montana High School Association on-campus attendance Eligibility requirements for activity participation.

Honor Roll

A student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.00 to be placed on the regular honor roll. Specific information regarding honors at graduation is included in the student handbook.

Class Rank (Grade Point Average)

Class Rank is compiled from semester grades. Courses not eligible for GPA are designated with an asterisk on the report card.

Early Graduation

In accordance with provisions of § 20-9-313, MCA, the ANB of a school may be increased when a high school district provides early graduation for a student who completes graduation requirements in less than eight semesters or the equivalent amount of secondary school enrollment. The increase must be established by the trustees as though the student had attended

to the end of the school fiscal year and must be approved, disapproved, or adjusted by the superintendent of public instruction.

The Board hereby authorizes the high school principal to recommend to the Board for early graduation students who have completed the minimum requirements for graduation in less than eight-semester.

Early graduation may occur only by completing the Early Graduation Request form, Policy 2410F, and obtaining approval of the School Board of Trustees

Post-Graduation

The Board may admit an individual who has graduated from high school but is not yet 19 Years of age even though no special circumstances exist for waiver of the age requirements outlined in Policy 3110. The Board authorizes the administration to notify parents and students of this opportunity to enroll after earning a diploma or purposes post-secondary or career preparation. Any student enrolled under this provision shall be included in the District's ANB calculation.

Educational Disruption

If a student who has experienced an educational disruption meets the minimum high school credit requirement for graduation as established by administrative rules of the Board of Public Education but will not meet a higher credit requirement established by Board of Trustees, the District shall award the student a diploma. The District may distinguish the diploma in a reasonable manner from standard diplomas issued under this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, "educational disruption" means a disruption experienced during grades nine through twelve caused by homelessness, involvement in the child welfare system or juvenile justice system, a medical or mental health crisis, or another event considered a qualifying educational disruption by the District.

Cross Reference: Policy 1005FE
Policy 2600
Policy 3125

Legal Reference:	20-9-313, MCA	Circumstances under which regular average number belonging may be increased
	10.55.906, ARM	High School Credit
	10.55.905, ARM	Graduation Requirements
	10-1-1402, MCA	Montana Youth Challenge
	Chapter 80	2021 General Legislative Session
	HB246	2021 General Legislative Session

Policy History:

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