State and Local Course Requirements for High School Graduation

CONTENT AREA	FUTURE READY CORE	OCCUPATIONAL COURSE OF STUDY (OCS)
	FOR 9TH GRADERS ENTERING IN 2021-2022 AND BEYOND	
English	4 Credits • English I • English II • English III • English IV	4 Credits • English I • English II* • English III • English IV
Mathematics	4 Credits • NC Math 1, 2, and 3 and a fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student's post-high school plans. NOTE: Credit shall be awarded for Math I, II, and III if taken prior to the 2016-17 school year.	4 Credits • Introduction to Mathematics • NC Math 1 • Financial Management • Employment Preparation IV: Math (to include 150 work hours)
Science	3 Credits • a physical science course • Biology • an earth/environmental science course	3 Credits • Applied Science • Biology • Employment preparation I: Science (to include 150 work hours)
Social Studies	4 Credits • Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy • World History • American History • Economics and Personal Finance	4 Credits • Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy • Economics and Personal Finance • Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1A (to include 75 work hours) • Employment Preparation II: Citizenship 1B (to include 75 work hours)
World Languages	Not required for graduation, but 2 levels are recommended for admission to the UNC System	Not required for OCS
Health and Physical Education	1 Credit • Health /Physical Education I	1 Credit • Health /Physical Education I
Electives or Other Requirements	6 Credits Total 2 Elective credits of any combination from either: • Career and Technical Education (CTE) • Arts Education • World Language 4 Elective credits from one of the following: • Career & Technical Education (CTE**) • JROTC • Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theatre arts, visual arts) • Any other subject area or cross-disciplinary courses (e.g. social studies, science, mathematics, English, and dual enrollment courses)	2 Credits Occupational Preparation: • Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIA (to include 75 work hours) • Employment Preparation III: Citizenship IIB (to include 75 work hours) • Completion of IEP objectives • Career Portfolio required
Career and Technical Education		4 Credits CTE electives
Arts Education	Beginning in the fall of 2025, students entering Grade 9 for the first time shall complete at least one arts education course (from the NCDPI-approved Arts course list) in grades 6-12*** a. Students must complete the full standard arts education course; after-school or partial courses do not count. b. Students transferring in ninth grade or later may be exempt if the requirement delays graduation.	
Computer Science	1 Credit Beginning in the fall of 2026, students entering Grade 9 for the first time in 2026-27 shall complete at least one computer science course (from the NCDPI-approved computer science course list) in grades 6-12***	
Total Minimum Credits Required	22 Credits	22 Credits

* OCS courses aligned with Future Ready Core courses in English II, NC Math 1, and Biology (New NC State Standards and new NC Essential Standards implemented in the 2012–2013 school year).
** For additional information on CTE courses that meet requirements for selected Courses of Study, refer to the CTE Clusters chart located at nccareers.org/
*** Please note this is not an additional requirement in the number of required classes but may be one of the elective courses.