



Capital School District

Board of Education Policy

Section: Student
Title: Graduation Requirements
Policy #: 700-29
Date Approved: 12/05/12
Date Revised: 10/17/12

Purpose:

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the prescribed instructional program by the award of a diploma or certificate at a graduation ceremony.

Authority:

The Board shall award a diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements for graduation established by the Board. The requirement for graduation shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9-12.

The Board, incorporating requirements from the State, shall identify the planned courses/programs that are required for graduation. These prescribed courses of study shall be on file at the school and in the District and made available, upon request, for review by the designated representatives of the State Board of Education.

No student having completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but he/she may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension.

Delegation of Responsibilities:

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop procedures for implementing this policy to include the recording of student's learning outcomes as determined by the Board and state regulations and shall:

1. Counsel students to know what is expected for graduation or completion of their schooling.
2. Issue periodic warnings to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements.
3. Prepare and submit to the Board for its approval a list of all candidates for the award of a diploma (a list of all graduating students for the information of the Board and released to the public).
4. Prepare suitable diplomas for graduating students and plan and execute graduation ceremonies marking this important achievement.

The same standards for course content and performance that apply to the credits earned at Dover High School apply to credits earned by way of alternative courses and alternative school programs.

Graduation Requirements

Classes of 2011-2012	Credit	Classes of 2013-2014	Credit	Class of 2015 and Beyond	Credit
Traditional Academic		Traditional Academic		Traditional Academic	
English Language Arts	4	English Language Arts	4	English Language Arts	4
History and Social Sciences	3	History and Social Sciences	3	History and Social Sciences	3
Mathematics Required Senior Year of High School (9th grade class starting Fall, 2007)	4	Mathematics Required Senior Year of High School (9th grade class starting Fall, 2007)	4	Mathematics Required Senior Year of High School (9th grade class starting Fall, 2007)	4
Science	3	Science	3	Science	3
	14		14		14
Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1	Physical Education	1
Health	.5	Health	.5	Health	.5
Career Pathway	3 Or 4	Career Pathway	3 Or 4	Career Pathway	3 Or 4
Electives	5.5 or 6.5	Electives	5.5 or 6.5	Electives	3.5 or 4.5
				World Language (9th grade class starting Fall, 2011)	2
Units of Credit	24	Units of Credit	24	Units of Credit	24

Note: Individual Educational Plans will guide students enrolled in special education programs.

*If a student takes 14 academic credits, he or she will need ten supporting coursework credits. If a student takes 15 academic credits, he or she will need nine supporting coursework credits.

Requirements from the Department of Education

The Department shall award diplomas to students who:

- 1. Successfully complete the prescribed course requirements established by the state, or the district, if district requirements are higher than those of the State; and
- 2. Should the State require students to achieve proficient levels of performance, relative to the State high school content standards, on state assessments, these requirements will become part of this policy.

World Language Requirement

Starting with the graduating class of 2015, all students will be required to complete a two-credit requirement in world languages. World language is defined as “any language other than English that is used by peoples around the world for communicating information and ideas and transmitting it culture(s) including American Sign Language (ASL) Latin and Ancient Greek.” Students are provided with options in fulfilling the two-credit requirement by either:

- Earning a minimum of two (2) world language credits in the same language; or
 - Demonstrating novice-high or higher proficiency on a nationally recognized assessment of language proficiency, except English, in the skill areas of speaking, reading and writing, that uses the levels of proficiency as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages or as approved by use by the Delaware Department of Education.
- Students who choose to study ASL should be informed and advised to investigate if the college or university they plan to attend will accept ASL.

Dual Enrollment

Capital students may also take courses from local colleges while attending Dover High School. The Kent County Scholars Program allows students with a B average to take courses tuition-free during the school day from Wesley College and/or Delaware State University. Students may also take courses online if they are offered by accredited institutions and approved by their high school counselor.

Advanced Placement

Capital students planning to attend college are encouraged to take Advanced Placement Courses while attending high school. Many institutions of higher learning award college credit for students who pass the AP exams with a 3 or above. Since colleges/universities each have their own policy involving the awarding of credit, it is important to understand how this might impact a student.

High school requirements needed to matriculate into Delaware's three public institutions of higher learning.

1. University of Delaware (Commitment to Delawareans)

The University of Delaware publishes information regarding the minimum number of college preparatory courses students must complete to be considered for admission. The Commitment to Delawareans provides a roadmap for students to follow if they desire entrance into the University. The University of Delaware's Commitment (2006) includes a balanced curriculum of 20 full-year-academic courses at the College preparatory level. They include:

English (4 years)

Mathematics (4 years drawn only from algebra 1, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability, pre-calculus, and calculus or an equivalent integrated math sequence that incorporates these courses)

Science (4 years total with 3 years drawn only from chemistry, biology and physics)

Foreign Language (3 years in grades 9-12 only)

History and Social Studies (4 years including world history, and other courses drawn from psychology, political science, government, geography, economics, or sociology; a year of college preparatory science may be substituted for one of the social studies courses)

Elective (1)

In addition:

- a. 5 of those units mentioned must be completed during the senior year
- b. 2 of the 20 courses must be at a level higher than college preparatory (such as "Honors," or "Advanced Placement"
- c. Among the 20 courses, no grade may be below a B- and the overall cumulative GPA in the academic courses must be a B+ or higher
- d. A record of good conduct is required
- e. To qualify for this commitment, you must enter the University as a freshman for the fall or spring semester immediately following your high school graduation
- f. Graduation must be from a regionally accredited high school

2. Delaware State University

Delaware State University requires a satisfactory record including 16 acceptable courses with a minimum high school average of “C” in academic work. The courses include:

English (4 years)

Mathematics (3 years including Algebra I and II, Geometry)

History/Social Studies (2 years including American Civilization, U.S. History, World Civilization or African-American History)

Science (3 courses with a laboratory)

Electives (4 courses including foreign language or computer science courses)

HB 399 formed the DSU Inspire Scholarship Program that is modeled after the SEED program at Delaware Technical and Community College and provides tuition scholarships for students for six semesters.

Requirements include that students:

- Be regularly admitted and enroll in the fall semester immediately following graduation from a Delaware public or non-public high school
- Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale, as indicated on the student's official high school transcript
- Complete the FAFSA by March 15 and accept all form of financial aid for which the student is eligible, except for loans
- Must have no felony convictions
- Must complete 10 hours of community service, as defined by the institution, each semester at DSU

3. Delaware Technical and Community College (The SEED Program)

The goal of SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) program is to encourage Delaware students to stay in school and have access to higher education regardless of a family's financial circumstances. The program provides a tuition scholarship for eligible students enrolling on a full time basis in pursuit of an associate's degree at Delaware Technical and Community College or through the Associates in Arts Program (U. De.). The SEED program requires:

- Student GPA of 2.5 or higher
- No felony convictions
- Enrollment in college no later than the fall immediately following high school graduation
- Residency requirements
- Completion of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Completion of Application process to DTCC

Dover High School has a long-standing articulation agreement with DTCC that allows students at DHS to earn credit in the areas of business, marketing, criminal justice, construction, agri-business, industry and engineering, and health and human services.

The Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market is a tuition-savings agreement between the 16 southern states that are members of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). If the major a student plans to take is not offered at the University of Delaware or Delaware State University and the student has been accepted to an eligible program of study at a participating college out of state, the student pays the in-state tuition rate at that institution. For more information, families may contact the Delaware Higher Education Commission.