

R7-2-302.02 Minimum Course of Study and Competency Requirements for Graduation from High School Beginning with the Graduation Class of 2013

The State Board of Education ("Board") prescribes the minimum course of study and competency requirements as outlined in subsections (1) through (5) and receipt of a passing score on the reading, mathematics, and writing portions of the AIMS (Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards) assessment for the graduation of pupils from high school or issuance of a high school diploma, effective for the graduation class of 2013.

1. Subject area course requirements. The Board establishes 22 credits as the minimum number of credits necessary for high school graduation. Students shall obtain credits for required subject areas as specified in subsections (1)(a) through (e) based on completion of subject area course requirements or competency requirements. At the discretion of the local school district governing board or charter school, credits may be awarded for completion of elective subjects specified in subsection (1)(f) based on completion of subject area course requirements or competency requirements. The awarding of a credit toward the completion of high school graduation requirements shall be based on successful completion of the subject area requirements prescribed by the State Board, local school district governing boards and charter schools as follows:
 - a. Four credits of English or English as a Second Language, which shall include but not be limited to the following: grammar, writing, and reading skills, advanced grammar, composition, American literature, advanced composition, research methods and skills and literature. One-half credit of the English requirement shall include the principles of speech and debate but not be limited to those principles.
 - b. Three credits in social studies to include the following:
 - i. One credit of American history, including Arizona history;
 - ii. One credit of world history/geography.
 - iii. One-half credit of American government, including Arizona government; and
 - iv. One-half credit of economics.
 - c. Four credits of mathematics to minimally include the following:
 - i. Two credits containing course content covering the following areas in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the AIMS test: Number Sense and Operations; Data Analysis, Probability and Discrete Mathematics; Patterns, Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; and Structure and Logic. These credits shall be taken consecutively beginning with the ninth grade unless a student meets these requirements prior to the ninth grade pursuant to subsection 1(c)(iv).
 - ii. One credit covering Algebra II or course content equivalent to Algebra II. Courses meeting this requirement may include, but are not limited to, career and technical education and vocational education, economics, science, and arts courses as determined by the local school district governing board or charter school.
 - iii. One credit that includes significant mathematics content as determined by the local school district governing board or charter school.
 - iv. Courses successfully completed prior to the ninth grade that meet the high school mathematics credit requirements may be applied toward satisfying those requirements.
 - v. The mathematics requirements may be modified for students using a personal curriculum pursuant to R7-2-302.03.
 - d. Three credits of science in preparation for proficiency at the high school level on the AIMS test.
 - e. One credit of fine arts or career and technical education and vocational education.
 - f. Seven credits of additional courses prescribed by the local school district governing board or charter school.
 - g. A credit or partial credit may apply toward more than one subject area but shall count only as one credit or partial credit toward satisfying the 22 required credits.
2. Credits earned through correspondence courses to meet graduation requirements shall be taken from an accredited institution as defined in R7-2-601. Credits earned thereby shall be limited to four, and only one credit may be earned in each of the following subject areas:
 - a. English as described in subsection (1)(a) of this rule.
 - b. Social Studies.
 - c. Mathematics.
 - d. Science.
3. Delivery of distance education. In addition to traditional methods of course delivery, courses may also be offered through distance education. Distance education does not include correspondence courses. Distance education is defined as instructional-learning arrangements in which the distance education instructor and the student are separated geographically. Instruction is delivered by means of telecommunications technologies such as satellite, microwave, telephone, cable, fiber optics. The instruction supplements or comprises the entire course content and provides for two-way interactive communications between the instructor and the student during the time of the instruction. Communication or interaction occurs through the use of technologies such as voice, video or computer-mediated communications.

- a. Distance education providers shall register with the Department of Education and satisfy the following requirements:
 - i. Be accredited or affiliated with an accredited institution as defined in R7-2-601.
 - ii. Validate that the instructor of the distance education program:
 - (1) Possesses a current Arizona teaching certificate valid for the level and subject of the instruction to be taught; or
 - (2) Possesses a current teaching certificate from the recognized certifying authority of the sending location valid for the level and subject of the instruction to be taught; or
 - (3) Is employed by or affiliated with, in the content area of instruction, an accredited institution as defined in R7-2-601.
 - b. Distance education may be used as a part of the instructional program. School districts shall ensure that:
 - i. Only those distance education providers registered with the Department of Education are used to provide distance education; and
 - ii. The teaching partners who assist the students in receiving the instruction onsite have instructional and technical facilitator training and are supervised by an individual certified pursuant to R7-2-601 et seq.
4. Local school district governing boards or charter schools may grant to career and technical education and vocational education program completers a maximum of five and one-half credits to be used toward the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics credit requirements for graduation, subject to the following restrictions:
- a. The Board has approved the career and technical education and vocational education program for equivalent credit to be used toward the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics credit requirements for graduation.
 - b. A credit or partial credit may apply toward more than one subject area but shall count only as one credit or partial credit toward satisfying the 22 required credits.
 - c. A student who satisfies any part of the Board English, mathematics, science, and economics requirements through the completion of a career and technical education and vocational education program shall still be required to earn 22 total credits to meet the graduation requirements prescribed in this rule.
5. Competency requirements.
- a. The awarding of a credit toward the completion of high school graduation requirements shall be based on the successful completion of State Board-adopted academic standards for subject areas listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(e) and the successful completion of the competency requirements for the elective subjects specified in subsection (1)(f). Competency requirements for elective subjects as specified in subsection (1)(f) shall be the academic standards adopted by the State Board. If there are no adopted academic standards for an elective subject, the local school district governing board or charter school shall be responsible for developing and adopting competency requirements for the successful completion of the elective subject.
 - b. The determination and verification of student accomplishment and performance shall be the responsibility of the subject area teacher.
 - c. Upon request of the student, the local school district governing board or charter school shall provide the opportunity for the student to demonstrate competency in the subject areas listed in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f) above in lieu of classroom time.
6. The local school district governing board or charter school shall be responsible for developing a course of study and graduation requirements for all students placed in special education programs in accordance with A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4 and A.A.C. R7-2-401 et seq. Students placed in special education classes, 9-12, are eligible to receive a high school diploma upon completion of those graduation requirements, but reference to special education placement may be placed on the student's transcript or permanent file.