Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements are minimum standards. Students are encouraged to take additional courses during the school year and summer school sessions.

Credits shall include the following:

Required Course	**Credits needed for graduation**	**Required Course Optional Curriculum**	**Credits needed for graduation Optional Curriculum**
English	4	English	4
Math Algebra I or Algebra I Conclusion (1) Geometry or Informal Geometry (1) Other Math Credit (1)	3	Math (any 2 credits)	2
Science Physical Science (1) Biology or AP Biology (1) Other Science Credit (1) *Or* Biology or AP Biology (1) Chemistry or AP Chemistry (1) Physics or AP Physics (1)	3	Science (any 2 credits)	2
Social Studies World History or AP European History (1) US History or AP US History (1) Government or AP Government (½) Economics or AP Economics (½) • To meet the requirement of Financial Literacy (NDCC 15.1-21-21)	3	Social Studies (any 3 credits) • To meet the requirement of Financial Literacy (NDCC 15.1-21-21) • Need Economics or Personal Finance	3
Physical Education	0.5	Physical Education (1.0) Or Physical Education (0.5) and Health (0.5)	1
Health	0.5	Health	See above

World Language, Fine Arts, Career or Tech Education	3	World Language, Fine Arts, Career or Tech Education	2
Electives	5	Electives	7
Minimum Credits Required for Graduation	**22**		**21**

Students must pass the ND Civics Test (NDCC 15.1-21-27) and complete the Fargo Public Schools High School Computer Science and Cybersecurity online module (NDCC 15.1-21-2) in order to graduate from Fargo Public Schools.

* Optional Curriculum Requirements: If completing at least two years of high school a student has failed to pass at least ½ credit from three of the curricular areas or has a grade point average at or below the twenty-fifth percentile of other students in the district who are enrolled in the same grade, the student may request that the student's counselor meet with the student and the student's parent to determine if the student should be permitted to pursue an optional high school curriculum. If a student's parent consents in writing to the student pursuing the optional high school curriculum, the student is eligible to receive a high school diploma upon completion of the requirements.

Minimum credited courses enrollment per year:
The minimum attempted credited courses requirement is six credited courses per semester (freshman and sophomores).
The minimum attempted credited courses requirement is five credited courses per semester (juniors and seniors if on pace for graduation).

School principal may approve exception to minimum credit enrollment per year.

Students who have completed all Fargo Public Schools requirements will be awarded a diploma and are invited to participate in a graduation ceremony. In addition, to be diploma-eligible, a student must earn their last credit from an FPS high school.

A student may participate in the graduation ceremonies only from the school at which they complete their last semester.

Credits earned through an approved online provider or correspondence study may be used toward meeting high school graduation requirements with prior approval by administration. Credits earned through an approved online provider or correspondence will count towards activity eligibility.

Students may retake any course(s) for the purpose of improving their grade(s) or to enhance their knowledge in the subject(s). If the retake course grade is higher or the same as the original grade, the retake course becomes the course of record on the student's transcript. The earlier course, grade and credit are deleted from the transcript. If the retake course grade is lower than the original course grade, the original course remains as the course of record on the transcript

and the retake course is deleted from the transcript. Thus, the student's transcript and the GPA reflect only the highest grade earned. The Fargo Public Schools will not change a course grade transcribed from another district.

Credits earned through Dual Credit Programs may be used toward meeting high school graduation requirements providing the courses have been approved, in advance, by the school principal.

Students who elect to participate in the graduation exercise must wear the authorized cap and gown.

A graduation plan should be addressed for all students with IEPs on an annual basis beginning at age 16 including classes to complete, credits earned, specific transition services, and anticipated graduation date. When a diploma is accepted, all entitlements from the Fargo Public Schools Special Education Services are terminated. Students may participate in graduation ceremonies one time only under any circumstance.

