



GA Graduation Requirements

The Georgia Department of Education has raised standards and aligned graduation requirements to best prepare students for college and the workforce.

High school students must complete **23 credits** to graduate and complete exams in these courses.

To receive a high school diploma, all students enrolled in a Georgia school are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT prior to graduation, but neither is mandatory.

Total Required Credits: 23

Math: 4 credits: including Algebra I, II, Geometry, and a fourth higher-level math course

English: 4 credits: English I, English II, English III, English IV

Science: 4 credits: Biology, Physical Science or Physics, Chemistry / Earth Systems / Environmental Science, 4th science in Agricultural Science, Academic Science, DE
(4th science can be used to meet an elective credit as well)

Computer Science (CS): 1 credit
(CS may be substituted for a fourth math credit or third lab science credit)

Social Studies: 3 credits in: U.S. History (and Geography); World History (and Geography)
(.5 credits) in: U.S. Government and Civics; Economic (.5 credit minimum)

Physical Education and Wellness: 1 credit (each .5 credit courses)

Personal Finance: 0.5 credits
(Three years of JROTC may be substituted for one-half unit of Personal Finance if the JROTC instructor attends the Personal Finance training.)

Modern Language: 2 credits (must be in the same language)
(May be waived by the local school district for students, under certain circumstances, to expand and enhance the elective focus)

Fine Arts: 1 credit

Elective Focus: 4 credits
[consisting of Math and/or Science, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities]

Community Service: 20 hours of community service upon graduation



Graduation Route

Full (1) Credit Courses

- These are full-year courses (such as Algebra 1, English, Biology, Chemistry).
- Each course is worth 1 credit upon completion of the standard textbook.
- When a standard textbook is unused, hours will be used to determine credits.
- For example, approx. 150 hours of study equals 1 credit, this helps determine course credit for electives such as: Music, PE, Art, Bible, and others that do not use a standardized textbook to determine content.
- A 1-credit course using a standardized curriculum (i.e. Lifepac) is worth one credit upon completing the material, whether completed faster or slower.
- If a student takes longer to complete the course, issue partial credit (.5) for the first half of the course. The remaining .5 credit is given when the course is completed.

Full (1); Half (.5); and Quarter (.25) Credit Courses:

- All courses can be broken into credits.
 - Each full-credit course (1 credit) is 150 hours of study, typically a full year in length.
 - Each half-credit course (.5 credit) is 75 hours of study, typically a semester in length.
- Note:** Since one full-credit is 150 hours of study, it is not recommended to give more than 8 credits per year.

Dual Enrollment Reporting

- Dual enrollment (DE) courses are generally equal to 1 high school credit.
 - Each 3 and 4-credit college course counts as 1 high school credit.
 - Each 1 and 2-credit college course counts as .5 high school credit.
- RPCA will accept any DE courses offered by an accredited college.
- Dual enrollment courses should be titled according to the official college course title.
- RPCA does not allow dual enrollment credit for ACT scores as a substitution for required high school courses. The student must be taking an actual college course either online or in-person, to be counted as a DE course and pass with a score of >70%
- RPCA will need a transcript or grade report from the college for grade reporting purposes. You can email these to frontdesk.rpca@gmail.com.

A satisfactory record of attendance and conduct is required for all graduates.