

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2027 and Beyond

Credit Requirements: A minimum of 25 credits must be earned to meet graduation requirements. Many of these credits are required in specific areas as outlined in the chart below.

NOTE: This chart may be subject to change pending any State (MSDE) revisions to graduation requirements.

Subject	Required Credits	Required Courses
English	4	-English 9 -English 10 <i>or</i> English 10: AP Seminar -English 11 <i>or</i> AP Language and Composition <i>and/or</i> AP Seminar -English 12 <i>or</i> AP Literature and Composition <i>and/or</i> AP Research* (AP Seminar <i>or</i> AP Language and Composition may be taken as well)
Social Studies	3	-Government <i>or</i> AP United States Government and Politics -United States History <i>or</i> AP United States History -World History <i>or</i> AP World History
Science	3	-Conceptual Physics <i>or</i> AP Physics 1 -Chemistry of Earth and Space Science -Biology
Mathematics	4 All students must enroll in a mathematics course each year of high school.	-Algebra I -Geometry -Other credits must be 1 credit in duration and may be selected from the Program of Studies Mathematics course offerings.
Physical Education	1	-Physical Education I <i>or</i> Unified Physical Education (½ credit) -½ credit of any other Physical Education course to fulfill 1 credit graduation requirement.
Health	1	-Health I -Health II
Visual and Performing Arts	1	-Completed credit in any Visual and Performing Arts course may be applied to the state Fine Arts graduation requirements unless otherwise indicated.
Technology Education	1	-Foundations of Technology <i>or</i> Exploring Computer Science <i>or</i> Principles of Engineering (part of Project Lead the Way completer program), <i>or</i> AP Computer Science Principles.
Graduation Pathway: • World Language • <i>Or</i> American Sign Language • <i>Or</i> State Approved Career and Technical Education Completer Program	2 2 3 - 9	-2 credits of the same World Language -2 credits of American Sign Language -See Completer Programs in the Program of Studies.
Financial Literacy	½	-Financial Literacy <i>or</i> -Managing Personal Finances Using Excel (1 credit)
Electives	4 ½ - 12	
Total Credits Required	25	

*Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar *and* AP Research receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. Students who *also* earn scores of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams at any time in high school receive the AP Capstone Diploma™.

Notes

- Credit will be awarded for high school courses completed successfully in middle school.
- Students who successfully complete high school level mathematics courses prior to high school can count the earned credits toward their requirement but still need to be enrolled in a mathematics course in each year of high school.

Student Service-Learning Requirement

The state mandated 75 hours of service-learning requirement may be met by completing the course-related option and/or the exemplary service option. Students must earn 55 service hours to earn senior status. Additional information can be found on the [CCPS Service-Learning page](#).

Additional Requirements

- Four years of approved study beyond grade 8.
- Four credits must be earned after the completion of grade 11.
- Students must meet the High School Assessment requirements for Algebra I, English 10, Biology, and Government. Testing requirements and passing scores vary based on the year of course completion. Details related to each content area are provided below.
- All students shall be assessed no later than grade 10 to determine if the student meets the Maryland State Department of Education criteria for College and Career Readiness in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- Transition courses or other instructional opportunities will be provided to students who have not achieved College and Career Readiness by the end of grade 10. Additional information about College Career Readiness can be found at [College + Career Readiness – Blueprint \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](#).

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP)/ Maryland System of Testing Academic Readiness (MSTAR)

NOTE: These assessment requirements may be subject to change pending any State (MSDE) revisions or requirements.

In Maryland, all students in grades where State assessments are administered (grades 3 – 8 and high school) must participate in either the regular or the alternate State assessments.

Participation Requirements

1. Students in grades 3–8 and 10 must participate in MCAP/MSTAR assessments only for the grade in which they are enrolled. For example, students enrolled in 7th grade will participate in the Grade 7 MCAP/MSTAR Mathematics assessment.
 - MIDDLE SCHOOL EXCEPTION: Effective March 17, 2025, MSDE was granted a waiver allowing students in grades 6 – 8 who are enrolled in a high school mathematics course to take the corresponding MCAP/MSTAR mathematics assessment instead of the statewide grade level assessment. For example, students in grade 8 who are enrolled in an Algebra I course will be permitted to participate in the MCAP/MSTAR Algebra I assessment. Once in high school, these students will participate in the MCAP/MSTAR Geometry, MCAP/MSTAR Algebra 2, and/or other assessments identified through ESSA as their more advanced mathematics assessment. This waiver is in effect from SY 2024-2025 through SY 2027-2028.
2. Dynamic Learning Maps® (DLM®) alternative assessments are administered to eligible Maryland students with significant cognitive disabilities for any federally mandated assessment.
3. Beginning in SY 2023-2024, students entering the ninth grade, the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment for science (LS MISA) and government (American Government) shall account for 20 percent of the student's final grade in the respective high school level science and government courses (COMAR 13A.03.02).