When a student with an IEP earns the credits required for graduation, he/she may choose one of the following options:

- Participate in the graduation ceremony after completing the necessary credits, receive a diploma, and leave the school setting exiting special education services. All IEP services and all entitlements from the Fargo Public Schools are terminated.
- Participate in the graduation ceremony after completing the necessary credits, not receive a diploma, and remain a part of the special services school programming and continue to receive services from the special education department as prescribed in the IEP.
- Not participate in the graduation ceremony, not receive a diploma, and remain part of the special services school programming and continue to receive services from the special education department as prescribed in the IEP.

Graduation Attire

1. Cords
    - Permitted cords/stoles/medallion include:
        - National Honor Society
        - Career and Technical Education Honor Society
        - Military (if student is actively serving)
        - Choice Ready
2. Program Notation
    - Recognition is provided through program notation only for:
        - Students earning the Seal of Biliteracy
        - Students graduating with a 4.0 or above cumulative GPA
3. Hats/Mortarboards
    - Students may decorate their graduation hats/mortarboards only with:
        - An object of cultural significance*
        - A positive message of thanks and gratitude

- Symbols that represent cultural heritage
- The year of graduation

- Except for the inclusion of traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance all decorations must be submitted for prior approval by building administration following the schedule developed by building administration.

Legal Reference
In alignment with North Dakota Century Code § 15.1-19-28:
"15.1-19-28. Dress code - Inclusion of traditional tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance. The board of a school district or a school may not establish a dress code policy that includes prohibiting a student from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a graduation ceremony. For purposes of this section 'tribal regalia' or 'object of cultural significance' means an eagle feather or eagle plume."

2/15/83
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Revised 1/07/10
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Revised 3/2015
Revised 8/2017
Revised 7/2018
Revised 8/2022
Revised 4/2024
Revised 10/2025
Revised 11/2025
Revised 6/2026
Revised 10/2026

AF4310

Fargo Public Schools

APPLICATION TO RETAKE A COURSE

STUDENT_____ Student ID #_____

ADDRESS_____

SCHOOL_____

GRADE CURRENTLY ENROLLED_____ GRADE ENROLLED WHEN COURSE WAS ORIGINALLY TAKEN_____

COURSE TO BE RETAKEN_____

COURSE NUMBER_____

ORIGINAL LETTER GRADE RECEIVED_____

SEMESTER: 1 2 Year_____ (Circle One)

COURSE CREDIT: ½ 1 (Circle One)

REASON FOR RETAKING THE COURSE:

_____ IMPROVE GRADE

_____ ENHANCE MY KNOWLEDGE AND/OR SKILLS

Students may retake any course for the purpose of improving their grade or to enhance their knowledge in the subject. Each course may be retaken only ONCE. A student who elects to retake a course must be enrolled in at least five (5) classes ***in addition*** *to the retake course.*

_____ DATE_____
STUDENT SIGNATURE

_____ DATE_____
PARENT SIGNATURE

_____ DATE_____
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

_____ DATE_____
PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE

Optional Curriculum Petition

Student Name: _____Grade:_____

Optional Curriculum Requirements: If after completing at least two years of high school, a student has failed at least ½ credit from three different subject areas or has a grade point average at or below the 25th percentile of students at their grade level across the district, the student and legal guardian may request a meeting with the principal and their counselor to determine if the student should be permitted to pursue an optional high school curriculum for graduation. If the student's legal guardian consents in writing and the principal approves this optional curriculum, the student is eligible to receive a high school diploma upon completion of the requirements below.

4 credit English (1, 2, 3, 4)	1 credit PE/Health
2 credits math	2 credits from AR, BE, FL, FS, ME, MU, TE, VE
2 credits science (Physical Science, Biology)	7 credits elective
3 credits social studies	
	21 credits total

Failed Courses:

1._____ Optional Qualifying GPA: _____

2._____ Student GPA: _____

3._____

Additional Comments:

_____ ☐ Approval _____
Parent signature Date

_____ ☐ Approval _____
Counselor signature Date

_____ ☐ Approval _____
Principal signature Date