

1 **R7-2-302. Minimum Course of Study and Competency Requirements for Graduation from**
2 **High School**

3 The Board prescribes the minimum course of study and competency requirements as outlined in
4 subsections (1) through (5) and, ~~beginning with~~ through the graduating class of ~~2017~~ 2025, receipt
5 of a passing score of 60 correct answers out of one hundred questions on a civics test identical to
6 the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
7 Services as prescribed in ~~A.R.S. § 15-701.01(A)(2)~~ A.R.S. § 15-701.01. Beginning with the
8 graduating class of 2026, students shall obtain a passing score of at least 70 correct answers out of
9 one hundred questions on a civics test identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used
10 by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prescribed in A.R.S. § 15-701.01.

11 1. Subject area course requirements. The Board establishes 22 credits as the minimum number
12 of credits necessary for high school graduation. Students shall obtain credits for required
13 subject areas as specified in subsections (1)(a) through (e) based on completion of subject
14 area course requirements or competency requirements. At the discretion of the local school
15 district governing board or charter school, credits may be awarded for completion of
16 elective subjects specified in subsection (1)(f) based on completion of subject area course
17 requirements or competency requirements. The awarding of a credit toward the completion
18 of high school graduation requirements shall be based on successful completion of the
19 subject area requirements prescribed by the State Board and local school district governing
20 board or charter school as follows:

- 21 a. Four credits of English or English as a Second Language, which shall include but not
22 be limited to the following: reading American and other world literature, reading
23 informational text, writing, research methods, speaking and listening skills, grammar,
24 and vocabulary.
- 25 b. Three credits in social studies to minimally include the following:
- 26 i. One credit of American history, including Arizona history;
- 27 ii. One credit of world history/geography, to include instruction on the Holocaust and
28 other genocides;
- 29 iii. One-half credit of American government, including civics and Arizona
30 government; and
- 31 iv. One-half credit in economics.
- 32 c. Four credits of mathematics to minimally include:
- 33 i. Three credits containing course content in preparation for proficiency at the high
34 school level on the statewide assessment and aligned to the Arizona Mathematics
35 Standards for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. These three credits shall be
36 taken beginning with the ninth grade unless a student meets these requirements
37 prior to the ninth grade pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(iii). The requirement for the
38 third credit covering Algebra II, may be met by, but is not limited to the following:
39 a math course comparable to Algebra II course content; computer science, career
40 and technical education and vocational education, economics, science and arts
41 courses as determined by the local school district governing board or charter school.
- 42 ii. A fourth credit that includes significant mathematics content as determined by the
43 local school district governing board or charter school.
- 44 iii. Courses successfully completed prior to the ninth grade that meet the high school
45 mathematics credit requirements may be applied toward satisfying those
46 requirements.

- 1 iv. The mathematics requirements may be modified for students using a Personal
2 Curriculum pursuant to R7-2-302.03.
- 3 d. Three credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the
4 statewide assessment.
- 5 e. One credit of the Arts or career and technical education and vocational education.
- 6 f. Seven credits of additional courses prescribed by the local school district governing
7 board or charter school.
 - 8 i. Health instruction, regardless of the course it is provided in, shall include
9 instruction on mental health;
 - 10 ii. Mental health instruction may be included in other courses; and
 - 11 iii. All mental health instruction shall comply with ~~A.R.S. § 15-701.02~~ [A.R.S. § 15-](#)
12 [701.03](#).
- 13 g. A credit or partial credit may apply toward more than one subject area but shall count
14 only as one credit or partial credit toward satisfying the 22 required credits.
- 15 2. Credits earned through correspondence courses to meet graduation requirements shall be
16 taken from an accredited institution as defined in R7-2-601. Credits earned thereby shall
17 be limited to four, and only one credit may be earned in each of the following subject areas:
 - 18 a. English as described in subsection (1)(a) of this Section,
 - 19 b. Social Studies,
 - 20 c. Mathematics, and
 - 21 d. Science.
- 22 3. Online and distance education courses may be offered by the local governing board or
23 charter school if the course is provided through an Arizona Online Instruction Program
24 established pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-808.
- 25 4. Local school district governing boards or charter schools may grant to career and technical
26 education and vocational education program completers a maximum of 5 1/2 credits to be
27 used toward the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics credit requirements
28 for graduation, subject to the following restrictions:
 - 29 a. The Board has approved the career and technical education and vocational education
30 program for equivalent credit to be used toward the Board English, mathematics,
31 science, and economics credit requirements for graduation.
 - 32 b. A credit or partial credit may apply toward more than one subject area but shall count
33 only as one credit or partial credit toward satisfying the 22 required credits.
 - 34 c. A student who satisfies any part of the Board English, mathematics, science, and
35 economics requirements through the completion of a career and technical education
36 and vocational education program shall still be required to earn 22 total credits to meet
37 the graduation requirements prescribed in this Section.
- 38 5. Competency requirements.
 - 39 a. The awarding of a credit toward the completion of high school graduation requirements
40 shall be based on the requirements outlined in A.R.S. § 15-701.01 and the successful
41 completion of State Board-adopted academic standards for subject areas listed in
42 subsections (1)(a) through (1)(e) and the successful completion of the competency
43 requirements for the elective subjects specified in subsection (1)(f). Competency
44 requirements for elective subjects as specified in subsection (1)(f) shall be the academic
45 standards adopted by the State Board. If there are no adopted academic standards for
46 an elective subject, the local school district governing board or charter school shall be

- 1 responsible for developing and adopting competency requirements for the successful
2 completion of the elective subject. The school district governing board or charter school
3 shall be responsible for developing and adopting the method and manner in which to
4 administer a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by
5 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. School districts and charter
6 schools shall document and report student outcome data on the test pursuant to A.R.S.
7 § 15-701.01 and based on procedures adopted by the Arizona Department of Education.
8 § Schools may administer the test to students beginning in the seventh grade and a any
9 pupil who does not obtain a passing score on the test may retake the test until the pupil
10 obtains a passing score.
- 11 b. The determination and verification of student accomplishment and performance shall
12 be the responsibility of the subject area teacher.
- 13 c. Upon request of the student, the local school district governing board or charter school
14 shall provide the opportunity for the student to demonstrate competency in the subject
15 areas listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f) in lieu of classroom time. In appropriate
16 courses, a school district governing board or charter school shall include as a
17 mechanism to demonstrate competency a score determined by the State Board as
18 college and career ready on the appropriate assessment adopted by the State Board
19 pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 15-741 or 15-741.01.
- 20 6. The local school district governing board or charter school shall be responsible for
21 developing a course of study and graduation requirements for all students placed in special
22 education programs in accordance with A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4 and R7-2-401
23 et seq. Students placed in special education classes, grades nine through 12, are eligible to
24 receive a high school diploma upon completion of graduation requirements.
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