

## Instruction

### Graduation Requirements

The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees believes in the vision that the Academy is a student-centered school that emphasizes individual growth and development through student engagement in diverse instructional opportunities effectively managed by an empowered faculty, supported by a participating community, and characterized by the highest global values of a rapidly changing world.

To that end, the Woodstock Academy Graduation Requirements are in alignment with the school's mission which prepares ALL students by providing diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and a variety of programs in order to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and global citizens.

#### Minimum Requirements for Graduation

All students must earn a minimum of 25 credits to graduate (students have the opportunity to earn 32 credits over the course of 4 years). Seniors must carry a minimum of 6 credits and must pass a minimum of 5 credits to be eligible to graduate. To participate in graduation exercises, each student must have earned the minimum credits, which must include:

#### **NINE (9) HUMANITIES CREDITS**

English	4
Social Studies	3
Fine Arts	1
Additional Humanities Credits	1

#### **NINE (9) STEM CREDITS**

Mathematics	4
Science	3
Additional STEM Credits	2

#### **OTHER\***

World Language	1
Physical Education & Wellness	1
Health/Safety	1
Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment**	1
<u>Additional Credits</u>	3
<b>TOTAL MINIMUM CREDITS</b>	<b>25</b>

\* Beginning with the class of 2027, students must also earn one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy (can be applied to humanities or as an elective credit).

\*\* Optional beginning with the class of 2024

#### Performance Standards

##### *Reading Performance Standard*

A student will read a variety of texts (i.e., literary, informational, and persuasive) and describe their general content.

##### *Writing Performance Standard*

A student will produce an essay that 1.) employs appropriate process; 2.) has a beginning, middle, and end; 3.) adequately develops a clear thesis; and 4.) adheres to the conventions of standard written English.

### *Mathematics Performance Standard*

A student will analyze a mathematical problem and apply strategies and processes that will yield an appropriate solution. The student will either explain in writing or in a pictorial, graphical, or algebraic representation how she/he arrived at each solution or justify each solution.

### *Science Performance Standard*

A student will analyze a scientific problem and apply strategies and processes that demonstrate the use of experimentation and scientific reasoning to realistic problems.

### Demonstration of Performance Standards

Students may demonstrate achievement of the performance standards as follows:

#### *Reading/Language Arts*

- Achieve a minimum score of 370 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion of the PSAT or SAT, or 19 on the ACT Reading Test, or;
- Earn an overall minimum C- average in Freshman and Junior English or Developmental Reading, or;
- Achieve a minimum Degrees of Reading Power percentile rank for spring grade 10 (at an independent level or P=.90) of 70% which will be administered by the Administration and scored by the Graduation Performance Standards Committee.

#### *Writing*

- Achieve a minimum score of 370 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion of the PSAT or SAT, or 450 on the Writing portion of the SAT I, or 450 on the SAT II Writing Test, or 19 on the ACT English Test, or;
- Earn a minimum grade of C- in Sophomore English or Modern U.S. History, or;
- Produce an essay that is focused, organized, elaborated, and edited for standard English conventions, earning a minimum rating of six (6) on the Academy Writing Rubric, which will be part of a performance portfolio reviewed by the Graduation Performance Standards Committee.

#### *Mathematics*

- Achieve a minimum score of 380 on the Mathematics portion of the PSAT or SAT, 450 on the Mathematics portion of the SAT I, or 19 on the ACT Mathematics test, or;
- Earn an overall minimum C- average in a three-credit sequence of mathematics courses. If the student has not earned an overall C- minimum average, he/she must take and pass a fourth problem-solving course from the annually generated list of math-based classes published in The Student Handbook.

During this time, the Dean of Academics will provide him/her with the problems that require demonstration of basic math operations, including fractions and decimals, and earn a minimum rating of two (2) on the Academy Mathematical Rubric reviewed by the Graduation Performance Standards Committee.

#### *Science*

- Achieve a score at levels 3, 4, or 5 on the NGSS Science test or;
- Achieve a minimum score of 19 on the ACT Science Reasoning subtest, or;
- Earn an overall minimum C- average in a Science, Biology, and a third science course. If the student has not earned an overall C- minimum average, he/she must take and pass a fourth science course.

During this time, the Dean of Academics will provide him/her the opportunity to complete at least two science performance tasks earning a minimum rating of two (2) on a NGSS rubric, which will become part of a performance portfolio reviewed by the Graduation Performance Standards Committee.

### Notifications

*Students:* At the beginning of the senior year, each senior shall be notified by their counselor of their relative status to meeting standards for graduation.

*Parents/Guardians:* The Counseling Office will notify in writing parents/guardians of seniors who have not met the performance standards by November 30, February 10, and April 15.

### Exemptions

ELL students may be exempt from the graduation performance standards if they have received instruction in English for fewer than three years, or if other factors for exemption exist as determined by their counselor and the Associate Head of School.

Special Education students may be exempt from the graduation performance standards if determined by a PPT.

Transfer students may be exempt from the graduation performance standards if they have completed fewer than four semesters at The Woodstock Academy.

### Appeal Process

There is no appeal to the scoring of the NGSS, SAT, ACT, or course grades on the transcript.

The scoring of exhibitions in the performance portfolio may be appealed to the Associate Head of School in writing no later than May 1st. The appeal must specify which exhibitions are in question and specify the reason. The Associate Head of School will appoint a three-member panel to review the portfolio in question and make a recommendation. The Associate Head of School will render a decision within ten school days.

The Associate Head of School's decision may be appealed to the Head of School in writing within five (5) days if the student believes there has been a procedural violation. The appeal must specify the violation. The Head of School will review the records and render a final decision within five days.

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