

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Below are graduation requirements for the state of Maryland and Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Per COMAR 13A.03.02.01C, local education agencies can have graduation requirements beyond the minimum requirements established by the state.

MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a diploma, a student shall be enrolled in a Maryland public school system and have earned a minimum of **21** credits that include the following:

Subject Area	Specific Credit Requirements
English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits √ 1 in algebra/data analysis √ 1 in geometry
Science	3 credits √ 1 in biology √ 2 that must include laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: earth science, life science, physical science
Social Studies	3 credits √ 1 in U.S. history √ 1 in world history √ 1 in local, state, national government
Other Requirements	
Fine Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	½ credit
Health	½ credit
Technology Education	1 credit
Other	2 credits in either foreign language or advanced technology education and 3 credits in electives Or 4 credits by successfully completing a State-approved career & technology program and 1 credit in an elective

Students must also meet attendance, service-learning and any local school system requirements. Students who enter grade 9 in the 2005-2006 school year and later must meet the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) requirement.

High School Graduation Requirements Anne Arundel County Public Schools

High School Courses: www.aacps.org/html/studt/2013

Minimum Credit Requirements:

High School Assessments Requirement

Students entering grade 9 in 2005–06 and thereafter must also pass the High School Assessments in Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, and English 10. Additionally, students entering grade 9 in 2013–2014 and thereafter will be required to pass the High School Assessment in U.S. Government. Please check with your school counselor to discuss possible options to meet the High School Assessment requirement.

World and Classical Language Requirement

Students may elect to take two credits of a classical language rather than two credits of an advanced technology or a career completer program. The World and Classical Language option meets one of the criteria for qualifying the student for the University System of Maryland. It is recommended that students who elect the World and Classical Language option continue in the program beyond the second level. Some specialized programs, as well as many colleges and universities, require additional credits in world and classical language. Check with your school counselor for details.

Credit by Competency and or Examination

Students may be awarded credit towards graduation for demonstrated competency and/or examination for courses and competencies determined by the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. At the present time, the Board of Education has authorized competency credit to students who completed Level 1 of a World or Classical Language, Algebra 1, and/or Geometry. As other qualifying courses are identified for competency and/or examination credit, announcements will be made by the Division of Curriculum.

Credit Earned in Middle School

Students may also earn high school credit in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Maryland state law requires that to earn credit, middle school students must:

- a. Earn a final passing course grade. *and* b. Pass the final examination (D or higher).

In the case of Algebra 1, if a middle school student fails the Algebra 1 final examination but passes both the course and the Algebra 1 High School Assessment (HSA), a student will receive credit.

Credit will be awarded upon entering ninth grade. The grade for the course will be calculated in the student's GPA in the same manner as other high school courses, including courses with weighted grades. Failure to pass the course and/or the final examination will result in a failing grade and negative impact on the student's high school GPA.

Students entering Grade 9 in 2005-06 and thereafter:

Subject	Minimum Credit Requirements—26	
English	4	1 English 9 1 English 10 1 English 11 1 English 12
Social Studies	3	1 United States Government 1 WorldHistory 1 United States History
Mathematics	4*	Credit for 4 math courses, or 1 credit of Algebra 1 (may be 2 credits for daily Algebra) 1 Geometry 2 mathematics elective credits (Algebra 2 for college completers)*
Science	3+	1 Biology 2 credits, including laboratory experience in any or all of the following areas: • Earth Science • Life Science • Physical Science
Physical Education	1	1/2 Fitness for Life 1/2 Physical Ed Elective
Health	1/2	1/2 Health

Education

Basic Technology	1	Check with school for courses that meet the Basic Technology Requirement.
Fine Arts	1	Music, Art, Dance, and Theatre Arts courses
Electives	8.5	Any elective course, including completer electives. (See World and Classical Language** or Advanced Technology requirement for University System of Maryland Completer.)

Student earning a standard high school diploma must successfully complete one of the following:

- **Two credits of World and Classical Language** (two years of the same language),
- **Two credits of advanced technology education,**
- **A state-approved career and technology program**

Students must attend high school for four years unless a pre-approved AACPS alternative is satisfied.

Students must choose and follow course selection for a Completer Program Path (Career Program Completer, University System of Maryland Completer, or Dual Completer).